

## **LooKeys application: Keys of the Future**

India is a multilingual country with 18 formal languages. Those 18 languages use 10 different scripts and include hundreds of different characters.

Indian languages have thrice the number of characters than English does and it is rather hard to squeeze them all in one keyboard. Therefore, Indian languages keyboards are not available. Lack of Indian languages keyboards prevent the majority of Indians from using the Internet, sending E-mails, chatting, online shopping and basic word processing. FTK developed LooKeys application which enables Indian languages speakers to now surf on the web, send E-mails, chat, make online shop and basic word process becomes easy in their mother tongue.

As smart gadgets make their markets in rural areas and in semi-urban cities, one of the requirements of the population will be to type in vernacular language. They should be able to send sms, chat, social network, browse in their mother tongue. Says A Talapatra, Founder, Fast Keys: "This will increase the intensity of usage of such devices and in particular among the young population. This was the thinking which prompted us to develop an intuitive keyboard where the keyboard changes as per typing sequence. There is no to know English to use this keyboard."

This initiative is developing an intuitive and dynamic keyboard in all the scheduled 22 languages of India. The keyboard displays all matras and conjuncts ensuring that words are correctly written. "We still have challenges as penetrations of smart gadgets have been slow in B, C, and D class cities and in rural areas. Also some of the Government initiatives to provide low cost gadgets to students have not yet taken off", Talapatra opines. Fast Keys do not charge from the customer as of now. Since our software is based on Android, we have to work with the OEMs of smart gadgets so that the Operating system is fully rendered before we put our tool. More usage and stress on typing in vernacular will lead to a multiplier effect and enable our vast majority to search and get knowledge of different utilities and schemes other than communicating with their user group. The software used in Fast Keys is Unicode compliant and hence a non-user of software can also see the message in their vernacular on their Android device.