Google for Education

How online learning helped teachers keep the spark of learning alive

With Google for Workspace, teachers of Shirdi Urdu High School ensured their students didn't fall behind in their education during the lockdown.

Challenge

The students of Shirdi Urdu High School came from modest homes, where some could barely afford stationery or uniforms. The school itself followed old pedagogical teaching methods and did not have the resources or infrastructure to begin online classes for its students.

Solution

Google For Education announced its first state-wide partnership in India with the Maharashtra State Education Department and implemented a teacher training program designed to accelerate the use of digital technologies. With this hands-on training, teachers learnt how they could teach their students online using Google tools.

With a device and basic internet, close to 60% students were equipped to learn from their homes via Google Meet.

Using YouTube and Google Slides, teachers created video lessons, and shared the links with their students to download and learn from home at their convenience.

Evaluations were conducted via Google Forms to assess learning and keep students engaged.

School at a glance

Shirdi Urdu High School provides education to children of low income families, in the town of Shirdi, Maharashtra.
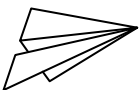
Run on the principles of Tehzeeb (respect), Taleem (education) and Taraquee (success), the school has 250 students aged 13 to 15 years.

They are taught, primarily in Urdu, by a teaching staff of 5, including the Headmaster. 5 other non-teaching members complete the staff.

> " With the covid crisis, schools closed down, we feared our students would fall behind as the school lacked resources for online learning,

- Azmat Iqbal, English Teacher, Shirdi Urdu High School

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Key Takeaways

With Google for Workspace tools, the teachers of Shirdi Urdu High School acquired a new set of skills and helped their students continue their education, despite the disruption that the Covid-19 pandemic brought about.

Online learning through Google tools helped weaker students understand lessons better and encouraged previously shy students (largely girls) to participate confidently in classroom discussions.

Benefits of solution

Benefit 1 School learning continued despite schools being closed.

Benefit 2 Students were able to learn better, at their own pace, and their confidence increased.

Benefit 3 Teachers found time to plan lessons better.

Benefits in practice

Google for Education helped the students of Shirdi Urdu High School keep alive their desire to learn, even in such unprecedented and difficult times. Through online classes, students found new ways of learning, and overcame the challenges of the lockdown, and learnt that no problem is too big if you show resilience.

> ❝
> English is tough to grasp, but with sir's videos, I can replay the lesson till I fully understand it
>
> - Seema, Grade 10 Student, Shirdi Urdu High School

One Small Step For Learning, One Giant Leap for Education

Shirdi Urdu High School reopened in December 2020, and Azmat and his colleagues continue to use technology to help their students learn.
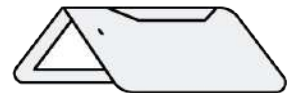
Online learning has made a dramatic difference to the way their students learn.

Students who earlier found a subject difficult to grasp, can now replay lessons till they understand it properly. Girls, who used to feel shy to participate, now speak up confidently in class.

Particularly popular among the students are the online tests at the end of the lessons- so much so that teachers are inundated with requests to send the tests, should there be the slightest delay in sending them!

The teachers themselves have shifted all their evaluations and administrative chores online, leaving them with more time and energy with which to plan their lessons better.

Even parents find it easier to stay in touch with teachers online and now take an active interest in the education of their children.

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We can't always fight our circumstances, but we can use opportunities around us to change them

- Azmat Iqbal, English Teacher, Shirdi Urdu High School

Find out more about how Google for Education can help your school with online learning, visit **https://edu.google.com/intl/en_in/**