The Connected Classroom
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By bringing teachers and government officials together in one shared space, Workplace by Facebook is creating an empathetic support network for educational institutions.

A good teacher is a master of communication. They’ll listen, speak, read enthusiastically, present ideas and write with clarity. Teachers that have honed their communication skills are ready to instruct, advise and mentor any student that is entrusted in their care. Communication is both receptive and expressive, and above all else, teaching is easier when students are engaged - it’s about getting children to listen and learn.

Facebook has over a decade of experience helping people build connections, community and engagement. And Workplace knows a thing or two about it too. Workplace uses the familiar features from Facebook to connect entire organizations and help people create meaningful communities with high levels of engagement.

Connecting teachers

Teaching can be lonely - it’s mostly a role that’s done in the isolation of a classroom without the presence of another adult. A good education system involves consulting with others. Excellent professional learning communities encourage teachers to work and plan lessons together - so they can learn from one another. They take a team approach for problem-solving, especially for challenging students. And teachers work best when they have access to ministry officials; when they can stay abreast of new developments in education.

But most teachers aren’t granted the time and space to express quandaries, voice ideas and collaborate with their peers. And how often are educators really able to communicate directly with the administration and ministry officials? They’re on the busy frontline and ministers are negotiating the backend - it’s often a distant relationship that can lead to miscommunication and missed opportunities. And it isn’t just top-down communication that’s suffering. Teachers are missing information that is locked away in presentations, messages or closed working groups.
How Workplace by Facebook is helping connect the system

With Workplace, teachers and ministry officials are able to bring transparency and accountability to their communications, allowing everyone involved to stay up to date with educational developments. The education space works best when ideas are shared, relationships are built and everyone works together. And so does Workplace. Workplace is proud to donate work tools to the staff of educational institutions to help teams connect, collaborate and create change in their community. Because we know educators must connect with staff across campuses to share best practices, recognise outstanding achievements, talk with experts and discover new and better ways of working.

"One of the things we all have in common is that we're all part of a learning community throughout our life. It's one of those things that brings us together. And that's what Facebook does. It brings people together to build meaningful communities."

Adam Seldow, Education Partnerships Manager, Facebook
Workplace collaboration tools to power what's possible for education:

Multi-company groups (MCGs) allow teachers and ministers to collaborate directly and they can be secret or closed.

Teachers and ministers come together to build a community across campuses.

Photos and videos bring bright ideas to life and ministers can share government updates in a rich and engaging format.

Run weekly Live broadcasts and town hall meetings from the principal to share news with staff.

Both teachers and ministers use instant messaging to spread news and align at the touch of a button.

Integrate with existing education technology tools like G Suite and Office 365.
"Workplace has limitless possibilities for bringing district and school site staff together. It has allowed us to break the barriers of traditional communication."

Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
The Workplace Effect at Tamil Nadu

Being able to create a culture and community on Workplace is invaluable. And the Tamil Nadu School Education Department can attest to its effectiveness. Tamil Nadu is the 2nd largest state economy in India with a gross domestic product of USD 220 billion. The school education department employs approximately 290k teachers and they recently decided to bring them all to Workplace.

With many schools from a rural background and incentives for government teachers limited, they needed to find a way to harness the vast wealth of collective knowledge and work together with transparency.

With support from top management, Workplace adoption was rolled-out out over a 4 month period, and its positive impact was felt almost immediately:

- **Rewards & Recognition:** By sharing updates on News Feed, teachers now have a platform to celebrate their achievements at a state level, which boosts morale and in turn, productivity

- **Sharing Best Practices:** A good idea works best when it’s shared. On Workplace, teachers can share with their colleagues how they’re innovating and pushing learning forward. This allows other teams to learn and gain leadership qualities, which enhances a sense of support and community beyond the school gates

- **Learning & Development:** By uploading useful content to News Feed, teachers have a new bank of educational resources to draw from. They can watch, learn and engage with content, which promotes collaboration and helps build a sense of community

- **Celebrating Milestones:** By uploading photos, videos and messages, teachers can share details from important school events with their peers, which motivates and encourages others to try new things

- **Leadership & Frontline Connect:** Using features like Live, teachers are able to communicate with the Hon’ble School Education Minister and various top state administrators using a rich, multimedia format

Workplace has helped the Tamil Nadu School of Education Department to carry out the collective educational mission. There’s now a space for everyone involved to collaborate openly, listen deeply, make an impact and innovate education fearlessly across the state.
How Workplace works:

Workplace is like a private and secure Facebook community just for your organisation. It is a dedicated and secure space for people in organizations to connect, communicate and collaborate. It is totally separate from consumer Facebook – separate profiles and logins. Workplace combines familiar Facebook features with enterprise integrations to get work done, turning previously one-sided communication into a dialogue. And because it’s a tool that 2bn people already know how to use, you can ensure rapid deployment and adoption.

• Workplace’s HD video conferencing to hold weekly meetings where up to 50 people from the school can come together to share ideas and updates
• Workplace Chat, gives users the ability to move directly into a voice or video call from an existing text chat. It’s ideal for sharing information quickly and with a personal touch
• The Workplace mobile app has also become a critical tool. People share snaps and videos that keep the wider community informed, and leadership staff share selfie videos to deliver quick news updates
• A Group between educators and ministers can be very helpful when trying to increase transparency. Many ministers aren’t able to access data from schools other than annual test results
• A Group can act almost like a working document and can be updated with local attendance data and other statistics of significance
• Groups help colleagues from various communities to communicate, collaborate, and support each other more easily. Live broadcasts from minister officials connect teachers to the bigger pictures and gives them an insight into their impact beyond the classroom

And the best: Workplace Premium, used by thousands of organisations worldwide including RBS, Danone, Save the children and the Government of Singapore, is donated free of charge to staff of educational institutions.
Find out how Workplace for Good can help you connect your education system at www.workplace.com/workplace/workplaceforgood

If you'd like to know more, please contact Annette Gevaert, Head of Workplace for Good, at agevaert@fb.com