

MKCL to introduce digital school system in 450 schools

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PUNE: The Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL) has introduced the digital school' concept and has tied up with 450 schools across the state to run the programme from the academic year 2010-2011. All these schools are run by the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha. Initially, the digital school will be conducted in English, Marathi and Hindi.

The first phase of the program promises to reach nearly 3.5 lakh students. Announcing the launch of digital schools in Mumbai a couple of weeks ago, MKCL managing director Vivek Sawant said: "This concept allows students to learn various subjects and curricula not just by informed methods' but also by performed methods' that require software support, innovative e-content and learning facilitation support for teachers."

The facility will be available for the entire school and the project will get underway with the computer skills' subject. Other subjects will be explored later.

Uday Panchpor, general manager of the communication development and e-empowerment division of MKCL, told TOI: "The students will have the freedom to choose their own topic and start learning various topics in that particular subject. The system will be personalised and every student will be given a separate log in, so that his/her progress can be monitored individually."

This system, on an advanced stage, will also enable students to perform science experiments. It will also provide them a discussion forum, chats, interactive features, videos and animated graphics.

"We have already started teacher training programme on using this system so that they can train the students when the system is implemented," Panchpor said.

The digital schools system will use MKCL's e-learning framework called e-learning revolution for all'. This provides personalised learning environment for students with access to e-content and various services like forums, chats and voice over in different languages to allow learning via hearing educational content. This system will be installed on each machine.

Later, the system will be replicated in other schools as well, depending on the willingness of school. In future, the MKCL will provide the e-learning content in other languages also, as schools in the state provide education in 10 different languages, including Urdu, Gujarati, Sindhi, Telugu and Kannada.