CLI · CONNECTED LEARNING INITIATIVE

CLIx Newsletter | May 2017

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The Connected Learning Initiative (CLIx) is a collaborative initiative of the **TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, TATA TRUSTS and MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MIT).** It is a bold and innovative effort that aims to improve the quality of education accessed by secondary school students and teacher professional development.

(clix.tiss.edu)

Voices from the Field

The Digital Learning Training took place at Aizawl, Mizoram from 18.04.17 - 19.04.17 for the Maths teachers, 20.04.17 - 21.04.17 for the Science teachers and 24.04.17 - 25.04.17 for the English teachers. Here's what teachers have to say about it...

> During this 2 day training, we learnt meaningful things which are applicable for our day to day activities. From this workshop, one important learning for me, was using the spreadsheet which is very very interesting and extremely useful for my profession as a teacher.
> I believe, this training will really develop our personality and the quality of our work in schools. I am so happy that I was one among the trainees. This training really gave me a lot of confidence. Thank you.
>
> - Micheal Lalramliana, Secondary Science Teacher, Tuikual South High School

> We had a very interesting training. It will be very effective for teachers as well as students.
> - P. Lalzawnthangi, Secondary Science Teacher, K.M. Government High School

> Today was more like a revision of what we had done last year. We were so lost then, couldn't link the use of training with teaching or school-based work, but this time we find ourselves more familiar and could connect how to use what we learn. Naturally, we are more enthusiastic now!
> It was interesting to learn how to use spreadhseet in language teaching.
> - Esther Zohmingliani, Secondary English Teacher, Government Durtlang High School

State updates for this month

Chhattisgarh

- Meeting with Mission Director, RMSA for planning and strategy (06.04.17)
- Research workshop with Field Support Persons (24.04.17)

Rajasthan

- Research workshop with Field Support Persons
(28.04.17 - 29.04.17)
- Mid line data collection
(01.04.17 - 05.04.17)

Mizoram

- Cluster level training of 80 teachers on Digital Learning (18.04.17 - 25.04.17)
- Technology training of Field Support Persons, Field Technologists and Field Action Research Fellow
(24.04.17 - 29.04.17)

Telangana

- Training of 60 Teacher Educators at Hyderabad
(30.03.17 - 03.04.17)
- Research workshop with Field Support Persons
(27.04.17)

Blog of the month: TISSx Workshop at Hyderabad (20.03.17 - 24.03.14)

In September 2016, CLIx organised the CLIx Open Online/Ongoing Lab workshop to introduce implementation field teams to the CLIx platform. The second edition of the workshop was conducted at the IASE-Hyderabad campus during 20–24 March 2017. Implementation teams from Rajasthan, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh and Telangana attended. Besides reporting implementation status and sharing experience, the teams learnt about the complete teacher professional development (TPD) offerings. Read on

Connecting Technology

This section features the digital tools that have been created and are being used by the CLIx team to reinvent pedagogy for students and teachers. This month we feature The Moveable Words Tool used in our Communicative English modules, a technology enabled program designed to improve the user's listening and speaking skills.

The Moveable Word Tool: Students can play with words and phrases by dragging and dropping word blocks to create meaningful sentences. They become familiar with sentence construction and structure. Incorrect attempts are supported with feedback that encourages more attempts and guides them to possible answers.

Connecting Research

This section features recent studies in the field of education published by our CLIx faculty who work in tandem with the Centre for Education, Innovation & Action Research (CEI&AR). This month we read Archana Mehandale's paper on The Question of "Quality" in Education: Does the RTE Act Provide an Answer?

Policy discourse on education in India has moved from the question of "access" to "quality" of schooling. The notion of quality is undefined, yet a complex aggregation of characteristics including physical infrastructure, learning outcomes and efficiency have emerged as critical policy concerns. Drawing from available literature that critiques the notion of "quality" in education, the paper proposes a set of parameters at four levels- education system, school, teacher, student – that can help to understand the notion of quality. The paper further analyses the provisions of The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 to understand if quality is provided for in the legislation and if so, in what manner. Finally, the paper comments on the gaps and potential of the legal provisions in answering the question of quality in education. Read on

Connecting Innovation

This section is for teachers, parents, mentors, and anybody who is looking for innovative ways of learning and teaching. We bring to you a variety of teaching/ learning tools, from different sources.

Playing 'What Am I?' with the Periodic Table

'What Am I?' is a five-minute game, which needs almost no extra material and can end and start quickly if need be. You will be surprised how quickly your students learn the rules for these types of games. This activity is for you do to with your class. You will need a Post-it note or similar sticky paper for each member of your class.

1. Arrange your class into pairs.
2. Give each student one Post-it note (or something similar). Keeping the Post-it note hidden from their partner, ask your students to write the name of one group from the Periodic Table on it (or one scientist such as Newlands, or Mendeleev).
3. Ask the pairs to gently stick their Post-it note to their partner's forehead but in a way that only they can see it. For the game to work, your students must not be able to see what is written on the Post-it note on their own forehead.
4. Each student must ask their partner a series of science questions to work out what periodic group or scientist they have stuck on their forehead.
5. As they play the game, move around the classroom to listen to the range of conversations. Listen especially for areas where students are not sure about the science concepts and ideas.
6. Make notes of what your students know about the groups in the Periodic Table and what they do not know so well.
7. If your students are not familiar with this sort of game, you might model the game with one student at the front of the classroom before they start. This will help the game to go more smoothly.

Source: http://www.tess-india.edu.in/learning-resource-1116?section=5

Our recent posts

- **Fresh Beginnings in Learner Autonomy with CLIx English! (10.04.17 - 14.04.17)**
  It's a bright, sunny day in the hills as I wind my way towards Ramhlun (South) High School. I'm looking forward to talking to the teachers and meeting the students who will embark on the CLIx English journey this year. Coinciding with the Easter weekend, it does indeed portend fresh beginnings! Read on

- **Teacher Educator Training Workshop, Hyderabad (30.03.17 - 03.04.17)**
  The teacher educator workshop was conducted from 30 March 2017 to 3 April 2017 at IASE,

Hyderabad. It was the first workshop conducted by CLIx to introduce the certificate course for teachers as a part of CLIx implementation. Read on

Opportunities

- The Teacher Pages Innovator Fellowship 2017-2018
- CLIx internships
- CLIx Faculty Fellowships 2016-2017

The Connected Learning Initiative (CLIx) is a partnership between the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Tata Trusts. It is a bold and innovative effort to improve the professional and academic prospects of high school students from underserved communities in India. CLIx incorporates thoughtful pedagogical design and leverages contemporary technology, including online capabilities, to provide quality educational content and experiences at scale in the areas of English, Science, Mathematics and Values. As a platform for innovation in education, CLIx also supports the professional development of in-service teachers, making substantial contributions to teacher education in Indian languages. The initiative aims to reach approximately 1,100 schools and 147,000 students in Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana during 2015-18, and also conduct professional development for approximately 5,090 teachers.

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