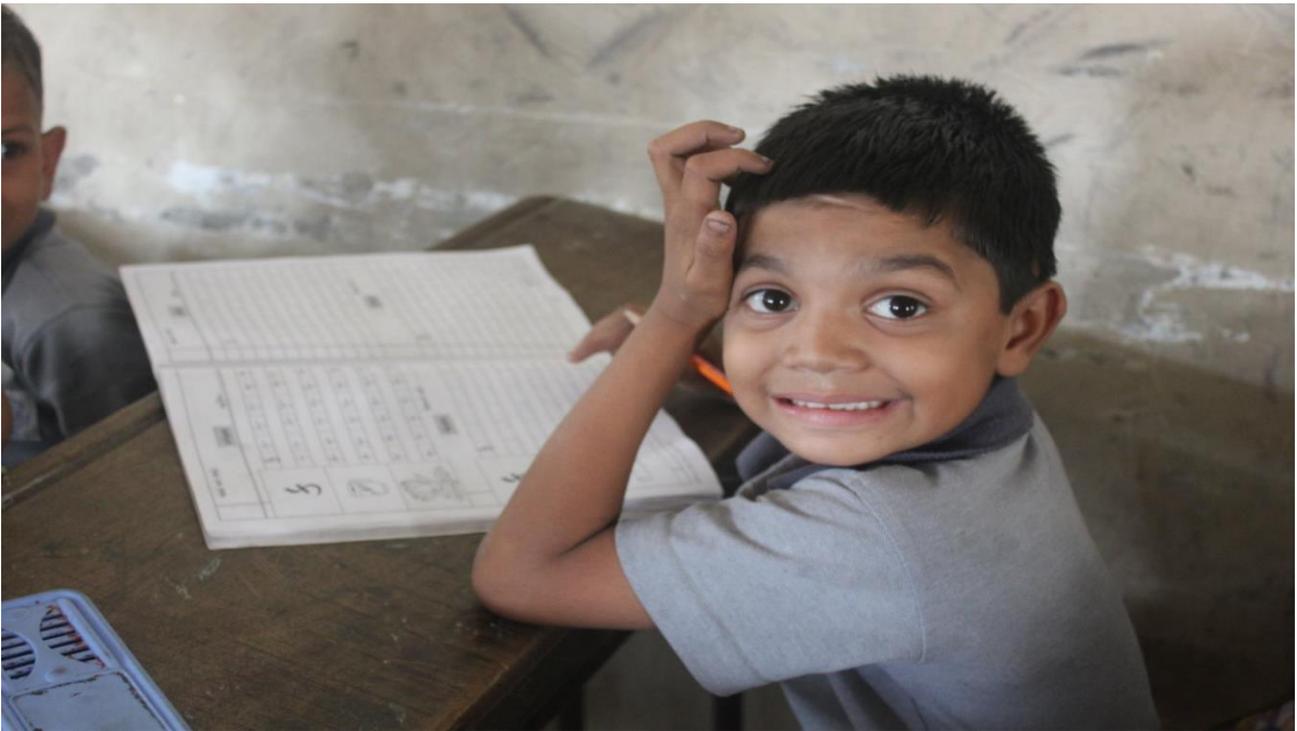


# Public School Intervention Program – Anmol Shiksha



## Digital Learning

Empowering Learning through Digital Interventions

India today has around 1.45 million elementary schools in 662 districts with 191.3 million children enrolled and 7.96 million teachers. We have been fairly successful in ensuring that there is a school within 5 kilometers of every residential area as well as increasing enrolment ratios, which stand at 96% in status quo.

However, the biggest challenge that India's public education system faces today is that the tremendous success in achieving nearly **100% access to schooling has not translated to Quality Learning.**

The emerging data about the quality, access and equity of education in India point towards a crucial space where companies can intercede to create great impact through Corporate Social Responsibility. Recent data shows that some steps have already been taken in this direction. From 2014 to 2015, 29% of the total CSR was spent on education and skills development initiatives and about 385 out of 432 companies that reported on their CSR by November 2015 had some amount of spending in education.

With a large gap existing in the education sector in terms of delivery of education (demand) along with resources available with the corporates in the form of CSR (supply), the question then is, how best can Corporates and donors contribute to the education sector, in an efficient and sustainable manner.

When you consider that 85% of children in India study in government schools, it becomes obvious that any meaningful effort to improve the quality of education in our country has to start here. Central and state government initiatives have improved accessibility, facilities and teaching standards in public schools. But with a rapidly growing population of children of school-going age, it is apparent that a great deal more has to be achieved...and achieved quickly. But there are limitations on how much the government can do.

Realizing this, KarmaKonnnect has launched initiatives in which it partners with knowledge partners and Govt schools to nurture under-privileged and rural schools and enhances learning outcomes.

KarmaKonnnect's Anmol Shiksha is a model program to assist the Gujarat Government school framework with better learning techniques and strengthen it as a model that enables comprehensive learning environment. The thrust of the program is to have a holistic approach with new initiatives for strengthening the Government programs/activities of the schools.

**KarmaKonnnect has perfected the 'low cost, yet replicable and scalable' model of project implementation.**

The typical Government schools located in rural districts of Gujarat have classes from 1st grade to 8th grade, and follow the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSEB) curriculum. Most large schools have Approx. 500-700 students across 8th grades, and 15-17 GSEB Govt. teachers.

### **Typical School Structure (based on village Jholapur, largest in Sanand)**

- All grades have 2 sections with approximately 40 to 50 students each, with the exception of Grade 7, which has 3. Each grade has 8 periods from Monday to Friday, of approximately 30 minutes each, and 4 on Saturday.
- Grade 1 to 4 studies 4 subjects: English, Gujarati, Math, and EVS. Grades 5 and 6 study English, Gujarati, Hindi, Math and Science, and Social Studies.
- Grades 7 and 8 study English, Gujarati, Hindi, Sanskrit, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Education.

### **Issues:**

Government schools suffers from a lot of problems typical of government and public schools in Gujarat. The teaching staff at the school is severely demotivated, and as a result, is not productive. The education level of students is also low, with as many as 15% of students in each class reading and writing below Grade 1 level. The ratio of teacher to student is 1:41, and because of this, teachers cannot give time or focus to students who are lagging behind, leading to students losing interest in learning.

This vicious cycle leads to high drop-out ratios and low retention levels, which is further exacerbated by a culture of child marriages, especially for female students. For male students, a lack of education pushes them to the consumption of alcohol and tobacco, leading to a severe tobacco problem in the village. A lack of education also diminishes the employment chances, leading to a disenfranchised youth.

According to a recently conducted survey:

- 57% of schools have three teachers or less
- 58% of fifth standard students cannot read second standard text books
- 75% of fifth standard students cannot do basic division
- 47% of fifth standard students cannot do basic subtraction
- Lack of infrastructure and innovation in teaching methodologies
- High student dropout rate at primary education stage due to a lack of motivation to study and future opportunities
- High absenteeism

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project involves the installation of digital classrooms in various Government Schools across the state, after a need-based analysis.

The digital classrooms contain a CPU (containing a stimulating audio-visual e-learning software for all grades), a keyboard, a mouse and a projector. The class rooms will be specially prepared for this purpose, with curtains and an AC.

The chosen e-learning software *ePathshala*, ([www.epathshala.co.in](http://www.epathshala.co.in)) contains multi-media animations and revision material specially tailored for the GSEB curriculum, and increases the engagement and retention level of the students. ePathshala is an online digital platform from APMT ([www.epathshala.co.in](http://www.epathshala.co.in)) with a well-researched innovative and comprehensive pedagogy of learning through technology, teacher and teaching-learning resources.

*ePathshala* has been chosen keeping in mind the extensive curriculum coverage, and easy to use interface. The principal and teachers of many schools across the state have already seen a trial of the software, and are pleased with what it offers. A digital classroom will help increase the retention rate of students, and also increase their interest in the subject content. Since most Govt schools have a very high teacher to student ratio, digital software can be used to aid the teacher, and increase the involvement of students.

Apart from the school education, the donated digital apparatus can be used for other extracurricular- On each weekday, post-school, the room can be used to show students various educational movies and videos. On Sundays, the room can be used for parent training videos and community engagement.



## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**Two Classroom Plan** – Grades 1st to 4th (Maths and English) Grades 5th to 8th (Math, English, and Science)

- Each session in the Digital Classroom is of 1 hour, and each weekday will have 4 such sessions, with Saturday having 2 session. In a week, there will be 22 sessions in each classroom, which means that 44 sessions in both the classrooms combined. Grades 1st to 8th will use the classrooms.
- In a month, there will be approx. 176 sessions in the classroom.
- Each section of 1st to 8th (17 sections) will get 1 session per subject in the Digital Classroom per week. This equals to 2 sessions per section per week for grades 1st to 4th in the Digital Classroom, 3 sessions per section per week for grades 5th to 8th
- The 44th session every week can be used as a remedial class for students who are reading and writing at a lower grade level.

Teachers, before the start of each semester, will outline a few difficult topics in each of the key subjects that require additional aid in the Digital Classrooms. In these sessions, the teachers will show them animations and videos related to those topic the students are learning in the class.

**Evaluation:** After a chapter is finished, the teachers will use an MCQ test to judge the level of understanding and retention in students

### **Extracurricular and personality building**

Post school, the projector system can be used for extracurricular education and personality building, by showing material such as, but not limited to: Science experiments, inspirational and motivational movies (Dangaal, 3 Idiots), value education videos, Vedic Math tutorials, English speaking tutorials and etiquette tutorials.

The JPS Kabaddi team is also impressive, having played nationals in the previous academic year. The digital classroom can be used by the Kabaddi Coach to show the team tricks and strategies.

### **Rewards and Incentives**

In order to motivate students, a reward and recognition based incentive model can be implemented.

At the end of every semester, a felicitation ceremony can be held, where students who have consistently performed above a predetermined benchmark (measured by the scores in the MCQ tests) can be rewarded with material items such as cycles and tablets.

The parents of the awardees can also be felicitated. Since these events are attended by a majority of the village community, recognizing parents of high achieving kids in front of their community members will serve as a motivation for the parents to keep sending their kids to school, and also helping them study at home.

### **Community Engagement and Social Awareness**

In order to address the rampant tobacco and alcohol addiction in the village, and in order to engage the community, the Digital Classroom(s) can be used on Sundays to show addiction PSAs to students. The classrooms can also be used on weekend to show parent training videos and videos on livelihood/trade skills and agriculture

## **PROJECT TIMELINE**

Component	Stakeholders
Construction of Digital Classroom(s) and implementation of software	KarmaKonnnect, School, ePathshala
Inauguration	Donor/School Administration/
Teacher Training	KarmaKonnnect
First Student Evaluation	KarmaKonnnect
Felicitations Ceremony 1 (see rewards and incentives)	KarmaKonnnect
Felicitations Ceremony 2 (see rewards and incentives)	KarmaKonnnect

## **PROJECT MONITORING PLAN**

The main objective of this plan is to increase the rate of retention and quality of education in the students, and decrease the dropout rate. This can be measured by comparing the results of Semester and Final exams with the results of last year, done by the principal. This is a quantitative measure, so the success of the program will be measured by the increase in the average marks across grades. Another quantitative measure can be comparing the dropout rates pre and post implementation.

A secondary objective is to motivate the teachers. Qualitative data can be collected by periodic feedback with teachers by the principal, and KarmaKonnnect/Donor

## PROJECT BUDGET:

**One time setup cost:** Rs. 75,000/ \$1300 includes Software, Hardware and ongoing maintenance for a full functional digital classroom benefiting a total of 600 Students in a Grade 1-8<sup>th</sup> school.

- Identification of school / Agreement with school
- Coordination with software, hardware vendors for installation
- Purchase and installation of software/hardware and classroom modifications as needed
- Help desk at KarmaKonnnect Foundation office for emergency issues
- This is inclusive of project management cost

KarmaKonnnect Foundation has been running this program for the underprivileged students of the East Maninagar schools in Gujarat and the results have been extremely encouraging. The school has secured a 95% pass percentage in the State Board SSC results this year, as compared to 80% in 2012 and 45% in 2011.

**On-going monitoring cost:** Rs. 1000/\$15 per month (Impact assessment report-each quarter)

- All donations to KarmaKonnnect are eligible for 50% tax exemptions.
- KarmaKonnnect assumes the sole responsibility of ensuring the implementation and monitoring of the program, as a third party agency on behalf of the donor.
- Regular Impact Assessment Reports from KarmaKonnnect will be provided to the donor, through regular interaction with the school administration and students.