

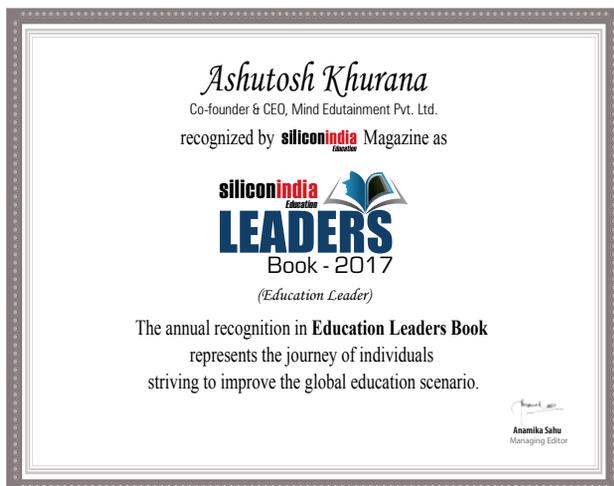
SI EDUCATION LEADERS BOOK - 2017

Education is the soul of any society. Currently, Indian education sector is pegged at \$30 billion, and is expected to touch \$40 billion by 2017. In recent years, Indian education industry has witnessed a tremendous surge with the shift of attentiveness from public to private sector. Traditionally, our education system has constantly acknowledged formulas over concepts and theories over practice; however, today's notion of education is witnessing an alteration at a slow and steady pace. Several out-of-the box intellectuals in this industry are revolutionizing the structure by eradicating the biggest hindrance of below par education at the grassroots. These leaders are enhancing the pre-schooling experience too by indulging action-learning programs, recreational activities and many others in order to bring out every child's uniqueness.

It is said that, 'succession planning and leadership development are natural allies because they share a vital and fundamental goal - getting the right skills in the right place'. In today's competitive world, our education leaders are shaping well rounded professionals through their immense wisdom and knowledge. By implementing the finest

ideas, these leaders have inculcated extensive and well-chalked out programs for students that pronounce a comprehensive and pragmatic approach to value education in India. Further, amalgamation between universities & industries, and indulging private sector for research & training are the major drivers that have been initiated by various education leaders of our nation, which in turn is bridging the gap between the education and corporates.

With the intention to put the spotlight on the top-notch leaders in Indian Education Industry who have transformed the sphere extensively, siliconindia Education Magazine has come up with 'siliconindia Education Leaders Book - 2017', with the mission to provide detailed information and empower you to grasp their absolute potential for personal research and future prospects. We rely on our meticulous research by an experienced panel of educationalists, HRs from prestigious companies and siliconindia Education Editorial Board. This archive aims to not only highlight individuals striving to improve the Education sector, but also serves as a guide with resourceful insights about education leadership and assist in creating many more leaders.



Company:

Mind Edutainment

Key Person:

Ashutosh Khurana,
Co-Founder & Director

Website:

thotslab.com

Description:

Headquartered in Gurgaon, Mind Edutainment is a cognitive skills development platform that specializes in developing Physical Thinking Tools and Mind Games based simulations for Cognitive, Social and Emotional Skills development for K-12 Schools

Ashutosh Khurana:

Building the Leaders of Tomorrow with Cognitive Skills Development

We all remember Rancho from the movie 3 Idiots. He inspired generations to view education as not a mechanism to acquire marks and report card, but something that should be undertaken to develop our mental ability and make us grow personally and professionally. In simple words, it motivated us to look at education differently. But 45 years old Ashutosh Khurana (Co-Founder & Director, Mind Edutainment) came across this fact way back when he joined his engineering college. “One month of ragging period turned out to be a life changing event for me. I found myself still in the books and far from real life. Despite the fact that whatever I learnt could be applied in real life in a simple way, the understanding to put it practically was not developed in me during my academic days. Hence I focused more on acquiring mental and emotional development in my engineering days,” says Ashutosh. This niche focus to develop one’s ability led Ashutosh to incept Mind Edutainment that offers Cognitive Skills development for the holistic development of kids.

Building Skills, Building Minds

The story of Ashutosh and Mind Edutainment is quite interesting. Things changed when he and

Sangeeta A Khurana (business & life partner) were expecting their first child in 2002. “We thought to give something to our kid that will help him not make mistakes that we made, but rather make bigger mistakes and learn from them. We wanted the kid to have structural thinking process from quite an early age,” asserts Ashutosh. Hence the duo started spinning programs throughout the globe and came across a couple of chess players in Israel who were training teenagers to become champions by using certain board games strategy. “Post



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training we realized that we can build mental process by creating game based situations where the game becomes the engagement for the child who wants to succeed in it,” he adds. Hence the duo formulated a game to make learning a happy method and started creating a program for their son. By 2006 when the program was ready, their son started responding to the modules showing better signs. This is when Sangeeta

decided to let go her corporate job and wear an entrepreneur hat to take the program to children across the country. “What started on a selfish note transformed to contributing to the society through the program. We are the only company that has taken the complete curriculum on higher order of thinking development,” claims Ashutosh.

The product was further moulded according to a child’s thinking, his ability to cope with social & emotional situation, express himself and become a part of the societal struc-

ture. But coming from an engineering background threw bigger client acceptance challenges, as the education sector did not take him seriously. However, this self-made and resolute person knows no boundary. While everybody were talking about developing life skills at 15 years of age, Ashutosh was on the spree to revolutionize the entire education sector by bringing this process to as low as four year kids in the Kindergarten to

develop higher thinking from an early age. Hence the duo started it as an optional model and club activity for the first few years and the kids who opted for the program showed considerable improvement. Realizing that his dream is not to develop a certain number of kids but bring holistic change to every kid’s life, Ashutosh brought a significant change in the program to make schools offer the program in a mandatory format for all the students. More than 1.8 lac students have been trained till now by the duo. Alongside, he also has started quarterly workshops by the children for their parents. This ensures the parents know their kids mental skills development. In addition to that, the company organizes half yearly workshops which are conducted by the faculty members for the parents.

A People’s Person

Age never defines Ashutosh. This people’s person gels well with his employees who are half his age, and encourages everyone to call each other by their name, even school kids call them so. Believing transparency is essential for people relationship for personal growth of others and leading by example, he framed a policy to keep the company’s balance sheet at the entrance of the office for anyone to check the current status of the organisation. Ashutosh has

made it mandatory for every new joiner to undergo mind developing training through a three-day training program conducted by him. Full time residential training (one during summer vacation and other during winter vacation), and joint training program (conducted every month) helps Edutainers grow holistically in their professional and personal arena.

A revolution requires continuous self-development. Hence even Mind Edutainment co-founders undergo various meditation process every three or six months to discover themselves and imbibe the discovery into further development of the modules for the children and trainers. Being a certified clinical hypnotherapist, Ashutosh understands that experienced people come with a baggage, hence he trains freshers to create new leaders for his organization under Leadership Innovation Program – a 24 months program. “The future is uncertain. The only thing that is certain is human being and hence it is imperative for them to develop mental, emotional, physical and energy skills. If we start working on these four aspects, we will see the future generations creating a value for each other and if we want to take India to that level where we become intellectual leaders, we should start developing mental abilities and we need to have a



Ashutosh Khurana

success approach on mental ability development of the nation,” says Ashutosh.

Winning over Challenges

The exuberant Ashutosh has high level of energy, can sustain days without much sleep and still be energetic and for every moment, he will have a smile and a joke to crack. But still he is stuck between balancing the four elements of meditation, family, business management and creativity. However, nothing could stop him from winning hearts and minds. In 2010, Mind Edutainment was awarded ‘Power of Idea’ for the best innovation in education in India, Asia’s Best Innovation in Education award in 2013 by WCR Consulting Corporation and in 2015, the company became the only education company to be awarded by CII for creating learning excellence in the classroom through innovative visual and environment design in the form of THOTS Lab.

In the future, Ashutosh wants to continue contributing to the society through his innovative mind development training programs to create future leaders. He plans to expand his unique offering THOTS to all the parents across the globe by creating various levels of licencing and servicing partners.