e-College*Suite: Integrated e-Governance solution for College Campus from NIC

In terms of public governance, India has been a laggard in the utilisation of ICT. There are several reasons for this. One is the monopolistic nature of public governance. It is the customer, in this case the "aam aadmi", who has to like or lump whatever is offered by the public institution. He has no alternative. A second important reason for the slow start off the block, particularly of e-Governance, is that it enables transparency and cuts down avenues of corruption.

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EDUCATION as a sector has remained relatively untouched by e-Governance. This is most distressing, considering that education is the cornerstone of our efforts to build up the future generation.

Even in the Right to Education Act there is little mention of implementing e-governance in our education system. As it stands today, our education system is chaotic, to say the least. It is characterised by a high dropout rate, teacher truancy, obsolete syllabi, inadequate infrastructure, unemployable graduates and the lot. The tiny proportion of quality output that emerges from it is more a case of serendipity and the determination of the students belonging to this micro-minority.

This is because the present system lacks means of continuous monitoring, meaningful evaluation of the teacher and the taught, constant feedback to the players concerned (administrators, faculty, parents and students) and appropriate timely control and correction mechanisms.

If the quantity and quality of output from our education system have to be substantially improved, then there is no alternative to introducing e-Governance in this sphere. However, to be really effective, the e-governance system deployed will have to go beyond mere computerisation of records or processes. It has to be able to provide the management of the educational institution information about the Why of a happening or a performance in the last two terms? Which teacher has produced the best consistent results for his/her class?

Then again, considering the paucity of funds in our state-aided educational institutions, an e-governance system which is inexpensive to install, simple to use, easy to maintain and can be conveniently expanded will be much more acceptable

If the e-Governance solution so developed and implemented in the colleges through out the country and linked to National Knowledge Network (NKN) then the possibilities are endless."

e-College* Suite

Managing educational institutions has become a tedious and complex task. It requires careful planning, systematic approach and accurate control of administrative processes to attract the best students, produce best results and project the best image. The institutions are increasingly seeking the help of information technology to improvise their facilities and maintain a competitive edge to their educational Activities

NIC's **e-Campus*Suite** is a suite of application that provides Management, faculties, staff, students with immediate access to real-time information and connects that information to specific action. It is an adaptable solution serving all sizes and types of institutions including community colleges, research institutions, and large, public, multi-campus.

Kottakkal Ayurveda College, one of the oldest Ayurveda Colleges in

Kerala, initiated the idea of introducing good governance for improving the service through ICT in one of the governing body chaired by the Health Education secretary, Government of Kerala. Chief Executive officer of college held Series of discussion with NIC and finally decided to go for developing a college suite meeting all their requirements.

40 numbers of computer and other accessories were purchased and installed in Administrative office, college office and in the departments. These computers were connected in LAN by establishing a campus area network (CAN) which is also connected to powerful Servers installed for running college Suite. This network also provides the Internet to all units in the campus. Training room with 10 seat capacity was constructed to impart continuous training to the staff of all categories in the college.

e-College*suite is now functional in the campus from 01/06/2009 and all modules are getting implemented with active support of the staff. Continuous review of the software is taking place at every stage of implementation and making it more and more user friendly.

e-College*Suite is developed in OpenSource technology by using LAMP under direct supervision of National Informatics Centre adhering all GOI and State IT guidelines.

Key -Features

- Single point access of all campus related information from anywhere in the campus
- Integration of ID cards & bar coding technology
- Better informed decision making for management.
- Total Cost-Control (income and expenditure)
- All departments are linked through the central database
- Inter-departmental paper based transactions become a thing of the

Inauguration session of e-College at VPSV

e-College Inaguration on 29/04/2010 at VPSV Ayurveda College by Hon'ble Minister of Health, Smt. Sreemathi Teacher. Padmashree Dr. P.K Warrier, Health Secretary Dr. Usha Titus I.A.S, District Collector Sh. Mohandas I.A.S, attended the function.

past.
- Integrated to college dynamic college website.
- Parents have access to all academic information about their wards through the internet.
- SH2 encrypted data for higher level of data security.

Key Benefits to Students
Students get a new platform not only to gain but also to express the knowledge base inside them. The simplified and effective way to of joint efforts of learning will give them a great ground to run in up to the limits of their will power.
- Publish articles to share experience, knowledge and views.
- Manage school online news magazine.
- Participate in forums for career and other important issues.
- Get connected with alumni to gain from their vast and varied experiences.
- Use and contribute to the digital library.
- Access library transaction. Through e-Granthalaya
- Access to fees/Certificates/Attendance /Syllabus information
- Fees payment through ATM/Bank Online

Benefits for Teachers
Realizing that a student teacher relationship is the most important relationship in education, e-college Suite tries to give them a new media of interaction. This new media leaves behind the limitation of time management and set curriculums. Irrespective

of the course curriculum teachers have e-college*Suite to share the best with their students using articles etc.

- Complete attendance automation.
- Complete marks / grade management system.
- Interact with parents efficiently and effectively.
- Manage Assignment.
- Manage class information and analytical reports.
- E-mail & Internal messaging system.
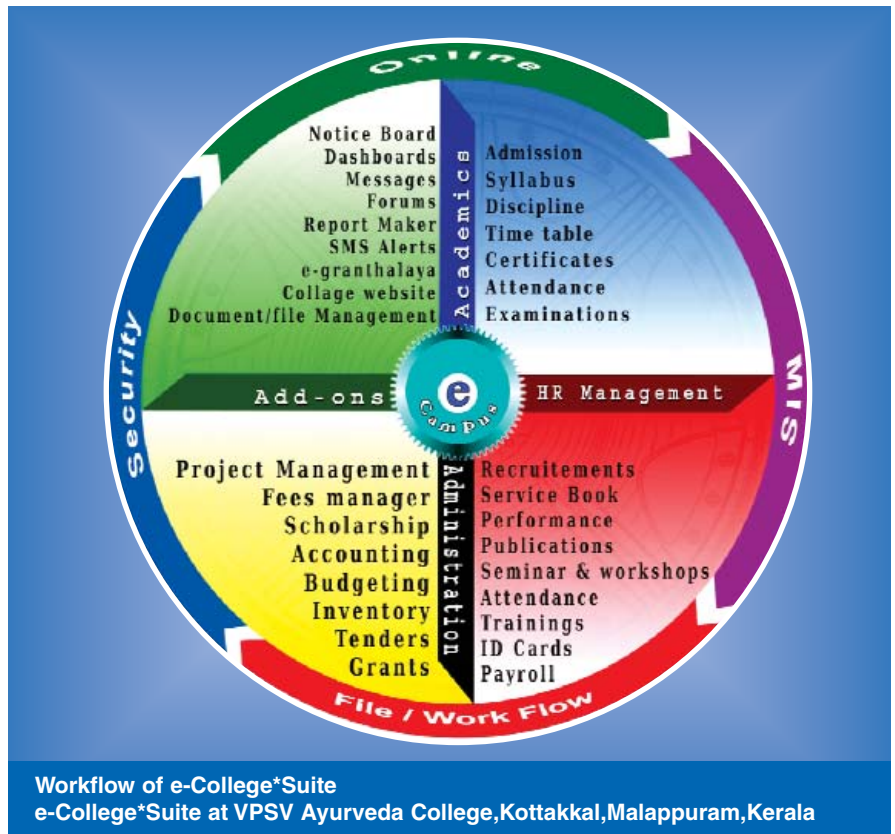- Lessen Planner/time table

Benefits for Parents

In today's busy scene where often both the parents are either working or living far away from the institution, personal visits to the institution is really not an easy task. The reporting system in e-college Suite enables them to have a closer look to their performance and will provide a fact based approach to their son/daughter life- and all this from their home or offices. Besides this e-news, polling and forums brings them closer to the institution.

- Know latest about your ward in terms of academics, attendance, fees
- Get connected to the school effectively and easily.
- Get updated with latest in school with the help of E-news, Image Gallery, newsletters

Benefits for Administration

School management has a systematic and easy approach towards maintaining and updating the different aspects of the website. All the management aspects of the institution like the admission process, message broadcasting, notice boards, e-Mazines publishing are taken into account which not only saves resources but also provides efficiency in working.

- Single Point College Management Software.
- Good financial controls.
- Zero redundancy in managing the entire institutions records.
- Achieve global outlook and expo-

Workflow of e-College*Suite
e-College*Suite at VPSV Ayurveda College,Kottakkal,Malappuram,Kerala

sure for the institute and its constituents.
- Save man hrs and money in lots of communication aspects.
- Get connected to parents and alumni in an effective manner.
- Single software handing everything saves a lots of investment in different software
- Less Paper office Management

Other Benefits

- Manual effort is reduced and speedy and accurate reports are generated.
- Data security is maintained on a departmental level.
- High degree of transparency of the institution through the Web.
- Better co-ordination between departments.
- Student conveniences extended beyond the classroom.
- Overall reduction of operating costs; and savings on time and efforts.
- Highly streamlined and effective workflow of administration and

academia.
- Workload on entire staff, administration, clerical and teaching is heavily reduced.
- Over time a knowledge base will be built-up.
- Does a total re-engineering of the administrative mechanism.
- Integration of administrative functions.
- User level access rights are implemented so that users without sufficient rights will not be able to access the system, thereby increasing the security.
- Customisable MIS reports and report generation tool.
- Financial Information are SH2 encrypted.

For further information

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