

# Impact of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Programme Among the Students Studying in Government Schools

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## Abstract

*The Government of India has launched several flagship schemes and policies to strengthen the education system, with a strong focus on foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN). Key initiatives such as the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the NIPUN Bharat Mission are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030. Launched in July 2021, the NIPUN Bharat Mission aims to ensure that students in Grades 1 to 3 achieve foundational proficiency in language and mathematics by 2026–27. This study evaluates the progress of NIPUN Bharat in Varanasi district, covering 77,109 students across 1,009 government schools during the 2023–24 academic session. Assessments conducted between July and December 2023 indicate substantial improvements in foundational skills. Proficiency in Hindi increased from 25.11 per cent to 81.86 per cent, while mathematics proficiency rose from 27.61 per cent to 82.83 per cent. Overall NIPUN proficiency improved from 23.12 per cent in July to 80.35 per cent in December, 2023. Notably, the Sewapuri block recorded a 64.47 per cent increase, setting a benchmark for grassroots success. Comparisons between school-reported data and third-party assessments validated the accuracy of reporting. The programme's holistic approach, combining data-driven strategies with innovative teaching practices, has fostered greater confidence and curiosity among students. The findings highlight the transformative impact of targeted interventions and demonstrate the replicable potential of the NIPUN Bharat Mission, for improving foundational learning outcomes nationwide.*

**Keywords:** Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), NIPUN Bharat, Literacy, Numeracy, National Education Policy (NEP)

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## INTRODUCTION

The Government of India has launched various flagship schemes and programmes to strengthen education across the country. These initiatives aim to improve enrollment rates, funding, scholarships, quality of education, research, and teacher recruitment, while also increasing the number of institutions offering both regular and distance learning courses. Key programmes such as the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) are central to these efforts in the school education sector. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030, identifies Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) as the highest priority for the country's education system. The policy underscores that without basic skills in reading, writing, and arithmetic, other educational goals cannot be fully achieved.

A study by Dr. Himakshi Devi (2022) explores the objectives, implementation strategies, and impact of the NIPUN Bharat Mission, highlighting its alignment with NEP 2020 and its focus on universalising primary education. To address the critical need for FLN, the Government of India launched the National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy—also known as the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)—on

July 5, 2021. Implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) under the Ministry of Education, the mission aims to achieve its goals by 2026–27, with States and Union Territories playing a key role in its execution.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE NIPUN

### BHARAT MISSION

Key features of the mission include:

- Developing foundational skills to reduce dropout rates and improve transition rates between grades.
- Promoting activity-based learning and innovative pedagogies to enhance the quality of education.
- Empowering teachers through comprehensive capacity-building programmes.
- Fostering holistic child development across physical, socio-emotional, cognitive, and life skill domains.
- Ensuring equitable and inclusive quality education for all children.

### Literacy Development

Literacy development is closely connected to various language skills, including:

- (i) **Oral Language Development:** Enhancing oral vocabulary, listening comprehension, and conversational skills, which are essential for effective reading and writing.
- (ii) **Decoding:** Understanding the relationship between written

symbols and their sounds, to read words accurately.

- (iii) **Reading Fluency:** The ability to read text accurately, quickly (automaticity), and expressively, with comprehension, enabling students to derive meaning from text.
- (iv) **Reading Comprehension:** Involves understanding, interpreting, and critically analysing written text, including retrieving relevant information and drawing inferences.

### Foundational Numeracy

Foundational numeracy involves applying basic mathematical concepts to solve real-life problems, including:

- (i) **Pre-number Concepts:** Learning to count and understanding the number system.
- (ii) **Numbers and Operations:** Mastering mathematical techniques such as the base-ten system and performing operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- (iii) **Measurement and Data Handling:** Applying standard

algorithms, interpreting simple data, and recognising patterns in daily activities.

### Challenges in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

The NCERT's Foundational Learning Study (FLS) conducted in March 2022 assessed 86,000 Grade 3 students across 10,000 schools, including those in Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, 23.4 per cent of Grade 3 students were able to read texts at the Grade 2 level, and 33.7 per cent could perform subtraction—showing slight improvements from 2018 figures (16.3% for reading and 28.1% for subtraction). While the study sets important baselines for the NIPUN Bharat Mission, it also highlights persistent challenges, particularly for first-generation learners in rural schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic further deepened the learning crisis. Prolonged school closures disrupted early education, leading to significant learning losses. According to United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (2022), 92 per cent



of Indian students lost at least one language skill and 82 per cent lost at least one mathematical skill during the pandemic. The World Bank estimates that nearly 50 per cent of children in India lack foundational learning skills by Grade 5, making it difficult for them to meet grade-level expectations.

The National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021, conducted by NCERT, also reported decline in language and mathematics outcomes in several states. By 2022, only 25 per cent of Grade 3 students were performing at grade level in mathematics, and only 20 per cent met grade-level expectations in reading. States such as Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar showed improvements compared to 2018, whereas states like Himachal Pradesh and Kerala experienced greater learning losses.

UNICEF's 2022 report on FLN in India noted that, in Uttar Pradesh, only 30 per cent of Grade 3 students in government schools could read simple sentences, and 25 per cent could solve basic arithmetic problems. The report acknowledged the contributions of the NIPUN Bharat Mission's teacher training modules National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) but also pointed out ongoing challenges such as malnutrition and the lack of early childhood education, which continue to hinder progress, especially in rural areas.

In 2022, the Government of Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with IIM Lucknow, launched the NIPUN Bharat Associates programme, deploying 100 professionals across 75 districts to support the implementation of FLN initiatives. Initial data indicated improved teacher engagement in about 10 per cent of schools, although no quantitative student outcomes were reported. Gaps in rural infrastructure remain a significant barrier to scaling these efforts.

A 2023 report by the Institute for Competitiveness, supported by USAID and Room to Read, found that 42 per cent of Indian students meet global minimum proficiency levels in mathematics, while 37 per cent partially meet these benchmarks. Among all states, only Lakshadweep has met global proficiency standards. The report also highlighted gender disparities, with girls continuing to lag behind boys in numeracy skills, putting them at a disadvantage.

## **GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS**

To address these challenges, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has aligned the NIPUN Lakshya with the state's unique educational needs and conditions. The following grade-wise goals have been set for foundational literacy and numeracy:

### **Literacy Skills**

- (i) Grade 1: Read simple sentences consisting of five words.
- (ii) Grade 2: Read a paragraph with a fluency of 45 words per minute

and correctly answer 75 per cent of related questions.

- (iii) Grade 3: Read a paragraph with a fluency of 60 words per minute and correctly answer 75 per cent of related questions.

### **Numeracy Skills**

- (i) Grade 1: Correctly solve 75 per cent of single-digit addition and subtraction problems.
- (ii) Grade 2: Correctly solve 75 per cent of addition (up to 99) and two-digit subtraction problems.
- (iii) Grade 3: Correctly solve 75 per cent of addition problems (sums up to 999) and three-digit subtraction problems; correctly solve 75 per cent of multiplication problems for tables from 2 to 10 (products up to 100).

To achieve these goals, the Government of Uttar Pradesh, under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, has also developed a dedicated Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) Programme implemented by the State Project Office in Lucknow. As part of this plan:

- Primary school teachers receive a four-day annual training focused on foundational literacy and numeracy.
- A special teacher guide, Sandarshika, provides day-wise methodologies for teaching language and mathematics skills to students in Grades 1 to 3.
- Teachers are required to follow this methodology and record each

student's progress using tracker formats during lessons.

- Every school maintains a NIPUN Chart to log the dates on which students achieve various skills, enabling continuous tracking of academic progress throughout the year.
- To be recognised as NIPUN, a student's performance must be assessed using the NIPUN Lakshya App; this app officially certifies students who meet the required learning outcomes.

The term NIPUN literally means someone who performs a task with great skill and expertise—reflecting the mission's vision of equipping every child with strong foundational abilities.

### **NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The need for this study arises from the persistent learning crisis in India, which has been further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Prolonged school closures disrupted early education, resulting in significant losses in foundational language and mathematical skills, as highlighted by UNICEF (2022) and the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021.

The significance of this study lies in its comprehensive analysis of the impact of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) programme on 77,109 students enrolled in 1,009 government schools across the Varanasi district during the 2023–24 academic session. By tracking the

substantial improvement in language proficiency—from 25.11 per cent to 81.86 per cent—and mathematics proficiency—from 27.61 per cent to 82.83 per cent—between July and December 2023, the study provides robust evidence of the programme’s transformative potential.

The remarkable 64.47 per cent improvement in the Sewapuri block further highlights replicable grassroots strategies that can be adapted in similar contexts. Additionally, the study validates the reliability of school-reported data by cross-verifying it with third-party assessments, ensuring accurate and credible findings.

This research offers critical insights for policymakers, educators, and stakeholders into effective pedagogical practices, teacher training, and data-driven instructional strategies. By presenting a scalable and replicable model for enhancing foundational education, the study contributes to the broader goal of ensuring quality education for all and achieving lifelong learning outcomes in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The specific objectives of the study are:

- To assess the impact of the FLN programme on literacy skills among students studying in government primary schools in the Varanasi district.
- To evaluate the impact of the FLN programme on numeracy

skills among students studying in government primary schools in the Varanasi district.

- To analyse the overall impact of the FLN programme in achieving NIPUN proficiency among students studying in government primary schools in the Varanasi district.

### **METHODOLOGY**

To realise the objectives of the *NIPUN Bharat Mission* in Uttar Pradesh, a series of targeted interventions have been systematically implemented. The introduction of *Balvatika* ensures foundational early childhood education for children aged 3–6 through play-based, activity-oriented learning. The *School Readiness Module (SRM)* supports smooth transitions to Grade 1 by developing basic language and cognitive skills over a three-month period.

Classrooms are being transformed into enriched, child-centric learning spaces, equipped with teaching-learning materials, activity corners, and print-rich environments to make learning interactive and engaging. Continuous professional development through training modules like *NISHTHA FLN* equips teachers with modern pedagogical skills required for delivering effective foundational education.

The state has also embraced digital platforms such as *DIKSHA* to provide accessible e-content, teaching resources, and real-time data monitoring. Learning assessments—including baseline

and endline evaluations, FLN report cards, and national surveys such as NAS—enable the systematic tracking of student progress and support evidence-based instruction.

To strengthen reading habits, school libraries are being revitalised with graded storybooks and interactive reading sessions. Active community participation is encouraged through parent-teacher meetings, village education committees, and awareness campaigns like the School Chalo Abhiyan. Adequate financial allocations under Samagra Shiksha and state budgets ensure the provision of necessary materials, infrastructure, and capacity-building activities.

Implementation and monitoring have been strengthened through regular tracking via dashboards, mobile apps, and field visits. Task forces established at the state, district, and block levels oversee the planning, coordination, and timely execution of mission activities. Collectively, these multifaceted efforts are guiding Uttar Pradesh towards achieving foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by the end of Grade 3.

### Population

The target population for this study consists of students enrolled in government schools in the Varanasi district. The district includes 1,009 government schools comprising Primary Schools (Grades 1–5) and Composite Schools (Grades 1–8), spread across eight rural blocks—

Arajilines, Baragaon, Chiraigaon, Cholapur, Harahua, Kashi Vidyapith, Pindra, Sewapuri—and one urban unit (*Nagar Kshetra*). A total of 6,808 teachers are actively engaged in achieving the NIPUN Lakshya for 77,109 children studying in Grades 1 to 3 during the 2023–24 academic session.

### Sample

The study sample includes:

- (i) **Baseline Assessment (July 2023):** Data collected from 1,009 schools covering 77,576 students enrolled in Grades 1 (18,385 students), 2 (31,742 students), and 3 (27,449 students).
- (ii) **Midline Assessments (August–November 2023):** Monthly data collected from schools covering 78,283, 76,689, 76,754, and 77,170 students, respectively.
- (iii) **Endline Assessment (December 2023):** Data collected from 1,009 schools covering 77,109 students enrolled in Grades 1 (19,036 students), 2 (30,973 students), and 3 (27,100 students). Secondary data from a third-party assessment covered an additional 26,578 students.

### Treatment

To achieve the NIPUN Lakshya, multiple stakeholders—including teachers, head teachers, Cluster Officers, Academic Resource Persons (ARPs), Block Education Officers, and District Education Officers—implemented targeted strategies at various stages.

The state-designed FLN programme provided a structured framework that included continuous monitoring. ARPs conducted regular monthly school visits to assess progress and offer timely feedback and corrective measures.

**DATA COLLECTION**

Students’ literacy and numeracy skills in Grades 1 to 3 were assessed through teacher-administered evaluations, aligned with the benchmarks of the NIPUN Lakshya App. Baseline assessments were conducted in July 2023, followed by a midline evaluations every month, and the final endline assessment in December 2023.

Teachers reported students’ proficiency in literacy (Hindi language) and numeracy (mathematics) using Google Forms. To ensure data reliability, the State Project Office mandated a third-party assessment

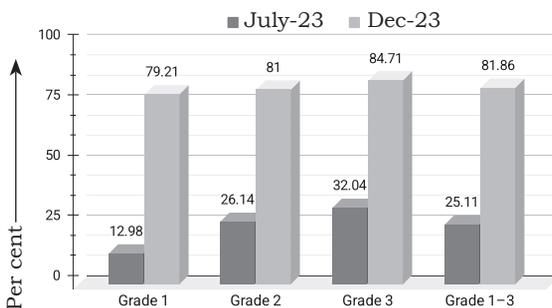
(D.El.Ed.) in December 2023, wherein DIET (District Institute of Education and Training) trainees visited schools and independently assessed randomly selected students using the NIPUN Lakshya App. The results of this assessment were analysed and compared with the school-reported data to validate its accuracy.

**Data Analysis and Interpretation**

The data collected, measured on a nominal scale, were analysed using percentage-based methods. The frequency and proportion of students achieving NIPUN Lakshya in Language (Hindi) and Mathematics, or both were determined using teacher-reported data. Teachers assessed students against grade-specific benchmarks to ascertain whether they had attained the prescribed proficiency levels in Language (Hindi) and Mathematics, or in both subjects combined.

**Table 1**  
**NIPUN Student in Language (Hindi) Grade-wise**

Month	Grade 1		Grade 2		Grade 3		Grades 1-3	
	Assessed students	NIPUN students						
July 23	18,385	2387	31,742	8296	27,449	8794	77,576	19,477
Dec 23	19,036	15,078	30,973	25,088	27,100	22,956	77,109	63,122



### Interpretation of Table 1

The data presented in Table 1 and the accompanying graph illustrate the progress of Grades 1, 2, and 3 students in Language (Hindi) under the NIPUN assessment. In July 2023, the proficiency percentages for these grades were 12.98 per cent, 26.14 per cent, and 32.04 per cent respectively. By December 2023, these figures had increased substantially to 79.21 per cent, 81.00 per cent, and 84.71 per cent, demonstrating significant improvement in foundational literacy skills.

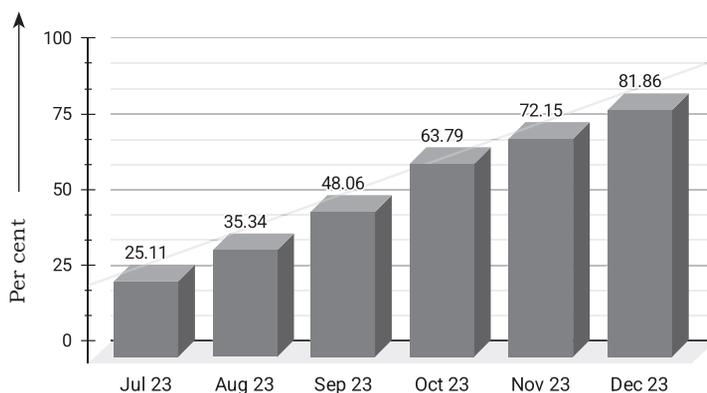
The results indicate remarkable gains in overall proficiency after the implementation of the FLN programme:

- (i) Grade 1: 79.21 per cent of students (+66.22%) could read simple five-word sentences.
- (ii) Grade 2: 81.00 per cent of students (+54.86%) could read a 45-word paragraph fluently at 45 words per minute, and correctly answer at least 75 per cent of comprehension questions.
- (iii) Grade 3: 84.71 per cent of students (+52.67%) could read a paragraph fluently at 60 words per minute and accurately answer 75 per cent of related comprehension questions.

These outcomes underscore the programme's effectiveness in strengthening literacy skills among primary students, thereby fulfilling Objective 1 of the study.

**Table 2**  
**NIPUN Student in Language (Hindi) Month-wise**

Month	Assessed	NIPUN in Hindi	NIPUN %
Jul 23	77,576	19,477	25.11
Aug 23	78,283	27,664	35.34
Sep 23	76,689	36,858	48.06
Oct 23	76,754	48,958	63.79
Nov 23	77,170	55,678	72.15
Dec 23	77,109	63,122	81.86



**Interpretation of Table 2**

Table 2 and the accompanying graph presents the month-wise progress of Grades 1, 2, and 3 students in Language (Hindi) under the NIPUN assessment. The data show a significant upward trend, with overall proficiency improving from 25.11 per cent in July 2023, to 81.86 per cent in December 2023 after the implementation of the FLN programme. Notably, a substantial increase was observed between September 2023 (48.06%) and October 2023 (63.79%), indicating accelerated gains during this period.

These findings demonstrate that the FLN programme has been effective in enhancing language skills among students in government primary schools, thereby achieving Objective 1 of the study.

**Interpretation of Table 3**

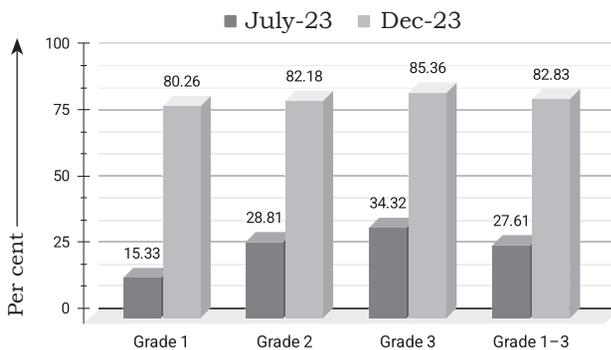
Table 3 and the accompanying graph illustrates the NIPUN assessment results for Grades 1, 2, and 3 students in Mathematics. In July 2023, the proficiency percentages for these grades were 15.53 per cent, 28.81 per cent, and 34.32 per cent, respectively. By December 2023, these percentages had improved markedly to 80.26 per cent, 82.18 per cent, and 85.36 per cent, indicating substantial gains across all three grades. Overall, proficiency in Mathematics increased significantly from 27.61 per cent in July to 82.83 per cent in December 2023, demonstrating notable progress under the FLN programme.

The analysis shows that after completing the FLN programme:

- (i) Grade 1: 80.26 per cent of students (+64.73) were able to

**Table 3**  
**NIPUN Students in Math Grade-wise**

Month	Grade 1		Grade 2		Grade 3		Grades 1-3	
	Assessed students	NIPUN students						
July 23	18,385	2855	31,742	9144	27,449	9420	77,576	21,419
Dec 23	19,036	15,279	30,973	25,455	27,100	23,132	77,109	63,866



correctly solve at least 75 per cent of single-digit addition and subtraction problems.

- (ii) Grade 2: 82.18 per cent of students (+53.38) could correctly solve at least 75 per cent of problems involving addition (up to 99) and two-digit subtraction.
- (iii) Grade 3: 85.36 per cent of students (+51.04) successfully solved at least 75 per cent of problems involving addition (up to 999), three-digit subtraction, and multiplication (tables 2 to 10, up to 100).

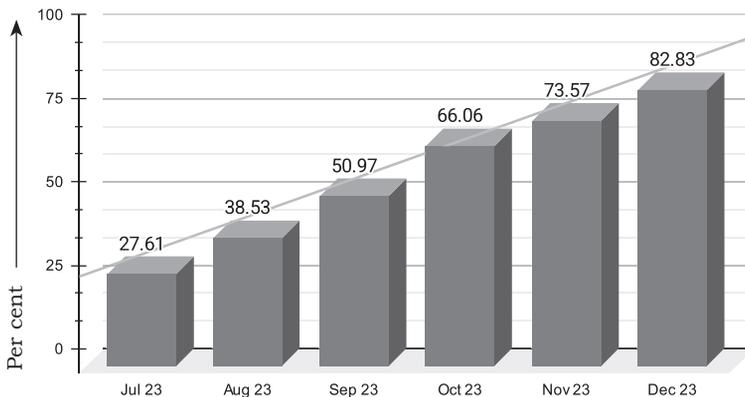
These findings underscore the positive impact of the FLN programme on improving numeracy skills among students, thereby fulfilling Objective-2 of the study.

### Interpretation of Table 4

From the above table and graph, the data shows the month-wise performance of Grades 1, 2, and 3 students in numeracy skills (Mathematics) under the NIPUN assessment. A significant improvement was recorded across all three grades, with overall proficiency rising from 27.61 per cent in July 2023 to 82.83 per cent in December 2023, after the implementation of the FLN programme. The month-wise progression was 27.61 per cent, 38.53 per cent, 50.97 per cent, 66.06 per cent, 73.57 per cent, and 82.83 per cent, respectively, from July to December 2023.

**Table 4**  
**NIPUN Student in Numeracy Skills (Mathematics) Month-wise**

Month	Assessed	NIPUN in Math	NIPUN %
Jul 23	77,576	21,419	27.61
Aug 23	78,283	30,164	38.53
Sep 23	76,689	39,092	50.97
Oct 23	76,754	50,707	66.06
Nov 23	77,170	56,774	73.57
Dec 23	77,109	63,866	82.83

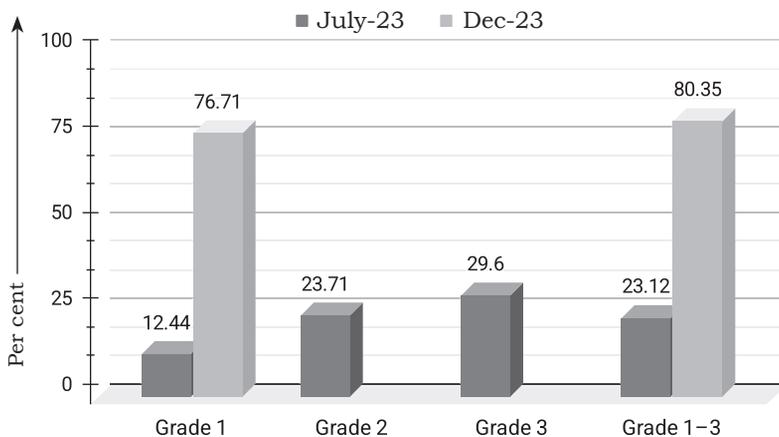


The results also indicate a remarkable increase during September (50.97%) to October (66.06%), reflecting a strong upward trend. The findings of this study clearly demonstrate that the FLN programme has significantly contributed to improving numeracy skills among students, thereby fulfilling Objective 2 of the study.

proficiency percentages for these grades were 12.44 per cent, 23.71 per cent, and 29.60 per cent, respectively. By December 2023, these figures had increased significantly to 76.71 per cent, 79.74 per cent, and 83.61 per cent, demonstrating substantial gains in combined foundational literacy and numeracy skills. Overall, the proficiency level rose from 23.12

**Table 5**  
**NIPUN Students Grade-wise**

Month	Grade 1		Grade 2		Grade 3		Grades 1-3	
	Assessed students	NIPUN students						
July 23	18,385	2287	31,742	7526	27,449	8124	77,576	17,937
Dec 23	19,036	14,603	30,973	24,698	27,100	22,659	77,109	61,960



**Interpretation of Table 5**

Table 5 and the corresponding graph present the NIPUN assessment outcomes for Grade 1, 2, and 3 students in both Language (Hindi) and Mathematics. In July 2023, the

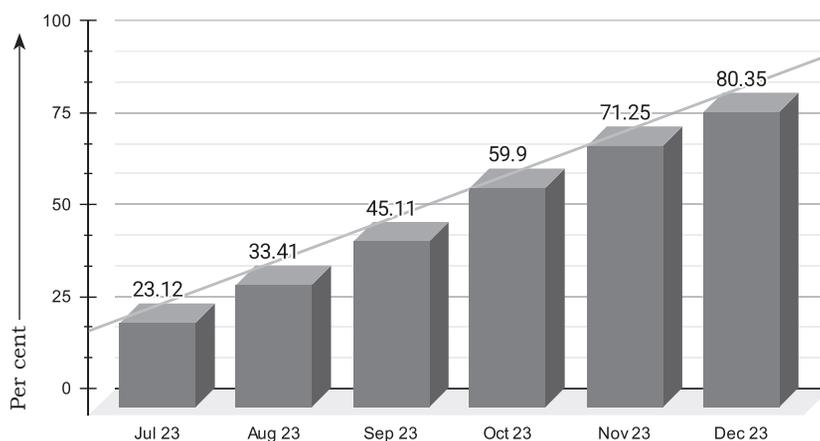
per cent in July to 80.35 per cent in December 2023, reflecting remarkable progress achieved through the FLN programme.

The results indicate that, following the completion of the programme:

- (i) Grade 1: 76.71 per cent of students (+64.27) were able to read simple five-word sentences and correctly solve at least 75 per cent of single-digit addition and subtraction problems.
- (ii) Grade 2: 79.74 per cent of students (+56.03) could read a paragraph fluently at 45 words per minute, answer at least 75 per cent of comprehension questions correctly, and solve 75 per cent of addition (up to 99) and two-digit subtraction problems.
- (iii) Grade 3: 83.61 per cent of students (+54.02) demonstrated the ability to read a paragraph fluently at 60 words per minute, answer at least 75 per cent of comprehension questions accurately, and solve 75 per cent of problems involving addition (up to 999), three-digit subtraction, and multiplication (tables 2 to 10, up to 100).
- These findings clearly underscore the effectiveness of the FLN programme in strengthening foundational competencies in both literacy and numeracy, thereby fully fulfilling Objective 3 of the study.

**Table 6**  
**NIPUN Students Month-wise**

Month	Assessed	NIPUN	NIPUN %
Jul 23	77,576	17,937	23.12
Aug 23	78,283	26,154	33.41
Sep 23	76,689	34,598	45.11
Oct 23	76,754	45,976	59.90
Nov 23	77,170	54,987	71.25
Dec 23	77,109	61,960	80.35



**Interpretation of Table 6**

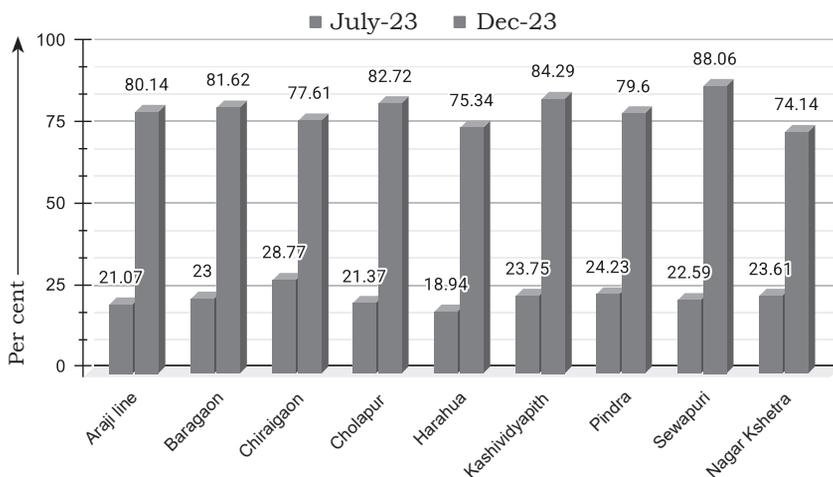
Table 6 and the accompanying graph shows the monthly performance of Grade 1, 2, and 3 students in Literacy and Numeracy skills under the NIPUN assessment. Significant improvement was observed across all grades, with proficiency percentages increasing from 23.12 per cent in July 2023 to 33.41 per cent, 45.11 per cent, 59.90 per cent, 71.25 per cent, and

finally 80.35 per cent in December 2023, following the implementation of the FLN programme.

Notably, the most remarkable progress occurred between September 2023 (45.11%) and October 2023 (59.90%). These findings clearly demonstrate that the FLN programme has been effective in enhancing both literacy and numeracy skills among students, successfully fulfilling Objective 3 of the study.

**Table 7**  
**NIPUN Students Block-wise**

S.No.	Block	Jul 23			Dec 23			Growth
		Assessed students	NIPUN students	NIPUN %	Assessed students	NIPUN students	NIPUN %	
1.	Arajilines	11,449	2412	21.07	11,621	9313	80.14	59.07
2.	Baragaon	7835	1802	23.00	7958	6495	81.62	58.62
3.	Chiraigaon	10,617	3054	28.77	10,469	8125	77.61	48.84
4.	Cholapur	8270	1767	21.37	8208	6790	82.72	61.36
5.	Harahua	8221	1557	18.94	8154	6143	75.34	56.40
6.	Kashividyapith	7807	1854	23.75	7739	6523	84.29	60.54
7.	Pindra	8687	2105	24.23	8611	6854	79.60	55.36
8.	Sewapuri	8079	1825	22.59	7747	6822	88.06	65.47
9.	Nagar Kshetra	6611	1561	23.61	6602	4895	74.14	50.53
<b>Total</b>		77,576	17,937	23.12	77,109	61,960	80.35	57.23



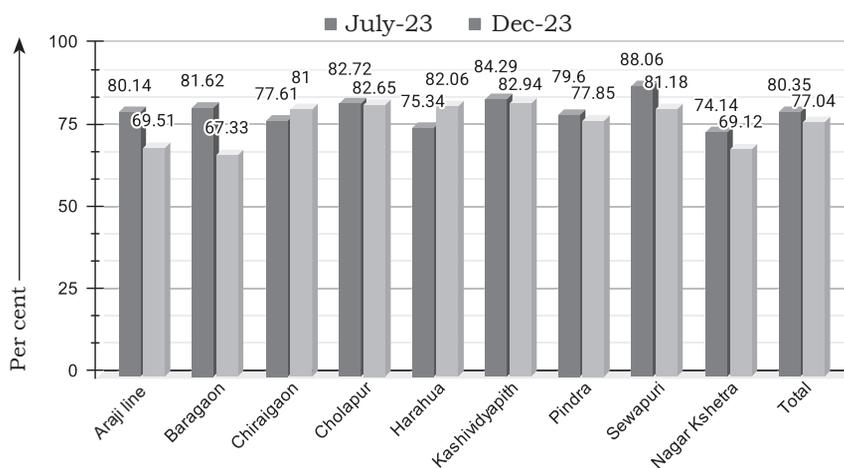
### Interpretation of Table 7

Table 7 and the accompanying graphs present an area-wise analysis of student performance in Language (Hindi) and Mathematics for July and December 2023. Out of 77,576 students assessed in July 2023, 17,937 achieved NIPUN status. By December 2023, out of 77,109 students assessed, 61,960 attained NIPUN status, demonstrating a significant positive trend in student proficiency over this period.

Among the nine blocks, the Sewapuri block showed the most substantial improvement, with a remarkable increase of 64.47 per cent between July and December 2023. This progress reflects the collective efforts of students, teachers, and the educational system in enhancing foundational competencies. The analysis confirms the successful fulfillment of Objective 3 of the study.

**Table 8**  
**NIPUN Student Report-wise**

S.No.	Block	School reported			Third party assessment report		
		Assessed	NIPUN	%	Assessed	NIPUN	%
1.	Arajiline	11,621	9313	80.14	4031	2802	69.51
2.	Baragaon	7958	6495	81.62	3294	2218	67.33
3.	Chiraiigaon	10,469	8125	77.61	3279	2656	81.00
4.	Cholapur	8208	6790	82.72	3119	2578	82.65
5.	Harahua	8154	6143	75.34	2207	1811	82.06
6.	Kashividyapith	7739	6523	84.29	2357	1955	82.94
7.	Pindra	8611	6854	79.6	3599	2802	77.85
8.	Sewapuri	7747	6822	88.06	3416	2773	81.18
9.	Nagar Kshetra	6602	4895	74.14	1276	882	69.12
<b>Total</b>		77,109	61,960	80.35	26,578	20,477	77.04



### Interpretation of Table 8

Table 8 and the accompanying graph shows that, according to school reports, 80.35 per cent of students were NIPUN in December 2023, while the third-party assessment found 77.04 per cent of students to be NIPUN during the same period. This reflects a minor difference of approximately 3 per cent between the two data sets.

However, in the Baragaon and Arajilines blocks, discrepancies of over 10 per cent were observed between teacher-reported data and third-party assessments. These deviations are likely due to technical issues with the NIPUN Lakshya mobile app and the deployment of new trainees who are conducting their first assessments in these blocks. Conversely, in the Cholapur block, the NIPUN proficiency reported by schools and third-party assessments were consistent.

Overall, the comparison reveals no significant difference (less than 5%) between school-reported and third-party data, indicating that schools have largely reported assessments accurately.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The NIPUN Bharat Mission's FLN programme has demonstrated a transformative impact in significantly enhancing foundational skills among students in Grades 1, 2, and 3. Assessment data from July to December 2023 illustrate marked improvements in both Language (Hindi) and Mathematics, addressing

critical learning gaps and driving systemic educational progress.

In Language (Hindi), proficiency levels in Grade 1 increased from 12.98 per cent to 79.21 per cent (+66.22%), Grade 2 from 26.14 per cent to 81.00 per cent (+54.86%), and Grade 3 from 32.04 per cent to 84.71 per cent (+52.67%). This reflects a foundational shift from basic decoding to fluent, meaningful reading, with students demonstrating improved comprehension and reading fluency.

In Mathematics, proficiency rose from 15.53 per cent to 80.26 per cent (+64.73%) in Grade 1, 28.81 per cent to 82.18 per cent (+53.38%) in Grade 2, and 34.32 per cent to 85.36 per cent (+51.04%) in Grade 3. These gains represent enhanced problem-solving skills and growing student confidence in arithmetic operations appropriate to each grade level.

Overall NIPUN proficiency (combined Language and Mathematics) surged from 23.12 per cent in July to 80.35 per cent in December (+57.23%), with Grade 1 at 76.71 per cent, Grade 2 at 79.74 per cent, and Grade 3 at 83.61 per cent.

Block-level analysis underscores grassroots success, with the Sewapuri block achieving a remarkable 64.47 per cent improvement in NIPUN proficiency, reflecting effective local implementation and student engagement.

Comparison between school-reported data (80.35% NIPUN) and third-party assessment results (77.04%) in December 2023 showed

only a 3 per cent variance, indicating high accuracy and reliability in reporting.

### Key findings include

- (i) Significant improvement in Language (Hindi) fluency and comprehension across all grades.
- (ii) Enhanced mathematical skills and confidence in solving grade-appropriate problems.
- (iii) Overall NIPUN proficiency increased substantially in the 2023 academic session.
- (iv) Notable progress at the block level, particularly in Sewapuri, highlighting effective local strategies.
- (v) High concordance between school-reported and third-party assessment data validates the programme's impact.

These results affirm the FLN programme's success in strengthening foundational competencies, supporting the objectives of the NIPUN Bharat Mission and providing a replicable model for broader educational reform.

### CONCLUSION

The FLN programme under the NIPUN Bharat Mission has delivered extraordinary results in enhancing

foundational competencies among primary school students. The integration of data-driven strategies, innovative and engaging teaching methodologies, and continuous assessments has led to comprehensive improvements in both literacy and numeracy skills.

Moreover, these teaching approaches have fostered confidence, curiosity, and a genuine love for learning among students. The significant gains in Language and Mathematics proficiency underscore the impact of targeted interventions and demonstrate how strong foundational education can serve as a critical stepping stone for lifelong academic and personal success.

The remarkable progress seen in the Sewapuri block exemplifies the programme's potential as a role model for grassroots implementation. The holistic and inclusive framework of the FLN programme offers a replicable model that can be adapted across diverse educational contexts. Ultimately, the collaboration and commitment of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the provision of appropriate resources are essential to fully realise the mission's goals and sustain its positive outcomes.

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