Success story of our CSR Initiative - 'Centre for innovation through applied teaching' set up at D S High School Sion, Mumbai to provide support to over 300 students.

The challenge

In the last 2 decades, the world has dramatically changed through technology innovation in every aspect of our life. Starting with computer adoption in early 90's and then with the Internet penetration technology has become the backbone of the world. Over last 20 years Silicon Valley has truly demonstrated how the business world is getting transformed through innovation. Millions of new jobs are created in the technology space which demands fundamental knowledge of science, and mathematics in every field. Through innovation, new companies have created huge amount of wealth.
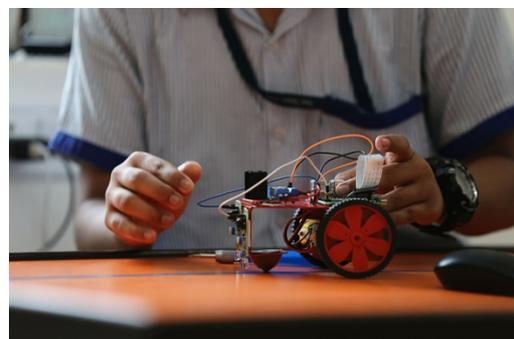
While the world is going through speedy transformation, our education system in India is not able to catch up with the needs of tomorrow. Current education system is driven by theoretical knowledge & concepts and prepare students for only scoring marks. This approach does not engage all the talented students. The net result is most of the students cannot think differently and apply their minds to solve the real-life problems.

While it is important to understand that the current education system did produce the tremendous amount of talent in every field such as medicine, aerospace, economics, engineering and IT. India alone has produced more than 15% of technology force working for global companies. Ironically, it is interesting to note that most of the innovative companies are outside India lead by Indian technocrats. Now the question is why the same talent from India cannot innovate here in India and build innovative companies which will transform our own ecosystem? This requires complete change in the way we apply our knowledge to solve the real-life problems. This thinking process will lead into innovation by next generation thought leaders.

The solution:

Grok Learning has taken up a mission to nurture Indian talent at the school level, shape their creative mindset to solve our real-life problems.

As a part of GROK Learning's CSR Initiative, a 'Center for Innovation Through Applied Teaching' in the year 2019 is established at D S High School, Sion Mumbai. Here the students are encouraged to express themselves creatively and imbibe innovation to solve real life problems with aid of latest technologies.

Grok Learning has selected this school based on an alignment of ideology and the guiding principle of school 'Low Cost High Value Education'. Moreover, the school initiatives and efforts are consistent and aligned to their current demographic challenges. This school

believes in progressive education and has successfully implemented various projects with an objective to ensure the overall development of students. Projects such Shankar Mahadevan Music Academy, Let's get fit, LD Rehab, Visual arts, Spoken English, E-Learning and Centre for Innovation through applied learning to name a few.

About the school

(where the 'Centre for Innovation Thorough Applied Teaching' is set up)

D S High school is part of Shiv Shikshan Sanstha, a public trust active in the field of providing education to underprivileged children since last 80 years. Shiv Shikshan Sanstha's D.S. High School, originally named as 'Sion English School' began its incredible journey in the year 1939. Established with the sole purpose of making quality education easily available to the privileged and under privileged locals. The school, students and teachers have credited with many accolades and awards for various accomplishments so far. Latest award being "Progressive and Excellent School" for the year **2016-17** by education department of Government of Maharashtra. The school today has over 3500 students. It has retained its culture of discipline, hard work and has also blended it with the latest technologies like e-learning, computer education etc.

Impact and benefits:

Voice of students:

Alankar: It is for the first time; I am enjoying learning, the concepts of science and mathematics with help of technology. I can see the real-life use of these concepts in varies fields. We have done various projects like by using Robotics, IoT and 3D printing technology. I have a confidence now that I can become Steve Job or Bill Gates of India.

Saraswati: My fear about Science and Mathematics subjects is gone and now I have a confidence that I can use my knowledge to solve real life problems, I have done one project recently, where I have tried to solve the problem of accidents happening on railway platform. Accidents happens due to the gap between local train door foot board and railway platform. I have designed pneumatically operated foot board to solve this problem.

Voice of Teacher:

Mrs Mahtre (Science Teacher): Students have become more and more engaged in learning and started asking lots of questions related to real-life applications. In fact, I can modestly say that many of the concepts I was teaching so far, I could link them to real life applications only recently, after using this methodology.

Mrs Darekar (Mathematics Teacher): Teaching experience has become a satisfying experience for us because of use of this methodology. Students have started thinking and trying their best to derive solutions to the given problems.

Voice of Parents:

Mrs Archana Pukale: Confidence level of my child has increased substantially. He now thinks that he can solve pressing domestic problem with help of technology and innovation.

Mrs. Kumar: I have seen lot of changes in way he thinks now and earlier how he used to think. He started enjoying his studies and talks about his projects all the time. Academically also he is scoring higher marks compered to last year.

Mr. Ubhare: Earlier my child never used to enjoy going to school, But now she reminds me about preparing her tiffin in time. She showed me photo of a Wheel Chair for hospital, and she was proud to tell me that it was her 3D Printing project designed by her. I am so happy to see her glittering eyes.

Voice of D S High School Trustee:

Our main purpose to initiate this project with help of Grok Learning, was to expose these underprivileged students to latest technologies and how these can be used to solve real-life challenges. We believe students have immense talent and it only need to be unleashed during their schooling years. Innovation, Analytical skills, Problem solving skills and collaborative learning need not be considered only for corporates, It is equally relevant to our students as well. The earlier we deal with these skills in demand the better employment and entrepreneurship avenues we are opening for these future thought leaders.