Strengthening Digital Initiatives

Launch of Smart Classrooms: An Initiative led by Premansh Foundation

PROGRAM REPORT

The report highlights initiatives led by Premansh Foundation in collaboration with Deshwal Foundation

Introduction

The educational challenges in India are as diverse as the country itself, given its diversified environment. Although over 86.8% of children aged 14 to 18 are enrolled in educational institutions, nearly a quarter of them struggle to read at the level expected of a second grader in their regional languages. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024, highlights stark disparities in educational access and quality. This disparity is most noticeable in rural areas, where children deal with poverty, poor infrastructure, and a dearth of possibilities for high-quality education. There has never been a more pressing need for creative ways to close the achievement gap.

In our current digital era, access to technology is imperative for promoting effective education and improving academic achievements. With this in mind, we advocated and implemented the provision of computers in schools in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Premansh Foundation acknowledged the significant role it plays in supporting students' academic success. We initiated the Smart class program to promote Digital Literacy among students

Our goal is to narrow the gap between those with and without digital resources, cultivate digital literacy, and empower students with the means to thrive in their studies.

Program Objectives:
- Providing students with access to technology for educational purposes.
- Enhance digital literacy skills among students and teachers.
- Improve learning outcomes through interactive and technology-enabled teaching methods.
- Support the integration of technology into the curriculum to enrich the learning experience.
- Promote equal opportunities for all students, regardless of socioeconomic background.

Problems

Barriers to Digital Education

The transition to digital education presents numerous challenges and barriers, particularly in regions with limited resources and infrastructure. Despite its potential to revolutionize learning, the implementation of digital education faces obstacles such as inadequate access to technology, lack of teacher training, and disparities in internet connectivity. These issues can significantly hinder the effectiveness and inclusivity of digital education initiatives, highlighting the need for comprehensive strategies to overcome these barriers and ensure equitable access to quality education for all students.

Lack of Infrastructure

Most of the rural areas still lack basic infrastructure and continuous supply of energy and internet access in most of the rural locations. There are still some isolated settlements without access to electricity. The lack of expertise among the locals on how to identify and operate digital devices is another serious problem.

Lack of Resources

Children often have lack of resources to learn and upgrade their knowledge digitally. Only a small percentage of children in rural areas have access to laptops or computers. The phone displays that they have access to are not conducive to extended study sessions. If there are multiple children in a home, they will need to share the gadget or one of them will have to miss courses so the other may learn.

Inadequate skills

Another obstacle impeding the progress of digital education is teachers in rural regions who lack the necessary tools to use digital platforms. But because they don't have the requisite training, educators are reluctant to apply these teaching strategies.

How Premansh Foundation decided to take a lead?

During our field visits to the rural areas of Noida, Uttar Pradesh, discussions with school principals and management committee members revealed a significant gap in computer education. We found that most schools limited computer instruction to textbooks, with no practical learning opportunities. In response, our team conceived the idea of implementing Smart Classrooms to address this shortfall and enhance the learning experience.

Rationale To Bridge this Digital Gap

Digital technologies assist in developing abilities that will require students' professional performance, such as problem-solving, thinking structure creation, and process comprehension.

The digital learning also helps students to prepare themselves for a more unpredictable and changing future in which technology will play a critical role. This initiative/program aims to bridge the significant gap between urban and rural education by providing equitable access to advanced digital learning tools and resources. The use of computers helps to understand concepts better and easily.

Students' acquired qualities and abilities will be essential to their professional success. Educational resources and digital tools help to improve the classroom atmosphere and make the teaching-learning process more compelling.

The urban-rural areas of Noida, U.P often face significant disparities in educational resources and opportunities compared to more developed urban centers. Launching smart classrooms in these areas aims to bridge this gap and promote educational equity

Digital technologies make it easy for students to learn gamification and flipped classrooms and enhanced their learning process , empowering them for educational and personal development, by fostering equality.

By focusing on the urban-rural areas of Noida, the initiative seeks to address specific local challenges, maximize impact, and pave the way for a more inclusive and digitally empowered educational landscape.

Table of Content

SOLUTIONS

The Premansh Foundation and the Deshwal Foundation have partnered to support schools by launching Smart Classrooms to reach underserved areas and address educational gaps.

The team of Premansh Foundation conducted following steps to address the barrier:-

- **Needs Assessment & School Mapping**

The team conducted a Needs Assessment to understand the current state of education & digital education. Based on discussions with schools and evaluating various parameters including school affiliation, enrollment, teacher availability, and subject offerings-they identified and mapped the schools most in need of digital education initiatives.

- **Stakeholder Engagement**

We engaged discussions with various stakeholders including- school management, principal, teachers, students, parents to gain their support. We conducted meetings to discuss benefits of establishing smart classrooms.

- **Infrastructure Set-up**

Based on discussions with the school authorities, necessary arrangements were made for launch of smart classrooms in rural schools of Noida, U.P. This included- power supply, wall partition, computer installation, etc.

- **Technical Support**

Based on mutual agreements with the school authorities, Premansh Foundation team agreed to provide one year technical support to the schools whether in terms of digital learning, computers along with one year maintenance.
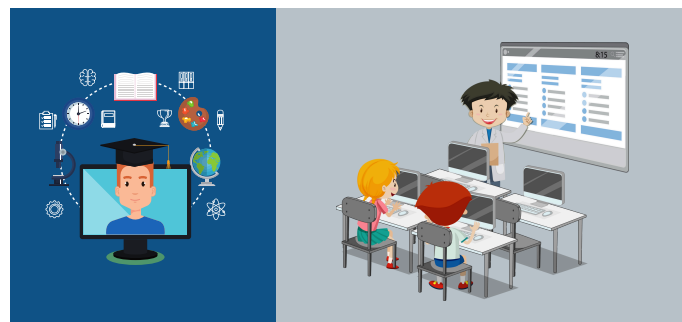
Launch of Smart Classrooms

Our Work & Coverage

So far, we have successfully launched Smart Classrooms in three schools at Chithera, Dadri, Uttar Pradesh. This initiative marks a significant milestone in our mission to revolutionize education in rural areas and bridge the digital divide.

The introduction of smart classrooms has transformed the traditional learning environment into an interactive, engaging, and technologically advanced space, benefiting nearly 2000 students.

Bringing ideas & innovation to life through technology

Enhanced Educational Resources:

Each classroom is equipped with the computers allowing students to access a diverse array of digital learning materials and resources.

Sustainability

Our approach ensures sustainability by setting up maintenance protocols and capacity building of teachers as and when required, ensuring that the smart classrooms remain functional and effective in the long term.

Voices from the Field

Feedbacks

We are thankful to Premansh Foundation & Deshwal Foundation for their contribution towards strengthening digital initiative in our school. "Smart classrooms have revolutionized our teaching methods, making computer learning and other subjects more engaging.

School Principal, Pioneer Academy School

Learning computers is so fun and interactive; it has transformed my learning experience as I am now gaining practical experience. Thank you Premansh Foundation for making my learning more enriching & meaningful.

Priya, Student, Decent Public School

We are extremely grateful for launching smart classrooms in our schools. We appreciate the unwavering commitment of your organization and support extended to our school and especially students...

School Principal, Decent Public School

Future Prospects

Moving Forward, Premansh Foundation envisions several key strategies:

- **Scaling Up**: With encouraging results, the organization plans to expand the smart class program to encompass more schools and communities, thereby amplifying its impact on educational equity and quality.

- **Capacity Building:** We plan to collaborate with like-minded organizations/agencies to promote e-learning opportunities/online-learning in order to strengthen quality education & effective learning amongst students.

- **Continuous Improvement:** Ongoing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be instituted to identify areas for refinement and optimization, ensuring the program evolves in alignment with emerging educational trends and needs.

- **Partnerships and Collaboration**: Premansh Foundation aims to forge strategic partnerships with government agencies, corporate entities, and other stakeholders to bolster the sustainability and scalability of the smart class program, fostering a collective commitment to educational advancement.

Conclusion

The Premansh Foundation's Smart Classroom Program is an innovative initiative that uses technology to transform education while promoting diversity, empowerment, and creativity. This innovative project demonstrates our dedication to eliminating educational gaps and giving all kids, regardless of socioeconomic status, equal access to education.

The program has shown promising results thus far, indicating that it has the capacity to bring about a substantial improvement. We have made traditional classrooms into dynamic, interactive centers of learning by incorporating state-of-the-art digital technologies and resources into the classroom setting. This improves comprehension and student engagement while also giving them the fundamental digital literacy skills they need to succeed in the modern world.

The Smart Class Program's future goal is a ray of hope for achieving India's Digital India mission. We may establish a more fair and inclusive learning environment by making investments in technology-enabled education. We call upon all stakeholders—educators, policymakers, community leaders, and private sector partners—to support this transformative initiative. Your collaboration and investment are crucial in scaling the impact of the Smart Class Program, ensuring that its benefits reach even more students across diverse regions. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on the lives of students, paving the way for a future where quality education is accessible to all and where every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

THANK YOU

To Know More, Reach Us!

Premansh Foundation is a registered not-for-profit organization based at Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Address

C-1004,Tower C , Noida One ,Sector -62, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301

Telephone

0120-3116811

Email

info@premanshfoundation.org

Website

www.premanshfoundation.org

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