Pratham Virtual Open Schools

A Solutions Initiative

and

Supported By

GIZ
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Labdoo.org
Contents...

• The Challenge
• The Goal
• Pratham Virtual Open School (PVOS) – A Pilot Solution
  • The design
  • Who will PVOS benefit
  • How are we doing?
  • The overall scope of the pilot
  • Very early lessons
  • Research hypotheses
• Evaluation & Impact Assessment
• Scale-up & Sustainability
The Challenge...

In India, nearly **14 million** children **DROP-OUT** before or **FAIL** the **Class X** (10th grade) exam **every year**, and never progress beyond. That is 49% of the total Class X age population.

This number reaches 22 million by Class XII – i.e. around 71% of the 18 - 19 years age group exits the formal schooling system every year.

A 2 year Pilot to develop and demonstrate a replicable & scalable model...

**to improve learning and graduation from Open & State Boards** for the 14+ million 16 to 17 year olds who fail or drop-out, year after year, by the time they reach Class XII.

**Performance Goals:**
- Total Drop-Out: Less than 20% of total enrolment
- Successful completion of NIOS Class X Certification: 70%+ of total enrolment
- Improved learning outcomes: based on independent assessments
Pratham **Virtual** Open School (PVOS) – A Pilot Solution

Virtual (Online) Learning platform accessible through broadband-networked Centres

**Target Group:** 14 to 18 year old children (out-of-school, and at-risk in school)

**Curricular Focus:** English & Mathematics - National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

**Medium of Instruction:** Hindi

**Methodology:**
- **Web-based & offline interactive content** using a LMS (Learning Management System)
- One tablet/laptop per student
- Guided by live online-teachers and centre-facilitators

**Current Status:** (From May 2014-present)
- **120 + students across 3 centers** (2 urban centers in Jaipur: Chaandpole Bazaar and Bhatta Basti, 2 rural centers (Sironj and Arain)
- All students in 3 centers completed a month long Digital Literacy Program and have begun virtual classes.
- The Digital Literacy Program is underway in Arain
Who will PVOS benefit?

The average 14+ year old drop-out...

- Rural
- Low-income family
- First generation learner
- Perceives the importance of education and qualifications
- But lacks the confidence and motivation
- Dropped out due to lack of engagement & quality in school
- Cannot afford private/supplementary education support
- Lacks guidance and support to make personal development decisions
- Lacks geographical mobility
- Mainly at home; partly engaged in informal employment

Credit: Debashis Mukherjee, UNESCO-UNEVOC Competition 2012
Snapshots From The Classes

- Children getting familiar with a laptop
- A virtual class in progress
- Students interacting with the learning management system
- Students learning in small groups
**Very Early Lessons**

- **Self-paced learning content**
  - Students need structured guidance since they are many grade levels behind their peers.

- **Automated, real-time assessment**
  - Tracking student learning in real time is critical to project management and teacher engagement.
  - It allows for correlation between attendance, duration of classes and outcomes.

- **Connected to good teachers**
  - Good teachers are hard to find!!
  - A different set of skills is needed to work with virtual students, and especially those who have struggled academically.

- **Small group-peer learning**
  - Confidence is key for student improvement; students that are confident and spread it to their groups tend to learn faster.

- **Class X Completion**
  - Students are quick adapters to technology.
  - Reading comprehension is the biggest barrier to learning.
  - Teachers performance can be linked directly to student outcomes.
  - Encouraging students to teach each other improves both sets of learning outcomes.

- **Content has to be practice-heavy**

- **Breakdowns in connectivity and power are the biggest demotivators for both students and teachers.**

- **Some outlier results are showing great improvement, otherwise its too soon to see trends.**
Evaluation & Impact Assessment

Program Evaluation

Needs Assessment
• Survey of comparable educational service providers in the target communities
• Socio-economic survey of local communities
• Baseline assessment of participating drop-outs and target age group students.

Process Evaluation
• Duration of content-interaction by student
• Quantity/quality of content generated, assignments completed by individual students and peer-groups
• Student assessment by group, centre, teacher, community
• Quantity/quality of teacher-interactions by content module, individual student and peer-group
• Online-teachers retention rate

Impact Evaluation
• Drop-out coverage in target areas
• Student retention rates
• State/NIOS exam pass rates for English and Math
• Final competency levels of all participating students
• Follow-up of students career paths after completion.
PVOS – Roll Out Plan

**Phase II: April 2015 to March 2016**

- 15 Rural & 5 Urban Centres in 2 to 3 States (dependent on donor-engagement)
- **2000 Students**
- 500 laptops/tablets
- 200 web-based teachers across India
- 35 Centre facilitators & supervisors

Additional locations to be determined
Scale-Up & Sustainability

- Expansion of Centres through Pratham, other NGOs, and Village-Level Entrepreneurs
- Partner with the 15 Open Boards to integrate the VOS model into their Study Centres
- Work with schools (govt. and private) to identify 13+ year old students “at risk” of dropping out, and provide them supplementary support through the VOS platform
- Allow students to directly enrol on-demand in virtual-groups through the VOS web-platform using their own laptops/tablets.
Pratham Virtual Open Schools

https://www.facebook.com/openschoolsonline

THANK YOU!!