

Resume

Name	Arvind Gupta
Date of Birth	04 December 1953
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Academic Qualifications:

Degree	Year	Institution	Division
B.Tech(Elec)	1975	Indian Institution of Technology, Kanpur	First
Intermediate	1970	Government Intermediate College, Bareilly (U.P.)	Distinctions
Indian School Certificate	1969	St. Maria Goretti Convent School, Bareilly (U.P.)	First

Experience:

1. Since Oct 2003, working in the Children's Science Centre of IUCAA (Inter-University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics located in Pune.
2. Jan 1998 - Dec 2000, worked on a **Science Popularisation** project, funded by CAPART. The work entailed writing / translating science activity books and conducting a series of hands-on workshops with clusters of NGO's.
3. For 7 years, conducted workshops on making appropriate teaching aids with parents / teachers working with **mentally and physically challenged children**, at the Spastic Society of North India, New Delhi.
4. Conducted science activity workshops, with teachers and children in over **1200** schools and institutions over the past 22 years. These include rural and tribal schools, Krishnamurti & Sri Aurobindo Schools and also urban schools like the Delhi Public School, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, The American School, The British School, Vasant Valley School, Sriram School, Nehru Science Centre, JNU, IIT / Delhi, Kanpur, Chennai & Mumbai. The number of institutions, both government and NGO's are far too many to list.
5. 1997-98, consultant to NBT's **National Centre for Children's Literature** (NCCL). Actively involved in promoting / translating science and educational classics like The Unesco Source Book of Science in the Primary School, Divaswapna, Tottochan, Gayneck etc.
6. 1990-94, ran the science activity club in **Mirambika** - a free progress school run by the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, New Delhi. Wrote two popular science books under a fellowship from CAPART.
7. **UNESCO** consultant on science teaching. Conducted workshops with teachers from various South Asian countries in Bangkok (1988) and Male (1990).
8. 1985 - 87, NCSTC / DST fellowship for writing the book **Khel-Khel Mein (Matchstick Models & Other Science Experiments)** - a science activity book. This book was subsequently translated into 13 Indian languages, by different popular science groups and sold more than half a million copies.
9. Actively collaborated with several popular / people's science movements and NGO's in revitalising the curriculum and making science more meaningful and joyous for children. These organisations include the **Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad, Eklavya, Marathi Vigyan Parishad, KRVP, SWRC / Tilonia, Lok Jumbish Trust** etc.
10. 1981-83, worked on an **Environmental Plan** for Shahdol District, as part of a Department of Science & Technology project.

11. Sep - Oct 1978, worked for 8 weeks with the renowned architect **Laurie Baker**, on low-cost housing programmes for the poor.
12. 1978, took one year's study leave from TELCO and worked with an NGO - Kishore Bharati, started by Dr. Anil Sadgopal. Designed several low-cost and appropriate science teaching aids during this period for the **Hoshangabad Science Teaching Programme**.
13. 1975 -80, worked as a maintenance engineer with the **Tata Engineering & Locomotive Company** (TELCO), Pune.
14. 1973, worked as a summer trainee, student apprentice, for six weeks with the **Tata Iron & Steel Company** (TISCO), Jamshedpur.

International Seminars / Invitations:

1. May 2006, i-Temba Labs, Capetown, South Africa to attend the National Science Week. Conducted over 10 workshops for school children - especially for the underprivileged children in the Cape Flats.
2. Mar-Apr 2006 invited by Prof. Pervez Hoodbhoy to conduct workshops in four cities of Pakistan - Karachi, Hyderabad, Islamabad and Lahore.
3. July 2005 attended International Play Association to the annual conference in Berlin, Germany.
4. May 2005 attended the conference on popular science organized by l' Association Française des Petits Débrouillards at Lyon, France.
5. May-June 2004 visited British schools at the invitation of the **Hampshire Development Education Centre**, Winchester and **Glades**, Somerset, and conducted workshops on science through activities, with teachers and children.
6. 4 - 25 June 2000, visited 20 British schools at the invitation of the **Hampshire Development Education Centre**, Winchester and **Glades**, Somerset, and conducted workshops on science through activities, with teachers and children.
7. Aug 1999, invited by Prof. Alan Kay (father of the personal computer) Head, **Walt Disney Imagineering & Research and the MIT (Media Lab)** to share the joy of making toys at the International Conference for the Arts & the Sciences, Apple Hill, New Hampshire. Visited the **Boston Science Centre** and conducted a workshop at the **Children's Centre**, Boston.
8. June 1999, invited by the **International Toy Research Association** (ITRA) to demonstrate low-cost teaching aids and innovative science toys, at the Halmstad University, Sweden.
9. Aug 1998, attended a 15 days workshop on **Toys for Children's Rehabilitation** at the Auhof Rehabilitation Centre, Hilpolstien, Germany, at the invitation of UNESCO, Germany.
10. Aug - Sep 1996, visited various **Children's Science Centre's, Museums, Schools and Toy Libraries** in Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This was at the invitation of the International Play Association (IPA).
11. 1990, conducted a month long science teaching workshop with teachers of the Republic of Maldives, Male. This was at the invitation of **UNESCO**.
12. 1988, conducted a three week workshop with teachers from south asian countries at the **UNESCO** regional office in Bangkok.

Membership:

1. Life Member of the **Bombay Natural History Society** (BNHS).
2. Member of the **Conservation Society of Delhi** (CSD).
3. General Body member of the **Spastic Society of North India** (SSNI).
4. General Body member of the **Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti** (BGVS).
5. Member of the **NBT Advisory Panel** on Popular Science & Nehru Bal Pustakalaya Series.

Publications:

Books on improvised, low-cost science activities and innovative science toys:

1. **Aha! Activities** (2006) A book on science activities with over a 1000 illustrations. To be published soon by Eklavya, E7-453, Arera Colony, Bhopal 462016 India.
2. **Hands - On** (2002) Collation of interesting activities - geometry by paper folding, toys, pumps, cars etc. First published in May 2005. Fourth edition in six months. Published by Vigyan Prasar, A-50, Institutional Area, Sector 62, Noida 201307 (UP) Price Rs 55/-
3. **String Games** (2002) Compilation of 50 best string games from all over the world. Profusely illustrated and published by the National Book Trust.
4. **Ten Little Fingers** (2000) A comprehensive, primary science manual on ideas and activities. This profusely illustrated manual was done for the District Primary Education Programme and was printed by the National Book Trust.
5. **Little Toys** (1996) Published by the National Book Trust. On popular demand this book has already been translated into several Indian languages
6. **Toy Treasures** (1993) This book on science activities and innovative toys is in the sixth edition.
7. **Toy Joy** (1992) documents several dynamic paper toys and traditional Indian toys. Published by Vigyan Prasar.
8. **Pumps from the Dump** (1992) shows how to make a dozen working models of pumps using old film roll bottles, bicycle tubes and other junk. Published by Vigyan Prasar.
9. **Leaf Zoo** (1992) shows possibilities of making animal figures using various leaves. Published by Vigyan Prasar.
10. **The Toy Bag** (1991) How to make a simple electric motor in less than 10 minutes? This book documents some delightful low-cost science models. Already translated into 6 Indian languages.
11. **Tangrams** (1990) Published by Balsahiti, Hyderabad.
12. **Little Science** (1989) Geometry by paper folding, Flexagons, Paper Cube along with 30 other science activities using throwaway materials. Translated and printed in 6 Indian languages.
13. **Matchstick Models & other Science Experiments** (1987) has already been translated into 13 Indian languages and has sold over *half a million copies*. This book was selected under **Operation Blackboard** by six different states.

Popular Science Articles:

1. 1986-88, wrote a monthly column titled **Little Science** for the popular science magazine **Science Age**, published by the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai and edited by the late Surendra Jha.
2. Regularly contributed popular articles on science and education for **Chakmak, Palash, Invention Intelligence, Shivira and Sandarbh**.
3. Jan 1995 - Dec 1999, for 5 years wrote a regular monthly column titled **Little Science**, for the popular science magazine **Science Reporter**.
4. Jan 1997 - Dec 1997, wrote a monthly column titled '**Kabad Se Jugad**' for the Hindi popular science magazine **Vigyan Pragati**.
5. Jan 1996 - June 1999 wrote a monthly newsletter on education titled '**FulJhadi**' for the **Lok Jumbish Parishad** - a group working for the revitalisation of primary education in the state of Rajasthan.
6. From Aug 2000, have contributed a weekly column on science activities for the hindi daily **Rashtriya Sahara**.

Books translate into Hindi:

1. **Preparation for Understanding** - Keith Warren. Over 1,50,000 copies of this book were printed and distributed to teachers by UNICEF. It has been published in Hindi by NBT.
2. **Houses - How to Reduce Building Costs?** - Laurie Baker (CAPART)
3. **Mud** - Laurie Baker (CAPART)
4. **The Joy of Making Indian Toys** - Sudarshan Khanna (NBT).
5. **Environment & Self-Reliance** - Yona Friedman (Human Resource Foundation)
6. **Energy & Self-Reliance** - Yona Friedman (Human Resource Foundation)
7. **Trees** - an Asian Cultural Centre for Unesco (ACCU) book (NBT)
8. **Riddles in a Teacup** - Dipankar Home & Partho Ghosh (NBT)
9. **Mama Moo on the Swing** - Jujja Weislander (NBT)
10. **The Man Who Planted Trees** - Jean Giono (New Age)
11. **VSO Handbook for Science Teachers** - Andy Byers, Ann Childs, Chris Laine (Eklavya)
12. **The Blackboard Book** - Eleanor Watts (Orient Longman)
13. **Little Toys** - Arvind Gupta (NBT)
14. **Low-cost, No-cost Teaching Aids** - Mary Ann Dasgupta (NBT)
15. **Quick Science** - Herman & Nina Schnieder (Scholastic, India)
16. **Science Surprises** - Melvin Berger (Scholastic, India)
17. **Wonders of Science** - Sandra Markel (Scholastic, India)
18. **Children & Water** - Jos Elstgeest (Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti BGVS)
19. **Children & the Environment** - Jos Elstgeest (BGVS)
20. **Children, Mirrors & Reflection** - Jos Elstgeest (BGVS)
21. **Children & Balances** - Jos Elstgeest (BGVS)
22. **Rats** - J.B.S.Haldane (BGVS)
23. **The Last Leaf** - O. Henry (BGVS)
24. **The Selfish Giant** - Oscar Wilde (BGVS)
25. **The Giving Tree** - Shel Silverstien (BGVS)
26. **A Private Secret** - Quentin Reynold (BGVS)
27. **How You Began** - Andrew Andrie & Steven Shepp (BGVS)
28. **The Day of the Bubble** - James A. Smith (BGVS)
29. **My Magical School** - Dr. Abhay Bang (BGVS)
30. **Bobak Goat** - Munro Leaf (BGVS)
31. **Jolly Family** - Nikolai Nosov (BGVS)
32. **The Bee & the Rose** - Peter de Rosa (BGVS)
33. **Johnathan Livingston Seagull** - Richard Bach (BGVS)
34. **Sadako & the Thousand Paper Cranes** - Eleanor Coerr (BGVS)
35. **Faithful Elephants** - Yukio Thuchia (BGVS)
36. **Shin's Tricycle** - Tatsaharo Kodama (BGVS)
37. **Hiroshima No Pika** - Toshie Maruki (BGVS)
38. **Hope for the Flowers** - Trina Paulos (BGVS)
39. **Dinky & Spot** - Ernst Paulos (BGVS)
40. **From Egg to Chick** - Milcent M. Selsam (BGVS)
41. **Millions of Cats** - Wanda Gag (BGVS)
42. **George Washington Carver** - Arvind Gupta (BGVS)
43. **Louis Braille** - Arvind Gupta (BGVS)
44. **Fun with Thumbprints** - Arvind Gupta (BGVS)
45. **The School of Joy** - Arvind Gupta (BGVS)
46. **Gleam in the Eye** - Arvind Gupta (BGVS)
47. **Square Pegs in Round Holes** - Ravindra Keskar (Vigyan Prasar)
48. **An African Story** - Arvind Gupta (BGVS)

49. **Rubbish** - Laurie Baker (BGVS)
50. **The Story of Ferdinand** - Munro Leaf (BGVS)
51. **The Story of Johnny Appleseed** - Aiki (BGVS)
52. **Three Promises** - Munro Leaf (BGVS)
53. **Binny's Animals** - Milcent M. Selsam (BGVS)
54. **Reading can be Fun** - Munro Leaf (BGVS)
55. **Science can be Fun** - Munro Leaf (BGVS)
56. **Lucky You** - Munro Leaf (BGVS)
57. **Five Chinese Brothers** - Claire Bishop Huchet (BGVS)
58. **Secrets of the Earth** - Aika Tsubota (BGVS)
59. **My Feet are the Wheelchair** - Annegret Ritter & Franz-Joseph Huainigg (BGVS)
60. **150 Facts You Won't Believe!** - Hugh Westrup (Scholastic India)
61. **Unesco Sourcebook for Science in the Primary School** - Harlem & Elstgeest (NBT)
62. **Sun** - ACCU book (NBT)
63. **Little Arthur's Sun** - Hazdak Gulnazrayan (BGVS)
64. **VSO Maths Teachers Handbook** - Jane Portman & Jeremy Richardson (Eklavya)
65. **Walking the Wild Path** - stories of 16 Indian environmentalists (NBT)
66. **The Story of Physics** - Prof. T. Padmanabhan (Vigyan Prasar)
67. **Brothers of Chichibaba** - Prof. D. P. Sengupta (Eklavya)
68. **The Story of the Bicycle** - Prof. Vijay Gupta (Vigyan Prasar)
69. **Did Dinosaurs Live in Your Backyard** - Melvin & Gilda Berger (Scholastic)
70. **Popcorn Pirates** - Alexander M. Smith (Scholastic)
71. **The Ugly Duckling** - retold by Helen Denmore (Scholastic)
72. **Musicians of Bremen** - retold by M. Jungman (Scholastic)
73. **The Little Mermaid** - retold by Linda Newbery (Scholastic)
74. **The Beauty and the Beast** - retold by Tressa Krelling (Scholastic)
75. **The Last Flower** - James Thurber (BGVS)
76. **Can Snakes Crawl Backwards** - Melvin & Gilda Berger (Scholastic)
77. **What makes an Ocean Wave** - Melvin & Gilda Berger (Scholastic)
78. **Why don't Haircuts Hurt** - Melvin & Gilda Berger (Scholastic)
79. **Mouse Trouble** - John Yeoman (BGVS)
80. **Let's Do Better** - Munro Leaf (BGVS)
81. **The Underachieving School** - John Holt (Eklavya)
82. **How Do Flies Walk Upside Down** - Melvin & Gilda Berger (Scholastic)
83. **Do Whales Have Belly Buttons** - Melvin & Gilda Berger (Scholastic)
84. **Stories of Sheikh Chilli** - Anupa Lal (Scholastic)
85. **Aunt Lulu** - Daniel Pinkwater (BGVS)
86. **How did we find the Earth is Round** - Isaac Asimov (BGVS)
87. **Librarian of Basra** - Jeanette Winter (BGVS)
88. **How big is a foot?** - Rolf Myller (BGVS)
89. **I was walking down the road** - Sarah E. Barchas (BGVS)
90. **Making Things** - Ann Sayre Wiseman (Eklavya)
91. **The Story about Ping** - Marjorie Flack
92. **I was walking down the road** - Sarah E. Barchas (BGVS)
93. **Riddle of the Ridley** - Shekhar Dattatri (Tulika)
94. **The Mountain who loved the bird** - Alice Mclarren (Tulika)

Made available the following science classics through Vigyan Prasar for reprinting / translation into regional languages:

1. *My Friend Mister Leakey* - J.B.S. Haldane
2. *Everything has a History* - J.B.S. Haldane
3. *Soap Bubbles* - C.V. Boys
4. *The Chemical History of a Candle* - Michael Faraday
5. *Science in Everyday Life* - J.B.S. Haldane
6. *Some Geometric Exercises in Paper Folding* - T. Sundara Row
7. *Science in Everyday Life* - J.B.S. Haldane
8. *The Insect World of J. Henri Fabre*
9. *The Autobiography of Charles Darwin*

Educational / Science Films:

Presented over **96 TV Programmes** on science activities, innovative toys and teaching aids on the National Television. These films have been made by the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) - the television wing of the National Council for Educational Research & Training and the University Grant's Commission, for their country wide broadcast programme. Many of these films have been dubbed into 7 regional languages.

Featured as the **Green Guru** - for making toys with trash, on the popular TV programme **Living on the Edge**.

Featured on the programme **MAD (POGO)** channel.

Featured on the National Geographic Channel in the programme **Science Safari**.

Awards:

1. **Prashant Padhye Award**, conferred by the Prashant Padhye Cultural Trust, Satara for making science interesting for children (August 2005) Rs 25,000/-
2. **Prof. G. D. Parikh Memorial Award**, conferred by the M.N. Roy Humanist Centre for distinguished contributions in education (March 2004) Rs 10,000/-
3. **Garware Balbhavan Award**, for making science learning fun for children (Oct 2003) Rs 15,000/-
4. **Mary McCurdy Award**, conferred by the Council of Science Education International (CESI) 2001, for dissemination of science.
5. **Distinguished Alumnus Award**, of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, 2000, for outstanding and seminal contributions in developing low-cost science teaching aids for young children.
6. **Hari Om Ashram Award**, conferred by the University Grant's Commission, 1995. This award was given under the category Science & Society and consisted of a citation and a cash prize of Rupees Ten Thousand only.
7. **Ruchi Ram Sahni Award**, for Science Popularisation, 1993. This inaugural award carried a memento and a cash prize of Rupees Five Thousand & One Hundred only.
8. **Granthali Award**, 1992, for the popular book *Khel* in Marathi.
9. **National Association for the Blind Award**, 1991, of Rupees One Thousand only, for designing appropriate teaching aids for pre-school visually impaired children.
10. **Hari Bhau Mote Award**, conferred by the Marathi Vigyan Parishad, 1988, for designing the Matchstick Mecanno. The award carried a certificate and a cash prize of Rupees Two Thousand only.
11. **National Award for Science Popularisation amongst Children**, conferred by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, 1988. The inaugural award carried a bronze medal and a cash prize of Rupees Fifty Thousand only.
12. **Eklavya Award**, 1982, for suggesting the name *CHAKMAK* for a children's science magazine in Hindi.

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
KANPUR**

Distinguished Alumunis Award

Arvind Kumar Gupta

Shri Arvind Kumar Gupta, after graduating from IIT Kanpur, in 1975, joined TELCO, Pune and worked there for a few years. In 1978, he took one year's study leave from TELCO to work with the grassroots village science teaching programme for children in the tribal district of Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh. While working in Hoshangabad, he developed many useful low-cost teaching / science teaching aids using locally available materials. The possibilities of using ordinary things for doing science and recycling modern junk into joyous products appealed immensely to children. Shri Gupta's first book "Matchstick Models and other Science Experiments" was translated into 13 Indian languages by various Popular Science groups and sold more than half a million copies. His science models and toys were widely featured in daily newspapers and magazines across the country. Since then he has written 10 books and translated over 45 books on science, environment and education. He has conducted science workshops for children and teachers in over twelve hundred schools across the country. Shri Arvind Gupta has presented over 70 TV programmes on science based fun activities, innovative toys and teaching aids on the national television. These films have been made by the NCERT and the UGC countrywide classroom. He was also featured as the Green Guru on the popular TV programme titled "Living on the Edge".

Shri Arvind Gupta's outstanding contribution in designing science teaching aids for young children has been recognized by several international organisations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, International Toy Research Association, Halmstad University, Boston Science Centre, MIT (Media Lab), Walt Disney Imagineering and Research, Auhof Rehabilitation Centre, Hilpolstien, Germany and the International Play Association, Finland. As a UNESCO consultant on science education he has been invited to share his experiences in science teaching with teachers of several developing countries. He has been actively associated with the Bombay Natural History Society, Conservation Society of Delhi, Spastic Society of North India and the Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti. He is an advisor to the National Book Trust on popular science books. He has received several awards for his outstanding contributions. These include Eklavya Award (1982), the inaugural National Award for Science Popularisation amongst Children (1988), Hari Bhau Mote Award of the Marathi Vigyan Parishad (1988), a special award given by the National Association for the Blind for designing teaching aids for pre-school blind children (1991), Granthali award for his book Khel (1992), Ruchi Ram Sahni Award for science popularisation (1993) and the Hari Om Ashram Award by the UGC (1995).

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur is proud of the achievements of Shri Arvind Gupta. In recognition of his outstanding and seminal contributions in developing low-cost science based teaching aids for young children and thus doing a great service to humanity at large, the Institute hereby confers upon Shri Arvind Gupta its Distinguished Alumunus Award.

Sanjeev Bhargava
Secretary, Alumini Association

V. Narsimhan
Registrar

K.A. Padmanabhan
Director

Sunday, December 31, 2000