## Intro

As the world's largest superpower, the United States of America has the second largest education system. Although there are tons of options available for the students to choose from, that tends to be counterproductive to their process of choice; some students can't choose between so many options because they don't know which one's better for them. Not to mention the overwhelming amount of information that's got to be communicated for each institute they read up about. That's where we come in!

The College Monk has become one of the fastest growing university search portals in the U.S. By specializing in the provision of critical information collected from over 4,000 educational institutions, which are not limited to student loans, scholarships, and career guides, it offers a helping hand to students who wish to gain some convenience in their pursuit for the perfect place of study for their educational needs.

As of now, the College Monk keeps a track record of over a million users spanning across all platforms.

## The College Monk History

The idea of "The College Monk" began when Lohith P. and Shameer Khan were collecting every college's profile they had listed. With these profiles, they could collect relevant data on them for their research project. The big twist came when they observed that the portals on which they did their research focused on just a single aspect of a college or a university; it was either about student loans, or about the tuition and fee structures, or just about anything related to the institute itself... but never all of it together!

It dawned on them how this can create issues for students looking to do research on their desired school, especially with regards to the costs involved and the loan payment programs that most likely scare them off due to the complexity involved. Judging from the research issues they were facing themselves - let alone the students - Lohith and Shameer knew a collated system would be required for this.

Fittingly nicknaming this new joint as "The College Monk" - because monks are knowledgeable individuals - they set out on their way to build a small team and work towards making the idea a proof of concept. With this, the company took to Upneet Grover - founder of GetMyUni, one of the leading education platforms in India - who himself was looking to branch out into the education sector in the U.S. Seeing how the company matched his vision for doing something different, the College Monk was provided with a gracious funding of **\$500,000** on his behalf, along with other investors.

Thus, **May of 2018** marked the foundation of what made the College Monk the company it is today; to provide itself as an encyclopedic resource that details the economical and financial nature of all American institutions.

## **Performance and Uniqueness**

The College Monk saw a large chunk of the traffic fixating themselves on online education because that's what everyone wanted. In a world like the one to-day, technology is everything. Since modern media technology has brought upon a lot of convenience in how we perceive knowledge, it made sense for them to provide accurate information on online educational institutions - the majors or disciplines they offer and at what cost - using said technology.

But, let's face it; that only addresses the online component. So what about the traditional educational institutions?

Simply put, once the company had a firm placement in providing information on online education, they began to widen their horizon and riveted their focus towards traditional institutions. And the rest is history! By providing resources without compromising on simplicity and approachability, they saw a surge in traffic, and achieved their status as one of the most reliable and informative education portals available to online users today - all in a span of 2 whole years.

The College Monk has listed an approximate 100,000 scholarships in their website for students, who are free to access that information and do their research without feeling suffocated by the complexities involved. But it doesn't stop there.

The company has provided various financial calculators to help the user comprehend the finances involved in the research they are partaking in. Money management? They've got you. Student loan payment calculations? They've still got you! As a cherry on top, they're also the first portal to have written about the loan programs and other related queries in detail.

Additionally, they will offer to help you with score conversions for students who wish to either join a new institution or change their existing one based on the grading systems itself.

## **Future Plans**

Currently, the College Monk aims to gain double the number of users by the end of the summer term 2020. It's long-term vision? To become one of the leading and most reliable ed-tech portals for the US education industry as well as for those wanting to pursue education online.

There's never a moment when the education industry isn't trending; there's always a wide scope for improvements to be made, which paves a way for growing portals like The College Monk to guide millions of ambitious students in becoming professionally successful.