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Getting info will be easier now City Boy Develops Software To Use Mobile As A Resource

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Nagpur: Can your cellphone teach you basic English or mathematics? Or can it become your personal secretary by helping you in emergency like requirement of blood? Seems to be a strange concept but it has been turned into a reality by a city boy.

Abhay Murarka from Nagpur has come up with an innovative idea titled "Swashikar" — a unique software that blends mobile technology with interactive media. The software can provide basic needs: a click of a button — affordable education, proper healthcare services and providing them a facility through which they can bring the wrongdoings at the very grassroot level immediately to the concerned persons' notice.

"This technology could prove to be a boon for the rural people. A person just needs a cellphone to take advantage of this software. The Panchayat Raj department of Rajasthan government has approached our college for studying the software."

Abhay, who is pursuing computer science from the well-known BITS Pilani, told TOI. He was assisted by his batchmates Vishrut Shukla and Ankit Govil.

A son of former president of Nagpur Chamber of Commerce Limited (NCCL) Bhagirath Murarka, Abhay says "Swashikar" comprises three separate modules — shiksha (literacy), swasthya (healthcare) and adhikar (rights), which are combined to "provide the software its unique name".



"80% of Indian population stays in rural areas and hardly get access to good education. As a result, the nation has a poor literacy rate of 65%. The 'Shiksha' module could bridge this gap. It has a potential of serving as a vehicle for mass literacy in villages for people of all ages," he stressed.

"Shiksha", through its small video and voice-based lessons on topics ranging from mathematics to English, builds an easy-to-scale, quick and efficient methodology for spreading basic education among the rural populations.

► **Shiksha has an online presence already, P 4**