



Empowering Teachers to Foster Strong Oral Math Skills

Teacher Mentor: Lokesh Kumar Gupta

Location: Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh

Experience: 22+ years (5 years as ARP, 8 years as ABRC)

A Mentor's Mission to Make Math Meaningful

Lokesh Kumar Gupta, an Academic Resource Person (ARP) in Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh, noticed that math was often reduced to formulas and memorization, leaving little space for discussion. He believed that math is more than numbers—it's about reasoning and communication. To transform learning, he introduced Oral Math Talk (OMT), encouraging students to discuss, question, and engage deeply with mathematical concepts.

Transforming Numbers into Conversations

Lokesh knew that just instructing teachers to use OMT wouldn't work—he had to demonstrate it. He introduced simple yet effective strategies:

- Connecting math to real life – Using relatable examples like shopping and measurements.
- Hands-on learning – Using cubes and manipulatives to visualize abstract concepts.
- Peer discussions – Encouraging students to explain concepts to one another, reinforcing learning.

Through model lessons and continuous mentoring, he helped teachers integrate these practices into their classrooms.

Overcoming Resistance: Shifting Mindsets

Initially, teachers hesitated, worried that discussions would take up too much class time. Lokesh addressed their concerns by:

- Demonstrating OMT's impact—showing how students grasped concepts faster.
- Providing structured guidance—helping teachers transition from rote learning to discussion-based teaching.
- Building confidence—offering continuous feedback and encouragement.

As teachers adopted OMT, students became more engaged, moving from passive listeners to active learners.

A Visible Transformation in Classrooms

The results were evident:

- Students confidently discussed math problems, moving beyond memorization.
- Teachers embraced OMT, making learning interactive and engaging.
- Classrooms became vibrant spaces where reasoning and discussion thrived.

A key success was using cubes to teach volume—students who once struggled now visualized and explained concepts with ease.

Scaling the Change

Committed to sustaining this impact, Lokesh now focuses on:

- Encouraging peer-led learning, where students teach each other.
- Providing ongoing teacher mentoring, ensuring OMT becomes a standard practice.
- Exploring digital tools to enhance engagement and accessibility.

Lokesh's journey proves that math is not just about finding the right answer—it's about understanding the process. By transforming classrooms into spaces of exploration and discussion, he has redefined how teachers and students experience numeracy.

