

# Making technology soul of education

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Students of Parikrma Foundation participated in a unique spelling bee on Tuesday, using modern technology. In a novel experience, children from classes 8 to 10 of Parikrma's Jayanagar, Sahakarnagar, Koramangala and Nandini Layout centres used the Cisco Education Enabled Development (CEED) platform to interact and compete among themselves.

Watching their school mates through live streaming during the competition was both fun and fascinating for the students. Tanushree, a class 10 student and winner of the competition, was intrigued by the technology.

"I had a lot of fun and this is really going to help us concentrate on our spellings. We can also see our friends in the other branches sharing their talent," she pointed out.

Designed by Cisco as part of their CSR initiative, the CEED technology is a tool to enable virtual teaching and learning and provide education to remote locations by virtualizing the teacher. "We believe education and internet are equalizers and



**CLOSING THE GAP:** Students of Parikrma Foundation leverage technology to virtually connect with their classmates from other centres

that technology can add tremendous value to education. These kids may also have access to speakers and teachers who may not be able to visit them due to the distance factor. It'll open many doors for them," said Dinesh Malkhani of Cisco India.

"Children perform better when they are taught using technology than through regular methods," he added.

Shukla Bose, founder and CEO of Parikrma Humanity Foundation, said technology can help revive government schools. "It's not like these schools have no computers but

there's just no one to teach them how to use technology."

"At Parikrma, the way students learn will now begin to change. Teachers have a responsibility and they must take pride in their profession and the changing trends, not fear that technology will replace them," she added.

"CEED technology, completely controlled and maintained by Cisco, is a solution that ensures all rural schools can offer all subjects with the same level of expert teaching that a student in a city or a metro gets access to," said Dinesh.