Empowering African students through knowledge sharing

“The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child’s choice.”

– ARTICLE 13 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

WikiChallenge Écoles d’Afrique engages students from primary schools across Africa in contributing to Vikidia, the encyclopedia for 8- to 13-year-olds that anyone can improve. It encourages them to create and improve articles on topics related to African culture, history, environment, and more. It promotes knowledge sharing, digital literacy, and cultural diversity.

WikiChallenge Écoles d’Afrique plays a crucial role in empowering Africa’s youth, promoting digital literacy, and fostering a sense of ownership over their cultural heritage. It contributes to the growth of Africa-focused content online and ensures African perspectives are included in the global knowledge landscape.

The specifics

• Targets students aged 9 to 13 in French-speaking Africa;
• Organized within the official education framework;
• Open to schools members of the Digital Schools Network of the Orange Foundation;
• Free writing theme... but encourages contributions on local cultural, historical, and environmental topics;
• Texts and illustrations are published under free licenses on Vikidia and Wikimedia Commons; and
• Winning institutions receive prizes ranging from € 2,500 to €5,000 per school to spend on educational materials or school infrastructure.

Impacts and benefits

• Promotes educational engagement and active learning among African students;
• Amplifies online representation of Africa’s culture, history, and knowledge;
• Fosters cross-cultural understanding and appreciation among students;
• Enhances digital skills and familiarity with online platforms like Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, and Vikidia;
• Empowers students to become contributors and creators of knowledge;
• Builds teamwork and collaboration among participants;
• Provides a platform for students to showcase their talents and creativity;
• Increases access to information about Africa for a global audience;
• Inspires a sense of pride and ownership in African heritage and identity; and
• Finally, the prizes offered to the winning schools improve the quality of the studying environment of hundreds of children.

International partners

Fondation orange

Parting Wikimedia Usergroups

WikiChallenge Écoles d’Afrique is a Wiki in Africa project.

Wiki in Africa

Elevating Africa’s Voices Globally

www.wikiinafrica.org

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