

VIDYA SAMIKSHA KENDRA FOR MONITORING OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

In a nutshell: Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) is a technology-enabled, online, real-time mechanism to monitor the learning progress of every student across every grade in every school, thereby improving grade-appropriate learning outcomes of every student.

Nodal agency: Department of Education, Government of Gujarat

Gujarat's school education system consists of 54,000+ schools, 4 lakh teachers, and 1.15 crore students. The Department of School Education of the state has over 2.5 lakh government teachers and approximately 10,000 officials, constituting about 51% of the State Government's total employees. Effective monitoring and support are key to the success of government programs, but there was limited capacity at the State level to do so.

The State thus developed a mechanism to conduct large-scale monitoring through use of technology. Gujarat annually collects 500-crore plus data points, and analyses these for effective decision-making and actionable feedback, using technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and Big Data Analytics. The Vidya Samiksha Kendra is a mechanism that makes use of technology to create dashboards to monitor the programs and interventions of the education department in real-time.

Features

The following are the key features of Vidya Samiksha Kendra:

- Praveshotsav 2.0: Integration of data of Health Department with UDISE to ensure maximum enrolment from 2019
- Online attendance of students and teachers: Daily online attendance of 1.15 crore Students and 3.92 lakh Teachers was implemented from 2018-19
- School Monitoring Application: Real-time monitoring and reporting of CRC, BRC and supervisors introduced in 2019
- School Administrative Software: Helped 20,000 Head Teachers reduce clerical work and contribute more than 10 million man-hours to academic work every year
- Centralized assessment of learning outcomes from Grades 3 to 12: Semester exams and weekly periodic exams from 2018; over 10 million periodic tests in last 3 years; total 15 Crore learning outcome-based Student Report Cards

- Gunotsav 2.0 – School Accreditation: Gujarat School Quality Accreditation Council (GSQAC) formed; 500 School Inspectors deployed in 2019–20; First State to accredit all 32,500 Government Primary Schools; School Report Cards generated for every School
- Divyan App for CwSN: Individualized tracking of progress of each CwSN (Children with Special Needs) students; 2000 Special Educators reported 2,33,000 visits and progress through Divyan App since 2021
- Technology-enabled learning: 25 crore Virtual classes through Microsoft Teams; Live classes on YouTube with 8 crore+ views; TV tutorials through 13 news channels and BISAG; QR coding of textbooks for access to DIKSHA; first State-owned EdTech company in 2021 with 3 million users of G-Shala app
- Smart Classrooms - ‘Gyankunj’: Gyankunj is a school digitalization programme aimed at strengthening digital infrastructure in schools to enhance classroom interaction and teaching-learning process with the help of technology tools like projectors, interactive infrared cameras, laptops, speakers, whiteboards etc. It aims to reinforce teaching-learning and evaluation process. 16,000 classrooms have been equipped as smart classrooms, with implementation under progress in 24,000 classrooms. All 20,000 schools covered under Mission Schools will be equipped with Smart Classrooms in the next 4 years.
- A dedicated state-of-the-art building for the Vidya Samiksha Kendra was later built in 2021, equipped with cutting-edge technology. Fifty specially selected and trained teachers are providing continuous guidance from two large video walls.

Awards and recognition

Vidya Samiksha Kendra has received the Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration, 2021. Teams from The World Bank, UNICEF, OECD, British Deputy High Commissioner, and Cambridge University have visited and studied the VSK Model. The VSK has been deemed a global good practice by The World Bank.