No Detention withdrawn by the Govt of India today in parliament and punished millions of children despite systemic failures and non-implementation of RTE Act. It is a very unfortunate move which will impact all children particularly children belonging to most marginalised communities.

: Ambarish Rai

New Delhi, RTE Forum 18 July, 2018. RTE Forum strongly condemns the passing of 'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Second Amendment) Bill, 2017' in Lok Sabha today which scraps the No detention provision. Mr Ambarish Rai, National Convener, RTE Forum said that "No Detention withdrawn by the Govt of India today in parliament and punished millions of children despite systemic failures and non-implementation of RTE Act."

He said that there is no established cause-effect link between "learning levels" and "no detention policy". It is the poor quality of education, lack of infrastructure, teacher vacancies and the presence of untrained teachers that may have an effect on learning outcomes. No detention clause, one of the most critical parts of RTE Act, now pulled out, has put the entire RTE Act at risk of disintegration. The greatest negative impact will be on disadvantaged groups, first generation learners and Adivasi students along with the girl children. He said that this bill has been introduced on the pretext of impacting learning outcome but the govt. didn’t bother ever to implement CCE (Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation) on ground.

It must be noted that the consequence of detaining a child in the same class works adversely on the child’s psyche and has an impact on his/her self-esteem. It often affects the child’s motivation to continue in school which results in drop-out or rather, being pushed out of the school system.

Mr. Ambarish Rai said further that even after 8 years of the enactment of the RTE Act, the school compliant with RTE norms and standards is only 8% which is a shame for a democratic welfare state. But instead of delivering on the responsibilities state is going on the other way to weaken and the minimum rights provided by the constitution.

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