# WIKIPEDIA BEING USED AS TEACHING TOOL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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#### ONLINE EDUCATION NOWADAYS

- Online education is quickly becoming a major phenomenon around the world.
- Many countries are really stepping up the game when it comes to online education.
  - United States
  - India
  - China
  - South Korea
  - Malaysia
  - United Kingdom
  - Australia
  - South Africa

#### ONLINE EDUCATION NOWADAYS

- Advantages Of Online Learning
  - Students can learn whatever they want.
  - Students can attend online classes anytime, anywhere they have Web access.
  - The costs are lower.
  - Students can learn from instructors across the country and around the world, broadening their perspective.
  - The schedule is flexible.

## WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ONLINE LEARNING AND WIKIPEDIA?

- What is Wikipedia?
  - It is a free online encyclopedia with the aim to allow anyone to edit articles. Wikipedia is the largest and most popular general reference work on the Internet and is ranked among the ten most popular websites.
  - Many students use Wikipedia everyday, even though it is not recommended to take Wikipedia for academic references.



## WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ONLINE LEARNING AND WIKIPEDIA?

- Wikipedia contributes to free knowledge!
  - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wik
    i/File:How\_Wikipedia\_contributes
    to\_free\_knowledge.webm

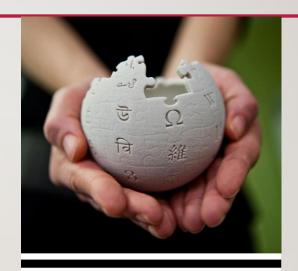


## WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ONLINE LEARNING AND WIKIPEDIA?

- Wikipedia is not only a free online encyclopedia.
  - The encyclopedia is supported by Wikimedia Foundation, and Wikimedia is the collective name for the Wikimedia movement, revolving around a group of inter-related projects, including Wikipedia, Wiktionary, Wikiquote and others, which aim to use the collaborative power of the Internet, and the wiki concept, to create and share free knowledge of all kinds.

#### WHAT IS WIKIPEDIA EDUCATION PROGRAM?

 The idea behind the Wikipedia Education Program is simple: educators and students around the world contribute to Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects in an academic setting.



Wikipedia Education Program

#### WHAT IS WIKIPEDIA EDUCATION PROGRAM?

- Wikipedia is being used as a teaching tool in education around the world.
- The education team at the Wikimedia Foundation supports these efforts with a variety of tools -- like the Education Program Extension -- and materials -- like the Education Toolkit -- for volunteers and educators to help start and scale programs..

- The Wikimedia Foundation's mission is to empower and engage people around the world to make this vision reality, with free, online educational content accessible everywhere. The Wikipedia Education Program supports this mission through our work with volunteers, educators and students around the world.
- As Wikipedia is widely used all over the world. It is actually an ideal platform to promote Open Education.
- Editing on Wikipedia is quite similar to academic writing, which means that students are able to take this as the platform to practice their writing skills.

#### WHY IS WIKIPEDIA AN IDEAL TEACHING TOOL?

- Win-win situation: Increasing the quality and quantity of the articles on Wikipedia, while the students can practice their writing skills
- There is no limitation for time and place.
- Students can do it in different languages.



- Case Study: Wikipedia Education Program in Israel
- Wikimedia Israel has collaborations with all major universities and academic institutes in Israel, such as,
  - Hebrew University of Jerusalem
  - Tel Aviv University
  - Haifa University

- Wiki-Med at Tel Aviv University
- In 2013, the first for-credit elective course dedicated to Wikipedia contributions was opened at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine of the Tel Aviv University and named "Wiki-Med".
- The course is entirely devoted to training in Wikipedia editing, and the students are required to write an article about a subject in medicine which they study.
- 26 students participated in the first year. They expanded stubs and initiated new articles,
  which resulted in 128 new articles in the Hebrew Wikipedia.

- In four years, more than 10,000 students, many of whom were women, have participated in the Wikipedia Education Program, adding 12 million words, the equivalent of 45,000 printed pages, to more than 10,000 Wikipedia articles in multiple languages.
- In the foreseeable future, Wikipedia will become even more important, and it is nice to have the Wikipedia Education Program for educating the students in different countires.

### Thank you for your attention.