



IT @ School

SCHOOLWIKI

India's Largest Collaborative Digital Repository of 15,000 schools of Kerala

Quick note on IT@School Project of Govt of Kerala

IT@School Project is the technology arm of Education Department of Government of Kerala, set up over a decade back, to implement an IT Enabled and later, and ICT Enabled educational system in the State. The Project is termed as World's Largest Simultaneous deployment of FOSS (Free and open Source Software) based ICT education. The decade long presence of IT@School has seen tremendous changes in the School scenario, with all schools getting equipped with latest ICT equipments, Teachers and Students getting empowered in ICT, Collaborative ICT Content Development, High Speed Broadband Internet Connectivity, and even an exclusive video channel exclusively for education viz VICTERS.

SchoolWiki (www.schoolwiki.in)

SchoolWiki is a unique initiative by IT@School, which was launched in 2009, to foster a culture of collaborative learning among students. SchoolWiki currently features details of over 15,000 schools in Kerala and gives a bird's eye view on the schools' elementary data, historical references, infrastructure, renowned Alumni, School websites, School Map, Blogs, Class Magazines, supporting images and videos. It has over 30,997 articles and 13,000 users and increasing day by day. Made completely in Malayalam, SchoolWiki features educational contents made by students, teachers, alumni, and public. SchoolWiki provides a platform for students, teachers and schools to showcase their areas of excellence like no other portal.

School Wiki has been prepared using Wikimedia Foundation's Wikimedia software with the goal of facilitating Collaborative content development and its sharing. SchoolWiki also host various educational contents prepared by the students as well as teaching materials collaboratively developed by the teacher communities. Apart from these contents, analytical Malayalam language projects such as "School Patram – [School Newsletter]", "NadodiVijnanakoshan – [Local Encyclopedia]" and "Ente Nadu- [My Village]" also feature in the portal. The geographical details of every school locality in the State have also been made available through School Wiki.

Scope

The aim of SchoolWiki is to bring out collaborative data building and to generate more interest among students to learn Malayalam and to generate more contents in various subjects. The portal provides a host of features including special privileges for District Admin, facility to merge old username to a new user, search articles alphabetically, facility to display pictures in Wikicomments directly in SchoolWiki, Wiki Editor, School Mapping using of Open Street Map, facility to search in Malayalam and English languages. In addition to these, School Wiki also has specific extensions such as prettyURL, Upload Wizard, Editcounts, Checkuser, Gadgets and Thanks. SchoolWiki has been designed in such a way that schools can register into the portal using their school codes and upload their contents in their respective space provided under their district. Students, Teachers and even schools are encouraged to create their own ICT contents which form educational resources for the larger learning populace. Through SchoolWiki, these efforts of the students and teachers get a boost in terms of connecting with hundreds of other students and schools, contribute to the collective learning outcomes thereby enhancing the quality in student learning.

SchoolWiki has been positioned as a universal platform for collaborative learning for students. There are State Level, District Level, Sub district level, school level admins in place to assess the progress made in the portal by each school/ user. A group of students has been identified in each school who are titled Student School IT Co-ordinator (SSITC) who with the help of School IT Co-ordinator (SITC)- a designated teacher assigned in each school for overseeing the IT activities, ensure the updations of their contents in SchoolWiki. The contents which are uploaded in the portal are thoroughly checked for its authenticity and appropriateness. Student Club members are assigned to check on their school contents randomly. The District level team of IT@School provides necessary technical support for the schools. IT@School Project has provided high speed broadband internet connectivity to all schools in the State, using which schools are able to upload their details in SchoolWiki. The portal also acts as a resource for ICT enabled contents which the students and teachers could access 24/7. Since SchoolWiki is completely made in Malayalam, it enables students from all streams to understand and learn the contents with ease. The best educational contents which are developed by students are chosen through a transparent competition and the selected resources are uploaded in the portal for the benefit of lakhs of students. The portal also enables the teachers to share their own educational contents with not only to the students of their schools, but also to many throughout the State.

Challenges faced and how they were overcome

IT@School has faced difficulty in teaching students and teachers in Wiki coding so as to make updations in SchoolWiki. In order to address this issue, a Wiki Co-ordinator, who was a Master Trainer of IT@School was assigned in each district. These resource personnel helped the school teachers to do the Wiki coding properly, through online and offline trainings. Typing in Malayalam language was also found to be tough for the Primary school teachers. The Master Trainers of IT@School Project provided the training in Malayalam typing (Unicode) for LP teachers. It was also tough to establish a monitoring system to ensure regular updates. Such a system using the SITCs in schools and Master Trainers in each district was established by the Project. A group of Wikipedians also extended technical support in this regard. There was also difficulty in finding a server space for hosting the SchoolWiki application. IT@School was also able to find a server space at the State Data Center to host the SchoolWiki application. A new server has been exclusively bought for SchoolWiki and the migration process has been initiated.

Before and After School Wiki

Prior to the rollout of SchoolWiki, there was no such application or portal which included details of the entire schools of a State. Eventhough some schools had their own individual pages in Wiki or their own website, they were limited to contents which were not uniform or relevant. Once implemented, SchoolWiki has become a portal which is not only a database of all schools, but also helps in creating a uniform structure in displaying the details of each school. The portal has been well taken up by the students and teachers which is evident from its 30,000 + articles and 13,000+ users.

Future roadmap

SchoolWiki is envisaged as the largest comprehensive digital repository of schools- which is first of its kind in the world. The portal also acts as a resource pool to which students and teachers regularly contribute educational contents made by them. IT@School has already initiated a student network titled 'Hi School Kuttikootam' in which Student School IT Co-ordinators (SSITCs) from all schools would be trained in 5 areas such as Animation and Multimedia, Hardware, Electronics, Language computing and Internet and Cyber Safety. Under language Computing, students would be given intense training on how to make use of SchoolWiki to the maximum. The shifting of the application to the new server would also help in hosting larger educational contents including videos and pictures. The Kuttikootam programme could be the largest students' IT network in the Country, and would cover 1 lakh students this year and 2 lakhs by next year. This programme would also highlight on teaching the students on the importance of language computing, thereby giving the students an opportunity to undertake different language computing programmes.

Potential for replicability.

The SchoolWiki model can be replicated all through the Nation, provided it is conceived as a dynamic repository of schools as a well as a resource portal. Necessary requirements such as a high capacity server, technology expertise, trainings for students and teachers should also be taken care. A central mechanism under Education Department similar to IT@School Project should oversee all the operations of the portal. District wise teams have to be put in place to support the schoolwise activities including updations and content generation. Necessary funding for procuring Servers, ICT equipments at schools, trainings etc have to be found through various sources. SchoolWiki has the potential to become the World’s largest comprehensive repository of schools.

Some Articles published on SchoolWiki.

<http://www.news18.com/news/india/15000-kerala-schools-to-come-under-schoolwiki-1306592.html>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2016/oct/30/kerala-schools-gear-up-to-launch-school-wiki-20-1533291.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kozhikode/kizhisseri-becomes-first-complete-schoolwiki-sub-district-in-kerala/articleshowprint/56045872.cms?null>

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/311016/school-wiki-to-link-15000-kerala-schools.html>

SchoolWiki Homepage

School Wiki 2.0: 15,000 schools in state to go under online umbrella

TPuram: The revamped School Wiki, an initiative of the state government's IT@School Project, will be made available in 15,000 schools from Class I to XII from November 1, (Kerala Piravi) on www.schoolwiki.in portal.



THE CORE

The entire content is in Malayalam that is provided by students, teachers, alumni and public. It includes elementary details and historic references to schools

THE ADD ONS

Infrastructure data, famous alumni, school websites, school map, blogs, various clubs and forums, class magazines, supporting images and videos.

ANALYTICAL CONTENT

Malayalam language projects like 'School Patram' (school newsletter), 'Nadodi Vijnanakosham' (local encyclopedia) and 'Ente Nadu' (my village).



NEW FEATURES

Special privileges for district administration, search articles alphabetically, facility to display Wikicomments, Wiki Editor, School Mapping using Open Street Map.

EARLIER AVATAR

School Wiki prepared using Wikimedia Foundation's Wikimedia software had become inactive within two years of its launch in 2009.

EXTENSIONS

PrettyURL, Upload Wizard, Editcounts, Checkuser

K Anvar Sadath, the executive director of IT@School Project, said arrangements have been made to train teachers and students to use the School Wiki and ensure data accuracy



Awards will be given to those schools which make use of and maintain School Wiki in an effective manner. Raveendranath, Education Minister

TIMES STATE

After five-year break, govt to relaunch School Wiki project

Awards To Schools That Maintain The Portal: Minister

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: After a gap of five years, IT@School project is all set to revive School Wiki project that was put into cold storage by the UDF government. Introduced during the former LDF government regime, School Wiki-on the lines of Wikipedia-aims to foster a culture of collaborative content deployment in 15,000 schools from Class I to Class XII in the state.

The revamped School Wiki would be ready by November 1, on Kerala Piravi, in www.schoolwiki.in portal. Made completely in Malayalam, School Wiki features a unique content collection jointly undertaken by students, teachers, alumni, and public.

By logging into School

ON DIGITAL PLATFORM

► The revamped School Wiki would be ready by **November 1** on www.schoolwiki.in

► **Made completely in Malayalam, School Wiki features a unique content collection** jointly undertaken by students, teachers and public

► **Schools can also upload details**



such as their infrastructure data, renowned alumni, school websites, school map, blogs, info on various clubs and forums, class magazines, supporting images and videos in School Wiki

► **Analytical Malayalam projects such as 'School patram', 'Nadodi vijnanakoshan' and 'Ente nadu'** would also feature in the portal

Wiki, all schools would be able to key-in and update all their basic elementary details as well as their historical references. Schools can also upload details such as their infrastructure data, renowned alumni, school websites, school map, blogs, various clubs and forums, class magazines, supporting images and videos in School Wiki.

School Wiki will also host various educational contents prepared by the students as well as teaching materials collaboratively deve-

loped by the teacher communities. Apart from these contents, analytical Malayalam language projects such as 'school patram' (school newsletter), 'nadodi vijnanakoshan' (local encyclopedia) and 'ente nadu' (my village) would also feature in the portal. The geographical details of every school locality in the state can be made available through School Wiki.

School Wiki, which was launched on November 1, 2009, was inactive after two years of its inception. This

prompted IT@School to revive the portal with much needed modifications, amply supported by Wikipedia members. "Awards would be given to those schools that make use of and maintain School Wiki in the most effective manner," said education minister C Raveendranath.

School Wiki has been prepared using Wikimedia Foundation's Wikimedia software. It has been designed in such a way that schools can register into the portal using their school codes and upload their contents in their respective space provided under their district. The process would kick start in each of the four constituencies where the hi-tech school project is being implemented.

According to IT@School executive director K Anvar Sadath, IT@School Project has made arrangements for specific training for teachers and students for using School Wiki and to identify and assign district-level admins for data accuracy and modifications and to provide necessary support.

School Wiki to link 15,000 Kerala schools

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCT. 30

School Wiki, a scaled down version of Wikipedia, an IT@School project of the state government is expected to foster a culture of collaborative content development in 15,000 schools from Class I to XII in the state.

The revamped School Wiki will be ready by November 1, the Kerala Piravi, on www.schoolwiki.in portal. School Wiki, compiled completely in Malayalam, features a

unique content collection, jointly undertaken by the students, teachers, alumni, and public.

By logging onto School Wiki, all schools will be able to key-in and update all their basic elementary details as well as their historical references. Schools can also upload details such as their infrastructure data, renowned alumni, school websites, school map, blogs, various clubs and forums, class magazines, supporting images and videos in the School Wiki.

THE ACADEMIC CONNECTION

സ്കൂൾവിക്കിയിലൂടെ സാധാരണ



It features a unique content collection, undertaken by students, teachers, alumni, and public

Schools can key-in their details

Executive director K. Anvar Sadath told this newspaper that specific training will be given to teachers and students on using School Wiki.

Education minister C. Ravendranath said that awards would be given to

those schools that make use of and maintain School Wiki in the most effective manner.

School Wiki will also host educational content prepared by students and teaching materials collaboratively developed by

teachers. Apart from these, analytical Malayalam language projects such as "School Patram", a school newsletter, "Nadodi Vijnanakoshan", a local encyclopedia and "Ente Nadu", a page about one's village will feature on the portal.

The geographical details of every school locality in the state can be made available through School Wiki. The project which was launched on November 1, 2008, became inactive after two years of its inception. This prompted IT@School to revive the

portal with much needed modifications, amply supported by Wikipedia members. School Wiki has been prepared using Wikimedia Foundation's Wikimedia software. The revived portal provides new features including special privileges for district administration, search articles alphabetically, facility to display pictures in Wikicommons directly in School Wiki, Wiki Editor, School Mapping using of Open Street Map, facility to search in Malayalam and English.

SchoolWiki to be re-launched

All schools will key in and update their basic details as well as their historical data

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The IT@School programme of the Education Department is set to re-launch its 'School-Wiki' project — on the lines of Wikipedia — designed to foster a culture of collaborative content deployment in 15,000 schools from classes I to 12 across Kerala.

The revamped School Wiki — www.schoolwiki.in — would be ready for launch on November 1, Kerala Piravi Day. Designed in Malayalam, SchoolWiki features a unique content generation model jointly undertaken by students, teachers, alumni, and the public.

Executive director of the IT@School programme K. Anvar Sadath told *The Hindu* that all schools would key in and update all their ba-

sic details as well as their historical data.

Schools can also upload details such as their infrastructure data, renowned alumni, websites, school map, blogs, various clubs and forums, class magazines, supporting images and videos in SchoolWiki, he said.

SchoolWiki can also host educational content prepared by students as well as teaching material developed by the teaching community. Analytical Malayalam language projects such as School Patram (school newsletter), Nadodi Vijnanakosham (Local Encyclopaedia) and Ente Nadu (My Village) would also feature on the portal.

SchoolWiki was first launched on November 1, 2009, but remained in limbo

BROWSE FOR SCHOOL DETAILS



Details of 15,000 schools to be uploaded on site

41 admins to verify uploaded information on a regular basis

Content generation undertaken by students, teachers, alumni, and public

Awards will be given to schools that maintain SchoolWiki effectively

two years after that.

New features

SchoolWiki has been prepared using Wikimedia

Foundation's Wikimedia software. The revamped portal provides a host of new features including special privileges for a District Ad-

min, a facility to search articles alphabetically, to display pictures in Wikicommons directly in SchoolWiki, Wiki Editor, School Mapping using of Open Street Map and the facility to search in Malayalam and English.

"Schools can register in the portal using their school codes and upload their content in their respective space provided under their district. The process would kick-start on November 1 in each of the four constituencies where the Hi-Tech school project is being implemented," Mr. Sadath said.

He said the Education Minister has announced that awards would be given to those schools that make use of and maintain SchoolWiki in the most effective manner.

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Government of Kerala

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