



SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF VIDHYA SHAKTHI PROJECT

Implemented by Open Mentor Trust

Report Prepared by

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Social Impact Assessment Certification

This is to certify that the Social Impact Assessment of

Open Mentor Trust

has been conducted by Social Audit Network, India

*The assessment was done for the Vidya Shakthi Projects implemented
in Rural schools of Varanasi district during June 2023 to Jan 2024
and is found to be in full compliance with their mission*

“To provide live online training to rural and poor school children in 6th to 8th grades ”

Director, Social Audit Network, India

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1. Background

The status of rural education in India reflects a mixed scenario. While there have been improvements in enrollment rates, infrastructure development, and government initiatives like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, challenges persist. Quality of education especially in Science, English and Mathematics remains a concern due to teacher shortages, uneven standards, limited access to learning resources and digital divide. Infrastructure gaps persist, impacting the overall learning environment, with issues ranging from inadequate facilities to cultural and language barriers. Science and Mathematics education in secondary schools is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills, essential for navigating complex challenges in various fields. A strong foundation in these subjects is vital for pursuing higher education and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, which are integral for technological advancements and innovation. Furthermore, Science and math education enhance analytical abilities, promoting logical reasoning and quantitative skills necessary for informed decision-making. It contributes to the development of a scientifically literate society, enabling individuals to understand and engage with scientific advancements and technological applications. Continued concerted efforts from the government, NGOs, and communities are crucial to address these issues and uplift the status of rural education in India.

2. About the Project

Understanding these needs in rural education, The Vidya Shakthi Program was launched in 2023 by consortium of Open Mentor Trust, IITM Pravartak, section 8 Company of IIT Madras and IFE Academy. Since 2013, Open Mentor Trust have been providing recorded online lessons in software programming languages, software testing, databases and project management. These videos are in YouTube offered free of cost and has received more than 4.4 million views with 1200+ videos. Based on this experience Kalvi Shakthi Program was launched in Tamil Nadu which offers free online teaching to Students from Class 6 to Class 12. This free online program has expanded to 32 districts in Tamil Nadu with 108 centers and benefiting 4000+ students. On being a successful model in Tamil Nadu, this model is replicated in Uttar Pradesh. The Vidya Shakthi Program is being implemented in Varanasi district of UP since Apr 2023, and offers online teaching of Students from Class 6 to Class 8 in Science and English. 100 UP Govt. Schools benefit from this project and 10,000+ students have enrolled in the program.

3. Methodology

The methodology designed for this evaluation study included qualitative as well as quantitative techniques. The study was conducted by Ms. Latha Suresh, and Ms. Marie Banu, Social Auditors from Chennai.

The qualitative assessment focused on gathering feedback from the school Headmasters/Headmistress (HMs), school teachers and students. The team also interacted with the Project team and the coordinators. All secondary information was taken from the reports collected from Open Mentor Trust. The overall analysis was done through triangulation of information from primary and secondary sources.

3.1 Stakeholders Consulted

The SAN team consulted with the following stakeholders during their visit to the schools -

S.No	Stakeholders	Methodology	Number Consulted
1	Rural School Students	Focus Group Discussion	12
2	Teachers	Online Survey	100
3	HMs	Online Survey	49
4	RIC Coordinators	Online Survey	62
5	Convenor & Operations	Personal Interviews	1
6	Trustees	Personal Interviews	1

4. Report on Performance

Rural education in India is marked by a mix of progress and challenges. Various government initiatives, such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), have been launched to promote universalization of elementary education and enhance secondary education in rural areas. It is important to focus on improving school infrastructure – including the construction of smart classrooms and other basic amenities like toilets and libraries. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan scheme has catered to the sanitation needs of almost all rural schools in India. The need of the hour is to provide basic technological amenities like a seamless internet connection, smart TVs and providing other hardware and software to improve the digital and online learning among rural schools. These efforts would enhance the overall learning environment and make the rural children on par with the urban children and reduce the digital divide faced by them.

Understanding this need the Vidya Shakti project is committed to improve the digital and online learning capabilities in 100 government led rural schools in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh. An official MoU was signed between the Open Mentor Trust and the UP-Education Ministry on 22nd March 2023 in presence of the Governor of UP Smt. Anandiben Patel to implement a digital curriculum and sessions in 100 schools. The program was formally launched by Basic Shiksha Adikari and Chief Development Officer of Varanasi on April 14th, 2023.



बच्चों के लिए आईआईटी मद्रास चलाएगा ऑनलाइन क्लास

अच्छी पहल

सीडीओ ने कक्षा 6, 7 एवं 8
के बच्चों के लिए जनपद में
लॉन्च किया प्रोजेक्ट विद्याशक्ति

जनसंदेश न्यूज

वाराणसी। डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर की जयंती के अवसर पर शुक्रवार को मुख्य विकास अधिकारी हिमांशु नागपाल ने जनपद में प्रोजेक्ट विद्याशक्ति लॉन्च की। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने आराजी लाइन विकास खंड के लोहरापुर स्थित कंपोजिट विद्यालय में डॉ. अंबेडकर की जयंती भी मनायी। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने स्कूल के बच्चों को भारतीय संविधान के बारे में बताया। साथ ही बच्चों को मूल अधिकार और कर्तव्य आदि के बारे में जानकारी दी।

इस अवसर पर सीडीओ ने कहा कि संविधान की रचना बाबा साहब डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर ने की। समानता का अधिकार व समता का अधिकार आदि के माध्यम से समाज में प्रत्येक को एक समान

दर्जा दिया गया है। भारत में एक समान मताधिकार का अधिकार भी नागरिकों को मिला। प्रोजेक्ट विद्याशक्ति के तहत कंपोजिट एवं उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालय में कक्षा 6, 7, 8 के बच्चों को अंग्रेजी, गणित और विज्ञान विषयों में सहायता उपलब्ध कराने के लिए ऑनलाइन कक्षा संचालन की व्यवस्था की गई है। उसमें आईआईटी मद्रास की ओर से स्कूल टाइम के बाद ऑनलाइन क्लासेज चलेंगी। उनमें प्रतिदिन 45-45 मिनट की तीन कक्षाएं क्रमशः 6.



मुख्य विकास अधिकारी हिमांशु नागपाल ने शुक्रवार को प्रोजेक्ट विद्याशक्ति लॉन्च कर बच्चों से बातचीत भी की

7 एवं 8 के लिए संचालित की जाएंगी। संस्था ने वर्चुअल लर्निंग और वर्चुअल रियलिटी के जरिये अध्ययन में सहायता के उद्देश्य से विद्यालय में तीन ऑपरेटर दिए हैं।

The UP Government provided the infrastructure for 70 schools. Vidya Shakti formed by consortium of Open Mentor Trust, IIT Madras Pravartak and IFE Academy and provided the below equipment in 30 rural schools

- Smart LED TV (55 inches)
- Voltage stabilizer
- Surge protector
- Internet connection and modem
- Keyboard

The Trust was primarily involved in identifying 100 rural schools in Varanasi district which had uninterrupted electricity supply. They then set up Rural Interaction Centers (RIC) within each of the 100 schools. They also appointed 100 RIC coordinators who are involved in organizing the digital classes. The RIC 's are equipped with the smart TV across all the schools and appropriate software are also uploaded to facilitate the online classes.

The 100 schools identified are from 6 blocks of Varanasi district and cater to 10,000 plus students.

S.no	Block in Varanasi	No. of schools	No. of children
01	Arajilines	46	7983
02	Sewapuri	20	2778
03	Kashi Vidyapeeth	14	1500
04	Chiraigaon	05	200
05	HarHaua	10	700
06	Pindra	04	150

4.1 What happens in the schools and RIC

Live online classes using simulation software are held every day from 9.30 to 10.30 am in the 100 rural schools identified. The students attend the classes at the RIC which is a dedicated smart class room in the school. The schoolteacher and RIC coordinator are also present during the live sessions to help the students clarify any doubts.

The following is the schedule for the classes in all the 100 schools -

- Mondays and Thursdays were allocated for class 6
- Tuesdays and Fridays for class 7
- Wednesday and Saturday for class 8

Science and English were taught online by proficient teachers in the vernacular language - Hindi.



An online class in progress

The RIC centers are planned to be used as after school tuition for children who need extra guidance within the near future. The Vidya Shakti tutors handle the sessions, and this ensures that the children are able to clearly understand the online content and clear their doubts, if any.

Every Saturday the children are assessed through a set of Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs) on the topics held that week. The assessment marks are recorded by the RIC Coordinator and the academic performance of the students are tracked regularly.

4.2 Role of Vidya Shakti

- Publish class topics, schedule and inform respective students and RICs
- Conduct classes online in HINDI, record the classes, upload to YouTube
- Tracking, Monitoring and Evaluation of students and RICs
- Documentation & Reporting to sponsors about the live online classroom sessions, Recorded sessions of classes in YouTube channel
- Model exam papers and MCQ sets, Tips to children to face public exams
- Live demonstration of Science experiments through Simulations (concepts – light, sound, magnetism, electricity, acids, bases, indicators etc.)

This has facilitated in creating a hybrid learning model (live + online + offline + evaluation) for the rural schools in core subjects like Science and English. Vidya Shakti plans to start modules in Mathematics within the next few months.

4.3 Trainings offered

The teachers in the 100 schools are also given training on how to use the Simulation software to teach Science and math concepts; and in analytical reasoning/aptitude quiz software so that they can handle the teaching independently after a few years.





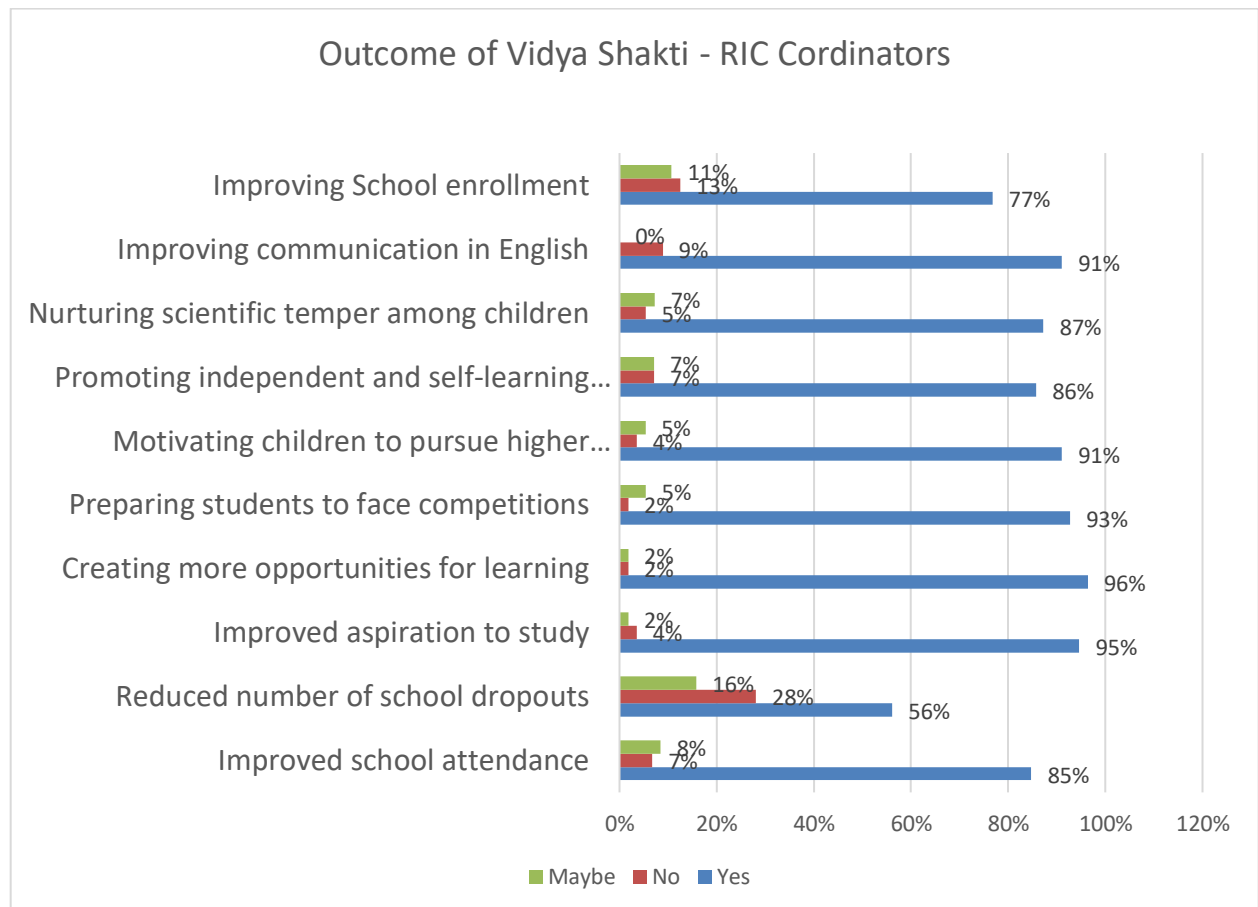
5. Survey Findings

An online survey was conducted with the key stakeholders – School Teachers, HMs and the RIC Coordinators.

62 RIC coordinators responded to the survey questionnaire.

It was the first job for 44% of the coordinators. All the coordinators felt it was a very essential program in the village where they hailed from.

On asking about the immediate changes or outcomes of the program, 96% of them felt that this program was creating more opportunities for learning, 91% felt that the children had improved their communication skills in English and 95% felt that this program had improved the aspiration of rural children to study further.



100 teachers responded to the online questionnaire.

35% of the teachers were Very Happy, 35% were happy and 30% were satisfied with the Vidya Shakthi project implemented in their schools. They were asked to report on the changes they observed with the rural school children under a few parameters.

S.no	Parameters	Yes	No	Do not Know
A	Improved attention in class	66%	12%	22%
B	Better academic performance	63%	15%	22%
C	Improved aspiration to study	75%	7%	18%
D	Motivate children to pursue higher education	84%	7%	9%
E	Promoting self-learning among children	67%	10%	23%
F	Improved communication in English	66%	10%	24%
G	Better understanding of scientific concepts	73%	6%	21%

All the changes had over 60% positive responses making the program an effective one.

49 Headmasters responded to the online survey.

The 43% of the headmasters were very happy, 25% were happy and 22% were satisfied with the outcomes of the program. 91% felt that this program would definitely improve the student's aspiration to study. 74% felt that it would nurture the scientific temper among rural children and will also create more opportunities for learning.

S.no	Parameters	Yes	No	Maybe
A	Improve school attendance	74%	6%	19%
B	Reduce number of school dropouts	72%	15%	13%
C	Improve aspiration to study	91%	2%	6%
D	Create more opportunities for learning	87%	4%	9%
E	Prepare students to face competitions	83%	4%	13%
F	Motivate children to pursue higher education	83%	2%	15%
G	Promote independent and self-learning among children	79%	4%	17%
H	Nurture scientific temper among children	74%	6%	19%
I	Improve communication in English	77%	4%	19%
J	Improve School enrollment	66%	11%	23%

The headmasters were very happy with the outcomes of the program. They all felt that this program would improve the student's aspiration to study. 92% felt that it would nurture the scientific temper among rural children and will also create more opportunities for learning.

6.Stakeholders Speak

All the Headmasters consulted were very happy with the Project and its outcomes. Here is what a few of them they said about the Vidya Shakthi program

Headmaster's Voices..

The Vidya Shakti Program is very effective and digital movement in rural area.

Vidyashakti program is good and children enjoy and take interest in the program. Children listen and watch carefully.

Bacchon ko Vidya Shakti ke madhyam se vishayon ko padhna achcha lagta hai .

Very good program for complete education for every student and also for everyone teacher

Good program for student. It leads to motivation and self-learning

The concept of Vidya Shakthi Program is too good that makes study easy and interesting.

Excellent job done by Vidya Shakti

The program is very effective to students

All the RIC coordinators were asked to share their learnings during the last six months while working with the Vidya Shakthi project.

The coordinators hailed from the same village as the school. They are responsible to set up the online sessions at the RIC in the school. The school teacher and the RIC Coordinator sit through the sessions and guide the children to make it more interactive.

The coordinators were trained to handle virtual devices in the RIC. It was a steep learning curve for all the coordinators. This is what they had to share about the program

A few Learnings for RIC Coordinators

Online study can also effective as compared to offline class.

I had learnt that every child belongs to poor family can also get higher quality of education at free of cost with the help of Vidhyashakti.

I had learnt some easy way to teach the students in a way that they will understand easily.

I learnt about Simulation teaching for the first time

This is Practical teaching

I have gained a lot of experience about teaching

The program saves time and energy

As I am teaching, I am also learning from my learner's as they are diverse

It is a very nice program for rural students. They learn their subject happily with smart class.

We are engaged wholeheartedly in teaching children and will continue to work hard in the future

Punctuality, understanding student's need, new way to learn with simulation.

The coordinators also shared their feedback on the program

Coordinators' Appreciate...

This is very good platform for students in rural area's to improve their skill & thinking

विद्या शक्ति में जो भी क्लास चली है, उसे बच्चों के पढ़ाई में सुधार आई है। इसमें और भी क्लास जोड़ने की कोशिश किया जाये।

डिजिटल उपकरण के उपयोग से शिक्षण आसान और सरल हो गया है। बच्चे अच्छे से समझ पाते हैं। इसलिए हमें इसे जारी रखना है और आगे बढ़ाना है

9 महीनों से कार्य करने के बाद विद्यालय में बहुत बदलाव देखने को मिले। ऑनलाइन क्लास से बच्चे बहुत प्रेरित हुए है। जो बच्चे स्कूल नहीं आते थे वह बच्चे स्कूल में आने लगे। धन्यवाद विध्यशक्ति 🙏

विद्या शक्ति की कक्षाएं चलने बच्चों में काफी बदलाव आया है। विद्या शक्ति से ही हमको नई नई चीजे सीखने को मिलती है। हम चाहते हैं कि विद्या शक्ति की कक्षाएं हमेशा चलती रहे।।

We are engaged wholeheartedly in teaching children and will continue to work hard in the future.

It is a very nice program for rural students. They learn their subject happily with smart class

101 teachers who responded to the online survey.

All of them were very happy with the project. Here is what some had to say about Vidya Shakti

School Teachers views..

I am happy with Vidya Shakti program. It really helps in scientific approach among children.

Vidya shakti program is a great start for students. We are getting a satisfactory response from them. It's a promising result giving initiative

The concept of Vidya Shakthi Program is too good that it makes study easy and interesting.

Very effective to all students in Science study

Vidya Shakti program is helpful to children in enhancing their subject related knowledge and also helps them in doing the practice work of related lessons.

The program is very good. This helps in giving good education to rural children.

Vidhyasakti is good for students. The teacher's way of teaching is wonderful

***The students from 10 schools were asked to share their feedback on Vidya Shakti project.
A video recording of their feedback was done.***

Student speaks..

The Vidya Shakthi classes are very good. It is very easy to follow and understand. All my classmates enjoy and we can remember all that has been taught in class – Palak, Pilori

We have two days of Vidya Shakthi class in a week and every Saturday we have tests. The classes are very interesting and I enjoy attending the classes – Rajkumar, Anantpur

We have been having the Vidya Shakthi classes for a long time in our school for one hour a day. We enjoy the sessions - Diya Patel. Pratappur

Our entire class enjoys the Vidya Shakthi classes. The teacher teaches very well and we can understand the lessons very well. - Neha Patel, Kakkarahiya

We are very grateful to the school for having launched the Vidya Shakthi project. We enjoy the classes and always look forward to the next class - Arun Kumar, Tikkari

The Vidya Shakthi classes teaches us lessons through pictures and simulation. All my classmates enjoy it and we are ever grateful to the teachers who handle the sessions so well.
- Kushi Viswakarma, Babaniyav

6. Evaluation of Program Objectives

The objectives were evaluated using the REESS framework. REESS framework measures the performance of a project on five parameters – Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Social Impact and Sustainability. Various indicators were developed for the project based on the REESS framework.

Relevance: Is the intervention doing the right things?

The extent to which the objectives of a development intervention are consistent with institutional and beneficiary's requirements, alignment with partner organization, donor's mission, and country's need.

Effectiveness: Is the intervention achieving its objectives?

The extent to which the development intervention's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, considering their relative importance.

Efficiency: How well are the resources being used?

The extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.

Sustainability: Will the benefits (financial, economic, social, environmental, and institutional capacities) sustain over time

The continuation of benefits from a development intervention after major development assistance has been completed.

Social Impact: What difference does the intervention make?

The extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended, or unintended, higher-level effects

7. Relevance of the project

In the rapidly evolving global landscape, proficiency in Science and math is essential for students to be competitive in the job market and contribute effectively to advancements in research, technology, and economic development. Therefore, emphasizing Science and math education in rural schools prepares secondary school students for a broad range of opportunities and equips them with skills essential for future success. In the rural schools of India, exposing children to virtual reality sessions is a great solution for providing Science education leading to inquiry-based learning. Some of the problems faced by rural schools in offering quality Science and English education were-

Lack of resources

The rural schools lacked modern infrastructure such as Smart classes and internet-based learning methods. The Vidya Shakti project now provides the necessary resources and equipment to students, regardless of their remote location.

Limited access to qualified teachers

Many rural schools struggle to attract and retain qualified Science and English teachers, who can impact the quality of education that rural students receive. The Vidya Shakti project provides access to experienced teachers who can teach the required concepts to students in Science and English. Best and consistent teachers are not available in every village. Teaching the fundamentals of languages, math and Science at grade 6-12 is not happening as it is supposed to happen (ASER report 2022).

Low student motivation

Students in rural schools do not have access to the same educational opportunities as their urban counterparts. This can lead to a lack of motivation and interest in continuing with their education. This project helps to spark interest in the English and Science by providing engaging and interactive sessions that students can participate in.

Distance and transportation

Rural schools are often located in remote areas, making it difficult for students to access to traditional Science and English tuition classes. The online and simulated sessions are making it easier for students to understand the age-appropriate scientific concepts and the nuances of the English language.

Overall, the Vidya Shakthi project helps to bridge the gap in Science and English education between rural and urban schools in India, providing students with the resources and support they need to succeed in Science.

Informal discussion with teachers and RICs revealed that most of the students in government schools hail from poor socio-economic backgrounds. This program has therefore great relevance and significance for experiential education among rural students at government schools.

8. Effectiveness of the project

A hybrid learning model in schools combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online learning elements, providing a flexible and dynamic educational approach. In this model, students engage in a mix of in-person classroom activities and remote, technology-mediated learning experiences. This approach offers several benefits.

Flexibility and Accessibility

Hybrid learning provides flexibility, allowing students in rural areas to access educational resources remotely, reducing the impact of geographical constraints. VidyaShakti facilitates the students to help them understand the concepts of Science through Virtual Reality and Simulations. The class recording can be played again to the students, and this ensures that the students have access to quality education.

It is necessary for future growth of students. Useful for developing Scientific mindset in Students - Teachers

Self-directed learning

By allowing students to access content at their own pace and revisit materials as needed, promotes self-directed learning and digital literacy skills, preparing students for the technology-driven world. Additionally, the flexibility of this hybrid model that caters to diverse learning styles accommodates individual needs, fostering a more personalized educational experience. This also in turn improves their self-confidence. 67% of the teachers felt that this program improved the self-learning experience among children

Vidya Shakti Program provides students the platform for digital learning as well as boosts up their confidence. - Teacher

Resource Optimization

This project optimizes resource utilization, as it combines traditional teaching methods with digital tools, potentially addressing challenges related to teacher shortages and infrastructure limitations in rural schools of UP.

Real-world Applications

Integrating technology in the teaching model allows students in rural areas to engage with real-world applications, enhancing their digital literacy and preparing them for future opportunities.

Learning Management Systems (LMS)

The RIC coordinators have been trained to create user-friendly learning management systems that facilitate seamless communication, content distribution, and assessment. This has enabled to develop educational content that aligns with the curriculum and is suitable for both online and offline modes that are relevant and engaging for students in rural areas.

Continuity During Disruptions

This project ensures educational continuity during unforeseen disruptions, such as natural disasters or health crises, which can be especially relevant in rural areas. The online sessions ensure that no teacher is absent and the students get regular and uninterrupted classes throughout the academic year, ensuring continuous learning.

Empowering Rural Teachers

Rural teachers can leverage technology for interactive and multimedia-rich content, enhancing engagement and understanding. Real-time feedback and assessment tools facilitate timely evaluation of student progress.

Adaptable Educational Environment

By addressing the challenges in rural schools, which include the need for robust digital infrastructure, teacher training, and addressing potential disparities in access to technology. This project has created a dynamic and adaptable educational environment that combines the best aspects of traditional and online learning, preparing students for the demands of the 21st-century workforce.

Innovative and effective way to grow students – Teacher

Open-Source Content

As all the live online sessions are uploaded on the You tube the same day, children who are from other schools also have access to these classes. This fosters collaborative learning and accessibility of resources to rural children. As these open-source videos are free downloads, it can reach out to all the children within the state of UP who are studying in Classes 6 to 8.

9. Efficiency of the project

Efficiency of a hybrid learning model is instrumental in overcoming challenges and providing rural students with educational opportunities that contribute to their overall development and success. The Vidya Shakthi project has proved to be efficient in the following ways

Partnering with Government

Partnering with the UP government has ensured reliable and affordable digital infrastructure and internet connectivity in rural schools and has created suitable learning spaces, to support the online components of the hybrid model. Rural schools were able to get quality infrastructure, including ensuring access to regular electricity, and necessary equipment without spending money or waiting for sanctions from higher authorities

Monitoring and Evaluation

By establishing mechanisms for monitoring student progress, attendance, and engagement the project has efficiently captured the academic performance of the rural children.

Emergency Preparedness

The project has contingency plans for emergencies, ensuring that the hybrid learning model can seamlessly transition to alternative modes of delivery during disruptions, such as natural disasters or health crises.

YouTube downloads

Educational content on YouTube facilitates accessible learning, catering to various interests and skill levels. It is the most cost-effective way of spreading knowledge. The platform encourages students from the entire UP state to access the videos. YouTube serves in democratizing content creation and consumption on a local and global scale.

10.Social Impact of the project

The social impact of the Vidya Shakthi project in rural schools can be transformative, influencing various aspects of development among rural schools and school children:

Equal Access to Education

This project reduces barriers to education by providing access to quality learning resources, ensuring that students in rural areas have opportunities similar to those in urban regions.

पढ़ेगा तभी तो बढ़ेगा इंडिया – RIC Coordinator

Empowerment of Educators

Training teachers in technology use empowers them with new skills, boosting their confidence and enhancing their ability to deliver effective education in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Digital Literacy Skills

Rural students acquire essential digital literacy skills, preparing them for the modern workforce and enabling them to navigate the technology-driven world more effectively. The coordinators are also now well equipped digitally to handle the classes.

Digital knowledge good hua. Communication skill be development hua. Social me apni baat rakhane ka gauds aaya. - Coordinator

Skill Development

Hybrid learning emphasizes the development of 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, equipping students with competencies crucial for personal and professional success.

Gender Equality

The project contributes to gender equality by providing equal educational opportunities for boys and girls, empowering female students to overcome societal barriers and pursue their educational goals. The women RIC coordinators contribute to 30%.

Health and Safety

During health crises or emergencies, the hybrid learning model ensures continuity of education while prioritizing the health and safety of students and teachers, reducing risks associated with physical gatherings.

Global Connectivity

Integrating technology allows rural students to connect with the broader world, fostering a sense of global awareness and expanding their horizons beyond local boundaries.

Promoting STEM education

Vidya Shakti facilitates STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, which is crucial for several reasons. In a technologically advancing world, fostering STEM education cultivates a workforce capable of driving innovation and economic growth. It enhances critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills among children which are essential for various professions. Promoting diversity in STEM fields ensures a richer pool of talent, fostering inclusive and equitable development. STEM education prepares individuals for rapidly evolving industries, bridging the skills gap and reducing unemployment. Ultimately, a strong emphasis on STEM education is essential for societal progress and competitiveness.

We are able to understand concepts in science easily because of the simulation videos. These videos make us remember what has been taught in class and we are also very eager to attend the next class. Our interest in science has improved - Student

Community Pride

A sense of pride within the community has been instilled in the schools where the Vidya Shakthi program have been implemented. This showcases a commitment within the rural schools to providing quality education and fostering a positive learning environment.

Lifelong Learning Culture

The hybrid learning model promotes a culture of lifelong learning, encouraging students and teachers to continuously seek knowledge and adapt to changing educational and technological landscapes.

Children are more eager to learn from Vidyashakti. Children concentrate more on online class than offline if the teacher is good. The tests need to be one in a month but with more questions.
-Coordinator

Economic Opportunities

Improved education can contribute to the economic development of rural areas by preparing students for diverse career opportunities and enhancing the overall skill level of the community. Also, the RIC coordinators hail from the local community and contribute to the local economy.

The social impact of Vidya Shakthi project in rural schools goes beyond academic achievement, as successful integration of technology with traditional education can create a positive ripple effect, contributing to the social and economic development of rural communities.

11. Sustainability of the project

The Vidya Shakthi program is well designed and a proven program to realize online and simulated learning as a tool to increase student's interest in Science and English language. It has integrated the hybrid methodology seamlessly with existing syllabus in schools. This program has a sustained impact due to these key strategies:

Consistency

The online sessions are held on a regular basis to ensure consistency in delivering Science and English education. This helps build relationships and trust with the students and teachers and ensures that the knowledge gained is reinforced over time.

Customization

The curriculum and activities are customized to the syllabus of the board. By tailoring the content according to the state government syllabus, the impact of the Vidya Shakthi program is very significant.

Hands-on learning

The online and simulated sessions prioritize in-depth learning experiences that allow students to engage with English language and Science concepts in a practical way. This approach is more effective than traditional lecture-style teaching and leaves a lasting impression on students.



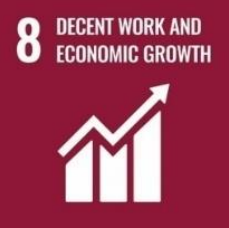


Teacher training

Providing training to government school teachers can help to build capacity and ensure that the knowledge gained by the students is sustained over time. This can also help to build enthusiasm and support for English and Science education within the school.

By implementing these strategies, the Vidya Shakthi program has a sustained impact and helps to promote quality education in rural communities that may not have access to traditional Science and English language resources.

12. SDG Alignment

The Vidya Shakthi project is in alignment with 5 of the UN - Sustainable Development Goals

SDG	Alignment
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>Improving the quality of education imparted in rural schools by a hybrid model.</p> <p>Creating a platform to motivate children in self-learning thereby creating a continuous learning mindset among children</p> <p>Motivating rural school teachers to deliver quality education</p>
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Enabling continued education of girl children</p> <p>Hiring female RIC coordinators</p>
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>Providing employment to rural persons as RIC Coordinators</p>
 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>Bridges the digital divide in rural schools</p> <p>Improves the quality and access to English and Science education in rural areas.</p>
 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>The partnership with UP Government has led to effective management and implementation of the projects</p> <p>Forming a consortium with IIT Madras Pravartak and IFE Academy</p>

13.Recommendations

The Open Mentor Trust needs to strengthen its documentation. Quarterly reports from the schools on the program needs to be collected. These reports could be collated and published in the website by the Trust.

Regular assessments and feedback loops to identify and address challenges promptly needs to be implemented.

The Trust needs to foster community involvement and awareness about the benefits of the hybrid learning model. This will encourage parental support and engagement in students' learning activities.

Few Teacher's Apprehensions...

Vidya Shakti programs may be most effective when it's telecast after school time.

Not so much fruitful as there have been problems of electricity and network always

Sometimes the classes become one sided and sometimes poor connectivity disrupts the class.

Based on the above-mentioned feedback from the school teachers, the timing of the sessions and availability of electricity and internet needs to be strengthened.

A feedback loop for continuous improvement needs to be established. By gathering feedback from teachers, students, and RIC coordinators will enable the project heads to regularly assess the effectiveness of the project, and make adjustments as needed.