

## ESTABLISHING DIGITAL CLASS THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION TO ENHANCE TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS IN SCHOOL

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Imrankhan S. Mogal has been working as a teacher for about 10 years (as of 2020), first as a primary teacher for nine years and then as a secondary school teacher at the Smt. M. M. Mehta English Medium school, Palanpur in Gujarat. He has also worked as a lecturer in the B.Ed. College, Deesa, Banaskantha. He teaches English and Social Science.

### Digital Class: The need

After teaching for about seven years in a primary school, Shri Mogal realized that equipping the schools for 21st century digital literacy was a challenge. The school did not have enough resources to provide its students facilities that would compare with those in good private schools. This motivated him to decide to work for change. He felt that starting a “smart classroom” and creating “smart teachers” would change the low engagement witnessed in students both in the class and in attendance. The low engagement resulted in poor outcomes in every subject. However, having multimedia facilities in all the classrooms was not an easy goal to achieve.



Imran Mughal teaching using smart boards in the classroom

### Setting it up

The first problem was the shortage of funds to buy the necessary equipment. The amount needed was too large for the local villagers. Shri Mogal had earlier worked for some time in a private school, and he decided to contact his past students from there. He created a WhatsApp group of the students and also tried to connect with them through Facebook. He presented his proposal and asked them for funds. Some ignored the request; others came forward to help. The students contributed amounts ranging from INR 1500 to 5000. Since the amount collected was not enough, Shri Mogal contacted his relatives and fortunately received help. Finally, he could set up 4 LCD TVs, 4 CPUs, speakers and other necessary equipment.

The persons who helped in setting up the Digital Class were the following:

1. Pathan Asif Khan Faridkhan
2. Joshi Divyesh
3. Patel Digesh Becharbhai
4. Sukhadiya Pranav
5. Bhuva Piyush
6. Patel Dhaval
7. Soni Maulik
8. Shah Darshil and Shah Dhruven
9. Amit Solanki and Chaudhary Ambrish

### Outcomes

With the use of the digital classrooms, Shri Mogal found the students more engaged than before with the lessons. The students who used to be absent became regular. Some students who seemed as if they would quit school actually went on to complete their studies. Subjects like math and science became more interesting. The parents and the school management committee were supportive of his work and showed willingness to take the project forward. At present, the school



Using Smart Board Touch Screen



Children watching educational videos using LED screens in the classroom

has 3 rooms equipped with LCD TV and 2 with movie projector. The software is either the one provided by the government or other software such as Learnvita. The associated material is supplied by the Rotary Club. Sometimes, students also watch reference videos available on YouTube and other channels.

### Awards

The District DMO identified Shri Mogal among the best innovative teachers of Deesa Taluka. Kala Srushti Foundation also honored Shri Mogal. The Rotary club of Deesa presented him with the best teacher award.

### Reach of Innovation

There are eight schools in Shri Mogal's cluster and many teachers of the clusters have attended Imran's digital class. Many of them have adopted the intervention. Three of them have the following to say:

*“The concept of digital class has changed the way of teaching and learning. Our students are showing keen interest after their classroom was equipped with digital equipment. They are eager to learn with audio-visuals.”*

*Chiragbhai V Rathod  
Teacher at Rasana Nana Primary School*

*“The establishment of Digital Class with the help of the community is the best option chosen by Imranbhai and his school. The idea is really thought provoking. It has connected the two poles, society and the school.”*

*Uttambhai V Rajput  
Teacher at Pritinagar Pay Center School*

*“As a Principal I have observed many schools but the change brought about by Imran Mogal with the help of the society is really worth appreciating. It has added new vigor among the students.”*

*Hareshbhai Parmar  
Principal at Pritinagar Pay Center School*



#### QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

1. What are the things to keep in mind before teaching children the subject in a smart class?
2. How to test content in smart class?
3. After showing the kids videos and photos, what do you do if they don't understand the content?

#### QUESTIONS FOR TRAINEES

1. What is the difference between a normal classroom and a smart class?
2. In a smart class, children have to be taught content and at that time the lights go out in the classroom, what would you do in such a situation?
3. What can be done to make children more focused in a smart class?