

The Project Plan Draft submitted to Infosys Chairman Shri. Kris Gopalakrishnan

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY ARCHIVES OF KERALA

Documentation of a Day in the Life of a Malayalee

The Vision

To harness the insights of social science knowledge and the power of technology

The Concept

Creation of an internet repository of ethnological data on various aspects of contemporary Malayali life across the world.

Objectives

1. Documenting everyday life of Malayalees.
2. Generation of data on personal, private and public events at the micro level.
3. Generation and documentation of data with the participation of maximum number of people.
4. The employment of perceptive and reliable methods for data generation and documentation.

Themes

"Understanding everyday life is the knowledge to transform it"

The major theme will be the everyday life of an individual or family, profiling their lived experience on a typical day covering routine activities, thoughts and aspirations. Various categories based on location, career, engagement, etc. would make the profiling more inclusive and broad-based.

Under this theme segment - everyday life - there will be first person or second person reports in specific categories. For instance, there

could be documents titled, "A-day-in-the-life-of-a-grandmother/an Adivasi/ IT professional/ Malayali settled in Japan/America" etc.

"The key is to get to know people and trust them"

The second major theme will be 'reports' on personal, private and public events at the micro level. These reports of the *I-have-a-story* kind would be first information records or eye-witness accounts drawn from the immediate vicinity of the reporter.

The coverage could be wide-ranging to include scarcely noticed events as well as major ones like natural deaths, births, marriages, ceremonies, crimes, corruption, suicides, or calamities.

Data Generation and Documentation

Any interested person from any part of the world may file reports to the contemporary archives. The reporting format could be versatile – text, image, or sound bytes.

Reporters and Editors

A network of reporters drawn from among students, unemployed housewives, retired teachers, rural library activists and others should constitute the core element of the initiative.

A team of editors will be trained to extend professional support for the production of reports and to discharge tasks related to the coordination and management of documents. There will be a full time chief editor who will supervise and control the document and database dynamics.

Organizational Structure

This will be a joint project of the Kerala Council for Historical Research [KCHR] and a technological institution committed to excellence. [An MOU to formalize the collaboration.]

Patron(s)
Chairman(s)

Co-chairman

Managing Directors
Governing Body
Representatives of collaborating institutions
and various intellectual streams.

Chief Editor

Editorial Team
Net work of Editors and Reporters

Tentative Action Plan

- ✚ Preparation of sample reports through friends and associates of KCHR and collaborating agency
- ✚ A workshop to discuss sample reports, whet the concept and draft the action plan
- ✚ Announcement of the project to seek responses and suggestions. Effective advertisement campaigns will have to be planned to ensure the inclusiveness of the project.
- ✚ Designing of the site and cataloguing of content areas
- ✚ Identification of experts and the editorial team.
- ✚ Identification of editors/reporters and the creation of the network on contemporary history archives.
- ✚ Training Programme for editors and select reporters