

Educomp Intel Partnership in One on One computing for School students with smart class O3 and Intel's Classmate Pcs

Sonia Handa
Educomp Solutions Ltd.
Gurgaon

Indian schools are ready to explore one on one computing environment inside the classrooms. In this paper, we write about Educomp's endeavor to bring about a paradigm shift in learning effectiveness and collaborative learning through its O3 initiative.



Revolutionary new learning program to raise effectiveness of teaching-learning in classrooms

The initiative began over two years back. Technology adoption in Indian Schools had witnessed a clear pattern with schools moving on from merely acquiring PC Labs to moving technology for teaching purposes right inside the classrooms. It was envisaged that a large segment of Indian schools, predominately Tier I and II are now ready to explore one on one computing environment inside the classrooms

and would be open to adopt solutions that enable them to effectively improve students learning experiences. To this extent Intel and Educomp have been deeply engaged in



Developing a pedagogically sound solution for one on one computing in classrooms. Intel has developed the Classmate PC that meets with the precise learning needs in schools.



Three initial pilots were conducted as a proof of concepts before Educomp moved on with "O3" a program specially designed for one on one computing. The program for the new academic year has been launched in five schools in India.

PSBB Millennium is India's first school to implement One On One computing (O3) system developed by the Educomp R&D Team in collaboration with Intel Classmate PC. The O3 program was launched at PSBB Millennium School at Chennai on 21st February 2008. In North the first Schools implementing the program are :

ChiranJeev Bharti: Palam Vihar <http://www.ansalscbs.org/pv/>

ChiranJeev Bharti: Sushant Lok www.ansalscbs.org/sl/

The Millennium School Mohali <http://millenniummohali.com/contactus.html>

The Millennium School NOIDA <http://www.millenniumnoida.com/contactus.html>

Parents have been the key support for the program. Orientation for students and parents of ChiranJeev Bharti: Sushant Lok was held on 14th May 2008 and for ChiranJeev Bharti: Palam Vihar on 17th May 2008. The laptops were handed over to the students post the orientation before these schools closed for the summer vacations. Children get the opportunity to become familiar with CMPCs during the vacations.

Subsequently an all four Principals meet was followed by a brainstorming session and a detailed overview of the program.

The Program

Under this program, all students have been provided with a laptop, a Classmate PC (CMPC) from Intel. CMPC is a light notebook shaped new pedagogical device designed for students. It is an affordable and rugged learning device that addresses the pedagogical needs of a student with instruction usage model intended for children, but still leveraging the notebook ecosystem. All these CMPCs are internet enabled. The notebook is light and can be easily carried by the child in the school bag.

The O3 program allows for highly effective class, group and individualized learning. The solution also empowers parents to keep a close watch on their children's progress in the school.

For the duration of the program each student has been given one Classmate PC to use and to take care of. All students are expected to bring the laptops allocated to them everyday to the school. All teachers are also equipped with laptops. The teaching and learning process for Science, Math, English, and Social Studies in the schools is adapted to integrate technology to enhance learning. Educomp O3 program rolls out a series of functionalities to help students under this initiative. The students and teachers use the systems for regular school activities like learning, assessments, projects and problem solving. The teachers are trained to work with the program.

Some of the key benefits of this innovative methodology are dramatic increase in individual attention that the teacher is able to give each child, the individual screen allows greater proximity to what is being taught, concepts are introduced in a thrilling and exciting manner, assessments that are done provide instant results which further help a teacher to assess what percentage of the class has understood or not understood a concept taught and the concept is then taught again with greater clarity and emphasis. Children can be divided into groups even as they are seated in their respective place and encouraged to work on any unit, the quieter ambience lends to greater learning. Parental control buttons and Teacher locking device makes it safe for the children to use it even at home, ensuring they do not browse any site they should not.

Pilots in India

Intel's Classmate PC is targeted at seven to fourteen year old students. The first pilot study was conducted at Delhi Public School, Ghaziabad Vasundhara, for Grade-6 students, where lessons in English, Maths, Science and Social Studies were imparted. The second lot of pilots are based on these outcomes. The CMPC Pilot for Grade -4 students has been conducted at Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Learning Leadership Academy at Bangalore, and in the third pilot study has been used for Grade-7 students for imparting Maths and Science at Navodaya Vidyalaya Faridabad.



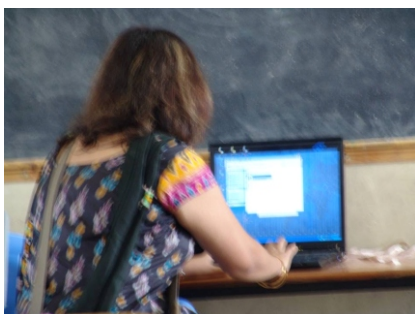
Pilot Objectives and Outcomes

The key objectives of the pilot were to understand from parents, students, and teachers the impact of this device in providing augmented education for children. The students and teachers use the systems for learning, assessments and problem solving. Teachers deliver targeted lesson plans that combine project work, collaboration, and student activities that enhance group and personalized learning for children.

The initial pilot results with the actual use of the Classmate PC and solutions built for their use by teachers and students were very encouraging. Educomp then moved on beyond pilots to implement of the program on a large scale. Now there are 5 schools where the program has been initiated for the new academic session.

Teachers Benefit

Educomp provides a basket of tools for a structured approach to every 35 minutes of classroom session. This basket of tools includes topic specific multimedia content, detailed lesson plans, assessments, resources like pictures, charts, maps etc required for each session. Each lesson plan clearly defines the scope of the session and what the teacher will teach in that session. It clearly lays down students' level and the prerequisites. For example, to learn 'Tenses' the students



should know about verbs. The lesson plan is mapped to the content and details when and where to use various tools and teaching strategies. Assessment focuses on the behavioral outcomes expected from the students. On the other hand, the teacher can actively take remedial actions, as the student outcome is known at the right time and thus providing the teacher an effective guide on areas of the topic that need to be repeated.

All this is done at the click of a button which gives the results instantaneously in the form of a progressive charts and enables the teacher to know how the class progresses. The teacher can also see question-based scores, and student-based scores in the smart assessment system.

Educomp's Smart Assessment System also gives the teachers the advantage of not going through the long test copies, as everything is automated and teacher will know the results. The monitor control system in CMPC is in real time for the teachers. They can actually virtually help students, broadcast the entire lesson, to whole of the classroom, and transfer study material to student's PC to study at their own pace.

Advantage for Students

The student benefits as the Classmate PC gives the students a one-to-one learning opportunity. They can learn at their own pace and take the assessments. For **home work** students are also given specially customized computer games to reinforce learning. The games are based on topics covered in the class and require the students to assimilate this knowledge as ammunition to score well in the games. For **Class Work**, Smart Assessment System from Educomp helps teachers to get



instant results at the press of the button without having to manually check each answer sheet. The teacher knows instantly whether the student has understood or not, based on this feedback students benefit from prompt remedial teaching and not wait for home work correction time. Targeted teaching strategies stimulate the students to think and to participate in interesting activities to consolidate learning.

Corporate Outlook

To inaugurate Educomp's O3 initiative, Mr. Shantanu Prakash, Managing Director, Educomp Solutions Ltd. said, "We are clearly excited about this new initiative where we are focusing on next generation computing in the classroom; when large school bags will be eventually replaced with a computing device in the times to come. Educomp plans to bring a paradigm shift in learning effectiveness and collaborative learning through its O3 initiative".

"Students and teachers are taking great pride using this futuristic way of teaching and learning in the schools and also in implementing this first of its kind program".
