

2021 WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards

Nomination Form

E-Education & Learning Award

Award #1: Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, or NGOs

Award #2: Government authorities

Award Criteria: The Digital Age is requiring new sets of skills, and the adoption of new models of public education that emphasize coding, programming and computer science must be adopted. Contrary to popular belief, the digital gap is widening, putting pressure on countries to catch up. Public education must adopt new approaches to lifelong learning. This award will be given to the best electronic learning project. We seek an innovative new technological tool or any project that uses existing electronic learning tools in an innovative way. Such projects should facilitate and support learning through the use of information and communications technology.

YOUR NOMINEES (limit three nominations per award category).

Veda App (veda-app.com) – private sector

REASONS FOR NOMINATION

Veda is an all-in-one solution for schools and colleges. Currently, the market leader in EdTech in Nepal with more than 700 schools and 1.2 million active users, Veda have set foot on the global market and currently working in Brunei. Veda's mission is to be a global brand and reshape how schools & colleges are operated, managed and taught.

By providing an all-in-one platform to manage the process, operations, finance, communication & provide tools to run the school virtually if required, Veda incorporates technology in education. Veda also comes with mobile apps for teachers and school administrators to work virtually from anywhere; mobile apps for parents to get all the updates and information on students and school and for students making it possible to learn from anywhere and stay updated. Veda incorporates everyone in the education ecosystem into a system including students, parents, teachers and school administration reducing the friction in communication and information flow.

COVID-19 has taught us that pandemics & the effects of climate change are likely to occur, and schools cannot always provide in-person education. Veda is effectively helping 700+ schools across 18 cities in Nepal and 1.2 million+ users (parents, students and teachers) stay connected, continue education, run schools virtually & manage finances and pay online to make sure school staff and teachers get paid. Veda's software, training & support pipeline has proved to be effective in Nepal, one of the least tech-friendly education systems in the world, Veda has changed how schools operate, and Veda can replicate the same in other countries

Veda is used by all the renowned schools and colleges in Nepal like Rato Bangala, St. Xaviers, New Horizon, Brihaspati Vidya Sadan, Mulpi International, Euro Kids, IIMS etc, but what Veda

prides itself in is that they are also working with the government and community schools directly and with municipalities like in Damak to provide solutions to not just private but public schools. Veda also works with schools like Samatha on a non-profit basis and also in rural parts of Nepal like Jumla and with organizations like Pokhara PABSAN to help conduct and aggregate results in regional level exams.

Veda also is aligned with 3 SDG Goals:

- 1. Quality Education: By helping schools in developing countries integrate technology, they are increasing access to better education, and helping schools to be future proof. Also, they are helping to increase the quality of education by increasing the efficiency of the school's processes. Veda has made more connected, tech-friendly, more accessible and more equitable.*
- 2. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Veda has trained more than 20,000 thousand teachers to make them digitally literate and help to sue tolls for digital education. Veda has also created more than 1000 jobs in the tech sector in schools and colleges. Veda directly employees 50 people and the number is growing rapidly, and Veda also employees more than 60+ people in the tech sector.*
- 3. Climate Action: Veda is saving papers by making printed documents, results, homework diaries, printed notices and other documents obsolete. During Covid, helping digitize the assignments, Veda has reduced paper use by a huge margin and calculation puts Veda has saved more than 6000 tones of paper in 2020. Reduction in the amount of paper use reduces deforestation and helps in climate action.*

The specific problem Veda is solving is the inability of schools to go digital in developing nations like Nepal. The underlying reason for these are smaller problems:

- 1. The software available in the market is complex and requires a highly digitally skilled workforce. Developing countries lack a digitally skilled workforce in education.*
- 2. Each software solves part of the problem, as each software is designated for a specific purpose. In countries like Nepal, where there is a lack of a digitally skilled workforce, it's hard for schools to operate multiple software.*
- 3. The software available is costly, and it's above budget for most of the schools as most of the market is budget-friendly.*
- 4. Most of this software require laptops or PCs to operate.*

Lack of technology in education or digital education has made the digital divide between developed and developing nations bigger. Also, in times of disruption like the Covid-19 pandemic, not having a digital platform can halt education for an uncertain period. In Nepal alone, all the schools went offline during the pandemic as they had only a few ways to teach but no way to run schools virtually. Veda helped schools operate virtually and also educate virtually.

Scalability and Future Prospects:

Veda is building an entire ecosystem not just for schools but for students and parents; and working and researching extensively to add new tools to the ecosystem. Veda is also scaling rapidly with a mission to expand in two more countries before 2023. In Nepal alone, Veda targets to work with 2500 schools and colleges within 2023. Veda is dedicated to change the

way schools operate and teach in developing countries, to make them more reachable, efficient and future-proof.

Veda will also increase working with schools in rural and underserved communities like Samata; make technology and education more inclusive.

Awareness Campaigns and Events:

1. Haat Haat Ma Sikshya Campaign:

Veda's Facebook campaign Haat, Haat ma Shikshya is an initiative to create a platform for teachers and students to share experience in managing and learning through an online platform during the times of COVID and how Veda has helped them in this process. The campaign was sponsored by Khalti Digital Wallet with segment sponsorship from Karkhana.

The campaign aimed to celebrate and recognize the efforts of schools, teachers, and students and raise awareness on the digitization in education and teachers and students and the entire education community is slowly adapting to this change.

2. Bhawishya:

Bhawishya is a platform for students to showcase their STEAM talent, come together, learn and collaborate to motivate schools to put emphasis on STEAM education.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Website: <https://veda-app.com>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/tryveda>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/veda.app>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/veda-app/>

NOMINEE CONTACT INFORMATION (for award follow up and coordination)

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