

DIGITALIZATION OF EDUCATION THROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF ICT

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Abstract

The focus of the central government needs to be now on encouraging states to take steps for improvements in quality of education. It is in this context, that steps are being undertaken to create a single scheme for school education by merging the different Centrally Sponsored Schemes with the broader goal of improving school effectiveness like that of Operation Black Board, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamic Shiksha Abhiyan, etc. This sector-wide development programme / scheme with various digitalization method would envisage one comprehensive strategic plan for development of the school education.

Keywords: Digitalization, ICT.

Introduction

The human civilization has come a long way from the days of cave dwelling and bare-hand-hunting. The one constant which has brought about a change in human way of life is technology. It is the development in technology which has brought the humans out of cave.

The present age is undoubtedly of digital technology, which has unshared in a new era of human existence which knows no bounds in terms of changes in the way of life. Technology whether as an end in the pursuit of human happiness or a tool to achieve a human purpose has come to play a seminal role in the field of education. Just as the modern world is today unthinkable bereft of technology, education too would fall short of an "enlightening experience" without the use of technology. Technology is perhaps as diverse as the life forms on the planet earth.

Since the modern world belongs to an era of automation driven by the digital technology, the Oxford dictionary tells us that the technology is "the collection of mechanical arts that are available to a culture to make its economy and society function".

Facilitating e-Education

Ours is a society where in the literacy rates stand at 74% and the industry struggles to find skilled labour and employable graduates. In such a scenario, it is all the more pertinent to have an atmosphere of value addition to one's knowledge base and skill sets.

Black boards were perhaps the first instance of the technology use in the classroom. Digital technology is now defining the contours of technological interventions in the field of education. Digital platforms of e-learning are a one step solution to such needs of the economy and society. The e-Education industry of India is presently valued of 247 millions USD and is set to grow eight folds to about 2 billions USD by 2021 according to a report released by Google and KPMG. The common people are becoming more and more aware of these digital platforms of e-education. The online education have doubled over past two years and there is a four times rise in educational content on online platforms over the same period. The current need is to popularise

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these channels so that geography does not hinder the yearning of education and it becomes available right at home of the rural population as well.

To promote the digitalization of education the government has taken various steps and launched various schemes / programmes to teach all of the large population of India, the majority of which is (weakened in remote) villages. Several schemes to promote education at a large are Shagun Portal, Swayam, Swayam PRABHA, National Academic Depository (NAD), National Digital Library, e-BASTA, DIKHA, e-paathshala, Global Initiative of Academic Network (GIAN), and so on, making education digitalized for students as well as teachers.

Shagun Portal

Launched in January 2017 to enable real time monitoring of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan components and various decisions on elementary education taken during the reviews by hon'ble prime minister. It is a valuable tool enabling states and UT's to assess and improve their performance regarding education.

Swayam

The ministry of HRD, has embarked on a major and new initiative called "Study Webs of Active learning for Young Aspiring Minds" (SWAYAM), which will provide one integrated platform and portal for online course, using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and covering all higher education subjects and skill sector course to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at affordable cost.

Swayam Prabha

It is an initiative to provide 52 high quality educational channels through DTH (Direct To Home) across the length and breadth of the country on 24x7 basis. This would enable to deliver education in a most cost effective manner.

National Digital Library (NDL)

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is establishing the National Digital Library (NDL) under the national mission on education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) with the objective to host a national repository of existing e-content available across educational institutions in the country and e-content developed under NMEICT. The objective of the project is to integrate all the existing digitised and digital content across educational and cultural institutions / bodies to provide a single window access to different groups of users ranging across the entire population.

e-BASTA

It is an online portal that brings together three classes of stakeholder i.e. schools students and publishers. Publisher can upload their paid and free content on the portal, schools and students can shift through online books, organise them and create an e-BASTA of books which can be accessed from any where.

Diksha

It is a National Digital Infrastructure for teachers, providing teacher training courses, resources like lesson plans, concept videos mapped to curriculum. It will help teachers to create training content, profile, in class resources, assessment aids, news and announcements and connect with teacher community. It also aids teachers to learn and train themselves for which teacher assessment resources will be available.

Global Initiative of Academic Network (GIAN)

It is a higher education programme under which foreign faculty would participate and deliver courses in IIT's, IIM's, and central universities in India etc. through various mediums including Web casting.

e-Paathshala

It provide appess to digital textbooks for all classes, graded, learning materials and unabled participation in the exhibition, contest, festivals, workshops, etc. It can be appessed as Open Educational Resources where no teacher support / hand holding for students is available.

Role of Technology

The role of technology in teaching and learning can not be undermined. Technology undoubtedly is invading traditional schools. It's the era of the tablets, e-content, computers and digital training. An increasing number of traditional classrooms sector in personal - use technology as part of the curriculum. Many studies have shown that technology can act as an effective agent of change in the classroom. Technology in classroom increases independent access and learning, provides greater choices for content delivery, increases self confidence, enhances communication, provide flexibility in teaching, learning and evaluating and give immediate feedback. The initiative of digital black board is need of the hour. As pointed out by the prime minister, " technology will be the driving force in improving the quality of education in the country". It is a huge investment, but it is expected to radically change the way children are being taught. Technology might also help in enhancing the learning level, specially of children with significant learning challenges.

Conclusion

The thrust on technology as the driver of quality improvement in education is also a shift that needs further unpacking in the light not just of the short falls in unabling infrastructure, but also in terms of the implications for teaching practices. Technology has become a convenient way of side stepping deeper institutional problem that plague the sector. The government is looking for quick fix solution thorough digitalization of education and information and communication technology

addressing the larger issues of implementation failure that has been the course problem ailing the educational sector.

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