Technology and Education in India

Bill Thies
Microsoft Research India
thies@microsoft.com
Classroom Environment in India

- Total Schools: 1.4 M
- Government Schools: 78%
- Having Girls’ Toilet: 60%
- Having Electricity: 43%
- Having a Computer: 19%

Source: National University of Educational Planning & Administration, 2010-2011
Bottleneck is in utilizing technology as opposed to accessing technology
Some photos courtesy Nithya Sambasivan
Children’s Books on TV-DVD

- Rs. 25 for 1 book in print
- Rs. 25 for 10,000 books on DVD

Wikipedia Subset on TV-DVD
Focus on engagement value of content as opposed to quantity of content
Digital Green:
Peer-to-Peer Agricultural Extension

Record Farmer Best Practices

Mediated Screenings in Village
Utilize peers to increase engagement
Massively Open Online Courses

coursera
Udacity
edX
Leveraging Online Education in India

I. Universities
   Can we engage students across branch campuses?

II. K-12
   Can we “put 10th grade online”? 
Bottleneck is in utilizing technology as opposed to accessing technology.

Focus on engagement value of content as opposed to quantity of content.

Utilize peers to increase engagement.