

# **SUMMER 2012 PILOT PROJECT**

AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT



**MOBILIZE!**

**Digital Libraries**

## **SUMMARY REPORT**

# MOBILIZE! DIGITAL LIBRARIES

## Project summary

MOBILIZE! Digital Libraries use technology to provide access to innovative educational materials, motivate self-directed learning, and catalyze positive social change. We operate at the intersection of education, technology and mobility, harnessing the best materials and practices to inspire students to new ways of thinking and generate greater interest in self-improved academic performance.

While the use of computers and smart technology in school settings is by no means a new concept, the growing popularity and prevalence of tablets has opened a new realm for the field of education across the world. Even as significant support has been found for tablet usage in academic environments in India, notably by the Indian Government's commission of the Aakash tablet for all University students across the country, there is a significant lack of attention to this new technology's potential for younger students, particularly those between twelve and fourteen years of age. At a critical time in their studies, these students face decisions that will determine their continued academic success, influence their paths towards institutes of higher education, and establish the foundations of their careers and lives.

It is our aim to reach students at this essential time and motivate them to reach their full academic potential. By providing a different approach to learning through targeted educational applications found on tablet devices, we not only supplement existing resources in schools but also combine the power of technology with an innovative way of thinking about student learning. With greater mobility, new capabilities, and lower costs, tablets offer a new way forward for students everywhere.

In this inaugural phase of operations, our team initiated a pilot project in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India to establish our proof of concept and refine our operating strategy. In doing so, we hoped to lay the groundwork for a lasting, sustainable effort that will benefit students and schools alike in the years to come. Documenting our efforts in six classrooms across the city, we have allowed students from every background to individually engage with tablets. Now, at the end of this summer, we leave Gujarat with a deeper understanding of a sustainable implementation strategy and lessons that we will take with us as we move forward.

# PROJECT RESULTS

## Lalji Mehrotra Lions School

Testing twenty students from Standards Six through Eight, we measured student aptitude in a variety of subjects such as Current Events, English, Mathematics, Science, and Technology. In addition to these assessments, we provided students with a weekly survey to rate their experiences and gauge their interest over time as we refined application offerings based on feedback and further research.



Across the board students showed improved test scores, particularly in Science, a subject featured in many of the tablet applications. Additionally,

**90% felt that they had a greater understanding of technology after these sessions,**  
**95% felt that they had improved academically after these sessions, and**  
**90% responded that given the opportunity, they would like to participate again.**



Although Lalji Mehrotra Lions School, one of the elite private academies in the city, has already begun to integrate smart technology systems into many of its classrooms, we were blown away by student response to our efforts and especially pleased with the final results after weeks of repeated sessions.

“I learnt that we children can do anything we want to, the only thing is we need encouragement.”

– Kritika Javali, 8th Standard

“If we learn visually we are able to remember and it becomes fun.”

— Mansi Shah, 8<sup>th</sup> Standard



“It is interesting to learn new things and read articles and watch videos using tablets.”

— Ritan Banerjee, 6<sup>th</sup> Standard

“They [the tablets] have given me basics of new topics which I like to study deeper in school.”

— Vidushi Jain, 8<sup>th</sup> Standard



**motivating student engagement**

# PROJECT RESULTS

## R.C. Patel Primary School

Testing twenty-two students from Standards Six and Seven, we measured student aptitude through a series of tests and provided weekly surveys for participants to rate their experiences and gauge their interest over time.



Across the board students from showed improved test scores, particularly in Mathematics, featured in many applications on the tablets. Additionally,

**100% felt that they had a greater understanding of technology after these sessions,**  
**100% felt that they had improved academically after these sessions, and**  
**100% responded with a 10 out of 10 rating for the sessions for all weeks of testing.**



As students of a Gujarati Medium School, where instruction is exclusively in the dialect native to the state of Gujarat, participants at the R.C. Patel Primary School greatly enjoyed our sessions but faced some difficulties engaging with the technology due to language barriers inherent in several of the tablet applications. Nonetheless, their enthusiasm was wonderful and all students demonstrated progress in the final results.

“Because in the Math Balloons app it was easy to study a lot. It was fun reading and doing maths.”

— Harsh A.M. Ghtad, 7<sup>th</sup> Standard

“I learned the power of thinking and I understand how beautiful the world’s wonder.”

– Prawapati Nimesh Somecaibhai, 7<sup>th</sup> Standard



“We can easily understand maths and science in easy way.”

– Jul H. Pudhir, 7<sup>th</sup> Standard

“While we played games we learned a lot, what we study.”

– Solinki Priyanshi Rajeshbhai, 7<sup>th</sup> Standard



**motivating student engagement**

# PROJECT RESULTS

## Don Bosco English School

Testing nineteen students from Standards Eight and Nine at the Don Bosco English School, we provided tests and surveys to measure student aptitude and gauge interest in our sessions. Recently established under the direction of the Don Bosco International Association, this school is one of two Don Bosco Schools in Ahmedabad out of many across the world.



Across the board students showed improved test scores, particularly in English, a subject featured in many of the tablet applications. Additionally,

**80% felt that they had a greater understanding of technology after these sessions,**  
**85% felt that they had improved academically after these sessions, and**  
**80% responded that, if given the opportunity, they would like to participate in these sessions again.**



While students at Don Bosco benefit from access to a computer lab facility located at the school, many struggle with the basic English Medium curriculum, knowing Gujarati as their first and only language outside of the classroom. Thus, we felt that these sessions were particularly relevant for students hoping to improve their academic performance and were generally encouraged by the results.

**“Because we like these programs very much.”**

— Twinkle Khatri Indrakumar, 9<sup>th</sup> Standard

# motivating student engagement

“Because it was very entertainment and I had lots of fun.”

- Bhargav Rahul S.,  
8<sup>th</sup> Standard



“It [the tablet] is very useful and many new things in it.”

— Patel Parth J., 8<sup>th</sup>  
Standard

“It was nice and I like it very much.”

— Jinku S. Panchal,  
8<sup>th</sup> Standard





# PROJECT RESULTS

Shree K.S. Vidyalay

Testing twenty students from Standards Seven and Eight, we measured student aptitude and provided surveys to gauge their interest over time. Founded in the aftermath of the 2002 riots in Ahmedabad, Shree K.S. Vidyalay follows a Gujarati Medium curriculum and aims to bring children from both the Muslim and Hindu communities together in a shared learning environment.



Across the board students showed improved test scores, particularly in the subjects of Mathematics and Current Events. Additionally,

**100% felt that they had a greater understanding of technology after these sessions,**  
**100% felt that they had improved academically after these sessions, and**  
**100% responded with a 10 out of 10 rating for the sessions for all weeks of testing.**



Our sessions were the first chance that many of these students had to individually use a modern piece of technology other than a cell phone! Although they did face initial difficulties in overcoming the language barrier inherent to several of the tablet applications and operations, we were greatly impressed by student responses and their improvements on the aptitude test at the conclusion of our research.

“I was able to see the future of India and the arts of India.”

— Dariya Rahul, 8<sup>th</sup> Standard

“We learned something new from the apps.”

— Nimesh Makwana  
Yogeshbhai, 7<sup>th</sup> Standard



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“I like maths very much. I like maths games very much.”

— Rathod Sahista  
Rahimbhai, 8<sup>th</sup> Standard

“Because I enjoyed playing with them, in that hour playing was so fun.”

— Rao Vishal Rajeshbhai,  
8<sup>th</sup> Standard



# PROJECT RESULTS

## Shree Narayana Higher Secondary School

Testing twenty students from Standards Seven and Eight, we measured student aptitude in a variety of subjects and provided students with a weekly survey to rate their experiences and gauge their interest over time. Following an English Medium curriculum, students at Shree Narayana had no trouble engaging with the tablet technology and, at points, even taught our team new tricks on the devices!



All students showed improved test scores, particularly in Mathematics, a subject featured in many applications on the tablets. Additionally,

**95% felt that they had a greater understanding of technology after these sessions,**  
**100% felt that they had improved academically after these sessions, and**  
**95% responded that given the opportunity, they would like to participate again.**



At the start of this project, we hoped to achieve both improved academic performance as well as increased student motivation in education. We were blown away by student enthusiasm for our visits, particularly by students at this school, as well as the final results from all schools after weeks of repeated sessions.

“It is fun to do add, subtract, multiplication etc. It is very fun and gives knowledge.”

— Devjani Payal Dilipkumar, 8<sup>th</sup> Standard

“I learned playing new things and gained knowledge from that.”

— Nupur D. Pandya,  
8<sup>th</sup> Standard



# motivating student engagement



“In the tablet there were many applications which will be helpful for the future.”

— Vyas Charmi S.,  
8<sup>th</sup> Standard

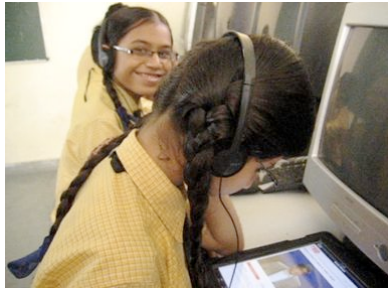
“We obtained knowledge from these sessions.”

— Eisha K. Shah,  
8<sup>th</sup> Standard



“We would like these tablets to learn always.”

— Erzhava Anjali Rajendran, 8<sup>th</sup> Standard, Shree Narayana Higher Secondary School



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