

## FREE ACADEMIC CONTENT BY CII-SHIKSHA

### Background of Shiksha India

Shiksha India, a non-profit organization supported by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was formed with the prime intent to bridge the digital divide in India. The aim was to use technology to improve the quality of education and promote computer literacy in India. Shiksha India strived to increase the earning capacity, reduce information arbitrage in rural India and promote entrepreneurship.

Shiksha India provided a platform for industry, academia and government to work together to equip the schools with the 5 Cs: Computers, Connectivity, Coaching (teacher Training), Content and models of Commercial sustainability. After many interactions with various education systems, Shiksha India realised that the need existed more for Content and so started focusing on developing good quality content.

Shiksha India set up a Content Committee comprising eminent educationists and those in the field of technology to steer the process of Content Development according to the vision of Shiksha India.

Shiksha followed an exhaustive vendor selection process. Several vendors made presentations to the committee and the short-listed ones were asked to undertake a study and come out with a comprehensive and a detailed document which would reflect their comprehension of the scope of the project, the vision of Shiksha India and an entire strategy for Content, its deployment, phased introduction, upgradability, technical issues, hardware requirements etc.

The inspiration behind Shiksha India was Educar, a digital divide project in Argentina. Educar was Argentina's national, educational Internet portal comprising of high quality interactive educational contents covering all subjects in every one of Argentina's regional curricula. The project also aimed at increasing the Internet penetration in Argentina by offering web based educational platform.

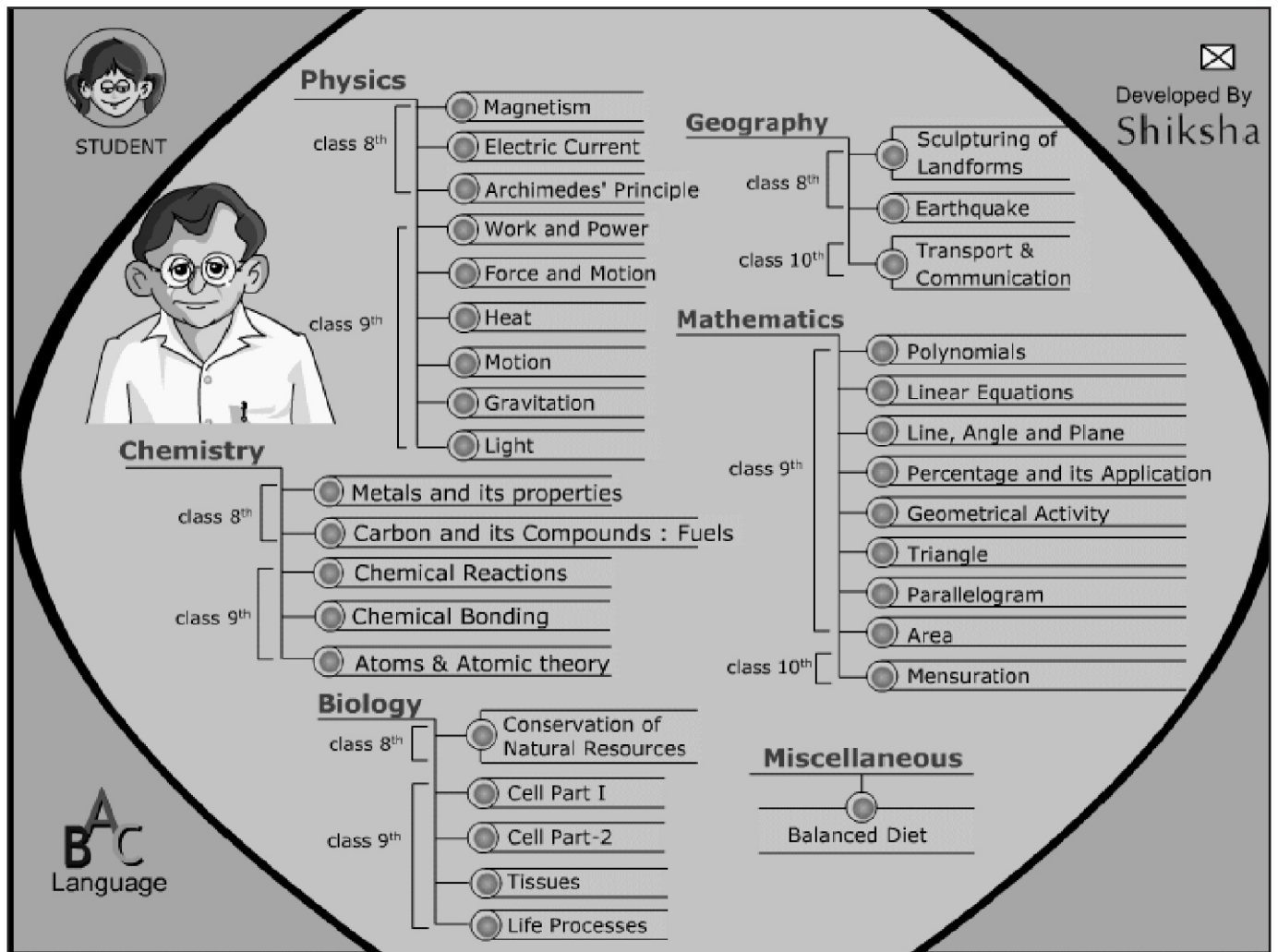
Shiksha collaborated with the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) in CLASS (Computer Literacy & Studies in schools) scheme. This scheme funded 19 states for their respective IT educational initiatives. Shiksha was on the monitoring and evaluation group of the CLASS.

The Vidya Vahini project of the Ministry of Information Technology gave Shiksha a platform to deliver education content to government schools. Shiksha developed the educational portal [www.shiksha.ernet.in](http://www.shiksha.ernet.in), and - 30 Modules in the initial phase of content development.

### Shiksha focus

Shiksha aims at bridging the digital divide by providing good quality educational material (academic content) and by introducing various technology tools in underserved schools across the country, totally free of cost.

Of late, Shiksha is providing academic content free to private schools also. Any willing school can avail of this opportunity to get Shiksha's content free of cost. The only commitment required by schools is facilitating/ensuring proper usage for the content and assisting Shiksha in measuring/assessing the impact on teaching-learning process in the school.



Through providing various technology tools to the schools, Shiksha aims to equip the school children with variety of skills - academic and life-long. It aims to provide a platform to various stakeholders in the education setting to share and collaborate on meaningful issues concerning the child's education.

The following Shiksha content is available in Hindi and English

### What Shiksha provides

Shiksha provides free ICT consultancy to schools in the following

- Providing free ICT based consultancy to schools, institutions
- Providing free academic content
- Providing free teacher's training on
  - ICT basics
  - Web basics

- Educational Technology
- Assisting schools develop ICT plan
- Assisting schools design ICT training curriculum for teachers and students

### Impact of the projects

Boston Consulting Group did a pilot study on Shiksha content in 3 schools in Delhi. The report showed that there was a visible lift in student's performance on using Shiksha content.

The project will have multi-fold impact for different stakeholders as mentioned below :

**1. Students** : Impact the learning capacity and skills - academic , ICT and life

**2. Teachers** : Impact the Technology adoption in teaching-learning process, provide a platform for sharing and collaborating with peers

**3. Administrators** : Impact the mindset and provide platform for synergising efforts towards providing effective learning environment to children

### Deployments / Associations of Shiksha

Shiksha has been helping/assisting various types of schools -government , private , non-formal towards using ICT more effectively for teaching-learning process. Some of the major deployments/associations of Shiksha are :

- 160 NVS schools spread across different Indian states / regions
- Pilots in J & K , Punjab and Andhra Pradesh
- Around 100 schools in Delhi and around
- MOU with APF ( Azim Premji Foundation )

- MOU with Care 'N' Cure , a charitable organisation working on ICT for slow learners

### Future activities of Shiksha

1. Engage in promoting / furthering technology-aided learning in schools through the following components :
  - Providing content
  - Conducting teachers' training on Effective Technology Integration
2. Provide a web-based platform for promoting creative learning among children
3. Facilitate the building of a conclave of like minded institutions, individuals, etc. to share resources to benefit the needy
4. Make available Shiksha's content for translation in regional languages to institutes / organisations working for the benefit of underserved children

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