

### **New Teaching Methods, Old Teaching Constraints:**

The annual status of education, 2014 flagged a fall in the learning outcomes in rural areas across the country.

In Tamil Nadu only 51% to 70% of class V children could read class II text, but in arithmetic less than 40% of school children of class V could do division.

This was made worse due to the policies like 'Right to education which prioritised schooling children only from age six.

But as, early as 1966, the Kothari commission called for establishing a centre for the development of primary education in each districts

There is a requirement to change the existing teaching system. ABL or Activity based learning is being introduced in schools of Chennai for government primary and middle schools

ABL is a multi-age, multi activity classroom divided into sex groups. The groups are divided into teacher supported groups and peer supported groups. Learning is done through pictorial card supported activity.

However, the methodology was diluted when the teachers began focusing on documentation method under Continuous comprehensive evaluation. Moreover, little was done for teacher's training as ABL demanded detailed lesson plan, creativity which was lacking in the primary school teachers having diploma in teacher training.

Thus ABL slowly became an IAS officer's methodology i.e. the structure got simplified with every new bureaucrat without allowing complexity to hone the minds

The 12<sup>th</sup> plan thus recognised the need for measuring and improving learning outcomes.

The centre also launched "Padhe Bharat, Badhe Bharat" targeting early reading and writing with comprehension and understanding mathematics as "twin track approach".

There is also a need to reform the outdated "one size fits all" approach in classroom.