

**M**uch acclaimed activity based learning (ABL) has initiated by Deshkal Society in the 157 schools of Kritiyanand Nagar Block of Purnia district of Bihar in order to bring about a change in teaching learning through promotion of self learning and peer learning using cards, counting boards, games ,flexes, songs and plays.

The children found their teachers playing with them, singing with them for comprehending the meaning of the word Saral through singing the prayer 'Saral Kare Prabhu Saral Kare'and then explaining the word 'Saral' which appears in the prayer. Moving in round about, children not only enjoyed teachers singing with them, but they also learnt the meaning of the word 'Saral' which refers ease in matters prayed in the song. The teachers singing the song was an innovative method of teaching generating a friendly atmosphere in the classroom where teachers were conventionally perceived as someone only tasking and reprimanding children for learning deficits on words, counting tables and others for the learning milestones.

The flex board used for teaching letters and words made children learning alphabets easily as children learnt from one flex board. Learning letters became easy .Learning about formation of words became easy. Lyrically, children are learning the meaning of the words in the schools. Children learnt the meaning of the word Kite after learning about the letters K, I,T and E individually step by step and together with the use of multiple imageries for the letters ,sounds and imagination of the joy of kite flying.

ABL is also relevant for children in the project schools having inadequate number of teachers at times with multi learning level and multi grade children. Peer learning has become a useful tool with senior class students teaching children in lower grades. Girls in the school spoke of the initial hesitation and shame in teaching children, but with the encouragement of teacher, they have initiated teaching children from the Flex and other activity based learning tools. Peer learning is happening within the same grade children at diverse learning levels.





This would be more specific as children would be introduced to ABL which has been successfully implemented in Tamil Nadu and other states. With introduction of Activity Based Learning with Learning Milestones for each subject, the children would be able to achieve learning milestones for each subject with the combination of self learning, peer learning and loving and caring facilitation of teachers.

Not only learning of alphabets and formation of words using the letters through cards has become easier and livelier, but children are learning numeracy from number board games and Ludo. Playing with the beads of the number board has made learning of numbers easier. Learning Board is a simple toy making children have the pleasure of the learning as well as playing. This toy is functioning both as a learning tool and a toy which would not have been available to them in homes since the children come from low wealth landless agriculture laborer and marginal farming households.

The project implemented by Deshkal Society, a national research based civil society organization, is located in the Kirtiyanand Nagar block of Purnia district in the Kosi region of North Bihar and is spread over an area of 3202 sq. kms. The children enrolled in these schools belong to agriculture laborers and marginal farmers and therefore, they are primarily first generation learners. In this context, the introduction and implementation of ABL in these schools has played a greater role in creation and broadening the space of learning environment but also, this has made learning participatory contributing to significant learning improvement of children.

In the future, the imaginative initiation of ABL is poised to have deep implications for scaling up in all the schools of district of Purina and subsequently in Bihar in order to ensure reduction of learning deficits among children, higher rates of enrollment, retention and transition and substantial reduction of dropout rates among enrolled children.