

NIPUN Bharat Mission: Development of Foundational Skills for Promoting Meaningful learning

Dr. Dinesh Kumar,* Dr. Shivani Saini**

Abstract

With the launch of NEP 2020 it is evident that the new structure of education demands that more stress be laid on learning at foundational stage. Achieving SDG 4 is crucial to ensure high quality education and foster life-long learning. Therefore, one of the important guiding principles of NEP 2020 is to accord highest priority to strengthening and achieving foundational literacy and numeracy by all students till grade 3. The data from ASER and NAS surveys shows a decline in literacy and numeracy skills across the grades leading to deteriorating learning levels. Therefore, there is an immediate need for planning and restructuring the curriculum on priority basis and treating FLN as an “urgent national mission” not only due to learning crisis but also due to the aftermath of the pandemic. Development of meaningful learning and competency-based learning should be prioritized while undertaking major reforms. A strong connect of what a child learns at home and school should result in activities in the classroom which make learning meaningful. A child can make meaning while learning if he knows what to learn, how to learn and what he will be able to do when he is in a particular grade. Meaningful learning is the key to develop Competency based learning. Competencies can be developed when a child has appropriate life skills. The vision of NIPUN is to make each child proficient in grade appropriate content before he or she progresses to the next level. Therefore, it becomes mandatory to prioritize the implementation of FLN mission so that all children read, write, and perform basic mathematical operations and be ready for secondary and senior secondary education. FLN mission though a national mission should now be prioritized and declared as a household mission to inculcate literacy and numeracy skills in children to overcome the effects of pandemic on their education.

*Principal, DIET, R K Puram, New Delhi (India)

**Senior Consultant, SCERT, PMU, DIET, R K Puram, New Delhi (India)