Abstract:
I, as a child was very fond of reading fables. Many of which were narrated to me by my elders. At that time I had found them comical, amusing and at times even bizarre, but later in life, facing each day as it comes, I grasped their real significance. Take the example of the famous story of the khachwa1 and the khargosh2 which taught me the lesson that in reality one cannot accomplish anything being hasty & proud, but if one is dedicated, determined and has belief in his/her own abilities, then only, one can be successful in life’s race. We have a rich heritage of literature & a tradition of storytelling to our children, which not only provides entertainment to them, but at the same time acts as a step towards building moral values in them as well as building a close relationship with the child. Nowadays the oral culture has been replaced by the reading culture. Children reading these stories develop a more active imagination as well as better language skills, & at the same time also learn norms and values through them which relate to their daily life.

1 Tortoise 2 Hare

In today’s world knowledge is possessed by many, money and power are also not uncommon, but basic moral and values which stem from our culture, tradition and beliefs have become a rarity. Character is based on values. It is the moral strengths of a person that help him become a better person in the society. Development of values in youngsters is essential for any country to become a better nation. Reading good literature promotes values and builds up character in students, but this reading culture is lacking in our country today. I feel that our local literature is being neglected and is not playing enough of a role in promoting values and character building of our children.