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iDiscoveri launches the XSEED Preschool and the XSEED Shiksha Yatra in Chennai, as it takes on the challenge of making education fun. S Chandrashekar finds out what it is all about



Learning to excel

iDiscoveri, a decade-old, Delhi-based organisation that works alongside schools in the country aiming at providing children with an environment that encourages their latent skills while promoting an active interest in learning. As part of its ongoing efforts to make schooling an enjoyable experience in the country, iDiscoveri was in Chennai recently to inaugurate and launch its Tamil Nadu office and the XSEED Shiksha Yatra, a fully equipped mobile education centre.

Co-founded by Ashish Rajpal, iDiscoveri has an ambitious target - to revolutionise the education system in India by making learning both fun and accessible to children of all classes, castes and ability. Speaking at the official launch of the organisation's Chennai operations, Ashish says, "I fully realise that this is not something we can achieve in 10 or 20 years worth of work or even in a lifetime. This is a programme that may take several lifetimes to complete but this does not change our dedication."

So what exactly is iDiscoveri and XSEED all about? Nitin Chaudhary, Senior Vice-President, iDiscoveri, explains, "The idea is that while most people are familiar with concepts of each child learning at different speeds, multiple intelligence, etc, few have actually applied these in primary education consistently."

This is where the newly launched XSEED Pre-School and Shiksha Yatra come into the picture. Nitin explains the reason behind setting up a pre-school, saying, "This is the sixth pre-school we are setting up and the second in South India, after one in Hyderabad. We use these schools as models to show the education system the value and benefits of learning the XSEED way."

Also launched the same day was iDiscoveri's Shiksha Yatra, a mobile teaching resource centre that will travel to every district in the state, promoting the idea and vision behind the company.

Speaking of the Yatra, with justifiable pride, Ashish says, "We have taken great care to ensure that this will be a triumph. We conducted a successful trial run three months ago and have learned a lot from the experience." Nitin adds, "We are very serious about this project. All of us, myself and Ashish included, took part in the trial run."

It remains to be seen just how successful XSEED will be. However, if Ashish's words are anything to go by, then the combination of iDiscoveri's vision and commitment and Tamil Nadu's record as a progressive state should make for a very interesting and promising educational landscape ahead.

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