

**Publication : THE TIMES OF INDIA**

**Date : Oct 25, 2011**

# The XSEED approach in schools

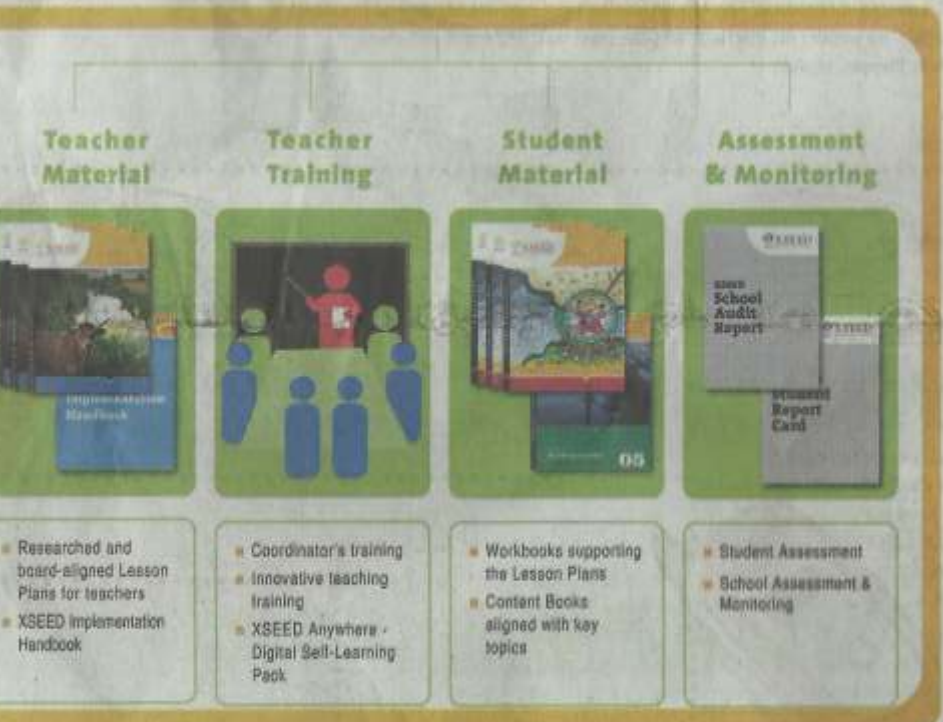
In India, traditional mainstream schooling, with its focus on the 3Ts — “telling” “textbooks” and “testing” does not really deliver the promise of “education” for the quarter of a billion students it enrolls. Often, it is our six million practising teachers who are blamed — labelled as “under-motivated”, “unskilled”, and/or “close-minded”. What they really need is a practical solution that actually works within their context and at scale.

Given the scepticism around school reform, it is more useful to reflect on the real actions that have worked at the last mile inside the classroom. One such innovation is XSEED, the flagship product of iDiscoveri Education, a leading education company with a pan-India presence.

Based on the 5-Step experiential learning approach, the XSEED pedagogy takes every concept taught to children in primary and elementary school syllabi, for example — properties of air, and breaks it down into five simple steps for the teacher — make the objective clear to children (understand that air occupies space), conduct an hands-on activity to experience it (immerse a brick in water), questioning to grasp the concept (where do the bubbles come from?), apply this knowledge to a real-life challenge (what would happen if we burnt a candle inside a glass?), and finally assess what children understood. This approach seems to work better — children grasp concepts, apply their knowledge in unfamiliar settings and truly enjoy the learning process.

To measure the impact of its 5-Step approach, XSEED scientifically tracks student as well as school performance via its proprietary Learnometer and school audit reports supplemented with ongoing feedback.

This approach combining constructivist cur-



riculum, practicum-based teacher development and scientific assessment is showing visible results and is working at scale. Schools using XSEED have reported two-three times higher academic performance in pilot studies. There is also a marked improvement in teaching as lesson plans are fairly detailed and easy to follow.

Since XSEED has been designed to cater to the requirements of various school systems in India - CBSE, ICSE as well as the state Boards, the system has been implemented by 700 schools across the country. Touching close to quarter of a million children and 25,000 teachers it has the makings of scaled movement that can lead as well as sustain change!