Pankh-Path-Shala: E-Learning Platform for Government School Students

Nishant Totar[1], Nikhil Hanchate[2], Prof. Swarooprani H. Manoor[3]

Department of MCA, K.L.S. Gogte Institute of Technology, Belagavi, Affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi, Karnataka, India[1]

Department of MCA, K.L.S. Gogte Institute of Technology, Belagavi, Affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi, Karnataka, India[2]

Assistance Professor, Department of MCA, K.L.S. Gogte Institute of Technology, Belagavi, Affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi, Karnataka, India[3]

Abstract: In Indian government schools, the teaching system predominantly relies on traditional methods such as chalkboard instruction, rote memorization, and teacher cantered lectures. These conventional approaches often fail to engage students effectively and do not cater to the diverse learning needs of a large student population. Large classroom sizes further exacerbate the issue, making individualized attention challenging. Additionally, limited access to technology and resources restricts opportunities for interactive and experiential learning, which are essential for comprehensive education.

Despite various government initiatives aimed at improving the quality of education, significant dis- parities in infrastructure and resources persist, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. These disparities impact the effectiveness of education delivery, leaving many students without the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed academically and professionally.

To address these challenges, the Pankh India Foundation has developed Pankh-Path-Shala, an innovative e-learning platform specifically de- signed for government school students. This plat- form aims to enhance the quality of English education and improve communication skills, which are critical for students' academic and career success. Pankh-Path-Shala integrates modern technology with educational content to provide a dynamic, interactive, and engaging learning experience. The platform incorporates several key features to ensure effective learning outcomes. Interactive Learning modules and fun-based videos keep students engaged, while downloadable assignments allow for flexible study schedules and continuous learning.

Keywords: E-learning, government schools, English education, interactive learning, educational technology, communication skills.

I.   INTRODUCTION

The Pankh India Foundation, established in 2008, is dedicated to effecting positive societal change through innovative educational methods. Recognizing the critical role of education in societal development, the foundation seeks to evolve education in tandem with global advancements. Traditional educational models in Indian government schools often fall short in addressing the diverse needs of learners. To bridge this gap, Pankh India Foundation has embarked on develop- ing a cutting-edge e-learning platform tailored to government school students. This platform aims to democratize education, making it accessible, engaging, and adaptable to each student's unique needs.

II.   LITERATURE REVIEW

The education system in Indian government schools largely depends on traditional teaching methods such as chalkboard instruction, rote memorization, and teacher-centered lectures. Ac- cording to various studies, these conventional ap- proaches often fail to effectively engage students and do not address the diverse learning needs of a large student population. This problem is com- pounded by large classroom sizes, which make it difficult for teachers to provide individualized attention (Kumar, 2020) .
E-learning is a concept that has been in existence since the 1960s but became widespread with the advent of the internet and the web (Bezovski Poorani, 2016).

The novel coronavirus which broke out in 2019 acted as a catalyst in boosting the outreach and usage of E-learning. E-learning has been raised to be one of the major driving forces in the academic space. It has been a key player in ensuring the continuation of teaching and learning during the COVID-19 outbreak (Chang Fang, 2020).Government initiatives on E-learning have increased tremendously over the last decade, Indian government's SWAYAM3 and DIKHSA4 both initiated in 2015 are typical examples of this.

SWAYAM, a major initiative of the Indian Government on E-learning was initiated to pro- vide an integrated platform and portal for online courses in the education sector of India (Kanji- lal Kaul, 2016). SWAYAM was developed by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) with the help of Microsoft and was specifically designed to benefit working professionals, college dropouts, and students from remote areas (Nayek, 2018).

Alongside the efforts of the Central government, State and Union Territories are not leaving the task to the Central government alone as the majority initiated several E-learning initiatives to meet the demand of the present situation. States/UT like Delhi, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerela, Jammu Kashmir, Himachal, Meghalaya, Punjab, Ladakh, Telangana, Tripura, and many others also leveraged DIKSHA solutions for their E-learning initiatives.

III.   FIELD RESEARCH AND FINDINGS

As part of our comprehensive approach to developing the Pankh-Path-Shala e-learning plat- form, we conducted extensive field research by visiting various government schools. Our team engaged in in-depth conversations with both students and teachers to understand their specific challenges and needs. This firsthand insight was crucial in tailoring our platform to effectively address the issues prevalent in these educational environments.

3.1. Conversations with Students
During our visits, we interacted with students from different grades to gather their perspectives on the current educational system and their learning experiences. The following key issues were identified:

3.1.1. Language Barriers. Many students expressed difficulty in learning English, citing a lack of effective teaching methods and resources. They often struggled with grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

3.1.2. Limited Engagement. Students found traditional classroom methods monotonous and uninspiring. The lack of interactive and engaging con- tent made it difficult for them to stay motivated and interested in their studies

3.1.3. Technology Gap. While students showed a keen interest in using technology for learning, many lacked basic digital literacy skills and ac- cess to devices and the internet, which hindered their ability to benefit from online educational resources.

3.2. Conversations with Teachers
Our discussions with teachers provided valuable insights into the challenges they face in delivering quality education. The main issues high- lighted by the teachers included

3.2.1. Large Class Sizes. Teachers struggled to man- age large classrooms, which made it difficult to provide individualized attention and support to each student

3.2.2. Resource Constraints. Many teachers reported a shortage of teaching aids and educational materials, which limited their ability to create a dynamic and engaging learning environment

3.3. Identified Needs and Solutions
Based on our field research, we identified several key needs that our e-learning platform aims to address

3.3.1. Interactive and Engaging Content. To keep students motivated and engaged, our platform includes interactive modules, fun-based learning videos, and gamified learning experiences.

3.3.2. Accessible Resources. By providing download- able assignments and offline learning options, we ensure that students can continue their studies even without constant internet access

3.3.3. Technology Integration. We offer basic digital literacy courses and ensure that the platform is user-friendly, making it easier for students and teachers to navigate and utilize the available resources.

3.4. Conclusion of Field Research

The insights gained from our conversations with students and teachers have been instrumental in shaping the development of Pankh-Path-Shala. By addressing the specific challenges identified during our field research, we aim to create an e-learning platform that truly meets the needs of government school students and teachers. Our goal is to enhance the overall quality of education, making it more accessible, engaging, and effective for all learners.

Fig 1. Government School Survey

IV. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In Indian government schools, traditional teaching methods such as chalkboard instruction and rote memorization are prevalent. Large class- room sizes make individualized attention challenging, and limited access to technology further restricts interactive learning opportunities. Despite various initiatives, disparities in infrastructure and resources persist, impacting the quality of education delivered to students. The Pankh India Foundation aims to address these issues by creating an e-learning platform that focuses on teaching English and developing communication skills, areas identified as critical for students' academic and professional success.

V. VISION AND MISSION

Pankh envisions transcending traditional educational boundaries by creating an inclusive and dynamic learning environment. The foundation's mission is to make education accessible to everyone, irrespective of geographical or socio-economic barriers, and to deliver engaging and impactful content. Pankh's E-learning platform embodies this vision and mission, demonstrating the organization's dedication to using technology to bridge educational gaps and provide learners with the opportunity to excel across various fields. Through its diverse range of expert-curated courses, Pankh aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in their chosen careers. The platform not only offers high-quality education but also fosters a collaborative and interactive learning experience. By doing so, Pankh ensures that students are well-prepared for academic and professional success, reinforcing its commitment to redefining education and empowering individuals worldwide.

VI. PLATFORM DESIGN AND FEATURES

The e-learning platform is designed with the modern learner in mind, aiming to provide an educational experience that is both interactive and immersive. Key features include:

6.1. Interactive Learning Modules

The platform offers interactive modules that teach English through engaging content, including grammar exercises, vocabulary building, and comprehension activities.

6.2. Downloadable Assignments

Students can download assignments, complete them offline, and upload their work for feedback. This feature promotes continuous learning and allows for flexible study schedules.

6.3. Fun-Based Learning Videos

To keep students engaged, the platform includes fun-based learning videos that make learning enjoyable and effective.

6.4. Gamification

Incorporating game-like elements such as quizzes, badges, and leader boards to motivate and engage students.

VII. EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Pankh's educational philosophy emphasizes a learner cantered approach, where education is tailored to meet the specific needs and goals of each student. The platform prioritizes

7.1. Accessibility

Ensuring that high-quality education is accessible to all students, regardless of their socio- economic background.

7.2. Engagement

Using interactive and immersive tools to keep students engaged and motivated.

7.3. Holistic Development

Fostering both academic and personal growth by developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT

The implementation of the e-learning platform involves collaboration with government schools to integrate the platform into their existing curriculum. Training sessions for teachers and students ensure effective use of the platform. The anticipated impact includes

8.1. Pilot Program

The initial rollout of the platform involves a pilot program in select government schools. The pilot aims to

8.1.1. Assess Usability. Evaluate the ease of use and effectiveness of the platform's features.

8.1.2. Gather Feedback. Collect feedback from students, teachers, and parents to make necessary adjustments.

8.1.3. Measure Impact. Monitor improvements in student engagement, English proficiency, and overall academic performance.

8.2. Impact

8.2.1. Improved English Proficiency. Enhanced English language skills and communication abilities among students.

8.2.2. Increased Engagement. Higher levels of student engagement and motivation due to the interactive and enjoyable learning experience

8.2.3. Empowered Learners. Students equipped with the skills and knowledge needed for academic and professional success

8.2.4. Teacher Empowerment. Providing teachers with digital tools and resources to enhance their teaching methods and track student progress more effectively

IX.   CONCLUSION

We believe that a strong foundation in the English language is crucial for the academic and personal development of our students. Through engaging content, innovative teaching resources, and a commitment to continuous improvement, we aim to create an environment where students not only master language skills but also develop a lifelong love for learning. The collaboration between teachers, parents, and students is at the heart of our approach. We encourage active involvement from all stakeholders, providing a range of resources and opportunities for everyone to contribute to the success of our English language programs.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to staying at the forefront of English language education, adapting to new challenges, and embracing innovative approaches that enhance the learning journey for our students.]In conclusion, the Pankh Patha shala website stands as a dynamic and comprehensive platform, dedicated to enriching the English language learning experience for students, supporting teachers in their educational endeavours, and fostering collaboration with parents. From detailed course information and inter- active learning tools to resources for both in-class and at-home learning, our website serves as a hub for all things related to English education.

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