Case Study: Hasiru Rakshaka – Empowering Students to Protect Urban Green Cover in Karnataka

Overview

INDImpact, a socially responsible technology provider, collaborated with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to develop **Hasiru Rakshaka**, a digital platform designed to promote tree conservation and environmental awareness among students. The platform serves as a bridge between educational institutions and local authorities, encouraging active participation in the protection of urban green spaces. By harnessing the power of community and technology, **Hasiru Rakshaka** fosters a new generation of environmentally conscious citizens.

Challenge

Rapid urbanization in Karnataka, particularly in Bengaluru, has led to the decline of the city's tree cover, affecting air quality and biodiversity. While government agencies worked to reverse this trend, there was a need to engage the community, especially the younger generation, in the conservation efforts. Schools and students could play a crucial role in this mission, but there was no streamlined way to connect them with local authorities or track the progress of tree protection initiatives.

To address this, BBMP sought a digital solution that could mobilize students, educate them on environmental sustainability, and create a transparent system for monitoring tree conservation efforts.

Solution

INDImpact developed **Hasiru Rakshaka**, a mobile and web-based platform aimed at encouraging schools and students to adopt trees, track their growth, and participate in various tree conservation activities. Key features of the platform include:

- **Tree Adoption and Monitoring:** Students can adopt trees and are responsible for nurturing and protecting them. The platform allows users to monitor the health and growth of their adopted trees by uploading regular updates and photos.
- **Gamified Engagement:** To make the process interactive and engaging, Hasiru Rakshaka incorporates a point-based system. Students earn points for tree care activities such as watering, mulching, and reporting on tree health. This gamified approach keeps students motivated and fosters a sense of responsibility.
- **Educational Resources:** The platform aims to offer educational content, including guides on tree care, environmental sustainability, and the importance of urban green spaces. This helps students learn while actively participating in tree conservation efforts.
- **Real-Time Data for BBMP:** The system provides BBMP officials with real-time data on the number of trees adopted, student participation rates, and overall tree health. This helps authorities assess the impact of the initiative and identify areas where additional resources are needed.

Implementation

INDImpact worked with the BBMP to launch **Hasiru Rakshaka** across Bengaluru schools as part of a broader initiative to increase the city's tree cover. The platform was designed with user-friendliness in mind, ensuring that students and teachers could easily access and navigate its features.

Training sessions were conducted in schools to familiarize teachers and students with the platform's functionalities. Educational institutions were encouraged to make tree adoption a part of their extracurricular activities, aligning the program with their environmental studies curriculum.

Impact

Though the project is still in its early stages, **Hasiru Rakshaka** has already begun to show tangible results:

- **Increased Student Participation:** Hundreds of students across Bengaluru have adopted trees through the platform, becoming actively involved in protecting their local environment.
- **Improved Environmental Awareness:** Through the educational resources and hands-on involvement, students are gaining a deeper understanding of environmental sustainability and the importance of urban green cover.
- **Enhanced Tree Care and Monitoring:** The system allows students to track the growth and health of trees in real-time, ensuring that trees receive the necessary care. This data helps BBMP improve its green cover management strategy by identifying areas needing more attention.
- **Community Engagement:** By integrating schools and students into the city's environmental efforts, the platform has strengthened the sense of community around tree conservation.

Conclusion

Hasiru Rakshaka, developed by INDImpact, is empowering the next generation to play an active role in preserving Karnataka's urban green cover. By leveraging technology and community engagement, this initiative provides a scalable and sustainable model for tree conservation that can be replicated in other regions.

As **Hasiru Rakshaka** continues to grow, it holds the promise of creating a more environmentally conscious society while helping the government achieve its urban reforestation goals.