



HANDS-ON REVIEW

Vivo V15

LONG TERM TEST OF THE NOTCHLESS DISPLAY PHONE

Vivo is starting to carve out a niche for itself as a flashy, affordable, colourful character in the world of black, glass slabs. The V15 has stand out features of a full notch-free display and a pop-up camera. It comes in a sparkling red gradient with micro dots resembling stars. But can it be the star in this fiercely competitive market dominated by the likes of Xiaomi and Samsung's A series?

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

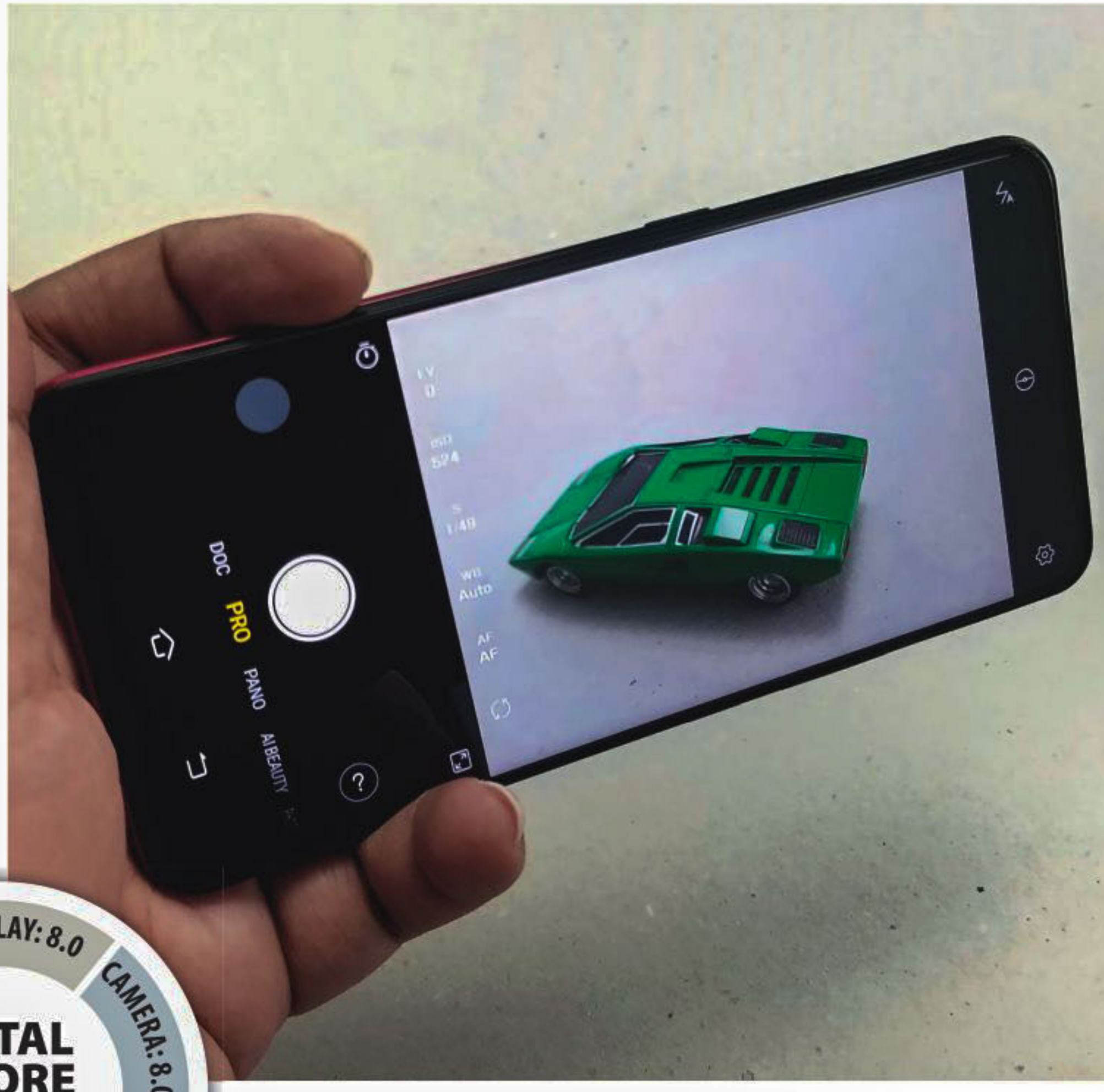
The red is gorgeous. It has a shiny, chromed finish on the bottom but manages to do so without being tacky. The back consists of a fingerprint sensor very conveniently placed for the forefinger. A stack of triple cameras is placed on the top left. A bit of an odd positioning considering a centre alignment might have been more 'standard' but Vivo seems to go against most standards. The beautiful glossy back is a fingerprint magnet though and the being polycarbonate, it can take on scratches quite easily. What is odd though is that it features a micro USB port instead of the faster USB-C.

DISPLAY

Tap on the front and the 6.53 inch 1080p screen lights up to give you a bezel-less display save for a bit of a chin on the bottom. That is a lot of screen that completely throws away everybody's favourite Apple flavoured notch. Frankly, notches are tiring. So where do they place the front camera? It pops up in the form of a, well, pop-up unit. The 395ppi density provides a very sharp display that is protected by Gorilla Glass 5. The display is also bright enough to offer very good clarity even in strong sunlight. So far, so cool.

POWER

Performance comes from an Octa-core MediaTek Helio P70 paired to 6GB of RAM.



There is 64GB of storage with additional capacity to be added via the microSD slot along with two SIMs. Nice touch there to include all that without compromising any in the form of a hybrid tray. The Mali G72 provides perfect, seamless gaming for most casual button mashers like Candy Crush. Asphalt and PUBG though require slight downward tweak to the graphics. Mid-level settings will ensure that the games run mostly

without any lag. Framerate remains steady for the most part so your murderous rampages should go without a hitch until your internet service goes wonky. The OS is Vivo's Funtouch 9 based on the Android Pie. **CAMERA** The Vivo V15 seems to be targeting the kings and queens of social media. The pop-up selfie is a 32MP f/2.0 unit takes great, clean, bright selfies even in low light. It uses the screen as a supporting light source to brighten up your

SPECS

Display: 6.53" IPS LCD, 2340 x 1080 pixels
OS: Android 9.0 (Pie), Funtouch 9
Chipset: Mediatek Helio P70 (12nm)
CPU: Octa-core (4x2.1 GHz Cortex-A73 & 4x2.0 GHz Cortex-A53)
RAM: 6 GB
ROM: 64 GB
Camera: Rear- 12 MP (24 Million Photosensitive Units), 8MP, 5MP, Front- 32 MP (Pop Up Selfie)
Battery: 4000 mAh Li-ion Battery
Price: Tk. 29,990/-

VERDICT

Is Vivo the new Motorola trying to break aesthetic grounds like no one else? It definitely has visual flair and the quirky pop-up selfie camera helps make it stand out, literally. That nearly bezel-less display is refreshing while the camera prowess is superb although I wish it would take down the software smoothing a couple of notches. The punchy colors though will prove to be a big plus for Instagrammers. Performance is excellent for multitasking and only shows hiccups for heavy games on high graphics. And it manages to do all that without exhibiting much heat. Does it make it the star among this category though? Good looks, a great camera and strong battery backup makes the V15 an excellent contender offering a mixed bag of high end goodies to a mid-range phone.

face. While the images come out well lit all the time, they tend to be a little soft with a lot of finer details smoothed out. That could be because the ISO is boosted to get more light. Most people love the smoother, cleaner effect because in selfies, it makes them look years younger. You can tone down or turn off some of those AI enhanced beauty features but I doubt most people will want to. Try the regular photo mode for that. Focus is quick and the selfie camera pops up smoothly without fail each time.

The rear three cameras include an 8MP f/2.2 wide-angle sensor that covers a 108 degrees field of view. Very useful when shooting lot of objects in tight places for example covering an entire room layout.

A 12MP f1.8 primary sensor and a 5 MP f/2.4 depth sensor completes the trio. The wider apertures allow much better light absorption meaning the photos are usually well lit in low light conditions. You expect it to be a bit grainy but that is taken care of by the slightly over zealous software that smooths out everything.

Generally, the rear cameras provide excellent shots especially if you do some macro photography. I've shot some car models and the text and finer details do come out sharp. Colours though are slightly bumped up to create a more vibrant result. Portrait mode does a good job of separating the background while preserving finer details like fur or fur (in case of pets).

While still imagery is quite excellent, video is average. It maxes out at 30fps and results in shaky clips if you are on the move because of the lack of image stabilisation. It cannot shoot 4K video either.

BATTERY

The 4000mAh battery can last a little over a day on average. Full Wi-Fi, data, social media usage all day can leave you quarter of a battery total charge by the end of the day.

WORDS AND PHOTOS:
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Google I/O 2019: Bringing you the future now

May 7-9, 2019 saw the Shoreline Amphitheatre, in Mountain View, California, host Google's Keynote. Possibly the company's largest public event of the year, Google had quite a few cool tricks up their sleeves for those attending. And might I say, a few mind-blowing ones too.

As these events go, the I/O Keynote was a massive success. Google CEO, Sundar Pichai was beaming with pride as he and his team took to the stage to announce the many upcoming software and hardware developments of the company.

From improving Google Search to Android Q, the tech giants had a lot to offer everyone

currently in their ecosystem. Android Q is right around the corner, and the new features such as dark mode, AI smart reply and faster security patches will ensure the best experience for users.

An important addition was the new privacy option they showcased. In a world where data theft is becoming a commonly recurring problem, Google will now allow users to choose how their data is handled. From auto deleting your searches and web activity all the way to a new incognito mode for Maps, the prospects here are promising.

Google lens has a few interesting features rolling out soon, such as the ability to scan

restaurant menus to find top dishes and customer reviews.

The assistant will be getting a smarter update, which Google is referring to as Duplex. Not only will it be able to book appointments using the AI, but it'll be able to book car rentals and movie tickets, making life a little easier. There's also a driving mode that can be activated via the assistant.

Probably the biggest part of the event was the unveiling of the new budget option to their Pixel line, the Pixel 3a and the 3a XL. We've seen a fair share of "budget flagships" and "flagship killers" in the past couple of years --- One Plus built an entire business around the idea --- but Google's take on the budget phone is truly unique.

In the past, we've seen Xiaomi, One Plus, Huawei, etc. release phones packed with enough processing power and RAM to rival the current gen flagships. Google, however, focused on one key component instead of trying to be flashy.

They instead opted to cut back on performance specs, and put more emphasis on the camera. The 3a series has an almost similar camera to the Pixel 3, a camera claimed by many to be the best smartphones have to offer. And with the 3a coming in at \$399 retail, that's an insane deal.

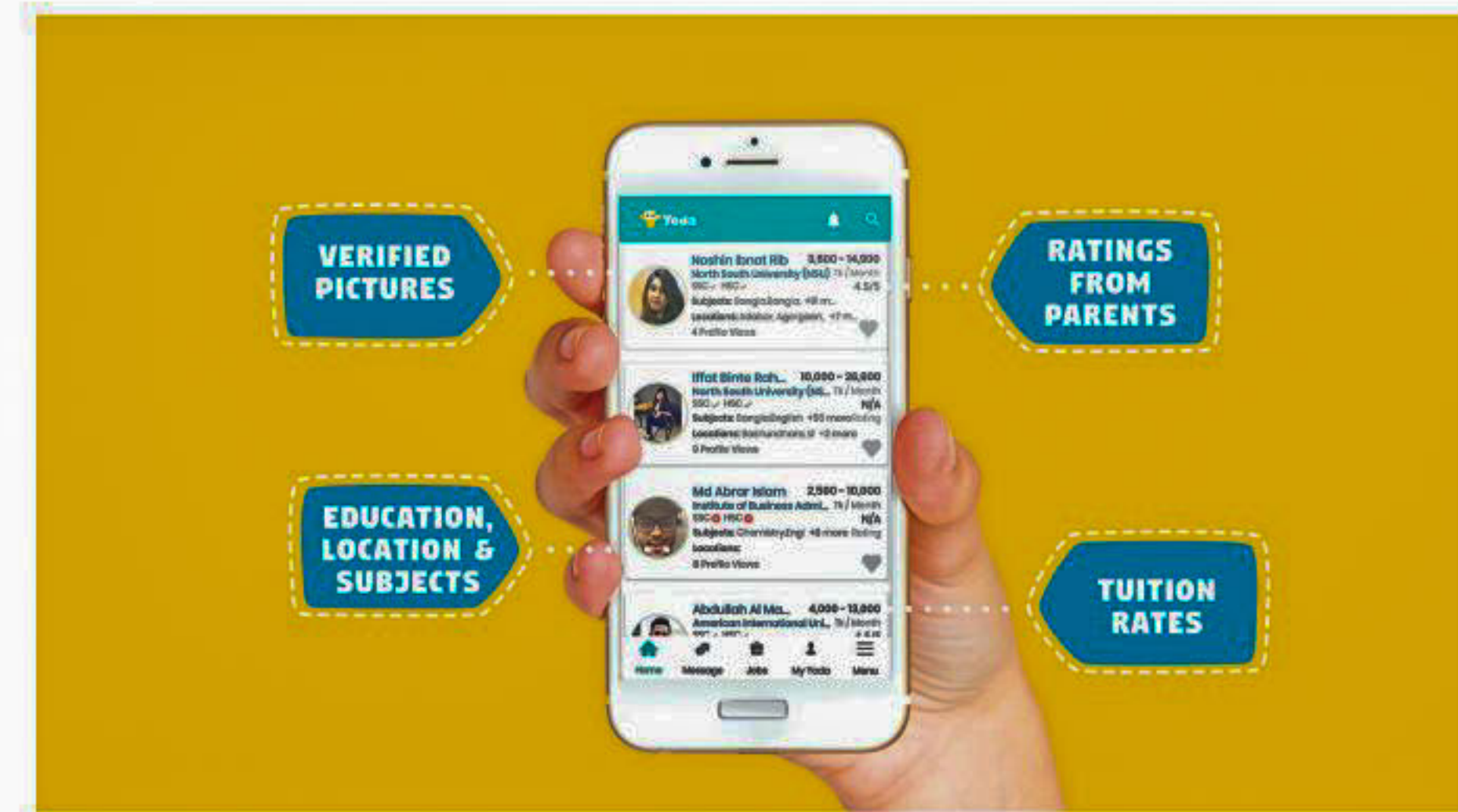
There's also the fact that the 3a has an OLED screen similar to the Pixel 3, and that makes it one of the best screens on a budget phone, as you'd normally get an IPS display at this price point.

There's also the battery life, which Google is claiming to be 30 hours on a single charge, and 7 hours with just fifteen minutes of charge, that too with the power brick out of the box.

And the icing on the cake? It has a headphone jack.

AAQIB HASIB

A local digital tuition platform with a twist



Yoda is a pick and choose platform for students and private tutors. Mohammed Salman, Co-founder of Yoda, spearheaded the project, recalling how difficult it was for him to find tuitions when he was a university student himself. Yoda eliminates the middle man and gives tutors a free platform to find suitable tuitions. Yoda currently has a website with over 3500 registered tutors with their specialties, qualifications listed on the website. Yoda aims to streamline the private tuition business for all parties involved, and best of all, it's free.

Yoda has recently launched its android application called Yoda Education, with an iOS version in the works. You can sign up as a student or a parent on Yoda's website or app. Tutors will also be able to open their own accounts on Yoda when the startup starts the referral service. Yoda handpicked students from universities during their Activation campaign and all the tutors on Yoda's service are verified. Users can request for tutors and tutors have the liberty to find students according to their convenience. Yoda also provides

information on convenient timings for both students and tutors. It also enlists tutors based on their expertise, preferred subject and their expected fees.

Yoda also has a built-in messenger platform, through which tutors can communicate with students and vice versa. It comes with a monitoring system which will allow parents to keep up-to-date with their children's learning. All these services are available on both Yoda's website and the app. The startup will release Yoda Whiteboard very soon - Yoda Whiteboard is a fully online platform where tutors can teach students through video calling and the use of a peer to peer whiteboard system, similar to what we have seen on Khan Academy.

The market for private tuitions has always been controlled by a few key organisations and institutions. These parties act as middle men between the tutors and students. But Yoda's simple design and transparent model can bridge the long-standing gap that has made private education such a hassle for so long.

ASIF AYON

