

CASE STUDY

Khan Academy Trains India's Top Teachers with BlueJeans Events

Blazing a progressive trail in virtual education, Khan Academy India offers a rapidly growing resource for teacher training in public and private school systems. Their non-profit model is generously supported by donors and philanthropists that believe anyone, anywhere deserves a high-quality education for free.

Khan Academy India uses BlueJeans Events to train teachers across India with interactive video lectures for any endpoint, network configuration, or audience size. Khan's success extends beyond India's borders to improve remote learning opportunities for developing countries worldwide. Optimizing bandwidth in any environment, BlueJeans is the digital engine driving Khan's exploding enrollment projection for the upcoming academic year.

Accessibility and Cost-Cutting Value

When Khan Academy India was founded, most of their teacher training was done in-person or over the phone with participating schools. By the following year, Vipul Redey, Head of School Enablement, needed a scalable meetings solution to manage India, a territory of more than 1.2 million schools with a team of only three teacher trainers. "That's when BlueJeans Events came into the picture. We needed a way to reach out to these teachers, perform the initial training, and continue the ongoing education and hand-holding," Redey says. The new webinar program allowed Redey's team to educate large, distributed groups of teachers and significantly cut travel expenses for Khan Academy India.



Industry: Education

Challenges: Launch a virtual teacher training program for hundreds of teachers at pilot schools across India. Create a scalable delivery system for online teacher education while cutting costs associated with in-person visits. Deploy a reliable streaming solution for variable internet connections.

Solutions: BlueJeans Events connects Khan Academy India instructors with teachers through streaming content available for mobile devices, laptops, and classrooms. It supports bandwidth optimization and content quality across all teachers' networks.

Results: Increased adoption of virtual teacher training programs and very high growth in student enrollment.

“We’ve used other streaming vendors in the past and the presentation quality was unpredictable. With BlueJeans Events, we’ve never heard teachers say: ‘I can’t hear, or I can’t see, etc.’”

– VIPUL REDEY, HEAD OF SCHOOL ENABLEMENT, KHAN ACADEMY

Virtual teacher training using BlueJeans Events was an instant hit, allowing education sessions twice per month for members. “The feedback has been extremely positive, so this year we decided to go big with webinars. One set of webinars are devoted to ‘newbie’ teachers, the other set is intended for advanced teachers in need of refreshers and enrichment exercises,” explains Redey.

A typical Khan Academy training begins with an instructor on camera introducing the session. Next, the presenter shares their screen and takes participants through a slideshow. Additionally, pre-recorded video clips are livestreamed to participants. Although most teachers watch the training webinars on the go using mobile devices, some congregate in a single location. “Rather than watching on individual screens, others prefer the community experience of watching together in a classroom,” Redey says.

Unconditional Reliability — Events for Any Bandwidth Environment

Given the limited bandwidth and variable network strength at endpoints within the Khan teacher community, BlueJeans Events’ adaptive bitrate streaming increases Redey’s confidence in conducting virtual training. “When teachers with questionable connectivity

are able to very seamlessly access and view the training it creates a great experience. Even for those with lousy internet connections, the quality of their live stream is never compromised,” he says.

If a teacher’s network connection is weak at the beginning of the lecture, or if bandwidth suddenly drops during the presentation, the audio and screen share continues streaming while the video portion stops. This allows BlueJeans Events to operate in low bandwidth mode without affecting the learning experience. “We’ve used other streaming vendors in the past and the presentation quality was unpredictable. With BlueJeans Events, we’ve never heard teachers say, ‘I can’t hear, or I can’t see, etc.’”

Results and Impact of Large-Scale Video Training

Khan Academy India is launching an efficacy study for a qualitative measure related to Indian usage of their content and training programs. However, there’s more to the story than a snapshot of present-day test scores. “Regarding the ROI of better education, the realized benefits are not calculated just in terms of weeks or months — this is a net advantage over lifetimes,” explains Redey.

LearnStorm is Khan Academy India's annual nationwide education competition that this year will host over 1,700 teachers and tens of thousands of students. In the run up to last year's competition, Khan Academy India used Blue Jeans to prepare teachers across the country to compete more effectively. Out of a field of more than 200 schools across India, RN Podar School, Mumbai, won 1st place at LearnStorm 2018. Excited to share the results, Redey said RN Podar was recognized, among other things, for how well its teachers translated their training into in-class practice. "One well-trained teacher produces hundreds of really good students. It's a force-multiplier. Part of this effort is made possible by BlueJeans Events and our ability to effectively reach classroom teachers through virtual training."

ABOUT KHAN ACADEMY

Founded in 2007, Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. They tackle math, science, computer programming, history, art history, economics, and more. Their mastery-based resources guide learners from kindergarten to college courses using state-of-the-art, adaptive technology that identifies strengths and learning gaps. They've also partnered with institutions like NASA, The Museum of Modern Art, The California Academy of Sciences, and MIT to offer specialized content.