Improving Science & Mathematics Education in Schools
Book Review
Small Science Series for Primary Classes

Small Science is a series of innovative primary science books for Classes 1 to 5 developed by Homi Bhabha Centre of Science Education, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. Small Science seeks to build upon the natural curiosity of young children, fostering skills of systematic observation, analysis and articulation, while discouraging rote learning. The content of the books is based upon simple, cognitively and contextually appropriate activities that link text book science with the immediate environment of the child.

The small Science Text Books (for Classes 3-5) interweave a story about two curious children who learn many things by observing, doing, inquiring and reflecting on their experiences. A large number of questions stimulate students to observe and think beyond the book, while stories and poems enliven their reading. The accompanying Work Books provide a format for recording results of the activities and exercises. The same format enables continuous assessment of the students work.

The Teacher’s Books (for Classes 1 & 2, 3, 4 and 5) provide science content, pedagogical guidance and practical hints for the classroom. They equip the teacher with background information relevant to the Indian socio-cultural, geographical and natural-historical context. Results of classroom trials are conveyed through first-person accounts in the Teacher’s Book. The set of books are professionally designed to make them attractive, functional and easily adaptable under conditions prevailing in Indian schools.

The books are titled “Halke Phulke Vigyan” in Hindi and “Halke Phulke Vidnyan” Marathi.

Key Features
- A unique integration of physical, biological and environmental sciences
- Prepared through research, field-studies and classroom trials
- Concepts developed through carefully designed activities using easily available materials
- Simple, child-friendly language
- Thought-provoking questions and exercises
- Accurate level-specific illustrations to capture the child’s interest
- Children develop
- Verbal and non-verbal expression through discussion, writing, drawing and acting
- Design, mathematical, analytical and problem-solving skills
- Independent thinking and creativity
- A sound basis for later abstractions in science

http://www.hbcse.tifr.res.in/smallscience

Ordering information

I. The English version of Small Science TextBooks and Work Books for Classes 3-5 are available from Oxford University Press (OUP). The accompanying Teachers Books are distributed by them in CD form. For more information please contact any of their regional offices or showrooms across India. Please see: http://www.oup.co.in/contactus.php

II. Print versions of the Small Science Teacher’s Books for Classes 1 & 2 (combined), and Classes 3, 4 and 5 are published and distributed by Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE).

Hindi & Marathi Versions of these books: Halke Phulke Vigyan / Halke Phulke Vidnyan for Classes 3 and 4 are also available from HBCSE. For more information contact <hpucp@gmail.com> or Mrs. V.N. Purohit <vnp@hbcse.tifr.res.in>. Prepayment by demand draft is required.

III. All books in this series can be ordered online at Scholars without Borders (SwB) http://www.scholarswithoutborder.in where they are listed under Books. For children, a range of payment and delivery options are available; you may place your orders online and pay via cheque/draft or other possibilities.
Small Science Series for Primary Classes (III-IV)
Small Science Series for Primary Classes (I-II)