

## MKCL to digitize schools

Government of Maharashtra, promoted the Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation (MKCL) that is working on an ambitious project to introduce 'digital schools' across 450 secondary schools, run by an educational institution named Rayat Shikshan Sanstha.

According to MKCL's MD Vivek Sawant, the 'digital schools' concept allows students to learn various subjects and curricula not just by informed methods but by performed methods that require a lot of software support, innovative e-content and learning facilitation support for teachers.

"The performed method will enable students to perform science experiments in a simulation environment. They will get experience of discussion forums, chats, and social networking environments. This will enable them to be better prepared for the twenty-first century's cultural ethos in the knowledge economy. That's the basic idea of the project," said Sawant.

This year the scheme will be introduced at Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, with the aim to touch about 3,52,000 students by using NComputing's technology. "This is a pilot project and its results will help the initiative to spread across the state," he added.

Pune based MKCL will provide e-content for the project in English, Marathi and Hindi languages. However, according to Sawant, MKCL will develop the content in other languages also but after some years, as schools in Maharashtra provides education in ten different languages like Urdu, Gujarati, Sindhi, Telugu, Kannada, among others.



The 'digital schools' concept will use MKCL's e-learning framework called e-Learning Revolution for All (ERA) platforms. ERA provides personalized learning environment for students with access to e-content and various services like forums, chats and rich voice over in different languages to allow learning via hearing educational content.

"It not only provides learning content but also provides interactive and practice sessions with assignments and case studies. Apart from this, it has certain utilities whereby students can collaborate with other students and teachers. Also, they can collaborate with remote experts using distributive classrooms," Sawant explains.

Other features of ERA include tools for assessment, evaluation and facility for developing content, which is similar to a content factory where people sitting remotely create and contribute new content for learning.

Moreover, Sawant concludes that the content factory is part of ERA, which also has other management systems such as content, assignments, distributive classrooms, online evaluation, assessment and feedback. Recently, MKCL's 1,000 learning centers were computerized.

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