

Microsoft Launches "Elevate for Educators" in India, Targets 2 Million Teachers by 2030

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In brief

Microsoft has launched "Elevate for Educators," a massive skilling initiative in India designed to train 2 million teachers across 200,000 institutions by 2030, ensuring educators are equipped to integrate artificial intelligence responsibly into curriculums ahead of national mandates.

Key points

- Significant Scale: The program targets 2 million educators and 200,000 schools by 2030, potentially impacting over 8 million students.
- Strategic Timing: This aligns with India's National Education Policy 2020, which is integrating AI and Computational Thinking starting in the 2026-27 academic session.
- Three-Pillar Strategy:
 - Credentials: Certifying teachers in AI literacy.
 - Community: Creating a peer network for collaborative learning.
 - Capacity: Building infrastructure like Centers of Excellence and appointing AI ambassadors.
- Focus on Skills over Tools: The initiative prioritizes building teacher confidence and ethical judgment rather than just deploying software.
- Broad Partnership: Microsoft is collaborating with major Indian bodies like CBSE, NCERT, and AICTE to cover school, technical, and vocational education sectors.

At the India AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi in February 2026, Microsoft announced a nationwide initiative that could reshape how artificial intelligence is taught in Indian classrooms. The program, titled "Elevate for Educators," aims to skill 2 million teachers across 200,000 schools and institutions by 2030.

India becomes the first country in Asia to roll out this dedicated educator-focused AI skilling program. The move reflects the scale of India's education system, often described as the world's largest classroom, with nearly 10 million educators and more than 200 million students.

Training First, Tools Second

The timing is deliberate. Under the National Education Policy 2020, Artificial Intelligence and Computational Thinking are being integrated into the curriculum from Grade 3 starting the 2026-27 academic session.

Instead of pushing software into schools and hoping teachers adapt, Microsoft is taking a different route. The focus is on building teacher confidence first. As AI becomes part of everyday learning, educators are expected not just to use tools, but to guide students in thinking critically about them.

Puneet Chandok, President of Microsoft India & South Asia, emphasized that AI skills are meaningful only when applied with judgment and responsibility. The broader objective is to ensure AI adoption in classrooms remains inclusive, ethical, and human-centered.

The Three Pillars of "Elevate for Educators"

The program rests on three structural pillars designed for long-term impact:

1. Credentials New AI-focused certifications will be introduced for teachers across schools, polytechnics, and colleges. These credentials are aligned with India's AI literacy framework and aim to formalize AI competency among educators.
2. Community Microsoft plans to build a nationwide network of 2 million teachers. The idea is to encourage peer learning, shared lesson planning, and collaborative experimentation with AI-integrated teaching methods.
3. Capacity Infrastructure and leadership development form the backbone of this pillar. The initiative includes:
 - AI Ambassadors to drive regional training
 - Educator Academies and Productivity Labs
 - Centers of Excellence across 25,000 institutions

Partnerships to Scale Nationwide

The rollout is being implemented in collaboration with major national education bodies, including:

- Central Board of Secondary Education and National Council of Educational Research and Training for school education
- All India Council for Technical Education for technical institutions
- National Council for Vocational Education and Training and Directorate General of Training for vocational and skill-based education

The ecosystem approach ensures the program spans school, technical, and vocational segments rather than focusing on a single tier.

The initiative began with a pilot across 75 CM SHRI schools in Delhi. Teachers in these institutions are already using AI tools such as Microsoft Copilot to create lesson plans, visual learning materials, and assessment frameworks.

Microsoft estimates the effort could indirectly benefit more than 8 million students by 2030.

Key Highlights

Feature: Primary Target | Details: 2 Million Teachers

Feature: Institutional Reach | Details: 200,000 Schools & Colleges

Feature: Timeline | Details: 2026 - 2030

Feature: Investment Context | Details: Part of Microsoft's \$50B Global South AI commitment

Feature: Core Objective | Details: AI literacy and responsible technology use

Why This Matters

Brad Smith, Vice Chair and President of Microsoft, has previously warned that the AI divide could become as significant as the electricity divide of the last century. In that context, India's scale makes this initiative more than a corporate training program. It becomes a strategic investment in future workforce readiness.

India already hosts the world's second-largest developer community. By strengthening AI literacy at the school and institutional level, Microsoft and its partners are positioning the country to remain competitive in the global AI economy.

If successful, "Elevate for Educators" could serve as a blueprint for other nations navigating the intersection of AI adoption and mass education reform.