

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.



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

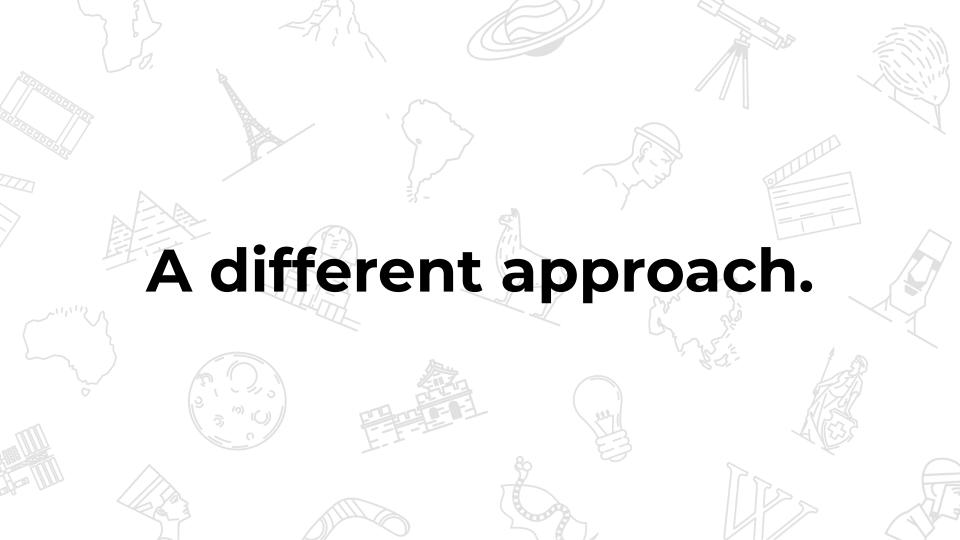
Results of this approach

- 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?



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	18 Bhopal Workshop				
2019	Kolkata Conference				
2019 Kolkata Conference					

History of Hindi Wiki Events

<i>y</i>				
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.

- 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.

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



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This page needs to be proofread.

⟨ ⟩ Page Discussion Image ∧

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 imme- diately." 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 disfigure- ment; 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,"

Cassell's Magazine.

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Confound him! What right had he to speak to me like that ?

Read Edit View history A More V Search Wikisource

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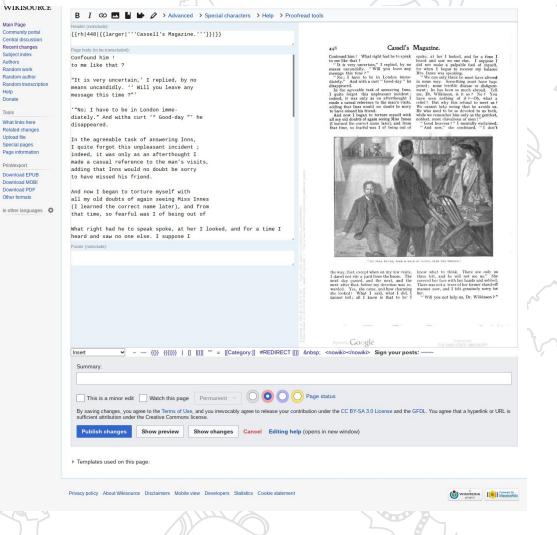
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" HE PELL PLEMP, LINE A SACK OF GRAIN, INTO THE COUNTRY





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









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.

