

**Project REDI – Re-Imagining Education in Digital India**

Long ago we had a tryst with destiny, India has seen a phenomenal growth since then, however the benefits of this development failed to trickle down to a large segment of our population. Today, India stands poised for a tryst with digital destiny.

Digital India vision is a disruptive thinking that can not only transform our lives but also give an impetus to this segment and help them integrate with the rest. Empowering 1.2 billion people is the goal of the Digital India initiative, however this can not be achieved if we do not address the rapidly growing ‘digital divide’. The only impediment is the unequal access to information and communication technologies (ICT) between haves and have–nots, leading to a massive digital divide.

Technology today is what industrial machines were to the industrial revolution. Information age can bring about the change that industrial age failed to achieve. The digital India dream is a step in the right direction, however, its foundation is the education system that needs to be re-defined/re-imagined. Technology in education has to reach the masses- Today RTE (Right to Education) should be re-phrased as RTDE – Right to Digital Education.

The Internet and ICT have revolutionized the way students consume educational content. It has opened doors to global resources and released ‘intellectual energy’ that should be harnessed by skilling children. Digital Literacy is a critical skill that needs to taught at school level.

In India, ICT has been part the school curriculum for more than two decades, and schools at all levels are rapidly adopting technology- enabled pedagogies in education.

* At the tip of the pyramid are the international schools where technology is a *way of learning* -blended learning, flipped classrooms, social media as backchannels, mobile devices, etc. – and education is becoming more and more relevant and student-centric.
* The middle of the pyramid has a plethora of public/private schools where technology is taught *as a subject* – basics of ICT, fundamentals of programming, robotics, etc.- and does not instigate students to become creators of technology they use; even though children are consuming digital technologies, teachers and schools are challenged to adopt digital learning platforms.
* The base of the pyramid are the government schools – the have-nots. Technology needs to be *an enabler* – as lack of skills in ICT prevents these children from accessing digital information.

Many project have been launched by the govt. like the Computer Aided Learning Program (CALP) under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Scheme. Government is setting up Smart schools in Kendria Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas as “Technology Demonstrators” to propagate ICT skills and has made a provision of Rs. 315 Crore exclusively for ICT in school education in its budget allocation of year 2013-14. (For CALP, Vedanta E Shiksha @ Schools is providing E-Content for regular subjects and E-Content for Basic Computer Literacy to rural schools across states in India)

Adult Education: For citizens also the Union budget has rolled out schemes for Digital Learning. Union Budget for 2014-15 has allocated funds for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan worth Rs 28,635 crore and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan worth Rs 4,966 crore. Digital Shaksharta Abhiyaan or National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM), launched- Aug’12

In spite of the various initiatives and the allocation of funds, the Digital India shall remain a dream if children lack of skills in using computer and communication technology. It is imperative to close the gaps at all the levels of the pyramid.

**Project REDi - Empowering student, teachers and parents**

**Re-Imagining Education in Digital India** (REDi) is an initiative to create a learning environment that is engaging and student-centric. No longer does learning have to be one-size-fits-all or confined to the classroom.

The Internet has enabled instant global communication and access to information, where students use information at their fingertips, collaborate and create to accomplish results never seen before – intellectual energy thus released is transforming education globally. Social media has given immense power to children to easily spread their ideas— both good and bad, worthwhile and vapid—to an audience of thousands. Often it is challenging and frightening for parents to even navigate the digital world their children inhabit.

Project REDi, a program launched by unHACK, is about the readiness of schools to abet the Digital India dream come true. The program enables and empowers students, teachers, and parents to harness the immense potential of the digital technologies: to 're-imagine’ 21st-century education and make them learners for life.

The program is customized for all the three layers of the the school pyramid- from teaching fundamentals of computers to summer coding programs for schools, enabling children to be creators and not just consumers of technology.

The salient features of the program are – Digital Literacy, Digital Ethics and Cyber Safety.

The interactive workshops empower students, teachers and schools to harness the opportunities provided by digital learning; to inculcate digital ethics and to stay safe online.

* Digital Literacy enhances performance and inspires innovations and entrepreneurial ventures.
* Digital Ethics inculcates morality in online behaviour
* Cyber Safety and Security ensures that children are safe online - protected from cyber bullies, sexual predators, cybercriminals and inappropriate content.

About unHACK programs:

**Student program – Digitally Unplugged**

**Teachers program - Certificate Program for Educators**

**Parents program – Parents NEXT**

*Session details of each program are enclosed.*