CLIx Newsletter | December 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 CLIx Astronomy module roll-out for Student, along with the RTICT in Interactive Science TPD Face-to-Face Workshop for Teachers took place in Jaipur, Rajasthan from 27th November to 1st December 2017. Here's what a participating teacher and student has to say about it...

खेल बहुत अच्छा लागा | मैने स्वर्ण पदक (*gold medal*) जीता, शुक्ल पक्ष (*waxing moon phase*), कृष्ण पक्ष (*waning moon phase*) समझ आया | पहले चंद्रमा की कल्याण (*phases*) क्यूं होती है ये समझ नहीं आता था लेकिन अब समझ आया |

- Student, 9th grade, Govt. Girls' Sec. School, Sheetala Mata, Jaipur, Rajasthan

ये बहुत अच्छा है (*refering to CLIx astro module- both role-play and digital activities*)| उस तरीके से (*refering to teaching using textbook and blackboard*) तो समझ नहीं आता | उसमें घुरण (*rotation*) तो दिखाई नहीं दे सकते | हम तो खुद केह रहे है कि हमने खुद नहीं समझा इतने अच्छे से ब्लैकबोर्ड पे बच्चो को क्या समझाएंगे | अब तो हमने भी अच्छे से समझा और ये भी समझा कि इतने अच्छे से समझाया जा सकता है |

- Ms Sunita Gupta, Science teacher, 9th grade, Govt. Girls' Sec. School, Sheetala Mata, Jaipur, Rajasthan

State updates for this month

Chhattisgarh

1. CLIx server installation in 27 schools (30.11.17 - 15.12.17)

Rajasthan

1. Student rollout in 40 schools in the folloing domains (30.11.17 - 15.12.17):
- Invitation to CLIx (i2C)
- English
- Math

Mizoram

1. Student module installation in 27 schools (30.11.17 - 15.12.17)

Telangana

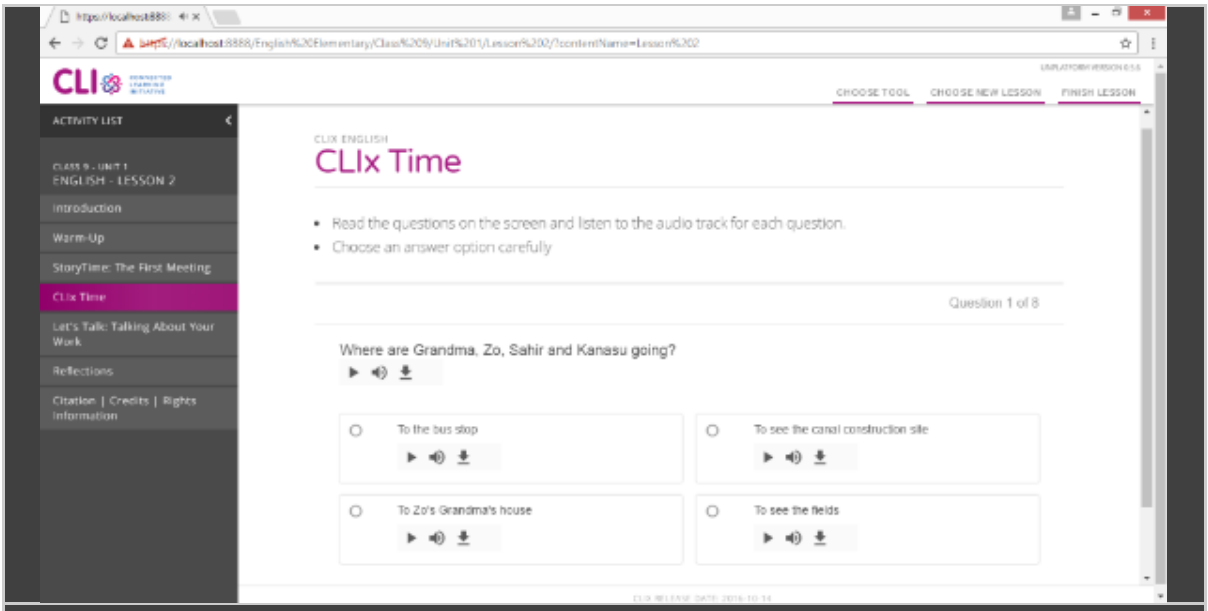
1. Student module installation in 106 schools (15.12.17)

Blog of the month: Tech Team's Visit to Jaipur (04.12.17 - 09.12.17)

This blog outlines the tech team's field visit to Jaipur from 4 to 9 December 2017. Our team of four went to Jaipur to observe CLIx classes to understand how easy (or not) the CLIx platform is for students and teachers. We went into the field with a clear vision of what to observe in the CLIx classes and what to ask the students and teachers with the aim to offer a better user experience. Read more

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 Selection designed for the English Beginners and English Elementary modules in the English domain.



Students are posed with an interesting set of questions based on stories they've heard earlier in the session. With a simple design in the form of recorded Multiple Choice questions, answers in the audio and/or graphic format, the clues that accompany the answers enable students to rethink and arrive at answers. This encourages students to learn from their mistakes, as they collaborate in answering.

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 feature Prof. Archana Mehendale's paper Towards a New Education Policy

There is a New Education Policy which is now being formulated by the Government of India. A discussion of these efforts in the context of past efforts at policy formulation, the continuities and discontinuities over time and then a presentation of a set of practical recommendations for current attempts at policy reform. Read on

Connecting Innovation

This section is for teachers, parents, mentors, and anybody who is looking for innovative ways of or content for learning and teaching. This month we feature Storytelling a tool to develop your language skills

Stories are a very powerful medium in the classroom. They can be funny, inspiring and challenging. They can take their listeners from their everyday life into fantasy worlds. They can stimulate thinking about new concepts, and help people explore problems and feelings in an imaginary and unthreatening context.

Storytelling can also be used across a range of curriculum areas, including maths and science, to introduce topics and issues in engaging ways.

Storytelling allows you to ask open questions, such as ‘What do you think will happen next?’ and ‘Why do you think he does this?’, that encourage students to think, recall, reflect, imagine and respond. All of these develop their language skills. Experienced teachers know that students will remember language very well, and try to use it, when they hear it in a story.

It is good practice to tell and read stories regularly in the classroom because these are learning opportunities as well as fun occasions. In India we are fortunate to have many stories from folklore and tradition that teachers can use to promote language learning. When you tell stories in your classroom it will be natural and expected to mix local languages and English, especially in the early years of school.

Activity 1: Learning new words

Read the short story below.

There was a man and he seemed very upset. This **andras**, this man, he went to the **kipo** behind his house (‘kipo’ is a garden) looking for something. The **andras** got down on his hands and knees and started scratching underneath the **traiandafila**, the roses.

Now the wife of the **andra**, his **yineka**, was upstairs in the house. The **yineka** looked out through the bedroom **parathiro** and saw her **andra**searching for something under the **traiandafila**.

She asked him what he was doing. ‘I’m looking for my house keys,’ her **andras** shouted.

‘Did you lose your house **klidia** down there in the **kipo**, under the **traiandafila**?’

‘No,’ said her **andras**. ‘I didn’t lose my **klidia** here under the **traiandafila**, but the light is so much better here!’

Pause for thought

In this example, the Greek words are explained in different ways – what are these different ways?

How did you make sense of the words that are not explained in the story: ‘parathiro’ and ‘klidia’?

As you read this story, you were learning some new words in Greek: ‘man’, ‘garden’, ‘roses’ and ‘wife’. You probably did not struggle to understand the meaning of the Greek words although you have probably never used the language before, because nearly all the words were briefly explained and then immediately used in a familiar context within a simple and entertaining story.

You can teach students English in the same way, adapting a story in any language to introduce English words and phrases.

Source: http://www.tess-india.edu.in/learning-resource-631?section=4

Our recent posts

- **Become a Celestial Body to Learn Astronomy! (27.11.17 – 01.12.17)**

  What are the ways to learn science? We read and write, of course! Sometimes we come across interesting phenomena such as a bush of touch-me-not or a shooting star. As we reach higher grades, we do experiments and calculations and draw diagrams and graphs. But have you thought of using role-play activities in science classrooms? Read on

- **CLIx Maths TPD Workshop at Warangal, Telangana (06.11.17 – 08.11.17)**

  This blog describes the highlights of the CLIx mathematics TPD workshop conducted from 6 to 8 November 2017 in Warangal district of Telangana and reports the activities conducted with teachers. This workshop aimed to introduce teachers to the course Reflective Mathematical Thinking and to CLIx mathematics modules for class 8 and 9 students. 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 1,11,000 students in Chhattisgarh, Mizoram,

Rajasthan and Telangana during 2015-18, and also conduct professional development for approximately 5,090 teachers.

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