



Customer: Indira Group of Institutes
Website: <http://www.indiraedu.com/>
Customer Size: 50000 students
Country or Region: Pune, India
Industry: Education—Higher education institutions
Partner: InPods – Learning Platform

Customer Profile

Indira Group of Institutes, located at Pune, India, was established in 1994 with the explicit vision to provide sustainable impetus to the leadership and entrepreneurial abilities of the youth. It is one of the large higher education institutions with more than 50,000 students.

Software and Services

- Microsoft Office 365 Education
- InPods – suite of products for measuring learning outcomes

Enhancing teaching & learning experience through Office 365 enabled InPods Learning Platform

Indira Group of Institutes, a premier institute in Pune, India, wanted a technology platform to enhance the teaching & learning experience for their students. The project involved integration of the Office 365 Education suite (O365) with InPods – a cloud-based learning platform for Outcomes-Based Education (OBE). Faculty members and students log in with the convenience of single sign-on and seamlessly collaborate. They bring in teaching aids and assessment content from O365 and contextualize it with their daily workflow of teaching and learning process implemented on the InPods Learning Platform.

Business Needs

Indira Group of Institutes in Pune is a premier education provider with more than 50,000 students and 1000 academic and administrative staff. Office365 was sporadically used as a means of communication, essentially as an email tool. Faculty members used offline Microsoft tools such as, MS Excel, Word, and PowerPoint to prepare their lessons and assignments. However, the challenge was to make their day-to-day teaching and learning process easy and relevant for their students by surfacing the rich O365 feature set.

InPods, a cloud-based platform, was introduced in 2012, in four colleges across

the Indira group to enhance the learning experience for students. InPods helps students perform better via curriculum-aligned and outcomes-tagged assessment content. For the Faculty, InPods increased their efficiency with auto-grading and learning outcomes analysis. InPods also helped the institute implement the Outcome-Based Education framework. With some of the learning assets and assessments available on O365 cloud and teaching-learning delivery happening on InPods, the faculty and students were not deriving optimal benefits from both O365 and InPods. This led to a low overall usage of O365 and growing dissatisfaction amongst the Faculty and students.

Mr. Santosh Kumar, Director of IT at Indira Group of Institutes, said, "We tried various methods to increase the usage of Office 365 tools for collaboration, but always saw a resistance from our faculty members as they were not finding it easy to use different tools while embracing Outcomes-Based education which itself was a new concept for them."

Indira group was keen on having a seamlessly integrated cloud-based solution for collaboration and delivering outcomes-based education.

Solution

InPods proposed to work closely with Microsoft for an integrated approach so that Faculty and students see real benefits. The idea was to integrate the working environment with a single identity for users. After finalizing the strategy to integrate Microsoft Office365 IDs, Azure Active Directory was integrated with InPods SSO (single sign-on).

Santosh Kumar, Director of IT at Indira Group of Institutes said, "This integration has helped us tremendously. Not only have our faculty members across various colleges benefitted with the SSO enhancing their productivity, but at the institute level I feel more confident with a greater usage of all the Office 365 licenses."

Dr. Vivek Nirkhe, CTO at InPods said: "Our team collaborated with Microsoft to devise the best solution for the Indira Group of Institutes for outcomes-based education. Users can access Office 365 enabled-InPods learning solutions seamlessly from any device with an Internet connection, which means they can continue learning beyond the walls of the classrooms."

Dr. Dange from Indira School of Business Studies said: "Microsoft technology is widespread, easy to manage and user

friendly. At the same time, we were interested in knowing where our students are going with their level of competency attainment. With this solution, our students have seamless access to several learning resources that are tagged with learning outcomes."

Benefits

Integration of Office 365 with the InPods platform at Indira Group of Institutes has set a great example for four colleges under the institute group to benefit from effective use of Ed-Tech tools. Faculty members and students can now work from anywhere, with a single sign-on to access their learning materials, assignments, surveys and encourage collaborative learning.

- **Assets created using O365 are integrated with InPods:** This integration has allowed faculty members to create their learning material using O365 authoring tools (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint) tagged to learning outcomes and easily share it with their students. This helps teachers implement the assessment workflow with respective group of students and automatically roll-up the outcomes attainment data required for the accreditation.
- **Reduced distractions and better learning for students:** With this integration, students get a better learning experience due to the single sign-on feature. This has multiplied and diversified the ways in which students can learn from and interact with educators, in addition to the level of independence they have when learning. Students can email, chat, or have video conversations with teachers, and they can use online course management systems to organize and exchange learning materials.

- **Enhanced collaboration and engagement:** With O365-enabled InPods LMS all the users are able to benefit from the personal productivity, storage and group collaboration features of O365 without any context-switch between the two environments.
- **Institute benefits from partner expertise:** Dr. Nirkhe from InPods says: "InPods has always aimed at creating the best learning experience for outcomes-based programs and providing actionable insights for the stakeholders to engage in a continuous improvement process of a program. With this integration, we are successful in setting a great example of association between two important Ed-Tech tools which seamlessly merge to meet the needs of our common customers".