

Q CASE STUDY: CONNECTED LEARNING INITIATIVE

Context: Teachers working in rural and remote parts of India

Problem: Timetabling and workload constraints made it difficult for teachers who wanted to join a Community of Practice (CoP). They could not find convenient times to meet to enable everyone to participate equally or regularly.

Solution: Asynchronous CoP participation through a mobile messaging app

Connected Learning Initiative (CLIX) is a large-scale initiative connecting teachers in rural and remote parts of India. It seeks to effect practice transformation by moving beyond conventional one-time workshops. Instead CLIX uses Telegram Mobile based Messaging App (MMA) to establish a nationwide teachers' Community of Practice that is accessible, functional and relevant.

The MMA allows for affordable asynchronous communication. It does not depend on teachers being available at the same time and its convenience encourages teacher engagement. Teachers can showcase their practices using multimedia files sharing features such as videos, photos, voice notes. It gives them the agency to drive the Community of Practice's learning agenda. These features also facilitate interactions between teachers and experts (MMA administrators).

The continuous sharing created a sense of community and synergised energy. There is potential to further develop the community of practice into an epistemic community. There are limitations with the linear chat design, and it is currently not possible to classify and thematically organise the discussion threads. Nonetheless, the iterative processes employed by administrators ensures that the platform remains an active space for sharing innovative practices, discussions, feedback and reflection (Thirumalai & Sarangapani, 2023).

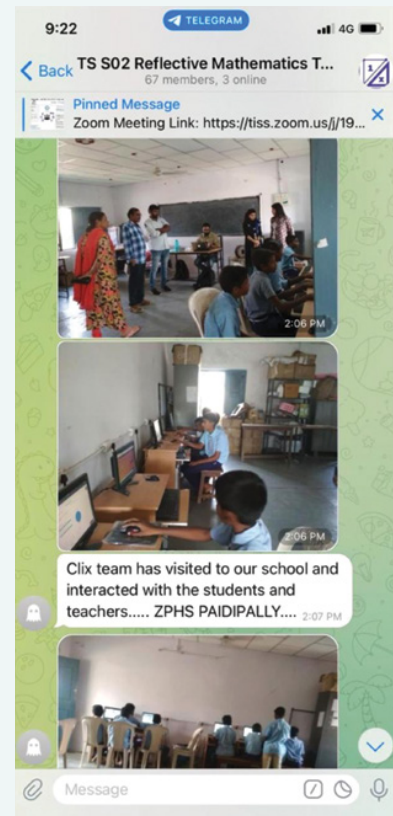


Image: TISS / Connected Learning Initiative (CLIX)

