



## How you can maintain the momentum in EdTech after the Pandemic

*The pandemic has changed the way we view education technology. Let's see how.*



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We know that only a small fraction of all the people who make new year's resolutions keep them beyond March. Sustainable changes in behaviour are hard. What is also true is that behaviours that change during deep crisis are likely to be more sustainable. The pandemic has changed the way we view education technology.

### Ed-Tech Challenges in Schools

There is no doubt that schools provide collaboration spaces to students and help students interact with each other. Students are missing the unmonitored, serendipitous interactions with each other that are essential to learning and development. Students are also missing the warmth of friendships and learning from broader social interactions.

There is also an issue of digital equity; as most students in India have limited access to technology. Even with access to technology, the changes in behavior required for virtual classes is stressful for both teachers and students.



A key challenge for the Ed-Tech sector as we pick up the pieces in a post-Covid world is to not go back to the old ways completely; but take the learnings from the last few months to create a blended approach that improves overall learning outcomes and improves access.

### **Capitalizing on the changing patterns of technology usage**

On the positive side, there is heightened awareness regarding education technologies. Schools need to capitalize on these changing patterns of technology usage.

There is an increasing belief that digital can have a significant positive impact on learning quality through blended learning. Parents and schools now know and understand that meeting solution like Zoom, Hangout is not the only facet of online learning.

Digital tools like Learning Management System (LMS) along with the right pedagogical practices could have a significant positive impact on learning. LMS can facilitate flipped classrooms, allowing class time to be used for discussions and problem-solving. LMS can also aid personalized learning by providing self-assessments and resources for a variety of learning styles.

Technology has helped the community of teachers, parents and students stay connected and engage more holistically beyond the school time. Parent apps for LMS provides parents with more current and complete information about assignments and student performance. The flexibility provided by technology in enabling location agnostic meetings can result in more frequent parent engagements, optimizing on time and cost.

### **Online classrooms**

Online classrooms have also opened the possibilities of recording classrooms for observation, feedback, and reflection. Besides, there is potential to deliver the majority of training through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous training programs.

The creation of MOOCs will enable teachers to spend time on their specific goals through self-paced online training programs and also increase the accessibility of the best pedagogical practices to a large number of teachers.

The use of LMS has resulted in a huge amount of student outcome data being available. This has also enabled teachers and Instructional leadership teams to make data-driven decisions. Analysis of student outcome data when mapped against learning outcomes will help schools to create strategic plans and enable school improvements.

### **A Post-Covid Ed-Tech Playbook**

To summarize, technology in education provides flexibility, increases access for teachers and students, and improves learning outcomes. We can also take advantage of these technologies with appropriate changes to take high-quality education to less privileged audiences and contexts but that is a topic for another discussion.

Research would also tell us that behaviors that are catalyzed in moments of truth are sticky. We should take advantage of this change to make Ed-Tech desirable and part of the new normal. I would assert 5 changes for the new Ed-Tech playbook

- There is a new heightened awareness of Ed Tech and schools should capitalise on this.
- Learning Management Systems can act as catalyst for enabling blended learning, flipped classrooms and personalized learning.
- Extend the use of digital resources by using AI/AR/VR and gamification-based content thereby enhancing student interest and engagement
- Enhance family connection and connectedness via the use of virtual tools
- Build teacher capacity through an array of online and physical trainings so that they can build micro-credentials based on their goals or passions
- Utilize the data from digital tools and applications for continuous school improvement and enhanced outcomes.

The past few months have been challenging for everyone. There will be many things to act on to get back to normalcy and reset many things. This change needs to be managed regularly highlighting the benefits of technology to all the stakeholders and regularly evaluating the adoption process.

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