



## Role of Activity Based Learning in Developing Well Rounded Students in Grade IV: A Case Study

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### ABSTRACT

Activity based Learning in simple words refers to the incorporation of fun hand- on activities in the learning process in class room teaching practices. ABL is rooted in the idea that children especially the IV graders are active learners rather than passive recipients of information “The child’s mind is not a pot that is to be filled with knowledge- rather it is like a fire that needs to be ignited “ If the students are provided an environment to explore, experiment with hands-on learning experience they learn quickly and learning becomes more joyful and long-lasting

Activity Based Learning motivates students to participate in their learning experience via practical activities such as independent exploring discovering facts and problem solving.

This paper provides an overview of how ABL helps in developing well rounded students through a case study of grade IV students of Gurukul Academy Daycare School. It also aims to explore the methods to incorporate activities in classroom teaching practices, additionally this paper discusses the benefits of ABL and how it helps in developing well rounded students who can think independently and acquire problems solving skills which are necessary in solving real- world problems in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Keywords:** - ABL, Problem solving skills Well Rounded, Collaborative learning

### Introduction :-

In the pursuit of providing quality education, educators are continuously exploring innovative approaches that provide all rounded development of students. The students of grade IV are at concrete developmental stage The new Policy of Education NEP2020 Proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of education structure including its regulation and governance, to create a new system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21<sup>st</sup> century education, while remaining consistent with India’s traditions and value systems. The overall thrust of curriculum and Pedagogy reform across all stages will be to move the education system towards real understanding and Learning ‘how to learn’ and away from the culture of rote learning as is present today. Motivation for this research comes from the need to improve the practice of science education in class rooms by asking which methods of teaching work better than others?

Of all the different approaches of teaching learning methods Activity based learning has emerged as powerful pedagogical method that transcends traditional classroom instructions. Through this paper the researcher delves in to the profound role of ABL in nurturing well rounded students and emphasizes its benefits in promoting Critical Thinking, Problem Solving skills, Creativity and Overall Holistic Growth.

### Understanding Activity Based Learning Approach.

ABL emphasizes active participation hands on experiences and learner centered approaches in classroom practices. By engaging students in the learning process activity based learning fosters higher levels of engagement motivation and retention of knowledge. This paper delves in to the research supporting Activity Based Learning and highlights its potential in cultivating well rounded students.

### Practical implementation of Activity Based Learning.

The successful implementation of ABL requires thoughtful planning and execution. Educators employ various



strategies to incorporate activity based learning in classrooms. They design several activities involving student's participation such as storytelling, Drama, Roleplay, Skit, interactive Sessions, conduct collaborative group work through scaffolding, differentiation and reflection. Educators create meaningful and effective learning experiences that cater to diverse student needs, This paper provides practical insights and examples of how ABL can be integrated into grade IV science subject.

Activity Based Learning Can be Conducted in following ways:-

1. Making use of real life objects:-

While teaching about fruits / flowers plant life, germination teachers can bring in to the classroom real objects, or can take the Students outside the class room to observe the plants, insects, or to know how the germination happens.

2. Stories and Role Play use of Drama:-

Students develop interest in listening to stories of scientists and their discovery

3. Hands-on Activity:

If students are allowed to participate in science activities in classroom such as heavy and light objects, floating and sinking objects, how the litmus paper changes colour in acid and bases they develop a sense of curiosity, they develop positive attitude towards science in early age.

4. Working in pairs:- When students work with their partner to solve a problem or are engaged at a task it helps communication, collaboration skills as well as socio-emotional development. Use of discovery, observation skills, making notes, help develop skills of recording observations. Estimation interpretation, communication, independent thinking etc.

5. In classroom educators can help students develop their scientific process skills by stimulating their curiosity e.g. asking why some things sink or float in water? Enhances their desire to learn and support their learning.

6. By training / guiding them to play attention, ask questions, wonder observer, research, examine, explore through first hand experiences.

7. Field Trips:-

- a. Walking into the natural environment to observe living and non-living things.
- b. Collecting dry leaves twigs to make nature collage.
- c. Observing and preparing seasonal or weather boards.
- d. Making pictures of things to understand shapes.
- e. Using simple tools such as magnets magnifiers, compasses etc.

**Benefits of Activity Based Learning:-**

Activity based learning offers a myriad of benefits for students playing a vital role in their holistic development.

1. Learning through hands-on experience is more meaningful and through the activities that are designed age appropriately It provides fun learning experience since the students of grade IV are at the age where "Play" is most important task in their life. They learn through their 5 senses and are engaged in play most of the time. Teaching school concept through simple activities using every day available resources and teaching aids make classroom learning more interesting as well engaging experiences for students.
2. Developing higher order skills Students observe, touch, smell feel through their own senses during activities when they are engaged in discussions and working in pairs or in group activities, they actively analyses evaluate and apply knowledge in practical contexts honing their ability to think critically and find creative solutions to the problems in hand.



3. Real world application and future readiness:- ABL not only prepares students for academic success but also equips them with the skills and mindset necessary for real- words challenges and future endeavors. By engaging in practical activities and problem solving experiences students develop skills that are directly applicable to their lives beyond the classroom.

In this Paper the researcher attempted to teach a topic “All About Leaves” of science text book of grade IV through ABL strategies.

#### **Method: -**

Gurukul Academy Daycare School Ponda Goa was selected for case study. A group of 24 students of grade IV formed the participants of the study.

A topic all about leaves from the science text book of grade IV was selected for teaching through activity based strategy.

The students were taken for a walk in the garden and were asked to bring two different kinds of leaves to class.

24 students brought 48 different leaves to class the teacher then made each students to come up in front of the class and describe the leaves they picked up.

Each students described their leaves in terms of colour, size (big/small), shape of leaves, smell of the leaves and so on. The teacher recorded the responses of the students on the black board.

After this activity the teacher discussed all the relevant point written on the black board and read the topic ‘All About Leaves’ from the text book.

Later the students traced the 2 leaves on their notebook using crayons and pasted the leaves on their books

Assessment was done in the form of oral response and written work sheet to understand students comprehension and application of knowledge thus encouraging students to take ownership of their learning. The responses of the students were recorded. It proved that the activities help the students to understand the concept, improved their concentration and enriched the learning experience at school.

#### **Conclusion:-**

Activity Based Learning is a transformative approach that plays a vital role in nurturing well rounded students by involving active participation, hands-on experiences and learner centered approaches, educators and schools can unlock student’s potential and facilitate holistic growth.

Activity based learning not only enhances critical thinking problem solving skills, creativity and collaboration but also prepares students for the challenges of the real world. As we continue to embrace ABL let us foster a culture of innovation and create dynamic learning environment where students can thrive and become lifelong learners equipped with the skills needed to succeed in an ever changing world.

#### **Implications:-**

The results of this study suggest that science activities should be given importance in elementary grade as activities are effective in improving attention span as well as problem solving skills. The students learn to observe and record their observations and analyse the recordings to understand the concepts rather than simply learning by role.

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