

GYANOME – Education for all

Vision



Gyanome's vision is to transform the delivery of education, to build a better academic foundation in English, Science and Maths.

Mission

Gyanome's mission is to be an enabler in enhancing the access of quality education, to all sections of the society. It is a well-established fact that the children in private schools, especially in the urban areas have more, and better access to quality educational resources, be it teachers, availability of good support systems, infrastructure and additional tutoring. India, today boasts of a literacy rate of 74.04%¹; but how much of that actually translates to children, having excelled in subjects such as Science and Maths, to make a career out of it is still unknown.

To become an engineer or a doctor, is widely seen and considered as the ideal career choice. The resources, awareness, and opportunities to allow children, to consider exclusive careers as scientists and mathematicians are still limited. The children, particularly in government schools and in rural areas, lack access to quality resources, for learning subjects like English, Science and Maths.

Our aim is to fill the gaps in the education system, particularly focusing on children in the public education system and in the rural areas. There exists, a gaping hole in today's education system, where the shortage of teachers and language challenges, are proving to be a big obstacle in achieving proficiency in academics, particularly in Science and Maths.

¹ <http://www.indiaonlinepages.com/population/literacy-rate-in-india.html>

In India, the government schools typically admit children from the lower middle class to the poorer sections of society. The issues in these schools are many, ranging from shortage of teachers, particularly in the rural areas; a very limited ability to modify a teaching sequence, to additional responsibilities such as poll duties. Apart from the above, another key obstacle is the ability and motivation for the children in these schools, to grasp these concepts. Given the background they come from, the need to motivate them to study for education purposes and a career, and not just to pass an exam is fundamental to the issue at hand. This calls for teachers, who can focus, linger and ensure comprehensive understanding of a concept rather than just completion of the syllabus.

Through our various interventions, we want to motivate the stakeholders, as well as provide them with resources that can enhance comprehension.

The “How”

We have identified the NCERT (National Council for Education & Research, prescribed curriculum with in India) textbooks as a base for developing and building the learning supplements. From these NCERT textbooks, the key concepts are identified, and then explained in a simple language along with examples, thus providing a simple and straightforward approach to teaching. These resources will be made available in various Indian languages. Students, therefore have additional resources to further understand a subject, a chapter or a concept rather than ‘mugging’ a problem for an exam or test.

The goal behind this approach is to support both teachers who are pulled in all directions, and have a very limited ability to prolong a lesson to ensure understanding by all in a class. We will also create

lesson plans and question banks to support our learning modules.

Students, who learn Science and Maths in vernacular languages, usually are at a disadvantage, while pursuing these subjects at higher levels, because English is the preferred language at this level. To help these students, we will create a technical dictionary that will map the Scientific and Mathematical terms in vernacular language to its corresponding names in English.

We want students to enjoy the learning process, and attain mastery over Science and Maths, instead of viewing it as a chore. Content creation is undertaken by subject matter experts (Mathematicians, Physicists etc.) and resources obtained thereby are available for free (Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution) which makes this journey unique.

The “When”

We have already made concise learning modules of textbooks for primary classes. Currently, these resources are available as slides online and also translated in vernacular languages to ensure reach, and improve impact. These slides can be made into PDF documents, printed as hard copies and distributed to children in classrooms.

We have also initiated the process of hosting ‘discussion forums’ for students in identified schools. Senior successful professionals are invited to talk to students and answer any questions in an effort to raise student aspirations in the fields of Science and Maths.

The Future

While initial fledgling steps have been taken towards creating the ‘concise’ learning modules, we also plan to build a network of teachers across schools in India,

through an online collaborative platform equipped with discussion forums. We appreciate the value that teachers can provide to improve the reach of quality resources to students. The teachers are the individuals who are keenly aware of the issues and shortcomings in terms of the gaps, and will be the crucial input to identifying the problems that need solving in the classroom. Building this ‘teacher network’ will enhance the ability to improve coverage of different problems, and spread the model across states and schools. We believe that a system that supports and involves a teacher is the hallmark to the success of the programme.

With the ever changing approaches to all aspects of life, and technology being an enabler in different forms of activity including education; we foresee a future where all the learning modules (video lectures) will be freely accessible online and children will be able to use technology to both learn and use it to share, discuss and collaborate.

The “Requirement”

We want the help of subject matter experts in Science, Maths and English for creating good quality free content which is mapped to the unique needs of the Indian students. Further, we are looking for assistance to translate the Science and Maths contents to vernacular languages.

Feel free to get in touch with us for more information.

Mr. Vineeth, Project Associate,

Gyanome Foundation, Bangalore.

Email: ‘vineethc’ at gmail.com

Mobile: +91-9036112696