



Pratham

Every Child In School and Learning Well



Concept Note – Combined Activities for Maximised Learning (CAMaL)

About CAMaL

CAMaL (Combined Activities for Maximized Learning) is a pedagogy created by Pratham to develop children’s basic abilities in reading and arithmetic. CAMaL facilitates learning through structured activities that lead to the development of different competencies, viz. reading, writing, listening, speaking and doing. The activities are introduced in such a way that they ensure learning by helping the child move from simple to complex and from concrete to abstract. *A balance between challenge and support thus characterizes the activities of CAMaL.*

Fundamental to the CAMaL approach is the grouping of children on the basis of their learning levels rather than on the class in which they are enrolled. Each group of children is then taught using activities and materials designed to help them to move to the next level. In this way, each child in the group is provided the help he/she needs in order to progress. *This is known as the concept of ‘Teaching at the Right Level.’*

The methodology is designed around the firm belief that the child is an active agent in the process of learning. *‘Learning by Doing’ is therefore a value that guides CAMaL.*

In summary, CAMaL is an interactive, activity-based approach that has been proven to help children acquire basic reading and arithmetic abilities in a short period of time. In 2014-15, CAMaL reached and facilitated learning for 1 million children directly and about 6 million children through government partnerships across India.

Objectives of the CAMaL Module

- To help DIET students understand the current learning levels of children in Std. 3, 4 and 5.
- To expose them to the teaching-learning techniques and activities used in CAMaL, in order to enable them to build basic reading and arithmetic skills in children.
- In modules that include field implementation of CAMaL, to support them while working with a group of children to facilitate their understanding and implementation of the methodology.

Duration of the CAMaL Module

The CAMaL module comprises four days of classroom sessions with DIET students, including field practice and additional days for field implementation. The number of days for field implementation would vary depending upon the model selected.

Details of the CAMaL Module

In the classroom session, the following elements would be covered:

- Concept of CAMaL
- History and basis of CAMaL
- CAMaL Language Component
- CAMaL Arithmetic Component

The activities of Language and Arithmetic in which the participants would be trained are based on the following themes/domains:

Language	Arithmetic
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oracy (speaking activities)• Reading and discussion on stories related activity (<i>Gupshup</i>, reading, fluency and comprehension)• Decoding: Activity with <i>barakhadi</i>• Vocabulary• Writing: From scribbling to organic➤ Games for children at different levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number sense• Operations• Other competencies➤ Word Problems and Games

The methodology used for training the participants in CAMaL is participatory and comprises different methods such as group discussions, demonstrations, presentations, etc. In order to understand the application and impact of CAMaL, the classroom sessions would be accompanied with field practice.

Using CAMaL with children

In the models where the component of field implementation is selected, participants would implement CAMaL activities with children in pre-selected schools in an intervention mode called 'Learning Camp'. A 'Learning Camp' is a short, intensive intervention during which a range of activities are conducted with children in a school for about three hours every day for a period of about 30 days. Children are divided into groups based on their learning levels and are taught accordingly. At the end of the Learning Camp, an assessment is conducted to see whether children have made progress in basic reading and arithmetic. During the Learning Camps, participants would be provided on-site support as needed.