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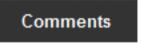
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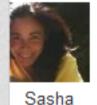
In the past few years, we've seen a surge of e-learning companies coming up in India with lot of venture capital and in some case public money put behind them. There is a general sense that close to 1.5 lakhs or perhaps more number of schools and proportionate number of classrooms in India are using smartboards / digital content regularly - this includes both government and private institutions. Many of these institutions have used such products for over three years time span which is a good enough sample time period to showcase some credible improvements in learning outcomes and performance compared to traditional methods of imparting education. There have been independent research companies trying to figure out correlation of using such digital products and their real impact in impacting learning outcomes in a positive way in Indian context but there is hardly any credible evidence available of such results in India.

The result has been that lot of digital education companies have pruned down in their size and reach with valuations significantly going down. I was recently involved with research team at CRISIL in their annual digital education report preparation and there was a discussion that although overall revenues of the industry are going up but at the same time many large companies are pruning down in size with venture capital also squeezing in this space leading to a plausible thought that maybe just newer and newer schools are adopting such methods (mostly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities) following the trend and lead of larger schools in metro cities. This is a scary trend if it was to be true wherein all the schools just follow each other digitizing their classroom without even really analyzing if it made any difference at all in their learner's performance, ability and pace of learning and ultimately learning outcomes.

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1 comment



Sasha Oster

Teacher at Hilliard Comstock Middle School

Measurement tools and standards to establish learning improvement are and always will be questioned for various things: bias, causing teaching to the test, ...on and on. At some point, we have to stop funding development of tests and PhD dissertations about learning, and use common sense. Ask yourself how you could possibly do this study you're talking about without access to the internet and word processing tools. How would you gather your data, see what's been done, communicate research findings and ask people like me what we think?

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Kartik S. likes this



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