



Introducing Newcomers from Wikisource to Wikipedia: The Hindi Wikipedia story

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Background

- All Indian language wikis are small to medium sized wikis.
- Characterised by very low numbers of active members (20-30 max).
- There has been a constant effort to add more members to the community.
- There has been a constant effort to “Recruit” more members into our community.

Traditional Approach



- Wikipedia Workshops for newbies
- Edit-a-thons
- Conferences (involving editathons + workshops)
- Awareness campaigns
- etc.

Results of this approach

- Experienced members get to meet each other and discuss strategies, plans, goals, etc.
- Resolve issues.
- Interwiki interactions.
- Introducing wikipedia to many new people.
- But how many new members actually stay?

Answer: Very few



Reasons?

- Wikipedia is very complex.
- Teaching editing, templates, formatting with the markup and also teaching citations and neutrality is a lot of new information to digest in a couple of days.

History of Hindi Wiki Events

| Year | Name/Place |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 2015 | Delhi Conference |
| 2017 | Bhopal Conference |
| 2017 | Jaipur Workshop |
| 2018 | Delhi Conference |
| 2018 | Bhopal Workshop |
| 2019 | Kolkata Conference |

History of Hindi Wiki Events

| Year | Name/Place | Total attendees | Newbies | Stayed? |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2015 | Delhi Conference | 20 | 9 | 4 (44.44%)* |
| 2017 | Bhopal Conference | 13 | 8 | 4 (50%)* |
| 2017 | Jaipur Workshop | 20 | 7 | 2 (28%)* |
| 2018 | Delhi Conference | 30 | 15 | 3 (20%)* |
| 2018 | Bhopal Workshop | 14 | 4 | 1 (25%)* |
| 2019 | Kolkata Conference | 41 | 17 | 9 (53%) |

Boring Details

- **Complete Newcomer**= Someone who has had little to no experience of Wikipedia editing
- **New comer who ‘Stayed’ / became an ‘active member’**= Someone who has consistently been actively participating in editing/proofreading or on other online and offline activities after his/her introductory event for a year or more.

The Different approach

- We followed a **Two-step approach**
 - First introduce newbies to **Wikisource** which helps them get familiar with the Wikimedia interface.
 - Then introduce them to **Wikipedia** and the nuances of neutrality and citations, etc.

The Different approach

STEP 1

- We first conducted a couple of workshops at Rishi Bankim Chandra College, Naihati, WB, 2 months prior to our conference.
- Introduced students to **Wikisource**.

The work on wikisource is very easy and simple: you just need to proofread scanned copies of documents, books, manuscripts, etc. for spelling errors and bring other elements of the page inline with wiki markup.

It uses the same interface as wikipedia and other wikimedia platforms, and also similar tags and markup.

Wikisource



WIKISOURCE

Main Page
Community portal
Central discussion
Recent changes
Subject index
Authors
Random work
Random author
Random transcription
Help
Donate

Tools

What links here
Related changes
Upload file
Special pages
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Page **Discussion** Image

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Page:How I Met a Very Ignorant Practitioner.pdf/7

This page needs to be proofread.

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Cassell's Magazine.

Confound him ! to me like that ?

"It is very uncertain," I replied, by no means uncandidly. " Will you leave any message this time ?"

"No; I have to be in London immedately." And witha curt "' Good-day "' he disappeared.

In the agreeable task of answering Inns, I quite forgot this unpleasant incident ; indeed, it was only as an afterthought I made a casual reference to the man's visits, adding that Inns would no doubt be sorry to have missed his friend.

And now I began to torture myself with all my old doubts of again seeing Miss Innes (I learned the correct name later), and from that time, so fearful was I of being out of

What right had he to speak spoke, at her I looked, and for a time I heard and saw no one else. I suppose I did not make a palpable fool of myself, for when I began to recover my balance Mrs. Innes was speaking.

" We can only think he must have altered in some way. Something must have happened ; some terrible disease or disfigurement; he has been so much abroad. Tell me, Dr. Wilkinson, is it so? No? You have seen nothing of it p—Oh, what a relief! But why this refusal to meet us ? We cannot help seeing that he avoids us. He who used to be so devoted to us both, while we remember him only as the gentlest, noblest, most chivalrous of men!"

"Good heavens!" I mentally exclaimed.

'And now," she continued, "I don't

"HE FELL PLUMP, LIKE A SACK OF GKAIN, INTO THE CORNER,"

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The Different approach

STEP 2

- We then invited the more active and interested students to our annual Conference (Wikisammelan)
- Introduced students to **Wikipedia** editing and the concepts of neutrality, some templates, citations, etc.
- ❖ Once students are aware of the interface, they are not overwhelmed by the editing window, and the code blocks.
- ❖ They find it easier to focus on the “New” thing (Wikipedia) and grasp the idea better.
- ❖ Also introducing them to wikipedia at conferences gives a sense of being part of “Something Bigger” and a sense of community, which helps to motivate the already motivated person

Pictures



Pictures



The Different approach

IMPORTANT POINTS

- Although not everyone became a wikipedia editor immediately, they did become an active part of the community. Mostly active on Wikisource initially but many shifted to Wikipedia eventually.
- Institutional support was a key factor since Ajit Tiwari ji was a faculty at the college.and was the one who pioneered this idea.

Inference and Conclusion

- Although introducing newcomers to Wikipedia editing in workshops and events is the standard approach; A two step process involving Wikisource gives newbies time to develop interest and understand the interface better.
- A “Second installment” of Wikipedia related information then, is more easily retainable. Hence, it becomes easier for them to start wikipedia editing after that.
- Introducing newcomers to Wikipedia in a conference involving the larger, more experienced community is important as it motivates them by giving them a sense of being part of something bigger involving people from different part of the country and the world.

The Future



- We have all tried the standard workshop model. Based on these results, We can try this two step model for our workshops, conferences etc. in the future.
- This serves not just Wikipedia but also creates a dedicated community on wikisource as well.
- We need more trials and studies of this model to get a better more reliable empirical result.

Thank you धन्यवाद



Questions?