



CREATION OF CHESS'O 64 GAME

GAMESMANSHIP

An ordinary chessboard costs around Rs 15. A cricket kit – not a good one, mind you – will mean shelling out anything up to Rs 100 at least. Even an ordinary pack of cards, presumably the best bet, has its own limitations. So how about a portable pack, with which you can play chess, cricket, all card games plus umpteen other stimulating games?

Arun Mehta and Devendra Desai of the Children Toy Foundation have come up with such an ace. They have devised a magic pack which contains 64 instead of the normal 52 playing cards and which, with the aid of a chessboard-pattern – foldable plastic sheet, offers a spectacular array of – hold your breath – 50 games! Christened imaginatively as Chess 'O' 64, the unique package is priced at a mere Rs 40, working out to be just 80 paise a game!

The brainchild of the two toys-'n'-games enthusiasts is a veritable games bank. The possibilities are galore – from the known to the absolutely novel. On each card, the characters of chess are imprinted along with alphabets and the usual markings on a playing card, including jack, queen and king. Shuffling them, you can work wonders.

Forget about the run-of-the-mill rummy, patience and bridge. Unfold the plastic sheet and you can play naughts and crosses, various dice games, puzzles and mathematical games, not to speak of chess itself. Not stopping at that, you can play indoor cricket and hockey too!

Though somewhat difficult to believe, the promise is not an empty one. Everyone knows that cricket and its kind, played on a sprawling playground, have already made a splash on the television screen, thanks to the video

Chess 'O' 64: 50-in-one wonder.

who tumble over each other in a frantic bid to cross the floor and hurry over to the party or faction which has a better chance of coming to power.

The players will be the power-chasers, utilising each card-politician to gain an edge. The aim is to trap one of the opponents between two of one's own in such a fashion that the victim has no option but to defect. But the scenario is likely to change in seconds when the second player repeats the trick to turn the tables.

These are only a few examples, forming a small portion of the wide-ranging package deal designed and brought out by the enterprising innovators, Mehta and Desai. What is more amazing, they have done the impressive job by making only slight additions to the normal card pack, investing it with a spectacular dimension – isn't the offer more delectable than the varied popular games with individual identities and, as such, prohibitive prices?

Are you game to try out Chess 'O' 64? Then get in touch with Arun Mehta, Deshmukh Building, Deshmukh Lane, Off V.P. Road, Bombay-400 004, or Devendra Desai, Children Toy Foundation, 72-Old Customs House Road, Fort, Bombay-400 023, Phone: 254831.

— Chitra Rao

Devendra Desai (left) and Arun Mehta: innovative genius



"If children feel safe, they can take risks, ask questions, make mistakes, learn to trust, share their feelings and grow." – Allie Kohn