

Visions e-Learning Program Overview



The proliferation of digital learning resources and platforms has transformed the field of education in many parts of the developed world, but has not yet taken root in most of the developing world. To leverage existing technologies and virtual platforms can mean the difference between progressing in one's education in a modern society and getting left behind. Especially in contexts where educational infrastructure is underdeveloped, and qualified & motivated teachers are lacking, the opportunity to make real progress and positively impact the academic achievement of youth is great.

Visions intends to help lead the way in bringing meaningful, high quality educational opportunities to youth in developing countries through technology. While we are certainly not the first to pioneer e-learning initiatives and promote tech literacy, we endeavor to build off our ongoing experiences & programs in creating innovative tech-based solutions for traditionally marginalized youth and communities.

Current Visions' e-Learning initiatives including the following:

- **In India, Visions has an ongoing tablet-based e-Learning Program at 9 schools** (across Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra) that has benefited an estimated 2,200+ primary schoolchildren to-date
- **In Nicaragua, we launched an e-Learning Program in early 2017** to promote the development of reading & tech literacy skills and improved proficiency in

English and mathematics amongst schoolchildren at 3 rural schools in the Matagalpa region.

- In Nicaragua, we are also currently working toward establishing the **Vera Corazón School – a residential school for disadvantaged girls in Matagalpa**. Tentatively set to open in February 2019, the school aims to provide an ideal learning environment, in which students will not only benefit from instruction in standard subjects, but supplementary education in English, IT/computers, leadership, & entrepreneurship, and participation in a wide range of extracurricular opportunities.
- More broadly, we are working toward creating a **self-paced digital curriculum and platform for our own Visions Leadership & Life Skills curriculum and training program** (to be made available at a later date).

Our e-Learning Program in India is serving predominantly rural schoolchildren, of whom 98% live at or below the poverty line. Through this initiative, these youth now have access to tablet devices pre-loaded with interactive, self-paced, skills-developing digital learning programs and content. While the content is focused on improving Mathematics and English-language skills, students are also developing much needed technological literacy. Teachers are also being trained in blended learning methodologies (that is, how to integrate use of the technology with meaningful and interactive in-class instruction). The underlying intent is to reduce the learning gap, develop critical skills, and promote academic achievement in core subject areas.

In Nicaragua, we recently launched a new e-Learning Program that seeks to positively impact the quality of education for primary school youth & teachers at 3 rural schools in the Jinotega Department of Nicaragua by instituting a tablet-based e-Learning Program. Initially, this program will be introduced during after-school or during the designated vocational hour, with the intent of inspiring and motivating students, promoting literacy & tech literacy, and improving standards in English and Mathematics.



After an initial period, and pending approval from the Ministerio de Educación (MinEd) of Nicaragua, the technology will be utilized in the daily classroom to reinforce core concepts tied to the national curriculum. Visions and Project Alianza are working closely in developing a curriculum and specific lesson plans for teachers that are innovative, participatory, motivating, and self-paced. Concurrently, teachers will be trained periodically in the technology itself, as well as in blended learning



methodologies (that is, integrating tech-based learning with the national curriculum in the daily classroom).

We are concurrently working toward establishing a residential school for orphaned & disadvantaged girls (called the Vera Corazón School) that will ultimately provide free education to an estimated 100-250 girls (Grades 1-12). Our mission is to shape and prepare exceptional young women from disadvantaged background into leaders, entrepreneurs, engaged citizens, and highly capable professionals with an expertise in IT and the English language through a modern, progressive, and comprehensive education. Looking beyond the parameters of formal education alone, we seek to provide a unique, engaging, and interactive learning environment in which students have the opportunity to participate in myriad extra-curricular activities, liberal arts education, language development, professional development, and meaningful cross-cultural exchanges. Technological innovation and self-paced learning will be integrated in all aspects of the students' overall educational experience.

We are also currently working on creating a self-paced e-learning program for our own Visions Leadership & Life Skills curriculum and training program (with a goal of launching in 2018), as well as exploring the idea of digitizing Ethiopian Sign Language-learning programs.