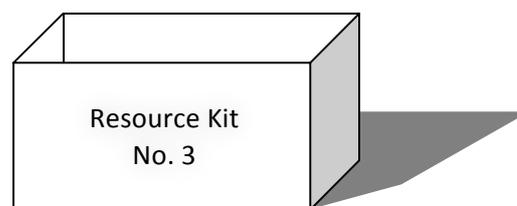


SHOEBOX RESOURCE KITS ROTATED BETWEEN SCHOOLS:



A concept for maximising the use of scarce resources

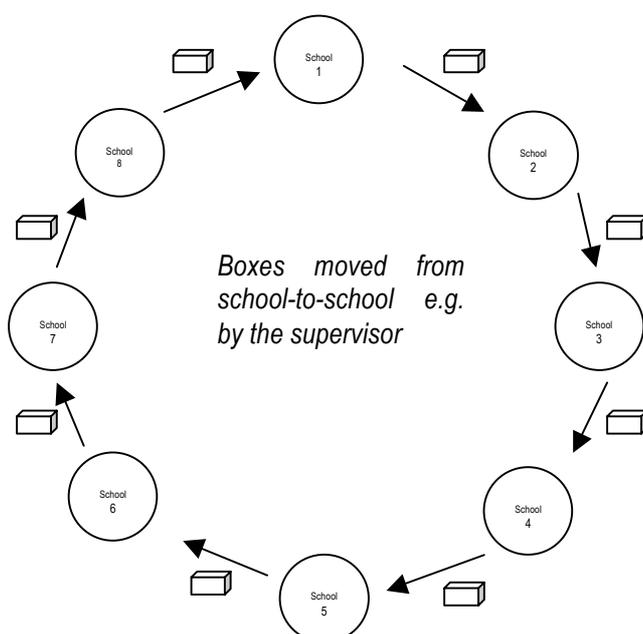
A note about context: The ideas presented here were formulated during fieldwork in Bangladesh and contextualised for that country. However, it is hoped that their wider potential relevance will be recognised and inspire adaptation and other forms of creativity in both developed and developing contexts!

The Basic Idea Explained:

A low-cost educational kit of some kind is assembled in a box. A collection of boxes is made up, each box with a different activity. (For ideas on box content, see below). **The boxes are rotated between a cluster of schools.** Each school might keep a box for a week, before it is passed on. For example, if there were eight schools in a cluster and eight activity boxes were made up, each box could be used once in each school.

This is a very efficient way to use scarce resources. If a kit was made up to teach a topic on "magnetism", **without** a clustering and cycling arrangement, eight magnetism kits would be needed: one for each school. Also, each kit would probably only be used once in each school year and would not be used again until another cohort of pupils needed it - which is not a very efficient use of resources.

Importantly, a method will need to be identified for moving the boxes between schools.



The way that most NGO, NFE schools operate in Bangladesh - where schools receive at least one supervision visit every week by their cluster supervisor - means that it would be very easy to operate the rotation system. The supervisor could be the person who delivers one box to one school, as part of his/her routine visit and at the same time takes away the used box to pass it on to the next school he/she visits.

A shoebox is suggested as a container, as it is a good size and can probably be obtained without cost from a friendly shoe shop. If wished, more-robust and durable plastic, wooden or metal containers could be used. Weight is an important consideration, however, as it should be easy to move the boxes from one school to another - especially if carried between schools by a supervisor on foot, cycle or motorcycle.

Ideas for Shoebox Resource Kit Content:

One way to generate creative and innovative ideas for resource kit content could be to run a competition (possibly with a small reward) for teachers/curriculum developers to think up and put together a resource kit that would:

- (i) fit into a shoebox;
- (ii) use only everyday materials;
- (iii) cost no more than about \$5 (e.g. 500 taka) to put together; and
- (iv) be supported by a set of teachers notes that explain fully how the kit can be used.

It is recommended that all four of these conditions must be met!

This resource kit could support any area of the curriculum.

The table on the next page provides just a **few** examples of what might be possible, to get some ideas rolling . . .

EXAMPLE RESOURCE KITS:

Resource Kit Example 1	Box Contents: Magnet, collection of objects made from brass, steel, plastic, copper, wood, etc
	Educational Activity: Identifying and classifying which objects are magnetic and which are not
Resource Kit Example 2	Box Contents: A collection of materials with different textures: something: hard, smooth, soft, spongy, prickly, rough, slippery, etc
	Educational Activity: A blindfold "touching and feeling game" to build vocabulary to describe textures
Resource Kit Example 3	Box Contents: Electric circuit made up of battery, bulb, wire and two crocodile clips; strips of material: e.g. copper, steel, wood, plastic, brass, cardboard, etc
	Educational Activity: To identify and classify which materials are conductors of electricity and which are insulators
Resource Kit Example 4	Box Contents: A tape measure, four different balls: e.g. golf ball, rubber ball, tennis ball, glass marble
	Educational Activity: To predict, test and graph what heights balls bounce to on different surfaces (e.g. concrete floor, rubber mat, coconut matting), when dropped from different heights
Resource Kit Example 4	<p>The shoebox is made into a "diorama". [A diorama is a three-dimensional scene created by placing objects in front of a painted background].A small viewing hole is made at one end of the box and a three-dimensional scene is made inside the box. Hint: it will probably be necessary to cut a window in the lid of the box and cover this with translucent paper or plastic, so that enough light is let into the box to illuminate the scene. (A potential visual aid for any subject)</p> <p>Suggestion: Google "box diorama school" for lots of practical ideas including some videos showing how dioramas can be made.</p>
Resource Kit Example 5	<p>The box itself could easily be made into a "pinhole camera". All that is needed is for a small hole to be pricked at one end of the box, and a greaseproof paper window to be inserted at the opposite end. (To see the image it may be necessary to view with a cloth draped over the head to keep out bright light)</p> <p>Suggestion: Google "shoebox pinhole camera" and you will find lots of "how to make" instructions, if these are needed.</p>
Resource Kit Example 6	Box Contents: Clinometer (if you are not familiar with what a "clinometer" is, look this up on Google! It is a simple measuring instrument). It can easily be made from card, string and a simple weight.
	Educational Activity: A clinometer is for outdoor measuring activity and can be used to accurately measure the heights of tall objects such as trees, buildings and mobile phone masts, etc.

What can **you** think of!?