



Overview

The Challenge

70%

students cannot speak English of their grade level

In India today, only around 30% of school students are able to speak fluently in English and 70% cannot even speak up to their grade. This is more so for students in Tier 2 & 3 cities, for they do not know how to learn the language and whom to practice with.

The Solution

Using AI and NLP to educate students

Blackboard Radio app simulates real-life conversations via AI and feedback sessions with English language teachers. The children are given personalized grammar and pronunciation corrections, a diagnostic assessment as well as audio learning materials like podcasts, news and stories.

The Impact

1,00,000

minutes spoken on the app

Consistent users on app:

4,000

Audio homework completed on app:

3,500+ minutes



Podcasts played on app:

3,000+ minutes





Incubation Journey

April 2018

Incubation Journey with Villgro begins

Received seed funding of **₹2.5 million**

No MVP

May 2018

Received funding of **₹2.5 million** through Villgro's INVENT programme

October 2018

Assigned a mentor to support with market strategy and investor connects

Support from: Villgro Mentor Program



January 2019

Began Akshaya Patra Pilot in Bangalore

Support from: Villgro Portfolio Management



MVP Ready

July 2019

Received equity funding of **₹3.5 million** from Villgro

Aug 2019

BBR Program released commercially and introduction to NLP expert made

Support from: Villgro Mentor Program

October 2019

Raised a total of **₹10.5 million** in follow-on capital from Titan VC and an angel investor

On sale, limited traction

“Villgro has helped us with concise planning and execution of short term goals and long term goals. By leveraging their Mentoring and Technical Assistance Programmes, we were able to develop a structure in the company, from documentation to business process creation.”

Vatsal Dusad,
Co-Founder, BlackBoard Radio





Blackboard Radio

Impact



4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship



8 Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training



Impact on Stakeholders

Parents: **100%** of parents surveyed found a significant change in their child's language capabilities.

60% of the parents would recommend the app to others.

Students: **100%** of students spent more than **30 minutes** daily on the app. All students surveyed would recommend the app to others.

