Teachers using Technology for Achieving Better Learning in Himachal Pradesh

The TeacherApp

Around 40,000 elementary school teachers are trained every year through an annual programme training of 11 days. Despite annual trainings the state discovered there weren’t any significant results in learning outcomes. The state of Himachal Pradesh conducted a state-wide survey to understand teachers’ preferences for continuous training. The survey comprised questions related to pedagogy, skill requirements, and infrastructural challenges. Based on responses from over 17,000 teachers, a content plan was created for in-person training as well as video-based training. To create a model for continuous training, the department partnered with the TeacherApp for video-based content, available on a mobile application, and a web portal. The app creates content for all subjects for primary classes, customised to the needs of each district. The content is focused on the topics that are difficult for students to comprehend. The changes observed were- 50 percent of the state’s Class V students can do long division compared to the national average of 22 percent. There has also been an increase in student attendance in government primary schools to 87 percent on an average day, against the national average of 71 percent.

A book in every child’s hand

Storyweaver- An initiative of Pratham Books

Storyweavers an initiative by Pratham Books was set up as a not-for-profit children’s book publisher in 2004 with the mission to see a book in every child’s hand. The key objective was to publish good quality, affordable story books in multiple Indian languages to support reading acquisition among children. About 50% of children in India are not reading at grade appropriate levels. Along the many factors that contribute to this is the lack of quality reading material in mother tongue languages. In India, there are critical supply side shortages for supplementary reading resources for children. It is sad that in a country with 22 official languages and several hundred mother- tongues, books are printed primarily in English and Hindi, driven by market economics. Pratham Books created an alternate model to address these inequities to provide quality storybooks for children in multiple languages that are engaging and joyful and encourage a child to learn and practice reading. In the last decade,

Long road ahead for Indian Universities to feature in Global 100 ranking.

Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020

While the total number of Indian Universities included in the list increased, the ranking of the top Indian varsities dipped. In comparison to 2019 rankings, the rankings dropped considerably. End result – no Indian University was featured in the Top 300. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020, includes almost 1,400 universities across 92 countries, standing as the largest and most diverse university rankings ever to date. The performance indicators are grouped into five areas: Teaching - the learning environment; Research - volume, income and reputation; Citations - research influence; International outlook - staff, students and research; and Industry Income - knowledge transfer.