

Ashoka: Innovators for the Public

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Urvashi Sahni

Country: **India**

Region: **Asia**

Field Of Work: **Learning/Education**

Subsectors: **Access to Learning/Education,**
Appropriate Technology,
Education Reform

Target Populations: **Children,**
Educational Institutions,
Underserved Communities

Organization: **The Digital Study Hall**

Year Elected: 2009



This profile was prepared when Urvashi Sahni was elected to the Ashoka Fellowship in 2009. Urvashi Sahni and Randolph Wang are matching high quality pedagogy with low-cost technology to link quality teaching in urban schools with poor rural schools, and to do it cheaply and on a large scale. A facilitated video-based instruction system provides flexible ways of teaching students in the face of entrenched shortages both of qualified teachers and high quality educational materials. The Digital Study Hall (DSH) initiative started by Urvashi and Randolph is a user-generated video sharing system intended to overcome the shortage of qualified teachers in poor and remote rural schools. The DSH team envisions working towards a freely accessible video database that covers every subject for every grade level and language, and for every state and national syllabus, presented in a culturally-appropriate manner. The result would be a "people's database of everything" which they believe may one day have profound implications for democratizing knowledge and education in developing nations.

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