

Combining an ancient system with modern technology

Learn how the RKM Students' Home is digitizing their processes and becoming a paperless campus



RAMAKRISHNA MISSION STUDENTS' HOME

Palace for the poor
Chennai, India

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The institution

Founded in 1905, the **Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home-Chennai**, has seen many a prominent visitor—like Mahatma Gandhi in 1915 to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in 2000. The home houses more than 670 orphaned and underprivileged students, providing them with education, shelter, and food. The home combines the ancient Gurukula system with modern technology, under the care of the monks of the Ramakrishna Order and a team of dedicated teachers.



The challenge

The onset of the pandemic in 2020 made it a struggle for staff to maintain their paperwork while everything was going remote, so they began looking for a more reliable solution. This led them to low-code and Zoho Creator.

We spoke to Swami Satyajnanananda, secretary of the students' home, Mr. Chandrasekaran, head of the Accounts department, and Mr. D. Dhilipkumar, HOD Computer Engineering department, Ramakrishna Mission Polytechnic College, to learn how they overcame these hurdles, and how they're advancing their institute into a digitized one.



Zoho Creator came just in time.

Swami Satyajnanananda
Secretary

Before Zoho Creator, the institute ran all of their processes on paper, manually. Admission applications had to be collected in person or sent through the mail to students. This had been happening up until March 2020, when the first wave of the pandemic began. After this, they found it increasingly difficult to get people to come in person for the administration process.

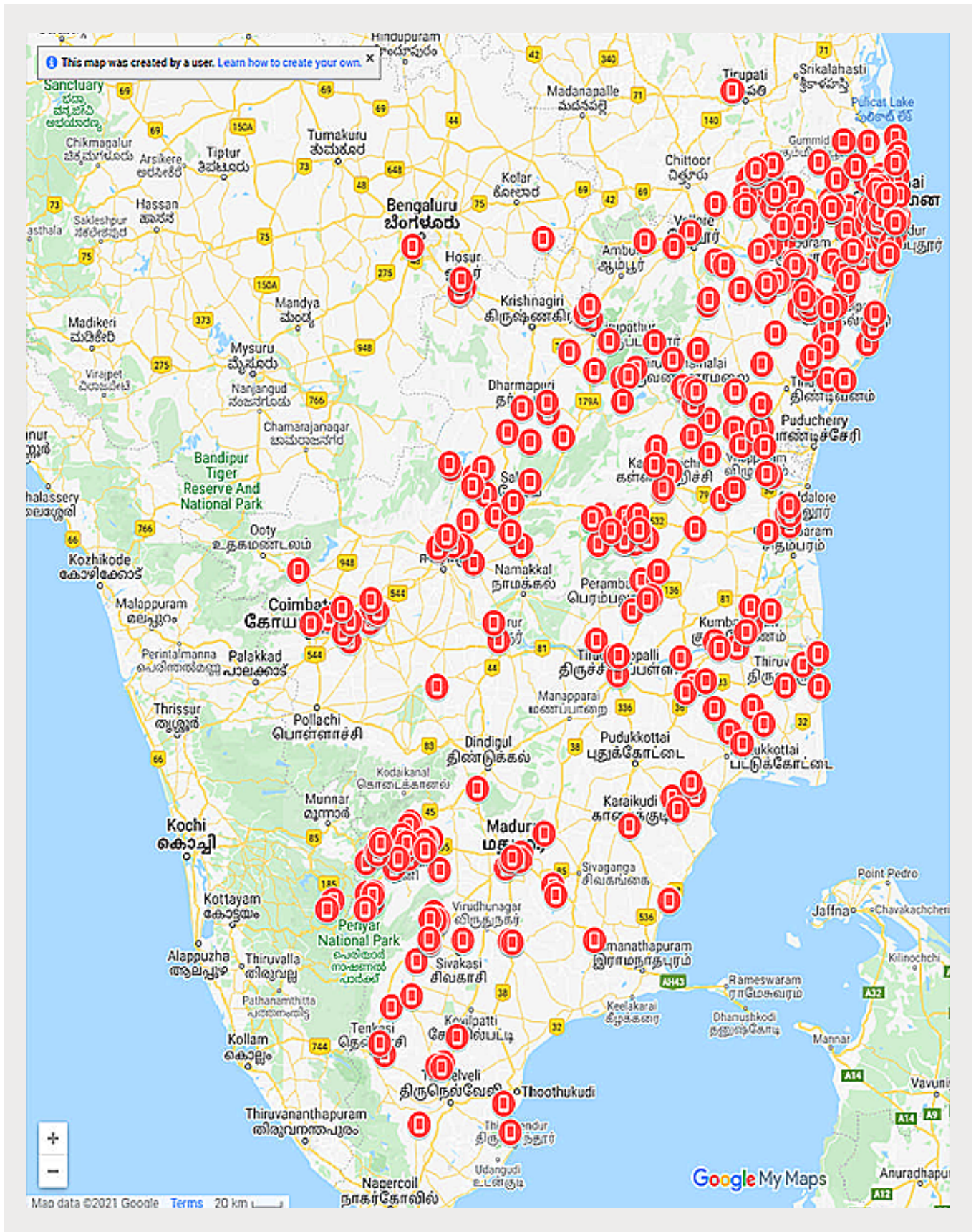
Thankfully, the previous year, they'd gotten to know about Zoho products through word of mouth from their ex-students who work in Zoho after completing their training in Zoho University, and due to the urgency of the situation, they began experimenting with the products they required.

The solution

With the help of a few organizations, all students from class 6 and up to Diploma final year have been provided with tablets worth over \$86,000 USD. The tablets have enabled the students to study and attend their lessons from home, and staff were able to monitor their usage, strictly ensuring only schoolwork was allowed on the devices. Considering that students were now using tablets, it only made sense for the school to digitize the campus, at which point they came up with the Zoho MDM app.



Devices across India that are using their MDM application



Already having a 10-year relationship with Zoho University, it wasn't hard for Mr. Dhilipkumar, HOD of the Computer Science department, to find his way to Zoho Creator.



I've been using Zoho Creator for about 4 years now, and half my knowledge came through learning the Deluge script.



D. Dhilipkumar

HOD Computer Engineering Department
Polytechnic College



Before Creator, they were entering admissions details into Excel on a daily basis, which led to sheets and sheets being sent to administrators every day. The first process to be digitized were these admission processes, where all the manual forms were entered into a form built on Creator.



We were able to make, launch, and start using the app in just 3 days.

D. Dhilipkumar

HOD Computer Engineering Department
Polytechnic College



Benefits and ROI

One of their most recognized projects was sending Covid relief kits worth 2,500 INR per kit to families all over Chennai. They initially didn't have information for affected families, and had no way of contacting them. But once the Chennai corporation handed them the details, they made a form on Creator, which the families could then fill out, along with their test results and their health status. As this was a time-based project, the kits were expected to be delivered within a few days, and this new form-based process helped them immensely.



A look at their custom Covid relief package application

AYANAM
DHILIPKUMAAR

- School Admissions
- Polytechnic Admission
- Reports for Export
- My Applications
- Students
- Class Time Table
- Class Attendance
- Hostel Timetable
- Hostel Attendance
- Multi Skill Activities
- Settings

Admission #	21JH22	Skill	
Name :	MOHAN		
Attendance :	0%		
Medical :	Normal		
CGPA :	0		
Discipline :	0%		

Student Details	
Student Name	MOHAN
Initial:	R
Application Number	21HS-104
Date of Admission	27-Sep-2021
Unique ID	
Register Number	
Admission Number	21JH22
DOTE Approval Number	
Father Name:	Ramesh
Mother Name:	Sivapriya
Date of Birth	08-Sep-2010

COVID - Relief Kit
Subscription
Edit this application
Help

- Dashboard
- S1 - Patients Applied
- S2 - Verification Process
- S3 - Approval Process
- S4 - Dispatch Process
- Reports
- FeedBack

Total Patients Applied

1208	694	514
Total	Male	Female

Verification Process

0	763	445
Pending	Verified	Denied

Approval Process

0	763	0	0
Pending	Approved	Rejected	Reprocess

Dispatch Process

0	763	741
Pending	Dispatched	Delivery Verified

Dispatched Details

“

We couldn't have done this project without Creator. Any other other application could not have gotten the job done this effectively.

Swami Satyajnanananda

Secretary

”

Creator provided them with support and developer teams that checked the workflows they created, made sure the data was entered correctly, and finalized the approval. This allowed them to deliver their kits throughout Chennai with ease and much faster than the time needed to send out the kits.

“

It is very user-friendly. I decided there could not be a better low-code platform, and that this was the best.



Mr. Chandrasekaran,

Head of Accounts Department

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From starting with a basic form to launching a Covid-relief application, the team is now able to make almost any app they may need to digitize the school and the Students's Home's internal processes

Bringing in the students

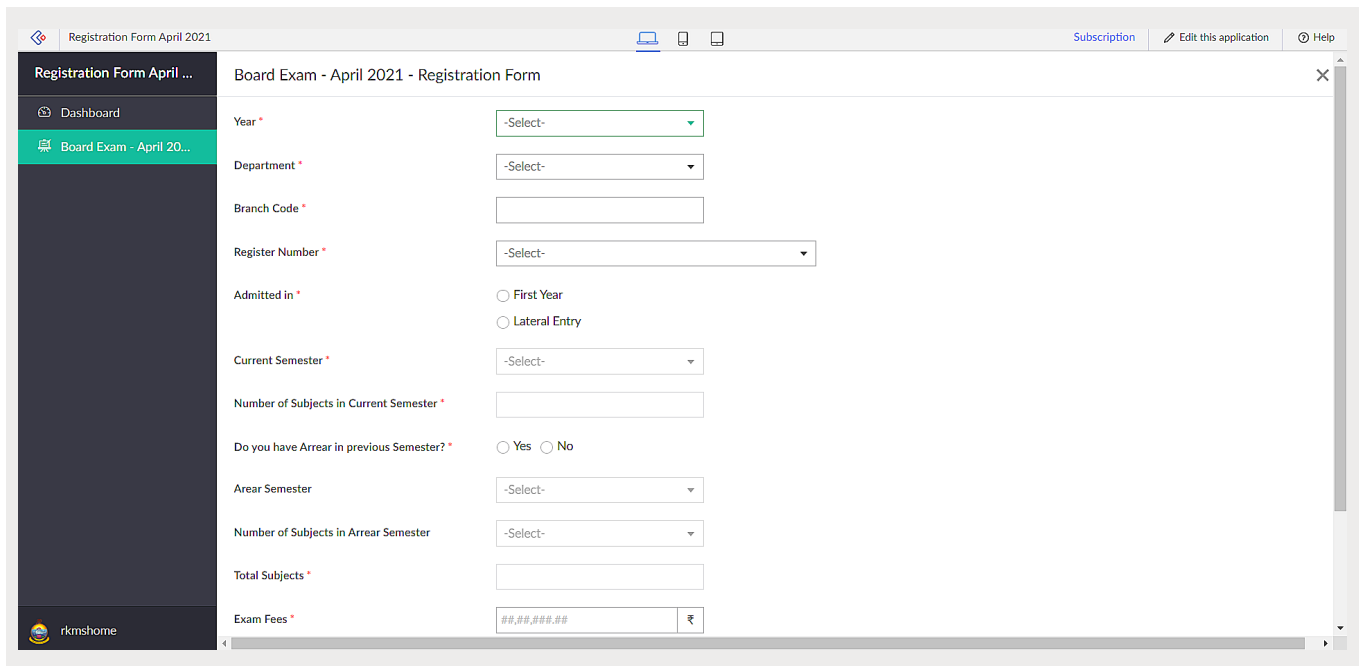
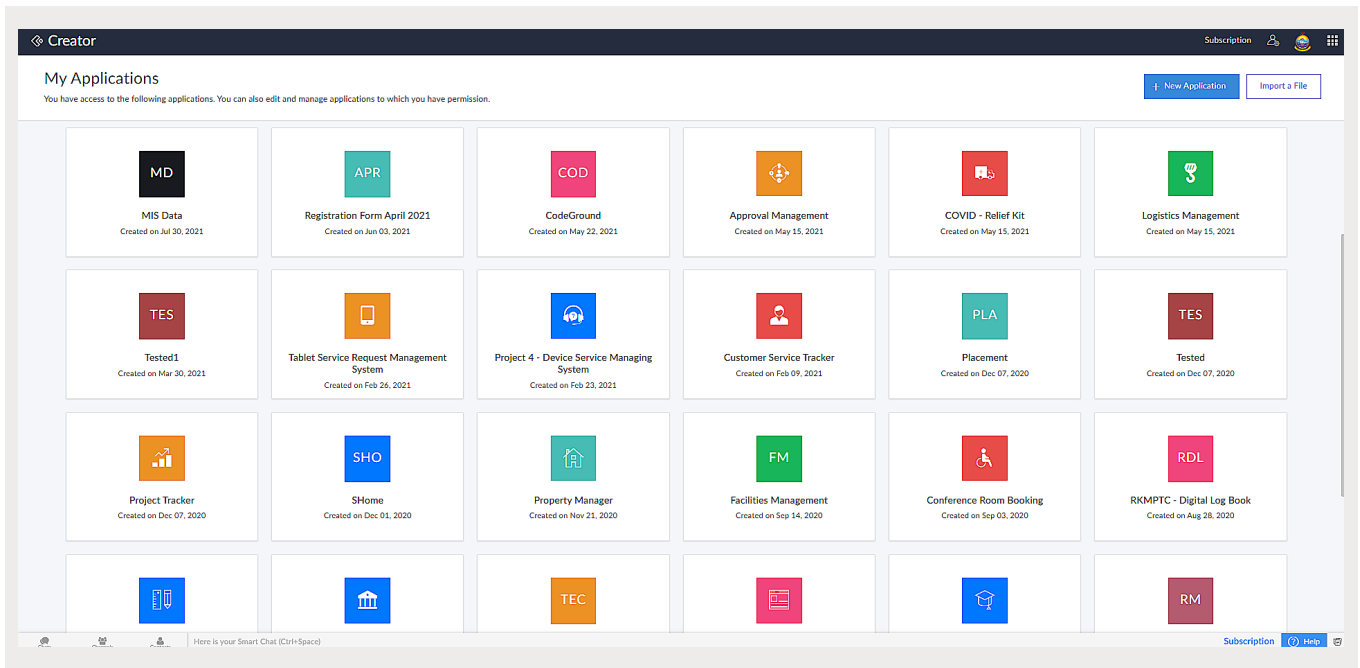
Every year, final semester students have to finish a major project before graduating. For the past 3 years, these students have been given projects to encourage them to learn about Zoho products, focusing especially on Zoho Creator. Through these projects, they gain knowledge in form creation, report generating, and workflow automation. These projects kindled an interest in low-code and app development platforms, which has resulted in placement opportunities at Zoho Corporation, and various other software companies.

Looking forward

The campus is now in the process of launching different apps to replace their paper-based admin processes. The students continue to learn more about the advancements in application development and low-code, and create apps of their own for their projects. Each department is soon going to have a set of custom applications for their own purposes.



Some of the custom applications that the institute created



About Zoho Creator

Running a business is no mean feat, and we believe we can help. At Zoho Creator, we've always worked towards a single purpose—enabling the citizen developer to build functional apps without having to learn to code. Rapidly build custom applications that are a perfect fit for your business, or choose from our extensive range of prebuilt apps and modify them. Just sign up, pick a plan, and start building!

Great brands trust us:





www.zoho.com/creator

We'd love to talk! Reach out to us:
hello@zohocreator.com



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