

# **Mini Debian Conference-Pune**

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# Debian in Education

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Why technology in education?

*“Those who cannot remember the past  
are condemned to repeat it.”*

-- George Santayana

# एकलव्य, ékalavya

First methods of knowledge transfer

- Gurukul system
- Papyrus, tree bark, cave walls etc...
- Difficult to make copies of knowledge
- First documented act of knowledge “piracy” ;)
- Exclusion based on caste-class etc

# Advent of printing press and its impact.



Digital knowledge\* is like

'akshaya patra (अक्षयपात्र)'

OR

'5 loaves of bread and 2 fish'

\*If I can feed the entire world at the cost of feeding one person is it ethical not to share?

# Teaching and Learning

- Spoon feeding vs. Constructing knowledge
- Constructing knowledge – Individual vs. Social
- Primary, secondary, high school and above...



# What's DebianEdu?

...is a Debian project to make the best distribution  
for educational purposes.

Debian Edu 5.0.5+edu1 Codename "Lenny" –  
Current release

# The goals are

- to provide a complete software solution using free software ...
  - tailored for the needs and use-cases in educational scenarios.
  - preconfigured for easy installation (standalone, as well as network-wide rollout).
  - easy to use, maintain, and administer.
  - supporting your language natively.

# Challenges

- Tools not natively built for Indian context
- Not fully localised
- Lack of availability of cheap / free hardware
- Right to education also needs free internet
- Lack of user-friendly support

# Support

- Sakshat project (Government)
- OLPC and various Indian initiatives

# References

- <http://wiki.debian.org/DebianEdu>
- <http://www.slx.no/>

Questions?