

Technology is the Equalizer: How an Educator in Rural India Harnessed MIT OpenCourseWare

Summary

Mohammad Imran Khan Mewati, a 26-year educator in rural India, uses MIT OpenCourseWare to enhance his teaching and develop educational apps. He believes technology is an equalizer, providing students with equal opportunities, and shares his resources with over 1,000 teachers across India.

Mohammad Imran Khan Mewati has been an educator for 26 years in rural India, but the biggest problem to learning was absenteeism. Mewati, who teaches grades 6–12, is both an educator and an avid learner, as he relies on technology to close the gap with his students' smartphones.

"I am a self-taught app developer," he explains. "MIT Open Learning has had a deep and practical impact on my professional life as a teacher. Many concepts I learned influenced how I design digital learning activities, simple educational games, and classroom strategies. My students may not know they are indirectly benefiting from MIT, but they are."

Mewati began using [MIT OpenCourseWare](#) in the early 2010s and credits several core programming courses with laying the foundation for his app-development skills: [6.100L Introduction to Computer Science and Programming Using Python](#), [6.S096 Introduction to C and C++](#), and [6.092 Introduction to Programming Using Java](#). He also says [18.S191 Introduction to Computational Thinking](#) helped him integrate problem-solving approaches from mathematics and computer science.

Earlier in his career, he discovered the pivotal role that technology could play as an equalizer after creating a simple HTML page to engage 180 students in a lesson about the moon landing and Neil Armstrong. After loading the shared page with iconic space images and content, he noticed the students tested better.

"This is the incident that confirmed to me that technology can play an important role in the lives of the students, and particularly for the rural students, for the students who do not have equal opportunities," says Mewati. "Technology is the equalizer."

Driven by this conviction, Mewati set out to expand his school's technology resources, securing 15 used computers through crowdfunding to create a computer lab. His apps extend learning further: some use game-based mechanics to build math skills, while others provide reading recommendations, class notes, and job preparation resources for graduation. "If I see an issue, I think, 'Yes, let's create an app,'" he explains.

Mewati routinely shares his apps and the MIT Open Learning resources with a network of more than 1,000 teachers across India. "We should use it, we should grab it, and we should share it as much as we can," says Mewati. "Because that's how humanity can flourish."

[MIT OpenCourseWare's](#) vast library of online educational resources allows learners to go at their own pace and then download their materials for offline use. These materials are also on [MIT Learn](#), an AI-enabled platform that hosts all of MIT's lifelong learning resources. Read full article in [MIT News](#).