

# SE PROJECT SYNOPSIS

## OpenSchool : On-demand voluntary mentoring platform

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### Problem Statement :

To design an on-demand mentoring web platform for school students helping them connect and learn from experienced people based on matching needs of students to the expertise of teachers.

### Abstract :

The learning environment for most school students is restricted by a standardized curriculum that reflects very little of what is going on in the real world. As the National Education Policy 2020 recognizes, it is important for students to understand the interdisciplinary nature of all fields of study, as against the stark partitioning of subjects that is suggested by the structure of school curriculum. Many students are curious but the school curriculum and time table is too restrictive for them to explore in depth at school. For students to be able to make better decisions regarding higher education and career choices, initiating a conversation with experienced individuals in different fields is necessary.

The second problem we address is the lack of quality teachers or even students' discomfort with the medium of instruction that makes students lose interest in some subjects. Different students are suited to different teaching styles and it is not possible for a single subject teacher at school to cater to the individual needs of each child. It is unfortunate and unnecessary that students develop a fear of some subjects, lose confidence and fall behind when the right kind of help would improve their performance.

Many experienced people in academia have a passion for teaching but are unable to make commitments because of other demands of senior positions. We want to connect them to students as volunteer mentors for one-time sessions either for help with school work or for more advanced discussion.

This is a more flexible and liberal solution than private tuitions that simply follow the school curriculum. We also leverage the entire community of passionate teachers from all different backgrounds and locations. Online knowledge sharing communities and forums like Quora do not provide real-time interactive discussions. They answer only very specific questions and are cluttered by spam and low-quality answers. We want to initiate open discussions with reliable mentors to facilitate the education of school students.

### Aims :

1. Create a web application where students and teachers can register, request and schedule mentoring sessions.
2. Let students request a session by specifying a subject or field of study or career path with any level of broadness and show the request to targeted teachers.

3. Let students select from among the teachers that respond based on experience, language and other details on the profile of the teacher.
4. Keep the platform free for all participants with mentors participating on a voluntary basis.

**Objectives :**

1. Give students a chance to ask questions and discuss ideas beyond the scope of their school curriculum.
2. To help students gain exposure to mentors with diverse experiences, teaching styles and language backgrounds.
3. No long-term or recurring time commitments, limited to a few hours based on availability

**Functional Requirements :**

1. Students and mentors should be able to create their profiles.
2. Student should be able to post a request for a mentoring session as per their requirements- subject, grade, preferred dates, preferred time slots, preferred language, type of session (help with schoolwork / advanced discussion).
3. Mentors who have registered as voluntary mentors for that subject should be notified of the request.
4. Mentors should be able to confirm the slot with the student.
5. The student should be able to see a list of all available mentors who have responded, along with their profiles and past reviews/credential badges.
6. The meeting link for the platform of choice will have to be shared. (No personal contact details exchanged.)
7. The student should be able to post a review of the mentor after the session.

**Software development summary :**

This is a Web Application.

1. Scripting Language: JavaScript
2. Backend Framework: Express.js in Node environment.
3. Frontend Library: React.js
4. Database: MySQL.