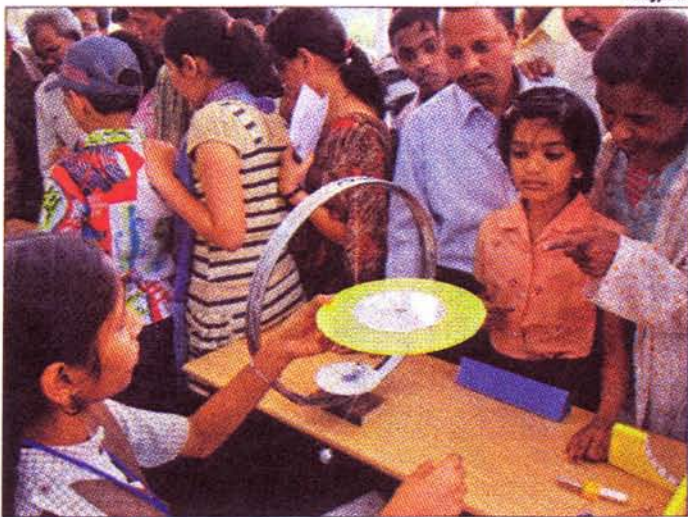


SCIENCE SIMPLIFIED: E-BOOKS WITNESS RECORD DOWNLOADS

Prof Arvind Gupta, who with his team, has been popularising science education by making low cost toys with everyday urban waste at IUCAA's science centre, on Sunday said his collection of online books on simplified science is witnessing almost 2 lakh downloads a month, indicating a growing popularity for these innovative study materials.

"I have collection of 2,000 books posted online that speak about various facets of science and their daily use in a simplified way. They have lucid language, have illustrations and are backed with real life examples. They are available for free in English, Hindi and Marathi," Arvind Gupta said.



Parag Jadhav

YOUNG MINDS: Children enjoying simple scientific experiments being shown at the IUCAA to mark the National Science Day on Sunday

He said the books are growing more popular. Every day, 6,000 downloads are recorded, while two lakh downloads are observed monthly.

The popularity of these online books was also visible on Sunday. Visitors thronged his book stall at IUCAA premises as part of National Science Day celebrations. People were making a beeline to purchase the hard copies of these books.

"This is a huge number. I am thrilled with the response. I have made 100 films for Doordarshan on science toys. People have seen these films on television. Almost 2.5 lakh people have gone through the books posted on my website www.arvindguptatoys.com.

My book Hands On Science has sold four editions in six months," he said.

He was more satisfied to see the "glee in the eyes of children" on reading his book than by the sales figures. "I personally missed out on enjoying Science completely during my school days. I used to just memorise my lessons. I never liked Physics and Chemistry. Today as I am going through the displayed books, though it is more suited for my younger brother, who is a primary school student, I am also relearning my old lessons," Second Year BSc Biotech Student from Ferguson College, Ruchi Bansal said.

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