Different Innovative methods to improve Handwriting of children

Innovative methods incorporating Play + Learn approach for Improving Handwriting of Children

Author Information

I am Aditya S. Khutale completed my B.E. in Production Engineering (2009) from Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Pune. I am from Satara. I have done my schooling from Panchagni. Thus I have a great interest for adventure sport. Being an Indian cricket is not just a sport to me. But I do play Football and Basketball. Apart from games I like Painting, Craft, Photography, Travelling and Music. I think Art & Music has immense power. It can help us find our inner-self & Tranquillity. It unites people from different geographic & demographic backgrounds.

Inspiring from this fact I came up with an idea of different innovative methods to

improve handwriting of children. This process helped me interact with students and get to know their problems. Simpler method was the only answer to it. I tried my best to reduce the complication regarding the issue.

Keywords

Poor Handwriting, Functional area, Stencils, Medium & Materials, Posture, Sine-Wave Theory, Ergonomics.

Introduction

Many a times in school, Handwriting and Presentation is not given due importance. There are various reasons such as teaching methods, children finding it least

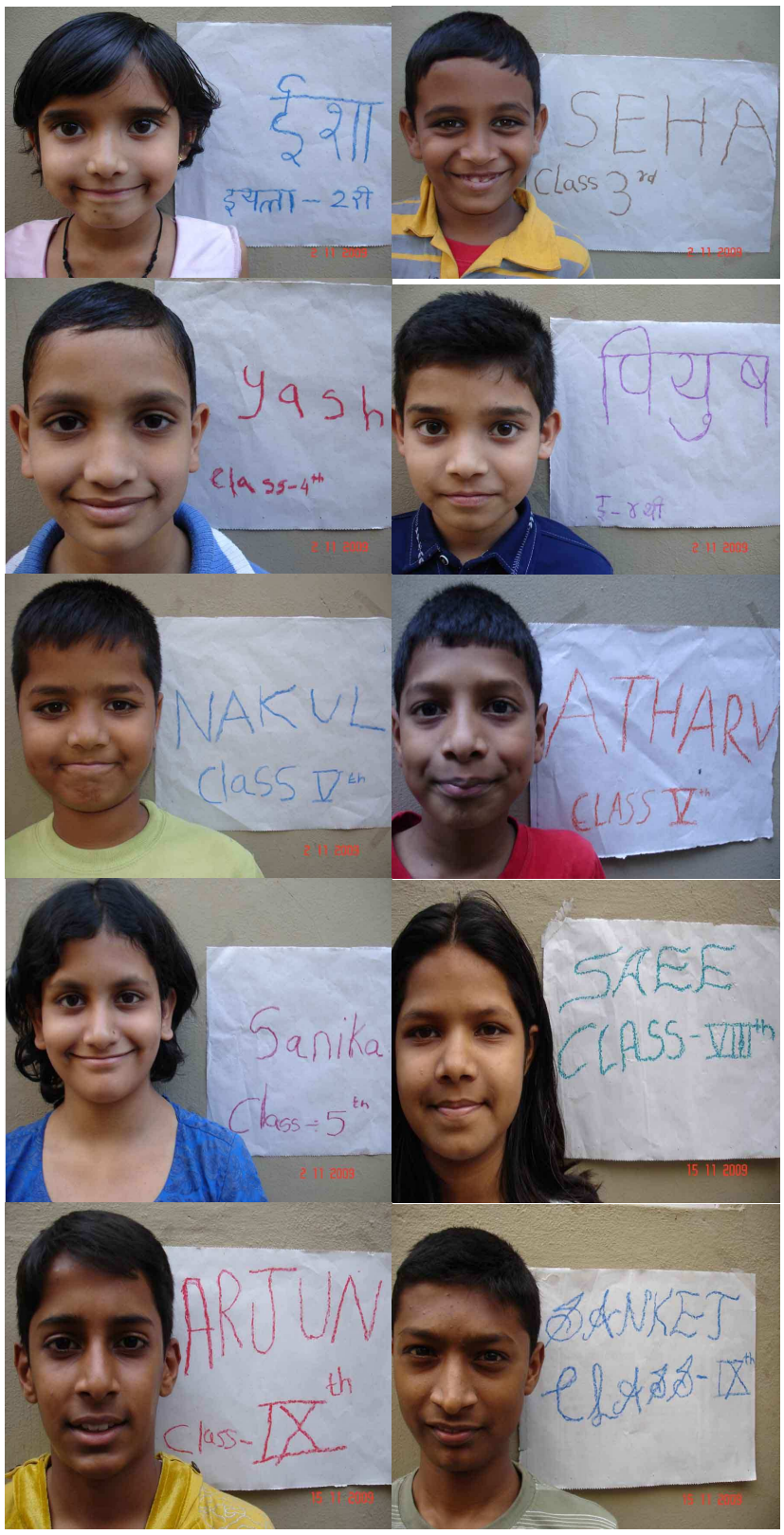
important and seriousness about the issue. But when it comes to Board exams wherein Handwriting and Presentation is also given importance, it’s too late. As an example the author studied the existing method of teaching and implemented new techniques for the same.

Different methods such as specially designed hand exercises, use of different of stencils, drawing different shapes on a bigger scale and gradually decreasing it’s size, using different mediums, different colours and the most important is style and syllabus of teaching. Students from std. 2^{nd} to std. 9^{th} took part in the activity.

Method

- Sine-Wave Theory: In this process students were given different brushes of various sizes. Instructions were given to the students and they were told to draw a sinusoidal wave of different frequency & length.
- Iterations were carried out number of times.

Following Students were part of the project.



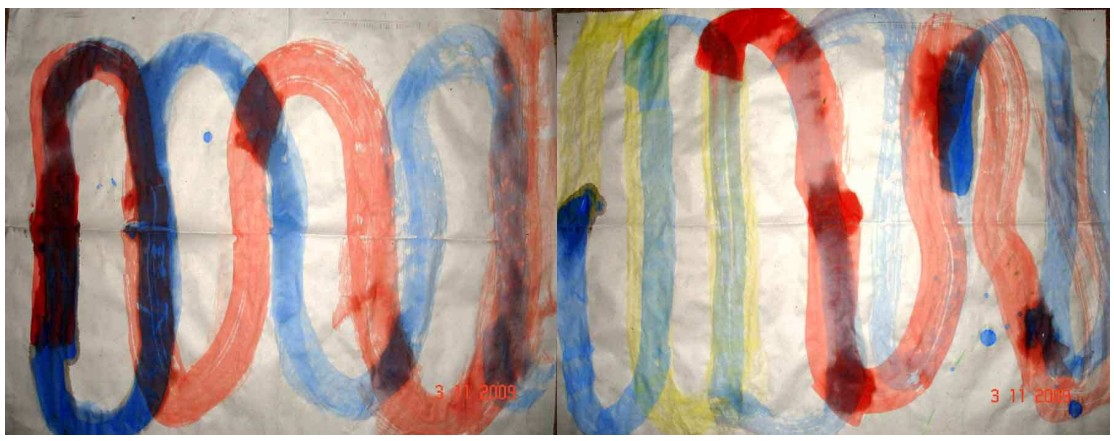
1. Sine-Wave Theory.

1.1 Iteration no.1

1. Use of Newspaper & wide range of paintbrushes in the initial stage

1.1 Students busy with the activity.

1.2 Iteration no.2



1.2 Vibrant colours and softer paper was used.

1.3 Iteration no.3

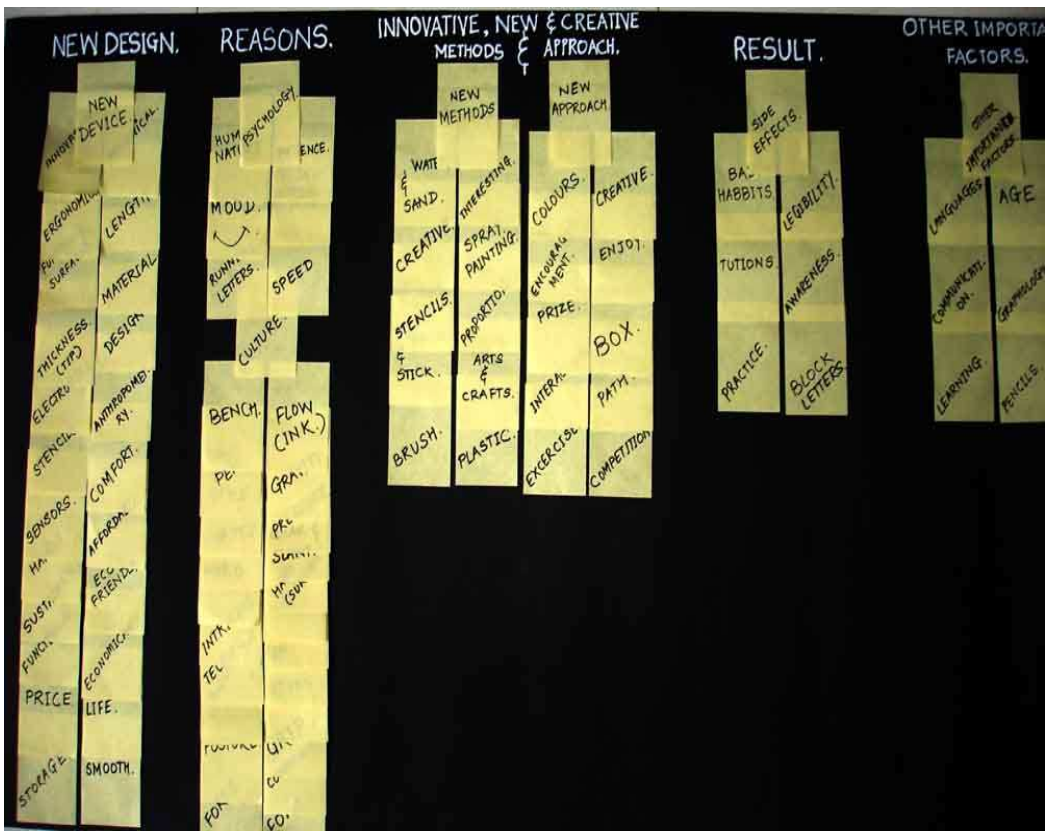
1.3 Use of oil based colour and polyethylene sheet resulted in smooth working of the brush.

1.4 ‘Sine-Wave’ is it....?

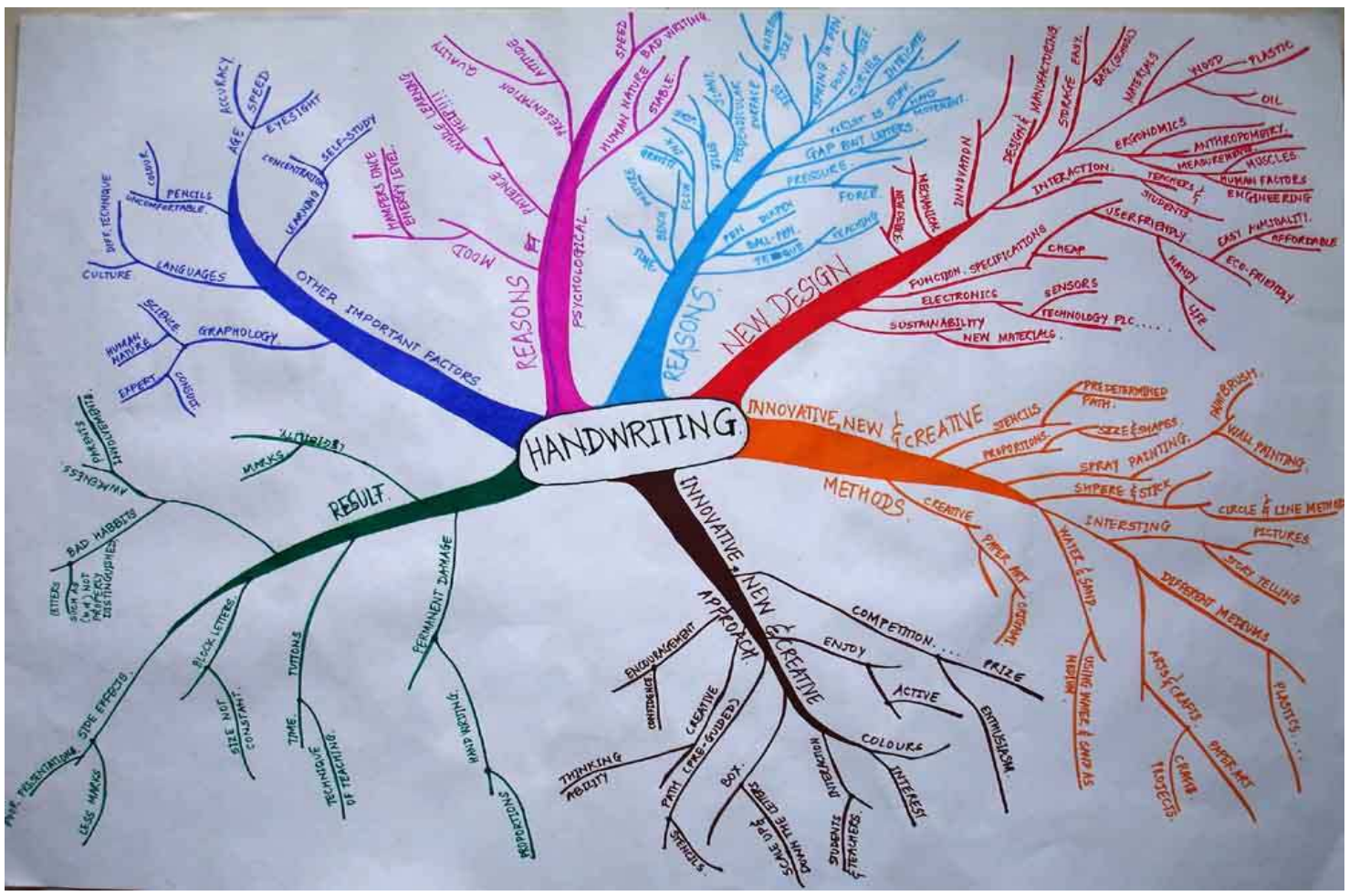
2. Results from the above activity.

- Larger thickness brushes gave the best results.
- Wrist movements are stiff.
- Different holding styles.
- Tangible area should be increased.
- Writing device should be redesigned.

•3. Brainstorming & Mind mapping.

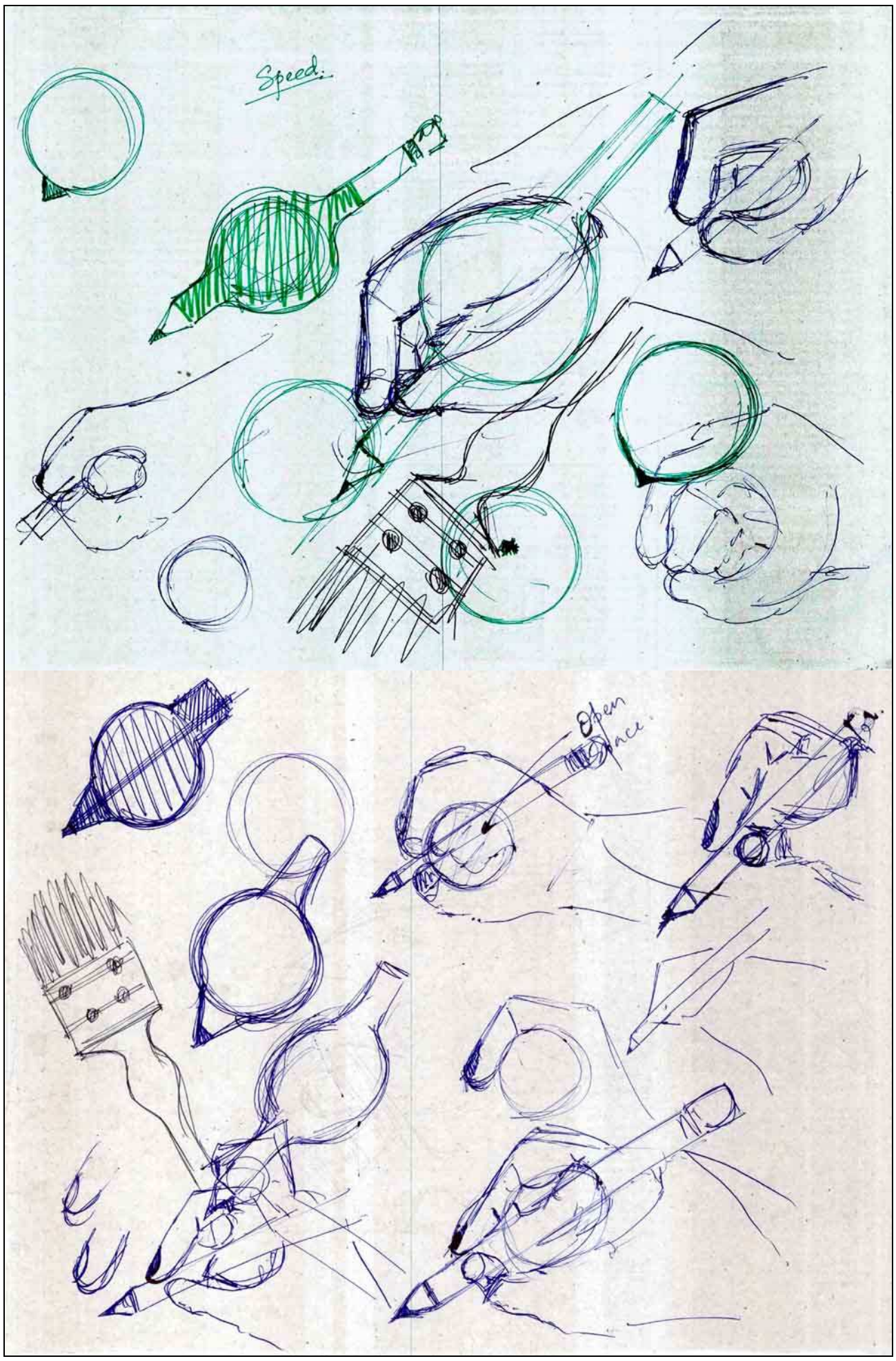


3.1 Brainstorming.



3.2 Mind Mapping.

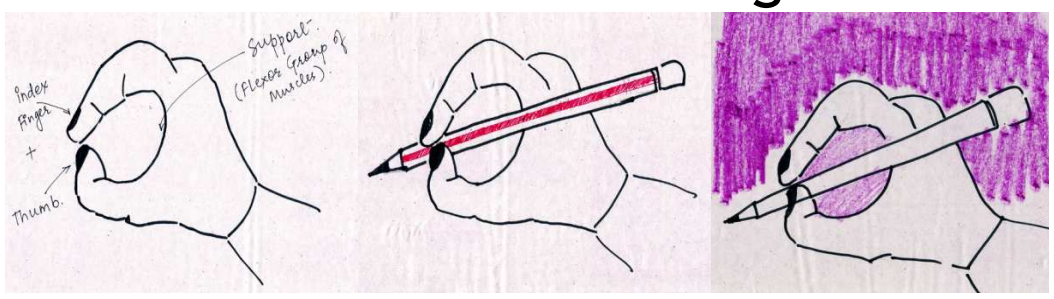
4. Initial Concept sketches.



4.1 Inspiration: PAINTBRUSH.

4.1 Sketches.

4.1.1 Posture while writing.

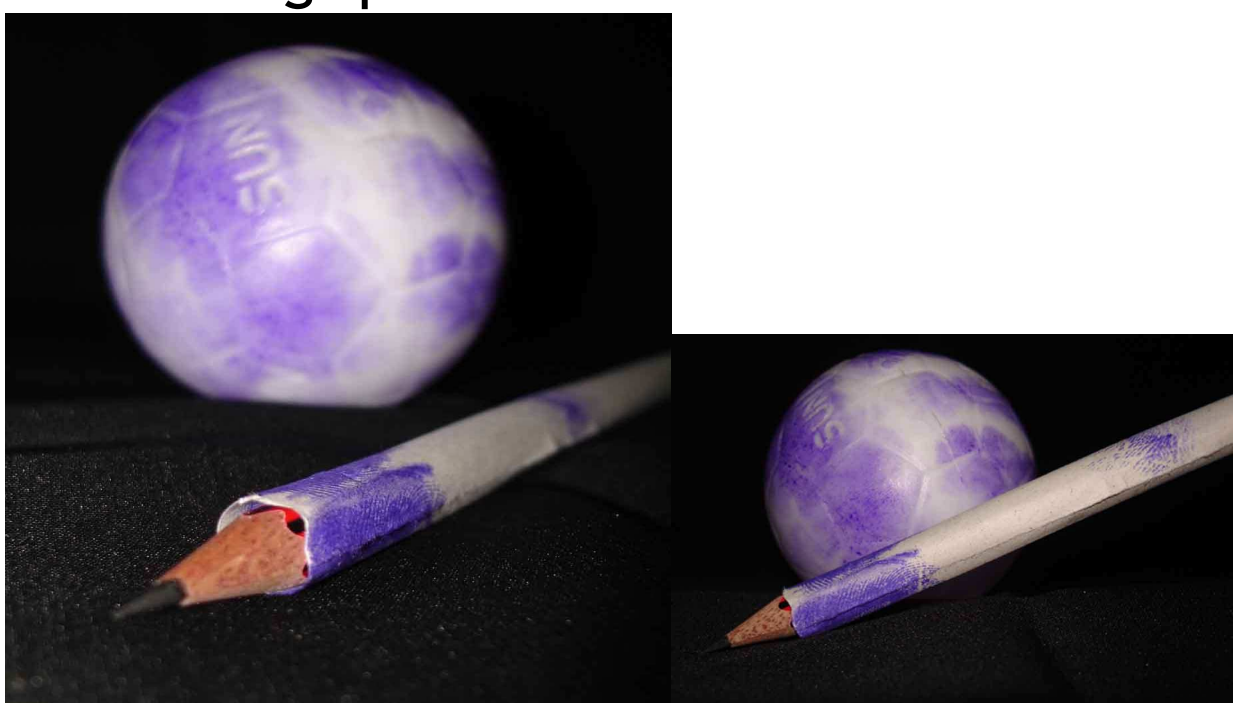


4.1.2 Iterations.

5. Functional Surface.

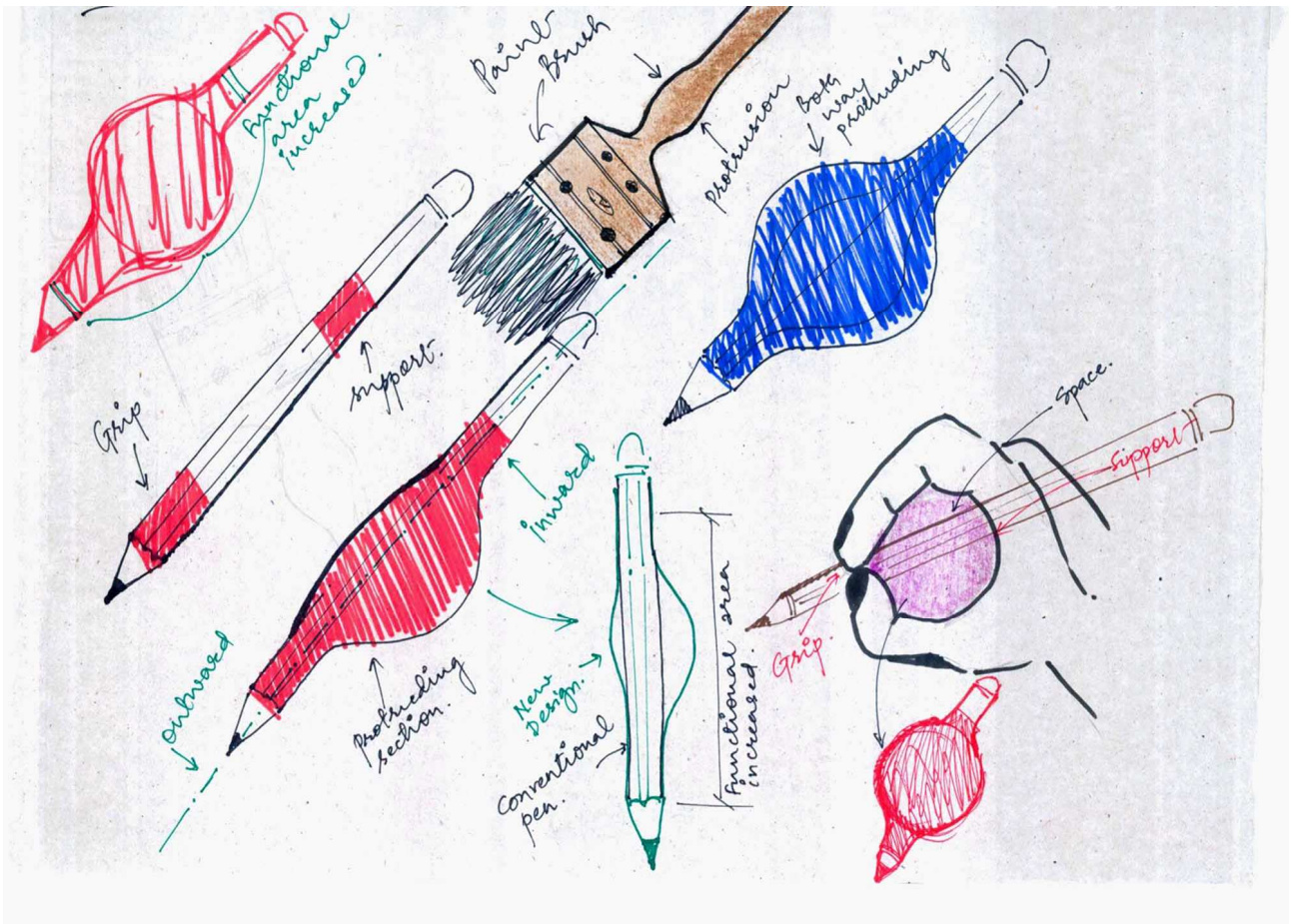
5.1 Tangible area of pencil.

5.2 Good grip means vast area.



5.3 Comparison.

6. Concept Finalisation.



6.1 Various possibilities.

•7. Results

- The outcome of Sine-Wave activity was gradual but noticeable.
- Whether specially designed pen should be used in learning phase was a question.
- Students were active throughout the process.
- Legibility in writing was improved.

- Interaction between the Teacher and Students was increased.
- Presentation skills were given priority.

8. Conclusion

- Bad handwriting can be improved with practice.
- Earlier method of teaching was not student friendly.
- Use of Arts & Crafts makes this approach interesting.