

**WORLD OF CAREERS (WoC)** is an initiative of **Prime Academy**; the 25-year old CA training institution. WoC provides career conversations with school and college students across academic streams, and with fresh professionals. It's run on the i-Learn mode. WoC Buzz is a fortnightly update which presents key global developments in careers.



## TECHnology to the ResCUE

By CA SNEHA SUBRAMANIAM

**PAST WEEKS** the one word that keeps buzzing around throughout the world is CORONA VIRUS. There is a need to understand the impact of this on the education system. With all schools shut down, the question is what does a student do that time? Technology is the answer. Homeschooling might be an answer, but it isn't prevalent much outside of the United States.

### CAN STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM TECHNOLOGY AT HOME?

The answer is Yes and No. Children often use the devices say a computer or a Tablet to play, watch fun content. We have seen the advent of learning applications like BIJU's, Edmodo, Seesaw, Classdojo



etc; and bound to see more. Parents have started to move from the traditional after school tutoring to these mobile applications which is laudable.

### GOOGLE CLASSROOMS:

- In 2019 Google announced that its Chromebooks have been used by 30 million students and educators worldwide while the Google Classroom program now has 40 million users.
- Google's G Suite for Education has reached 80 million users since it first debuted back in 2006.



- It includes popular web-based productivity tools such as Gmail, Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, and Slides, as well as Calendar, Jamboard, and Hangouts Meet.
- 40 million students and educators rely on Google Classroom to stay organized and support creative teaching techniques.
- In May 2018, Google shared that the tool for starting classroom discussions had 25 million users, reports 9to5Google. Since then, the company has added a number of features such as Stream redesign and the Google Material Theme.



There is also a flip side to this story, what about the homes who cannot afford to have this technology at home, below the poverty line. Does a country like India have amenities to make this available to all classes of people?

Yes, we aren't far behind.

- Back in 2018, 133 teachers of 13 Zilla Parishad (ZP) Schools, were trained in Google Classroom.
- The 13 ZP schools are following the new Maharashtra International Education Board (MIEB) started by the state education ministry since June.



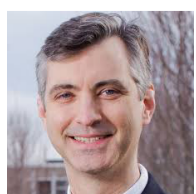
- The state had started this project on a pilot basis in 13 schools, which will have this board for Class 4.
- 100 schools had been selected which can register online to adopt this board. Basis of selection was if they fall under at Zilla Parishad (ZP), Nagar Palika or Municipal Corporation, aided and self financed schools

This is just one example from India, and use of one technological tool.

If the current lockdown continues for a larger span of time, it requires a major change in delivery on part of schools.

A time of crisis is also an opportunity for all education systems to look into the future, adjust to possible threats, and build their capacity.

We have enormous potential for this to happen regardless of COVID 19 if we only took that cue and took a step forward.



**“In order to create an engaging learning experience, the role of instructor is optional, but the role of learner is essential.”**

**- Bernard Bull**