



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The T³ Project is funded by *Ministry of Education of Singapore* under the *Educational Research Fund (EdRF)* scheme. The project is a longitudinal study of the 2004 Primary Three for three years. It adopts an unobtrusive approach to bring about changes in the classroom to realise the vision of *Thinking Schools, Learning Nation*. It adopts the use of a common pedagogical device as an active yet unobtrusive agent to bring about changes in pupil variables, in teachers' pedagogical behaviours and in the culture of mathematics classroom. The project investigates the effects of prolonged use of word problems that requires a consideration of context in the solution process.



WHAT DOES THE PROJECT INVOLVE?

The T³ Project involves the use of word problems that complements textbook word problems. These problems require pupils to consider the context of the situation rather than just to perform a computation. Consequently, pupils need to attend to implicit assumptions (an aspect of *critical thinking*) as well as to generate multiple responses (an aspect of *creative thinking*). It is hoped that the prolonged use of such word problems will have positive effects on pupils' thinking, teachers' pedagogical skills and classroom culture.

The pupils will receive twelve such lessons in a year which includes worksheets and relevant manipulative materials. The teachers will receive lesson notes that accompany the lessons. There will be a short briefing for the teachers in the school at the start of the project. Most of the training is done through the use of lesson notes and active informal discussions among teachers. There will also be a once a year workshop for all teachers from the project schools based on preliminary findings which aims at helping teachers deliver the lessons better and getting teachers to build their professional network. School personnel who are inclined to research are encouraged to be involved in the research aspects of the project.

On the whole, the classroom culture should shift closer to the vision of *Thinking Schools, Learning Nation*.

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