



IJSRM

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

An Official Publication of Human Journals



Human Journals

Notes

June 2017 Vol.:6, Issue:4

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Jigyasa Shabdakosh – A Smart Digital Way to Teach Language, Effectively



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Submission: 5 June 2017

Accepted: 10 June 2017

Published: 25 June 2017



HUMAN JOURNALS

www.ijsrm.humanjournals.com

Keywords: Dictionary, Grammar, Language, Marathi, Shabdakosh.

ABSTRACT

Being an educated person today is more about knowing where to find information and how to evaluate that information that it is about knowing large quantities of facts. As a result, one of our primary tasks as homely schooling is to teach our children to learn independently through reference tools like Jigyasa Shabdakosh. In the upper elementary years, it is expected that the students are introduced to these three essential tools: 1. The index and table of contents 2. The atlas 3. The dictionary A dictionary is a reference book that provides all kinds of information about words. This dictionary is your student's guidebook to the language. It teaches students to refer it to find out what a word means, check its spelling or scripting style or pronunciation, or figure out how to use it in a sentence. Many times there is more than one meaning of the word. The Jigyasa Shabdakosh tells students to carefully choose the correct meaning, check the part of speech, and use of word in sentence. Also, teaches students to check the writing style of the word and the pronunciation if they are unsure how to say it. Deep understanding and repeated exposure to words help students in adding these words to their vocabularies.

INTRODUCTION

In 2008, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) conducted research across 26 countries showing that over 50 percent of students who dropped out of school did not speak the language in which they were being educated. This applies to the United States as well. A 2012 report by the American Psychological Association noted that Latino students who spoke one language at home and another at school were at increased risk of graduating late or dropping out of high school.

This is more serious problem in India where we observe the change in language and culture even if we move just 100 to 200 KM in any direction.



For example, तांब्या, लोटी, गडवा are different words for same thing. But first word is used in Pune region where as second in Nagpur region and third in Chandrapur region.

Language barriers are a difficult hurdle, but they can be successfully overcome. Classroom teachers can help by using techniques such as highlighting and discussing academic vocabulary before introducing the lesson, providing the same material at differentiated reading levels, and by using clear, simple language when describing new concepts. One of the most important things a teacher can do to help language-minority students is to build relationships with her students and their families. This builds trust and respect, which is a necessary foundation for learning.

In country like India, where taste, culture, language, and way of life changes at a distance of every 200 KM, the problem of language barrier becomes more serious. Even if we take a case of culture in Maharashtra, we find Konkani culture, is different than culture in Marathwada, Vidarbha has different culture which is further divided into eastern Vidarbha and western Vidarbha. All though everyone is Maharashtrian with Marathi as mother tongue, still, the way the language is spoken differs drastically. Hence, unless a student with age less than 12 who have not yet commented is native language, finds it difficult to understand some keywords and their meaning in the context in which textbook wants it to depict.

In such case, it is better that a local teacher builds his/her own dictionary which is student friendly and helps other fellow teachers and local students to understand the text in better way. The main objective of building Jigyasa Shabdakosh is to develop one such dictionary.

The sole of this researched mobile app is the diversified culture of our nation. The whole concept of app revolves around the basic need to create a set of words or dictionary which can help local children to understand the language in a better spirit. As the apps reaches to more and more experts and experienced teachers and of every area, they can go on adding the local meaning which will result in a big database of local words and its synonyms in other parts.

The Jigyasa Shabdakosh is very effective while studying a unit where you focus in-depth on the specific skills. But most effective is integrating these skills into your existing curriculum. The beauty of this Shabdakosh is that it is handy and very effective tool in digital format and designed as per the knowledge level of school children and not from professional angle.

Natural opportunities of using Jigyasa Shabdakosh arise when

- BEST CASE SCENARIO—Your children ask questions about what you're studying.
- SECOND BEST –You think of questions about what you're studying.
- STILL A NATURAL OPPORTUNITY –You realize there are things related to what you're studying that your children don't know.

The first occurrence is the best because you can build on a child's own curiosity. The other two, although less motivating for the child, do give you a chance to model curiosity and to pull out the reference tools in a natural way that flows into your curriculum.

- BEST CASE SCENARIO –Child asks, चोमडेपण म्हणजे काय?
- SECOND BEST —You ask, “मला कळत नाही आहे, पाणलोट म्हणजे काय?”
- STILL, A NATURAL OPPORTUNITY –You know that your child has never heard पाणलोट, so you suggest you both look it up in the जिज्ञासा शब्दकोश.

Whatever the situation, you can pull out a reference tool, Jigyasa Shabdakosh and look up the answer alongside your child/student.

Literature Survey

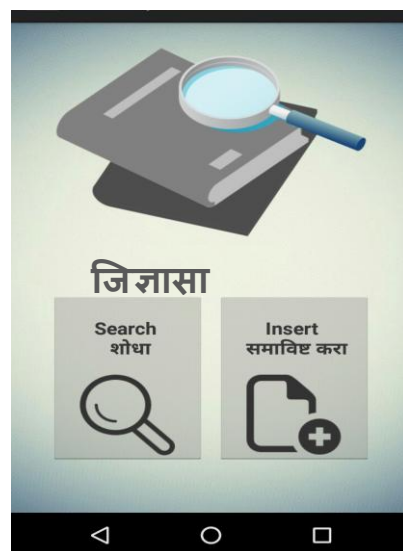
When we talk about dictionary, we talk about big 600 to 800pages book which is neither affordable nor accessible and understandable to school children in villages, small towns and remote areas of our country. Secondly, even if these students are given these books to handle, either they are afraid of using these heavy books or they don't get the exact meaning in their local language. The Jigyasa Shabdakosh is a sincere effort to create a student friendly dictionary which will boost the confidence in Marathi or any other regional language. The concept is developed after taking feedback from experts in education department and teachers who are engaged in teaching students from rural areas. The whole concept of Jigyasa Shabdakosh is very pro student and pro teachers.

Flowchart of Jigyasa Shabdakosh App.

The concept is developed in form of mobile app where database of words and their meanings is developed with help of experts and experienced individuals who are ready to offer their services voluntarily. The preference will be given to those words which students find difficult to understand in school text. Authorized volunteers are given login and password. These qualified volunteers can only add words to the dictionary. Once the information is uploaded, anyone can see the word and its meaning along with grammar and an example.

The android app works as follows:

A Startup Page



This is the startup page of Jigyasa Shabdakosh. The page has 2 options.

1. Search word
2. Insert word to dictionary

The Search Page:



This page shows all information about searched word and its meaning in local language. One can also get information about its grammar, and use in sentence, its English meaning and meaning in local language as well. But apart from basic meaning, and use in sentence, other things are not mandatory. If this information is added by experts in Jigyasa Shabdakosh, then only the information will be available.

The Insert word Page.



This page opens for authorized volunteers only. An Authorized volunteer can only add words and their meanings to this dictionary.

CONCLUSION

The concept of developing Jigyasa Shabdakosh is to generate a set of words which are used and taught in early ages of schooling or in social communication. The Shabdakosh app is developed to make process of learning new words easy and to help any individual to increase, expand and improve his/her vocabulary.

We aim to cover every word which may appear in standard textbooks of school children with the local meaning in local language and its relation and significance in local language. The set of words or the dictionary will develop over the time as more and more teachers, educationist, writers, poets, and all from literate world use the app and add the most commonly used new words. This socially developed Shabdakosh is not a copyright product of any individual but it is an open platform where any individual can contribute by adding new and useful words for benefit of society in general and students in particular. The intention is to make an app which will be beneficial for small children in their early life of schooling. The dictionary will build as per taste and likings of its users. Hence it will be everyone's responsibility to insert proper data in digital Shabdakosh which will help everyone, especially students to have better connections with mother tongue or the local language.

REFERENCES

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