

Revoking of No Detention Policy - How to convert this into an Opportunity for Growth

Rohit Prakash · 28 February 2025

Examines the Indian government's decision to revoke the No Detention Policy, explaining how the original policy inadvertently caused learning gaps and higher dropout rates by promoting students without mastery of fundamentals. Cites ASER 2024 statistics on poor foundational skills and argues that reintroducing detention must be paired with Personalized Adaptive Learning (PAL) to help students close gaps rather than simply repeat grades.

Hi,

Wishing you a very Happy Holi! I hope you played safely and enjoyed the festive sweets.

Today, I want to discuss a significant shift in India's education policy—the Government of India's (GOI) decision to revoke the No Detention Policy. While you may already be aware of this change, my focus is on exploring how we can convert this into an opportunity for growth.

But, before exploring ways to turn this into an opportunity, let's take a few seconds to understand the challenges

As we know, the No Detention Policy was introduced with the aim of fostering a stress-free learning environment and reducing dropout rates. However, an unintended consequence was that students were promoted to higher grades without fully mastering fundamental concepts. Over time, this led to significant learning gaps, making it increasingly difficult for students to keep up with the curriculum—eventually contributing to higher dropout rates.

The severity of these learning gaps is evident in ASER 2024 findings, which reveal that less than 30% of Class 5 students can solve a basic division problem, while over 50% struggle to read a Class 2-level text. Additionally, in 2024, India's secondary level dropout rate (Classes 9-12) stood at 10.9%, meaning a significant portion of students were leaving school after Grade 8.

The government has now revoked the No Detention Policy with the goal to bring greater accountability among teachers, students, and parents, with the expectation that this will encourage students to focus more on their studies and improve learning outcomes. But will this change alone be enough?

I believe that revoking the No Detention Policy should go hand in hand with the introduction of Personalized Adaptive Learning (PAL) in our classrooms.

Without this, we risk seeing dropouts occur even earlier, as our current school system is neither designed nor adequately equipped to help students bridge their learning gaps. Simply holding students back without addressing these gaps will only add to their frustration rather than improve their learning outcomes.

You might be thinking why PAL?

This is because unlike urban students who have access to extra coaching and parental guidance, there are students in government schools who depend entirely on their teachers—who have limited

time to cater to each student's individual needs.

By integrating PAL technology, we can:

- Create Personalized Learning Paths – Adapting lessons to each student's learning level
- Support Teachers with Actionable Insights – Helping them focus on students who need the most help
- Increase Retention Rates – Preventing dropouts by ensuring students grasp concepts before moving ahead

Let's Talk! I want to hear your thoughts on this!

Do you think PAL can help bridge learning gaps in government schools? Do you have any alternative suggestions? I'd love to discuss this further!

Thanks and Regards,

Rohit Prakash

Co-Founder