

Breaking the barriers



KIRAN DHAM

Indian government is taking measures to distribute good Internet connections to enable smart classrooms for students and scholars in remote corners of the country

Today government schools in India are well versed with the concept of technology enabled education. Over the past few years, the government has identified the necessity of assimilating advanced technology in the regular course structure to provide a comprehensive 360 degree learning experience to students.

For many years government schools had struggled to connect with children from different backgrounds because schools didn't have progressive and comprehensive education. In spite of running so many campaigns to enrol students, the enrolment rate was way lower than in private institutions. Some major problems identified were a lack of technology aware teachers and advanced good quality learning material. Absenteeism and non-interactive sessions were also a major area of concern.

In an attempt to disrupt this trend, the Indian Government has started a mission to provide access to quality education using technology enabled learning structures. From latest technology to the best teaching-learning pedagogies, schools are adopting new methods that help stu-

dents develop holistically.

The advancement in technology has made it possible to open avenues of digital learning and teaching platforms that provide access to quality and interactive education across government schools. The various aspects of technology have become a mandatory part of the education journey of the students and teachers along with impacting the overall development of the students. The transition from a normal chalk dust environment to a technology loaded classroom has been gradual yet motivational in Indian government classrooms. Access to a digitally enhanced classroom helps expand student's horizons.

Traditional methods do not have the ability to raise student's interest and curiosity in subjects. Also, they have limited resources to project knowledge about any topic of interest. When the traditional teaching and

learning gets the digital edge, they open vast avenues of knowledge resources along with different sources of interest. Technology laced content not only has theoretical explanations but also contains graphics, videos, charts and graphs, 3D images and many more resources for a diversified understanding of any subject. It raises students curiosity followed by creating interesting solutions for deep learning and insights into topics. It's been observed that children of government schools have grown more participative and interactive after studying through a digitally enhanced classroom.

Some leading digital training institutes have implemented smart classrooms in different government schools pan India. This includes installing digital products and solutions at prestigious government schools like Kendriya Vidyalaya (1500+

classrooms), Aarohi schools and schools under South Delhi Municipal Corporation. The increasing demand of smart classrooms itself is proof of the impact technologies have on government school's growth. The government has also realised the need for and effects of technology enabled education and is turning most of the classrooms digital.

One more reason the government is focusing on technology empowered education is the increasing competition in the employment space. Most employers demand a workforce that is academically sound with diversified knowledge of current environment. Few years back, students of private schools had an upper hand over students of government schools when it comes to employment opportunities. To bridge this gap, the government is increasing the quality of classrooms which will surely help create equal

opportunity for students of different backgrounds. Leading digital learning organisations have been developing solutions which not only offer hardware resources but also provide comprehensive labs with language software that enhances the linguistic and communication skills of children.

Upscaling digital education, the digital labs of such digital learning organisations are a comprehensive solution of best quality technological hardware combined with advanced software and infrastructural resources that cater to the complete requirements of an ICT enabled education environment.

Certain technologies like virtual classrooms are breaking the barrier of distance and time and making education accessible to people from different areas of the country. The government is taking measures to provide good Internet connections in remote areas to enable smart classrooms to students and scholars residing in villages and remote areas of the country. Technology has made it possible for learners to use advanced resources, mentoring and content for a world class education.

The writer is CEO, Odus Infocom

