



Amma launches Rural India Tablet Education e-learning project



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Kollam: A revolutionary e-learning project, 'Amrita RITE - Rural India Tablet Education' was launched today by Mata Amritanandamayi Devi by handing over a Tablet to Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Shri Shashi Tharoor at a function held as part of her 60th birthday celebrations at Amritapuri, near Kollam.

The Amrita RITE - Rural India Tablet Education e-learning project is targeted at after-school tutoring and adult literary to be used in the adopted villages and has been developed by the Centre for Research in Advanced Technologies for Education (CREATE), an educational technology initiative pioneered by Amrita University.

CREATE @ Amrita applies innovative digital solutions to provide accessible and affordable educational technologies for all and aims to improve the quality of education for all with innovative solutions that integrate research and practice. The focus is to advance research on innovative pedagogy, architectural frameworks and implementations of both e-Learning and m-Learning systems with an emphasis on personalized assessment and learning. The centre is funded primarily by research grants from NME ICT, Ministry of HRD; Department of IT, Ministry of Communication & IT and HP Global Social Innovation, which contributes around 80 per cent of the funding.

With the tablet technology gaining momentum low cost tablets like Aakash have gained more importance in education and more so in the developing part of the world where affordability is key determinant in technology adoption. A ubiquitous learning environment offered by tablet technology, keeps the students engrossed in the learning process and more importantly teachers are able to adopt the tablets due to its ease of use, small form factor and most importantly affordability.

Their research is focused on developing responsive UI based content for the tablets and the approach is fully integrated into the formative assessment process and most importantly, coexists with the present e-learning environment. With tablets they are foreseeing a renewed effort on teacher empowerment.

The Centre has developed interactive simulations for science practical experiments to be deployed on tablets for rural schools in India. Another effort was in enhancing the reading levels of disadvantaged kids in the backward areas.

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