A story a day to keep ignorance at bay

FROM JAYALAKSHMI K/ASHWINI Y S
DH News Service

BANGALORE: Nearly 50 per cent of the children studying in the government schools in Karnataka have not reached the required levels of learning. That has been what the Karnataka State Quality Assessment Organisation, Department of Education, found out in its first statewide study of the education scenario, released last week.

Another survey conducted by Akshara Foundation and facilitated by Pratham, the Annual Survey on Education Report, corroborated this. It found that in the State only one out of four students studying in Class 5 can do simple division, and only one out of two in Class 2-3 can read a simple story.

In the education scenario, it is clear that Karnataka comes below even Bihar.

“In spite of the many efforts put in the sector, and the large amount of money pumped in by way of budget allocations at a very early stage in the academic year,” he said, “we are still finding that the children and teachers, about providing something that triggers learning,” notes Rohini, adding, “we are not saying this is the only way to do it. In fact many times we see the teachers adapt the method with some modifications. We are merely the cheerleaders!”

Even now, the baseline assessments for two lakh students are being conducted to see if they can read at the minimum desired levels. “Internationally the standard demands some 60 words per minute but if you go to some of the schools here and watch the children read, it is appalling. But we can’t blame anyone for this. The teachers have their job to do in terms of curriculum, etc., nor can we blame the government,” says Rohini.

“We are hoping that the programme will give some equalising opportunities for the poorer sections through enhanced reading. Or else by the time they reach the high school their confidence is totally gone,” says Rohini, adding, “we are not saying this is the only way to do it. In fact many times we see the teachers adapt the method with some modifications. We are merely the cheerleaders!”

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