**Importance of School Education**

47% of India’s households are directly impacted by the quality of school education as they send at least one child to school every day.

Without quality school education India will not be able to reap the benefits of its **DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND**.

Today’s primary school students will join India’s **WORKFORCE BY 2030**, when India’s working age population will be at its peak.

**The Learning Crisis Begins as Early as Classes 1–3**

72.8% children cannot read a simple class 2-level text, while 71.9% children cannot do a basic subtraction problem by class 3.

As per National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2017, 33% students in class 3 cannot read small text with comprehension, while 44% students cannot use basic math to solve daily-life problems.

**What Is Foundational Learning**

The **ABILITY TO READ WITH MEANING AND DO BASIC MATH CALCULATION BY CLASS 3**.

These are basic literacy and numeracy skills that provide the necessary foundation for a child’s further schooling and learning.

**THIS INCLUDES SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES SUCH AS:**

- Identifying letters such as क ख ग घ
- Reading words such as जल, घर, नल
- Reading small sentences (बाग्ाीच्ाे मे एेक प्ाेड़ है।)
- Recognizing numbers such as 37, 79, 92 and having a number sense of what’s bigger and what’s smaller
- Solving two-digit subtraction and addition problems such as 32-17 and 63-44

**Schooling Is Not Learning**

97% children aged 6–14 years are enrolled in schools owing to continuous efforts to improve access.

With over **250 MILLION** children studying in close to 1.5 million schools, India has the largest school education system in the world.

**50%** children are lacking in even basic literacy and numeracy skills despite spending 5 years in school. This shows that children are in school but not learning and India is facing a severe learning crisis.

**Foundational Learning Matters**

Children **LEARN TO READ BY CLASS 3 AFTER WHICH THEY READ TO LEARN**.

Students who fail to learn basic reading and mathematics by class 3, find it **DIFFICULT TO CATCH UP** with the rigour of the curriculum in later classes and **FALL BEHIND**.
Our highest priority must be to achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary school and beyond by 2025. The rest of the [Draft NEP 2019] policy will be largely irrelevant for such a large portion of our students if this most basic learning (reading, writing, and arithmetic at the foundational level) is not first achieved.

(Draft NEP 2019)