

Arvind Gupta

Being noble

Once there was a little boy called Arvind. Like so many other kids, Arvind enjoyed playing with his friends. One day, his father gave him a children's science **encyclopedia**. Arvind was fascinated! There were so many experiments and new ideas in the book - it was like a whole new world, and became a strong childhood memory.

When he grew up, he remembered the book and was surprised to learn that many children in our country did not have good books, or even good teachers. Science books in Hindi or regional languages were even harder to find. He was determined to do something about it. So he took his love for science and shared it with the impoverished children of India. To everyone's surprise, he quit his comfortable, well-paying job at a large engineering company and started working for his quest. He wanted to provide children with a sense of wonder and happiness that he experienced in his own childhood.

For almost 30 years, Arvind amazed everyone by visiting more than 3000 schools, delighting young children with interesting science experiments and demonstrations. The best part about him was that he created these with simple everyday things. He was so creative; he could spark their imagination with anything: old ball-point pens, empty juice boxes, paper sheets and sunlight and whatever else was available.

Arvind didn't stop there. To make this knowledge accessible, he created a website and uploaded these science projects. He also provided thousands of free books on this website, many of which he translated to Hindi himself. He would visit schools and give them CDs that contained e-books and videos. This turned out to be very important, because for many schools, these were the only teaching aids they had ever used.

He said "...every child has a dream in their eyes, and each of them instills a hope in me about the future".

Enjoy your science experiments and have fun with them, because among you, there are next generation scientists!

Encyclopedia: A book giving information on many subjects and typically arranged alphabetically