

Budget FY19 will help digitise our education system

The government has taken baby steps to align Indian education system with the demands of the modern age

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EDUCATION PLAYS AN important role in nation-building and nurturing future leaders. The government's allocation of Rs 1 lakh crore towards revitalisation and upgrade of the education sector is a welcome development. Through Budget FY19, the government has taken baby steps to align Indian education system with the demands of the modern age, where technology and digitisation play an important role in everyday lives.

Traditional curriculum and teaching techniques are being challenged by 21st century learning methods, which are fast moving towards digitisation of curriculum. With the government thrust on increasing digital intensity in education—through broadband connectivity and establishing Wi-Fi stations in rural India—education standards will be enhanced in the long run, and make virtual classrooms a reality even in remote parts of the country. This will achieve two objectives: Improving the quality of education, and spreading its reach through technology.

We, at the Global Indian International School, can play a huge role in making the vision of the government a reality. For instance, virtual classrooms can make it possible for students from less privileged sections of society to have access to quality teachers from international schools.

Teaching is no more limited to chalks and blackboards, and teachers are using power point slides and displaying documents on screens to connect with students. In this context, the government's aim to move from traditional blackboards to digital boards in a few years is a step in the right direction. It would facilitate modern learning techniques, and eventually transform these rural classrooms into a modern-day avatar.

The government, in this Budget, also focused on retraining and right training for teachers under its new Diksha programme that will help enhance teaching techniques. A possible project-based learning approach can help boost a student's creative thinking, while innovative teaching methods can promote out-of-the-box approach to traditional issues. Further government support in the form of desktops, laptops and iPads can also be a boon to students.

Learning outcomes is a practice that monitors students' performance and development periodically, to enhance their capabilities for the bigger aim of creating future leaders. The government's decision of promoting learning-based outcomes and research is welcome. It would make Indian education system more robust, and lead to an outcome that will be beneficial to the student community and the country in the long run.

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