

## **‘Every child in Govt. schools should have a digital device’: Aarin Capital Chairman Mohandas Pai**

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In the wake of the recent advisory regarding ed-tech companies issued by India’s Ministry of Education, R M Consulting caught up with ***Aarin Capital Chairman Mr Mohandas Pai*** to elicit his views on some of the issues and concerns connected with the country’s fast-growing education technology arena.

**Q. How can state governments, besides the federal government, contribute to the process of ensuring effective regulatory oversight of ed-tech firms operating in India?**

Ans. By involving ed-tech start-ups in the education process. Today, India suffers from a huge digital divide. Govts. should ensure (that) every child in govt. schools should have a digital device with pre-loaded education software, which will help them learn better. We know that across 60-70% of govt schools the education quality is indifferent. This will improve outcomes. Govt. purchases will ensure effective quality oversight as it will be transparent. For those outside the govt. system, there are enough checks through consumer action.

**Q. How do you think the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) can contribute to ensuring that ed-tech firms are not putting out misleading ads?**

Ans. All advertisings are expected to follow a code to ensure no misleading ads, so why pick on ed-tech firms for anything special? (The) same standard should apply.

**Q. Is there any likelihood of any move to impose regulatory barriers on ed-tech firms coming in the way of future investments in India’s education technology arena?**

Ans. Not to my knowledge. Like I said, large scale govt. purchases will improve matters.