Human elements as key to integrate technology into Indian public school

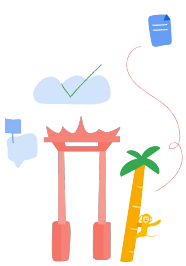
School at a glance

Army Public School is an English medium, co-educational day school in Hisar Military Station (Haryana state). The school was established in 1990 as a Primary School but has grown into a full fledged Sr Sec School. A total of 45 grade IX students and 10 teachers participated in the pilot where they were provided with Lenovo / AMD Chromebooks and started training in May 2022.

Challenge

Army Public School has a good reputation for student academic development, now that the school has grown into a full fledged Sr Sec School. The school had strong potential for successful adoption of technology-enabled classrooms, such as a supportive leadership and teachers' general enthusiasm. However, could the school still enjoy the benefits that technology offers given its digital infrastructure is still in development?

> “I think all fellow students should get an opportunity to access Chromebooks as they'll get a chance to learn something new.”
>
> **Sheoran**
> Student, APS Hisar School



Solution

To respond to this challenge, Google for Education worked with the school to transform two Grade 8 classrooms into fully Google enabled learning environments by using Google Workspace for Education and Lenovo Chromebooks. The pilot project was supported by a strong consortium with Google for Education, a team of trainers from Mahattatva (a leading local professional development firm), and academics from Tata Institute of Social Sciences led by Prof Amina.

Over the course of six months this team took on the challenge of supporting all teachers to use Google Workspace for Education and Chromebooks in every aspect of teaching and learning across all subjects on the curriculum.

By the end of the pilot, we observed some dramatic and positive changes in teachers' mindsets towards technology, which is a valuable asset for teachers' careers going forward. One key insight from this initiative is that Google technology's ability to improve teaching and learning extends well to Indian public schools, and what distinguishes an excellent impact from a good one in fact lies in our hands: human factors.

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Key benefits

Based on teacher interviews after the transformation, there was an overwhelmingly positive response to the experience. There were **70% of teachers who confirmed that students learn more effectively, become better-behaved, and collaborate more with peers** when Google Education and Chromebooks are in place.

High engagement for all

As mentioned, one key driver for higher numbers at APS Hisar compared to our pilot at KVS Chennai was the level of engagement in training. **100% of teachers expressed satisfaction at APS**, while for **KVS** this score was only **83%**. This **high level of engagement has encouraged students to participate more**, and **81%** of them claim that **classrooms were enjoyable** with technology.

Increased enjoyability of classrooms

The structured integration of technology into classrooms has encouraged teachers to play around more with digital tools. As a result, students become significantly more engaged in classes with **80% finding classrooms more enjoyable with technology in place.** This was echoed by teachers, **70%** of whom **said that their students became better behaved.**

Time saving for teachers and students

90% of teachers declared that Google technology saved their time with **50% of them finding 1-5 hours of time saved per week**. Concurrently, **60% of teachers observed student assignments to be completed quicker** with the use of Google tools.

Top education device

Chromebooks were reported as the best educational device and associated with less recreational use. On average, Chromebooks were rated **better than tablets on 100% of educational activities** for teachers, including lesson planning, classroom instruction, and feedback for students.

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(*) Source: Post-pilot teacher survey, project Albus in Haryana, India