

CHANGE IN EDUCATION- WHAT? WHEN? HOW? By Madhav Chavan, Co-Founder and CEO, Pratham

This session emphasizes on alternative methods of teaching going back to basics and learning from the environment to keep up with change, which is constant. It addresses the various challenges of the existing education system, the need to get innovative so as to get rid of redundancy. Teachers and educationists will benefit immensely from this fresh perspective.

Concrete Strategies I walked away with:

- Education & learning outside school is as important as education in school
- Non linear approach to education is the way forward

Discussion Questions raised during the session:

Here are some questions that stimulated a discussion amongst the participants of the workshop. I have included some of the participant's responses as they served to guide the discussion too. I hope that these questions help trigger your thoughts on the topic.

Technology in a classroom in the US has been around. What does the Indian Government need to do to step up?

Technology is not just computers. It is a mindset which also needs to change. The Government has introduced computers in schools, though the manner and approach to teach it, is archaic & redundant. The Key is to use technology more creatively.

What are the main challenges we face today?

- Children today have random access to information from multiple sources and avenues. There is no right and wrong, there are more grey areas.
- Rigid and structured curriculum which in some cases results in redundancy of degrees
- Examination system is not practical
- Affiliations to universities are not fruitful
- Lack of training and teaching tools for teachers & principals
- Concentration of authority is too rigid and the process of teaching is too organized and structured as a result it is either redundant or irrelevant. The approach is catered to mass scale not quality.

What is the need of the hour to make a difference, where education is impactful and relevant?

- Have Government schools run privately, with new innovative methods
- Improve the system and approach to teaching by having open schools with more vocational training, multi skilling post school
- Better standardization of systems, processes & curriculum
- Alternate options for online and home schooling – teach children basic functionality which is more relevant to lifestyle and mobility

- Encourage more certification programs and franchising of education systems
- Holistic change to education with the changing world & weed out redundant methods
- Encourage and incorporate internships and apprenticeships as part of the curriculum