

School-with-no-walls: Bringing Home the School at the Doors of Marginalized to Sustain Education

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Abstract

Use of smart phones could be the solution to bring 'first school' educational opportunities to the poorest communities of the world. To improve education, especially for poor and marginalized children, a lamp of education is ignited in the form of smartphone in the pocket of those children who are deprived of formal schooling due to various reasons. This article explores the use of a smart phone to provide equity and eradicate illiteracy. This paper represents a case study of poor and marginalized children who never attended school and learnt rhymes, alphabets and basic number concepts by using downloaded YouTube videos. This innovative idea to use technological advancements to provide basic literacy to extremely poor & uneducated children from society and giving those necessary skills will bring the school at the doors of those who are not able to reach there. The findings of this study are smart phones have the capacity to give sustainable education to oppressed and marginalized children.

Key Words: SmartPhones, Marginalized Children, You Tube.

INTRODUCTION:

Education is a human right but many are deprived of it. In spite of the whole world's efforts to eradicate illiteracy, the gap between illiterate and literate affected by poverty is still widening by digital divide. In this digital age the poorest societies are getting more affected. Among the marginalized population in Delhi, many of the children have no access to formal schooling. This paper also suggests new smartphone technology to assist extremely poor children in attaining basic literacy. The research is qualitative in nature. Smart phones are at the heart of many of these solutions to ensure a sustainable future for our children.

In today's digital era the poor are deprived more of the facilities and are much more vulnerable and insecure. Those who have never attended formal schools will find it increasingly tough to survive and fit in the digital world, deepening the social divide (Reimers, 2000).

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Mishra, S.(2001) innovatively provided internet facility to the slum children of New Delhi by creating a learning station. In this "Hole-in-the-wall" project many disadvantaged children were provided with the access to technology unsupervised and unguided but after certain time they have acquired basic skills of computer literacy and have learnt complex topics which were totally new for them on their own and also by discussing with each other. This is the method of Minimally Invasive Education where the output of learning is self generated by intrinsic motivation of children without much efforts or no efforts from a teacher or formal school .

When there is no hope for children accompanying their parents at a construction site or in house hold works smart phone brings a ray of hope for these children. An opportunity given to these tender minds will eradicate their illiteracy. Listening to rhymes downloaded from U-Tube can be entertaining and motivating for them who may otherwise play with all material on the roads or help in household chores. Smart phone can teach moral stories, patriotic songs, poetry, dance actions and nursery rhymes, which could be replayed again and again, as per the need of the child.

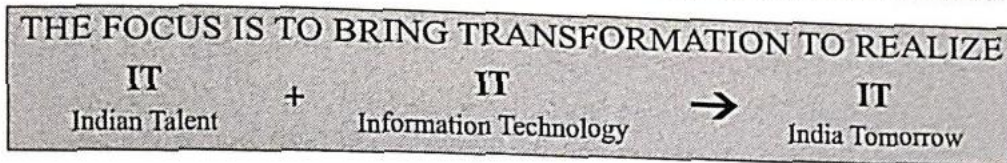
Very soon children will recite the song "*Nanhe munhe bachche teri mutthi mein kya hai, mutthi mein hai taqdeer yani mobile hamara.*" A simple smart phone can change the destiny of such oppressed children fulfilling their dreams .

Therefore education spreading from this device can eliminate the darkness and ignite a new flame of learning, This new fire of literacy will spread all through bringing a change forever burning all the hidden desires to learn. Beyond the invisible structure of this classroom there exist a structure of hope, dreams and power to eradicate illiteracy. This new school is within the reach of such children thereby enlightening their young minds bringing a sustainable change. This will weave a new carpet of hope to bring literacy .This is an endeavor by researcher to explore new way of teaching with no resource centre, no teachers and no funds but a little effort to either transfer the U-Tube videos via Bluetooth or download by using unlimited Wi-Fi facility. This new project has facilitated learning and education by involving researcher's children also helping in transferring the material and assisting the poor. These small ambassadors will not only help in transferring the content but also filled the existing gaps of digital divide and social stratifications. This project can be of great help for one who accompany their parents at construction sites, or the eldest daughters helping in household help or keeping the siblings because the mother went out to work or the orphans or more children who are oppressed and marginalized who have faced hardships which we can't even imagine. This new school without walls and windows will open new doors to start a new journey of the world. Without a learning station these children have different views to share. Below are the few glimpses of what the children expressed.

The central idea with School-With-No-Walls (SWNV) is that children are assisted with latest technologies to promote self learning. This mission is just started where the researcher is having no resource centre, no financial funding just an unlimited Wi-Fi and

Bluetooth devices at home to weave dreams for children. This new paradigm of sharing information to help the poorest of the poor will bring sustainable education. The journey starts from our home which is flooded with Wi-Fi, digital devices like smart phones, tablets and laptops. To spread this light of education and carry forward the torch we require no fund, no infrastructure, but a burning desire to help poor and marginalized sitting near our boundaries where this zero cost mini portable school may become the hope for many. Today's children whom we often complain are always busy with digital devices sometimes in our presence and sometimes in our absence.

This smart generation can be a pioneer to start this journey to create a true 'Digital India' whose objective is to come out with innovative ideas and practical solutions to realise Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a digital India to transform our nation



by creating opportunities for all citizens by harnessing digital technologies. To empower every citizen with access to digital services, knowledge and information. This Group will come up with policies and best practices from around the world to make this vision of a digital India a reality. At my home this revolutionary Digital India movement was started by researcher's son Hammad who is always downloading something or the other and one fine day he downloaded an educational u-tube video for a poor child who was not attending school for various reasons and to my surprise she was learning lot from it. This techno- revolution to empower poor and marginalized children where young children will become brand ambassador of this change will make the dream of Digital India success in true sense.

Case study here is a poor girl Henna(name changed) age 12 years came to researcher's home with her mother who is a household help. She has never attended school because being eldest daughter of her family she was looking after her siblings at her home. She became her daughter's friend and enjoyed watching nursery rhymes downloaded from U-Tube in her Samsung tablet PC. She was very excited and motivated. So the researcher told her son Hammad, who is only ten years old to transfer those videos in her mother's smart phone. Next time when she came I observed that she has learnt all the poems and was dancing and reciting the poems with my daughter . Then some stories were transferred via Bluetooth of the tablet to the maid's smartphone by researcher's son who is only eight year old. My daughter Hana who is only 5 year old also helped Henna in understanding the videos. "I am still been at home doing chores and housework and side by side learning rhymes and number's by using my brother's mobile phone. I would not even dream of a school coming to my place. Thanks to this innovation, I am able to write my name." Her phone was shared by other children residing near to her home. She describes at length the stories she has heard and the games she has played while using the smart phone. She says in a matter of fact, "When there is nobody to help you how to understand it;

by viewing it again and again helped. Starting of a new concept seems complicated in the beginning but all well that ends well." Another user, Rukhsar who is Henna's sister, has also learnt and enjoyed nursery rhymes and stories from her elder sister She says in an excited voice, "I love stories and alphabet song " Her mother, Shabeena, is relieved from all the stress and a new hope has taken birth ; I will always encourage my daughters to use the smart phone." Rukhsar was enjoying the U-Tube videos along with her sister, which she describes as more interesting than playing with toys.

Youngest of all siblings, Abdul(name changed) continued the chain of learning says most of his time he was struggling to do homework but fortunately he was enrolled in the MCD School. The young boy was passionate to learn dancing unlike the rest of the children. In spite of being talented to dance there was no body to teach him dance steps. At times he became aggressive and depressed. The dance videos provided to him not only helped him in learning but he has achieved various trophies and medals. At present he is the head boy of his school. School teachers, her family and everyone in his community is proud of him. His dream is to become a dancing hero, who will provide a better living to their family.

METHODOLOGY:

The research methodology uses qualitative case study of few children who were struggling and adopting to learn by smart phone. U-tube videos and WhatsApp has brought a turning points in their lives.

RESULT:

Learning through smartphones are beneficial for poor children. It is the cheapest method of providing basic literacy with fun and enjoyment by bringing the school at the doors of those who can't reach there.

RECOMMENDATION:

The researcher has a vision to spread this mission to collaborate with other mothers to encourage their children to become ambassadors of change by diffusing education everywhere . A little help which cost nothing . The charity begins from home so why to wait for government to make a policy, gather funds, develop a resource centre. Everyone with a Wi-Fi or Bluetooth devices and apps can construct this school-with- no- walls which can share and bring revolutionary changes in the lives of those children who are marginalized and oppressed. These children after attaining basic literacy can enroll in schools later.

CONCLUSION:

After implementing well planned schemes like 'Hole in the wall' which are a big hit for disadvantaged children still such children can be found near everyone's door. So many more innovative projects like 'School-with-no-walls' are required by simple efforts of community and their children as ambassadors of change. After implementation of 'Ladli Yojna' also many ladli's of our country are still trapped in their household chores

and our country are still trapped in their household chores and are not able to attend school. For those ladli's more holes in the walls are required. Why to wait for creating more 'Hole-in-the-walls' lets ignite the lamp of our smartphone and carry forward the torch of 'School- with-no walls' at every site nearby where many eyes are waiting for these new opportunities which are just a swipe away. A sustainable learning by using smart phone will become the primer of a new chain of learners. This chain will replicate and grow by putting community efforts. Let us all start this mission by utilizing a simple smart phone, '*ker lo duniya mutthi mein*' and donate them not the beggary and old clothes and money but few downloaded videos which cost nothing but can create a great change for the one who needs it to the most.

Adapting these highly economic, portable smartphones with magical apps downloaded can provide the disadvantaged children with video content that could possibly motivate them to self learn by watching them again and again as per their pace and comfort anytime ,anywhere. The speed of learning is catalyzed further when our digital savvy children help and assist others who are deprived of basic education. 'School-With-No-Walls' is the dream of the researcher who has the burning desire to help those children. This paper just started the mission and it is the hope it will carry forward the torch and the chain will grow more and more fighting the challenges of digital divide and social inequities. Let us promote this revolution which will bring real happiness in the lives of those children who are the victims of circumstances.

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