Defining methods for the strategic development of the Deoband Wikimedia: increasing quality-oriented knowledge and participation

Proposed research title:
Defining methods for the strategic development of Deoband Wikimedia: increasing quality-oriented knowledge and participation.

1. Introduction

This research titled as, "Defining methods for the strategic development of Deoband Wikimedia: increasing quality-oriented knowledge and participation" is proposed to define methods for the strategic development of the Deoband Community Wikimedia. It aims to research and define several methods – that the affiliate can follow and apply in order to bring a "quality-based and long-time-oriented" participation. It is apparent to us, and we have been asked a number of times, that, "what do we get if we contribute on Wikipedia", and we want this question to be answered. Are Wikipedia gifts helpful? Do certificates make any sense? The study will produce an outcome that could help us learn these things.

2. Problem Statement

Deoband Community Wikimedia is both a new and small affiliate of the Wikimedia Foundation focusing on a subject that is widely underrepresented. It was established to disseminate knowledge related to the Muslim academia and scholarship, spreading from and around the Deoband Islamic seminary, at a global level, through Wikimedia projects. The basic problem that exists is that there is a gap when it comes to this "thematic content" on Wikimedia projects, and thus, our idea, "imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge", appears unfulfilled. The thematic knowledge that DCW mentors is part of this "sum total of human knowledge", and it must get its due place on the encyclopedic projects. However, it is apparent, at a cursory look on the available thematic content, that the quality lacks. There is a lack of standards even with the notability guidelines. There are separate guidelines for film-actors and movies, however we do not find any specific guidelines for "academics and scholars that do not fit into this mainstream". Besides the quality-based participation, it is evident, that there are very less editors who write about these thematic topics – however – at a broader level – they are not aware of the wider principles – possibly because they do not seem to fit in the "broad mainstream", as not so many principles are inclusive of themes that they work on. The DCW wants to find a strategic direction that could help gather more editors, more participation, develop better "thematic principles and guidelines", and thus increase both quality-content and quality-participation on a number of Wikimedia projects.

Discussions with a few volunteers made us believe that the idea of "primary, reliable and independent sources" is not commonly understood by a variety of editors associated with this theme. This research aims to deal with this problem as well.

3. Objectives

- To define methods for the strategic development of the Deoband Community Wikimedia, as an affiliate of the Wikimedia foundation.
- To define roles and responsibilities "at a local level", following the affiliate's not-for-profit registration.
- To define and produce "notability ideas and principles" for a wider community review.
- To define methods for quality-based participation, "instead of just garnering new participation".
- To define programs for the mentorship of editors.

4. Methodology

A number of methods would be adopted to find a suitable way towards the affiliate's betterment. The affiliate has organized Bhopal Photo Event in October 2022, and its history and background recalls the first ever introductory cum training workshop that took place in Deoband under the banner of Dehalvi Wikimedia User Group.[1] The Urdu Wikipedia workshop differs completely from the Bhopal Photo Event – and we want to learn and know which of the

[1]: More at: Dehalvi Wikimedia User Group/Meetups/Urdu Wikipedia workshop in collaboration with Wikipedia SWASTHA - Meta

methods is most successful and convenient. We would also find and go through methods that other affiliates of the movement and entities outside the movement abide by. Our methodology would also include hosting sessions with people from within the movement and outside the movement. Are these sessions helpful? Do these strengthen the "strategic-base" of the affiliate? Apart from this, we feel researching about the possible outcomes of "mentorship programs", ideas of which have been given in the mailing list.[2]
Knowing about the ways and methods that Wikimedia affiliates adopt, and subsequently those that external organizations go through, and then applying them on the DCW – to know what works best. Do photo-walks bring more quality based participation or is it the events like DCW Bhopal Photo Event? This depends on adopting all of these ideas and checking what results they bring in.

5. **Outcome**
   The outcome of this research would be setting a strategic base for the Deoband Community Wikimedia and affiliates like it. With this, we can save our time and resources both – from getting spent on things that do not bring quality and long-time-oriented results.

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2. https://lists.wikimedia.org/hyperkitty/list/wikimedia-dcw@lists.wikimedia.org/thread/ZZ2XCAAQPKP3E7F7HNBQGPWCYWX3YHUJ/