

'Plan to penetrate tier-IV cities soon'

Ashutosh Khurana, Co-Founder & CEO, Mind Edutainment Pvt Ltd, tells SALONI BHATIA about the programme which aims at skill development among students of KG to Class VIII

■ Tell us about My Thinking Programme...

The programme has been created as a progressively evolving thinking skills development curriculum for KG to Class VIII students. Each student undergoes various thinking concepts, which are linked to the development of various Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS).

It is infused with the existing academic curriculum of the school and is delivered as a regular thinking subject within the school based on fundamentals of child development, human development, psychology and the educational frameworks devised under Bloom's Anderson and Krathwohl's taxonomy. It lays emphasis on the development of thinking skills and processes in a learner-centric, learner-induced environment, thereby focusing on an optimal functioning of a mind. The programme draws latent capabilities and sensitivities of the mind rather than filling it with pre-designed information. It will also help students to take responsibility for their own learning, be independent thinkers, develop integrated understanding of concepts, and pose and seek questions rather than being rote learners.

■ How did the programme come into existence?

My wife and I wanted to conceptualise and formalise our life learning into a programme and take it to the schools where the early and the most important development of an individual happens. We then spent four years studying not only the school education system but also the minds of school authorities, teachers, parents and students.

We designed the curriculum and content for classroom delivery around the following four pillars: Thinking skills, thinking concepts (coined as Thinkabulary), thinking processes and thinking models.

■ In which schools is the program being implemented?

There are a few schools in the NCR which are already using the concept that we have devised. Some of them are: DPS Sushant Lok, Gurgaon, Basava International School, Dwarka, New Delhi, Summerfield School, Gurgaon, Meenakshi Public School, Gurgaon and Dwarka International School, New Delhi.



Ashutosh Khurana, Co-Founder & CEO, Mind Edutainment Pvt Ltd

■ What teaching methodology is used?

The programme can be easily integrated in the curriculum because it is like any other additional subject. It is a complete academic year programme where the thinking class is held once a week. Each class is of an hour which is conducted by our trained facilitators who visit the schools as per the scheduled time table. Each child is exposed to 17-20 physical thinking tools in one year. In order to make the intangible thinking development visible, the student are given 12 assignments and worksheets which they need to do.

■ Long-term goals...

The company plans to scale its business model by developing its own thinking development tools and games. As of now, these tools are imported from various international companies across the globe, but with domestic production, cost of the programme can be slashed further.

Though our at present pricing is the most reasonable across the country and deliverable list the most exhaustive, the objective is to bring the pricing to a level where it can be made within the reach of tier IV cities schools.

We have recently launched programmes in Pune, Dehradun, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai. We already have centres in Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Bangalore.

From this year we are also developing modules on thinking development for college students. Plans of starting a vocational job-oriented programme for qualified graduates, who wish to take thinking development as a field of training and research, is also in the pipeline.