The role of NGO in Innovative teaching-learning methods in primary education in rural areas

Poonam Kadlag[1] and Rajeshree Jaybhaye[2]
[1]SSPU, Pune, MS, India
[2]ACCER, Pune, MS, India
pnmsac@gmail.com

Abstract

The innovative learning and teaching planings concentrate a lot on teaching the scholars so that they will reform their talents and behaviour by victimising numerous innovative concepts instead of creating them reciting the curriculum to clear the examination. Digital learning is one of the ways to assist students to perceive the concepts visually. Digital learning makes the teaching and learning method more practical and efficient. In rural areas, Zilla Parishad faculties don't get spare funds to supply ICT facilities to the students. So, there's a requirement for the contribution of social workers, factories, eminent people, small and large-scale companies, social workers, non-governmental organisations in primary education in rural areas. The international NGO called 'Save The Children' is remarkable in this field. This article focuses on the role of Save the Children NGO in the project 'Creative Opportunities for Technologies Enabled Learning'. The survey research method was adopted for analysis. An interview was also conducted for the NGO members. Save the Children helps in the digitalisation of teaching, learning and assessment. It provides educational material, technical equipment, free digital content for students, smart classrooms etc. Save the Children is a role model for other NGOs to invest in technology and new teaching-learning practices which help emphasize quality education and strengthen primary education.

Keywords: Innovative teaching-learning, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), Save the Children, Digital teaching-learning method.

Introduction

UNESCO[1] has checked the accomplishment in education between 2000 and 2015. The year 2000 was for the Millennium Development Goal[2] (MDG) commitments as well as the Dakar Framework for Action to achieve Education provided to every child. These goals were to be attained by 2015. Although there was some significant progress, they could not reach their goals. In 2015, education was still severely underfunded. Globally, about 58 million children were out of school. About 100 million children could not complete primary education. Privileged children than children who suffer poverty were likely to be out of school for more than tripled. The inferior quality of primary level teaching and learning meant that millions of children did not learn fundamental skills even in schools. To overcome this problem, teachers need to adopt innovative teaching-learning methods.

Nowadays, many innovative teaching-learning methods[3] have been introduced such as Collaborative learning, Interdisciplinary learning, Integrative and social responsibility and civic engagement, Digitalisation in teaching, learning assessment and a feedback system, Project-based learning, Flipped classroom etc.

In many innovative teaching-learning methods, a particular setup is vital in the classroom along with educational material,

educational resources, technological tools etc. Zilla Parishad Schools in rural areas in Maharashtra, do not have proper funding to set up ICTs. So, there is a need for the participation of eminent people, micro and large-scale companies, social workers, non-governmental organisations to raise the funding. There are many NGOs actively participating in innovative teaching-learning practices like Agastya International Foundation[4] (Bangalore) that works on project-based learning in Science, Shikshana Foundation provides worksheets for languages and mathematics, English Helper Education Technologies Pvt. Ltd. provides Read To Me software for the English language to students on the state board in Maharashtra.

This paper gives details about the contribution of Save the Children NGO in the project 'Creative Opportunities Technologies Enabled Learning'.

Definitions of terms: NGO: The World Bank[5] defines NGO as, A private organization that works to alleviate suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or promote community development.

Innovative teaching-learning methods: In simple words, A learning method that focuses more on reform students' intellectual behaviour using a variety of new and innovative

ideas rather than curriculum lessons to explain exams in the same old style[6].

Primary education: The basic education given to children in the age group of 6 to 14 years is called primary education in India[7].

Rural area: This area, which is separated from the urban area and has a low population density[8].

Operational definition: NGO: Here is the study of a project of Save the Children.

Innovative teaching-learning methods: The ICT based teaching-learning method run by save the children (an NGO).

Primary education in rural areas: Class 1st to 7th, the curriculum provided by the state government of Maharashtra. Which runs in the government Zilla Parishad School, Taluka Haveli, Pune, India.

Review of literature

Jagannathan[9] has conducted a study on the contribution of a few NGO sectors of primary education in India. Only the government is not able to provide primary education to all children so the researcher points out that 35 NGOs play an important role in assisting the Government of India in providing primary education. Those NGOs also played a significant role in implementing initiated programmes launched by the Government. Another interesting finding is that, according to the study, community participation has a positive effect on the quality of education and if parents are involved in their children's education, it also increases attendance levels.

Blum[10] has studied the influence of education provided by NGOs which focuses on small, rural, multi-grade classes in India. Her research is based on the education given by the Education Center. The education centre has improved the school environment and increased teacher training and support. She concluded that NGOs educating children from minority groups have had a positive impact on the number of children enrolled, completed and retained in schools.

Objectives: i. To explain the need for the participation of NGOs in innovative teaching-learning practice in primary education in a rural area. ii. To detail the role of 'Save the Children' NGO in the project 'Creative Opportunities for Technologies Enabled Learning'.

Objectives-wise description: NGOs participation is required in innovative teaching-learning methods in primary education in rural areas: Teachers need to use different teaching methods and perspectives to help motivate students so that they actively participate in learning, innovative teaching methods like using ICT, tools based and blended education need

some exceptional efforts and gadgets like computers, tablets, laptops, projectors, internet connectivity are required. In project-based learning, there is a need for educational material (worksheet, cardboards, pen, pencils, rural, manuscript, vessels, bottles, pipes, etc.). Scientific learning needs science laboratories and different types of equipment. In rural areas, there is a shortage of funding to provide these educational establishments to students as well as a lack of training for teachers. To come up with quality education and strengthen primary education, it's not the accountability of the government only. The improvement of quality education also requires the involvement of social members or workers. NGOs have appeared as a mediator and have become very prominent to meet the educational objectives introduced by the government. Positive aspects of NGOs for providing innovative teaching-learning practices such as NGOs contribute funding for education,

Availability of volunteers to conduct the project, People available for implementation, monitoring the project, Equipping educational resources for projects, Before the implementation of modern methods, NGOs conduct a proper pilot study, Arranging workshop, training, seminars etc. for strengthening and updating teacher's knowledge about adopting innovative teaching-learning methods, Collaboration with the school's management committee, parents, eminent people from society. In this way, for providing quality education to students and strengthening primary education, there is a need for the participation of NGOs, Giving educational materials to students like books, laptops, tablets, projector etc.

Details about the role of 'Save the Children' NGO in the project Creative Opportunities for Technologies Enabled Learning: To know more about the projects run by the NGO, a survey was conducted along with an interview of 5 members of that NGO. The summary of the interview as follows:

Results and discussion

The beginning of the initiative: An initiative called Creative Opportunities for Technologies Enabled Learning was started by the NGO (Save The Children) in March 2019 in 15 Zilla Parishad Schools of Taluka: Haveli, Pune.

Smart classrooms: For this ICT based innovative teaching-learning practices Save The Children[11] converted the traditional classroom into smart classrooms by providing TVs, computers, internet connectivity, digital content for Class 3rd to 7th as per Maharashtra State's syllabus. These facilities were provided to 10 Zilla Parishad schools of Taluka Haveli. These schools are also connected through radio web technology.

Orientation Program: To build the capacity of SMC (School Management Committee) members, Cluster Resource Coordinator (CRC), Block Resource Coordinator (BRC), DIETS officers, educational officers, principles and for teachers,

the NGO arranges orientation meetings through MOOC, training and workshops. Teachers get an idea about the implementation of the program. If a teacher faces any problems regarding ICT, the NGO members visit personally and resolve their queries.

Providing technical equipment: Save The Children, this NGO provided about 100 Android tablets to 10 schools of Zilla Parishad. These tablets contain digital content for students in class 1st to 7th for all subjects in regional language (Marathi) and in English. They also provided this content in pen drives and smart cards for teachers.

Providing a free license of Byju's: They offered Byju's subscription for 2280 students from 10 schools of Zilla Parishad. Out of 2280 students 98 students from Zilla Parishad school, Waghmarewasti got a free license from Byju's.

Providing educational materials: They furnished a library for Zilla Parishad Primary School at Sortapwadi. The library contains storybooks, encyclopedias, reference books etc.

Repairing and Refurbishing: They provided technical assessment, a team of technical people visited schools to repair and refurbish the pieces of equipment.

Facilities during the pandemic situation: Volunteers visit the students and provide activity sheets to the students, giving personal attention to the students in solving their doubts with the help of teachers.

Protecting children online and using ICTs: Save the Children can value international discourse through her advocacy in the field of online protection. Children can be vulnerable to abuse, and violence in this digital world. Hence precaution must be taken to reduce the threats these technologies can pose. Save the Children is very well-known to work closely with cognate organisations and helping protect children while maximising the benefits that ICTs can bring to their education and learning.

Future Plans: It has been put forward that after the pandemic situation, the project Back to Learn will start and establish the digital hub at Zilla Parishad School, Sortapwadi.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that technology will play a vast role in fundamental education in the future. With the help of the international NGO Save the Children, many students in primary schools are accessing learning through ICTs and ICT-based assessment systems. The mass availability of information online will lead to the development of new assessment systems that emphasize skills over memory. Many traditional literacy skills will also be replaced by technology. Children will be able to learn, read and write with the help of ICTs. Save the Children provides technical equipment, educational material, digital

contains, orientation programs for teachers and educational officers. Teachers get proper knowledge of innovative teaching methods. Students from rural areas also get these facilities of digital learning provided by the NGO. Students can easily access the concepts through digital content available in e-learning. In the absence of a teacher, students can learn by themselves by using videos.

Save the Children plays an exceptional role in innovating teaching-learning practices. Save the Children is a role model for other NGOs to invest in technology and new teaching-learning practices which help emphasize quality education and strengthen primary education.

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