

Advisory Policy Manual



About Wikimedia India

The Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to encouraging the growth, development and distribution of free, multilingual, educational content, and to providing the full content of these wiki-based projects to the public free of charge. The Wikimedia Foundation operates some of the largest collaboratively edited reference projects in the world, including Wikipedia, a top-ten internet property.

The **Wikimedia India Chapter** (Registered Name: *Wikimedia Chapter*) promotes and educate the general Indian public about the availability and use of free and open educational content, which includes the ability to access, develop and contribute to encyclopaedias, dictionaries, books, images, etc. It is an autonomous entity that does not have any editorial control over content on Wikipedia and its related projects. The Chapter does not have access to the servers hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation in the USA.

Wikimedia India was formally approved by the Board of Trustees, Wikimedia Foundation after the recommendation of the Chapters Committee in June 2010 and India became the 29th country to host a Wikimedia Chapter. The Wikimedia Chapter was formally registered as a Non-profit Society vide Registrar of Societies, Bangalore Urban District on 03 Jan 2011.



Mission And Vision

The **mission** of the Wikimedia India is to *empower and engage the Indian general public to collect and develop educational content under a free license or in the public domain, and to disseminate it effectively and globally.*

The **vision statement** of the Wikimedia India describes our dreams, hopes and ambitions; our most radical conception of our organization and community 100 years from today. Our current vision statement is:

Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge.

That's our commitment.



Core Value And Standards

Freedom

An essential part of the Wikimedia India's mission is encouraging the development of free-content educational resources that may be created, used, and reused by the entire human community. We believe that this mission requires thriving open formats and open standards on the web to allow the creation of content not subject to restrictions on creation, use, and reuse.

At the creation level, we want to provide the editing community with freely licensed tools for participation and collaboration. Our community should also have the freedom to fork thanks to freely available dumps.

The community will in turn create a body of knowledge which can be distributed freely throughout the world, viewable or playable by free software tools.

Accessibility and quality

All the legal freedom to modify or distribute educational content is useless if users cannot get access to it. We try our best to give online access to high quality Wikimedia project content 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, as well as provide access to regularly updated, user-friendly, and free dumps of Wikimedia project content. We try, through partnerships if necessary, to ensure the widest distribution, through DVD's, books, PDF's, or other noninternet based means.

To ensure world-wide, unrestricted, dissemination of knowledge, we do not enter into exclusive partnerships, with regards to access to our content or use of our trademarks.



Commitment to openness and diversity

Our Board of trustees, staff members, and volunteers are involved without discrimination based on their religion, political beliefs, sexual preferences, nationalities, etc. Not only do we accept diversity, but we actually look forward to it.

Transparency

We must communicate information to Wikimedia India in a transparent, thorough and timely manner, to our communities and more generally, to the public.

Our community is our biggest asset

We are a community-based organization. We must operate with a mix of staff members, and of volunteers, working together to achieve our mission. We support community-led collaborative projects, and must respect the work and the ideas of our community. We must listen and take into account our communities in any decisions taken to achieve our mission.



Advisory Board

Rationale

The primary objective of setting up an advisory board at Wikimedia India is to receive support, suggestions, guidance, advice and help in achieving chapter's objective from distinguished individuals having excelled in their respective fields and mission. The advisory board members would provide a non-binding advice to the Executive Committee Members, Wikimedia India Staff and the community comprising of long list of editors across different language groups.

The function of the advisory board would be to offer assistance to the chapter with anything from legal advice to management of finances to carry forward the goals of the chapter. Advisory board members would provide the chapter with new knowledge, development of strategic thinking and possible alternatives based on their expertise from different fields. The advisory board would in turn strengthen the executive committee and wikimedia staff to better execute their work, but does not interfere with either the executive committee or wikimedia india staff regarding the disclosure of confidential documents or forceful execution of their advices.

Mandate

The selection of the advisory board members would be determined by the nature of what is sought and expected by the chapter, as the per the situation in that period. For instance, an individual having expertise in the field of language engineering may be appointed depending upon the chapter's requirement in dealing a particular problem, at a specified time period.

Focus

The Individuals appointed in the advisory board would have the common objective of promoting chapter's objective. Promotion of any person or objective with vested interest falls outside the purview of advisory board and the chapter carries a no tolerance policy in this regard.

Size

The advisory board would not have any fixed size, but it is preferred that it consist of 4-8 members. One member would be an individual having an international experience in working with the Wikimedia organisation. The next group of these members would be individuals who were the founding members of the Chapter. The last group of members would be individuals having experience across four different fields such as legal, information technology, government regulation, administrative experience, etc.

Term of membership

Advisory board members would be appointed for a specific terms of two years so that it ensures them to actively commit to their respective roles. However, the members may be reappointed immediately again after their completion of the term, repeatedly over-again, based on their expertise as required by the chapter.



Code Of Conduct

Wikimedia Chapter Society is a charitable organization whose Advisory Committee members serve the public purposes to which it is dedicated. The members of the Advisory Committee of Wikimedia Chapter, in recognition of the principles for which the Society stands and its purpose, accept a personal obligation to each other, the General Body and the communities they serve, to hereby commit themselves to the highest ethical and moral conduct and agree:

1. To treat all persons with respect and fairly, regardless of factors such as caste, creed, colour, religion, religion, sex, socioeconomic status or sexual orientation.
2. To accept responsibility to make advises consistent with the welfare of the Society and its members and to promptly address factors that might endanger the Society or its members.
3. To reject bribery, corruption and nepotism in all its forms.
4. To avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest, whenever possible, and to make full and fair disclosure of any such real or perceived conflicts to the Executive Committee of the Society.
5. To be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data and to respect confidentiality of information, whenever shared.
6. To avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious action.

