NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020 AND EQUITABLE E-LEARNING THROUGH A MULTIMODAL SYSTEM-PM eVIDYA

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ABSTRACT

The National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and founded on the five guiding pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability .The National Education Policy 2020 visions an Education system rooted in Indian ethos that Contributes directly to transforming India into an equitable and vibrant knowledge Society.

New circumstances and realities require new initiatives. The recent rise in epidemics and pandemics necessitates that we are ready with alternative modes of quality education whenever and wherever traditional and in-person modes of education are not possible. In this regard, the National Education Policy 2020 recognizes the importance of leveraging the advantages of technology while acknowledging its potential risks and dangers. It calls for carefully designed and appropriately scaled pilot studies to determine how the benefits of online/digital education can be reaped while addressing or mitigating the downsides. In the meantime, the existing digital platforms and ongoing ICT-based educational initiatives must be optimized and expanded to meet the current and future challenges in providing quality education for all.

PM eVidya is a comprehensive initiative as a part of Aatma Nirbhar Programme, which unifies efforts related to digital/ on-air education to enable coherent multi-mode access to education. It provides multi-modal learning access to students, teachers, parents, ensuring inclusion to overcome digital divide. The initiative will fulfil our vision of making India a great hub of digital learning by addressing digital divide, enabling equitable learning.

Keywords: - PM eVIDYA, E-Learning, Multi Modal, Equitable

INTRODUCTION

India is a global leader in information and communication technology and in other cutting-edge domains, such as space. The Digital India Campaign is helping to transform the entire nation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. While education will play a critical role in this transformation, technology itself will play an important role in the improvement of educational processes and outcomes; thus, the relationship between technology and education at all levels is bidirectional.

The PM eVIDYA Scheme was Launched under the One Nation one Digital Platform With the Objective Of Protecting the education Of Children during the covid -19 Pandemic.

Realizing the importance of digital education and its ability to ensure continuity of school education even in the current scenario, a programme for multi-mode access to digital/ online education was launched on 17th May, 2020 under the PM eVidya Program. As a comprehensive initiative, PM eVIDYA envisions to unify all efforts related to digital/ online/on-air education, benefitting nearly 25 crore school going children across the country.

THE INITIATIVE INCLUDES:

- DIKSHA- The nation's digital infrastructure for states/UTs for providing QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades, MOOCs courses, and quality e-content for school education for students, teachers (One Nation, One Digital Platform)

- SWAYAM PRABHA- One earmarked TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (One Class, One Channel)

- SWAYAM- Online courses in MOOCS format for Open school or NIOS • On Air- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast - Shiksha Vani

- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired: Developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/YouTube

- Online Coaching: ITPAL for IITJEE/NEET preparation

OBJECTIVES:-

1.To Promote digital Education in the country and make e-learning feasible for Students and Teachers.

2.To Promote multi-mode access to digital educational content among students and teachers who might

not have access to a stable internet connection.

COMPONENTS OF PROGRAMME:-

1. **DIKSHA-**

One Nation One Digital Platform DIKSHA, a globally unique, made in India initiative for effective teaching and administration has increased its footprints manifold since the time of its inception. As on date, almost every States/UT utilizes DIKSHA for augmenting teaching and learning processes via curriculum linked curated content and provides access to 80,000+ content pieces across grades, mediums and subjects. In a span of less than 3 years, DIKSHA has gained unparalleled momentum and is gaining prominence amongst end-users. The primary audience of DIKSHA are students, teachers and parent communities due to the ability of DIKSHA to break the barrier of access and provide contextualized content in 18 languages. Moreover, the digital content on DIKSHA is freely accessible and can be further distributed without incurring any cost. Even the consumption of content does not require the users to invest in proprietary tools or technology, ensuring that the content on DIKSHA can be used by one and all and even at the grass root levels.

2. **TV CHANNELS**-

SWAYAM PRABHA SWAYAM PRABHA is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting high quality educational programmes. The programmes cover school education across grades providing modules for teacher's training as well as teaching and learning aids for children of India through 4 channels to help them understand the subjects better and help them in preparing for competitive examinations for admissions to professional degree programmes. It focuses on providing one channel per grade with a sample weekly

schedule to help teachers and students understand the modules to be emphasized upon during the week. The schedule will be available on https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/. Moreover, to maximise the reach of the content, SWAYAM PRABHA is available in Hindi, English and Urdu.

3. SWAYAM

Under the Digital India Initiative of Government of India, NIOS has been identified as one of the partners for the National MOOC initiatives for "Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)". The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged. • NCERT has launched 34 online courses for students (Classes XI-XII) and teachers on the SWAYAM portal. • NIOS offers 18 MOOCs courses at Secondary level and 20 courses at Senior Secondary level. • The MOOCs are developed using the four-quadrant approach – text in PDF, a teaching video, self-assessment exercises; and discussion forum. PRAGYATA Guidelines for Digital Education 37 • These can be accessed at www.swayam.gov.in Students and teachers can access all the course modules (text, videos and assessment questions) for free by logging on to: https://swayam.gov.in/

4. RADIO AND COMMUNITY RADIO

Internet radio is an audio service that is accessible from anywhere in the world. Mukt Vidya Vani (MVV) i.e. Open Education Radio facility will provision educational and informational content for better learning. The web radio will ensure learners with a stream of audio that can be paused/replayed. NIOS organizes live interactive web streaming of Personal Contact Programmes (PCPs) for various subjects of Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational courses for its learners through MVV. The recordings of these audio PCPs are available 24x7 on NIOS website at https://nios.iradioindia.in • Radio Vahini FM 91.2 MHz, the Community Radio Station of NIOS is a means of extending education to school dropouts, learners enrolled through ODL, urban women and to marginalized sections of the society with access to radio. Radio Vahini broadcast is available 24x7 and reaches up to 6-10 kilometers covering approximately 10 lakh listeners including learners. • CBSE Podcasts: Shiksha Vaani is an audio-based learning initiative of CBSE and is available via Android App store. The podcasts cover various subjects of secondary and senior secondary level and are available in English and Hindi. As on date, more than 400 audio files mapped to NCERT curriculum are available on Shiksha Vaani.

5. SPECIAL ECONTENT FOR VISUALLY AND HEARING IMPAIRED

NIOS offers content for specially abled students such as content in Indian sign language for hearing impaired learners and ePub and DAISY enabled 'talking books' for visually impaired learners. • NIOS has developed more than 270 videos in sign language across 7 subjects to provide educational access to learners at secondary level and Yoga courses. Videos can be accesses at https://www.youtube.com/ playlist?list=PLUuOqp8QaNB1SkqZURX0RGcaomsPfkDsI

6. ONLINE COACHING

The Department of Higher Education has provisioned for online learning for preparation of competitive examinations to bridge the divide among the students due to private coaching. • IITPAL (IIT Professor Assisted Learning) is a series of lectures prepared by IIT professors to help students prepare for IIT JEE. IITPAL videos are broadcasted on Swayam Prabha channels 38 PRAGYATA Guidelines for Digital Education • National Test Abhyaas is a personalized adaptive learning application for students enrolling in competitive examinations conducted by the National testing agency. However, across these channels, third party e-content and digital content are available through different You-Tube channels which should be avoided to ensure availability of highly curated and age-appropriate content for the overall development of students and teachers.

IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS:-

The PM eVidya Scheme has been Implemented through a variety of digital mediums to achieve the goal of reaching out to a vast majority of students .The government aims to deliver multi-mode access to educational content, develop new e content, earmark television classes with the help of Direct-To-Home [DTH]channels and use the radio to deliver podcasts, among other services .The government has also specified that the television sets, community radio services and podcasts will fulfil the objective of ensuring that even students who do not have access to the internet attain the education they require.

In the words of Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, the PM eVidya scheme aims to "expand e-learning by liberalizing open distance and online education regulatory framework." Additionally, the government wishes to ensure that "education does not come to a standby under the current situation."

FEATURES:-

- Technology driven initiative which would focus on multi-modal dissemination of learning.

- One earmarked TV Channel For each class from 1 to 12[One class, One channel]

- The Programme envisages extensive use of radio, community radio and podcasts.

- SWAYAM online courses in MOOCS format for school and higher education.

- IITPAL for IITJEE/NEET preparation and air through community radio and CBSE Shiksha Vani podcast.

- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired which is developed on Digitally Accessible Information system [DAISY].

- Top 100 Universities will be permitted to automatically start online courses by 30th May, 2020.

BENEFITS:-

- The initiative will help in preparing the Education system for any future crisis by making it more flexible and easily accessible.

- Provide enhanced learning opportunities to 3.7crore students in higher education.

- Expand e-learning by liberalizing open, distance and online education regulatory framework.

- This should create opportunities for the ed-tech start-ups to create, distribute and monetize relevant digital content targeted at all sections of the society leading to a much wider reach and impact.

- One-stop solution for all learning needs of students through e-content, radio and television.

- Help students and teaches access educational content, even if they don't have access to a stable internet connection, through TV and Radio.

- Special radio podcasts for visually and hearing -impaired students will go a long way in enhancing their knowledge and skills.

IMPACT:-

All School Students, College Students and University Students able to benefit from this programme.

CONCLUSION:-

The **PM eVIDYA** program is to provide quality education to all the students of the country. Education is one of the most affected sectors due to the lockdown. So the Government of India has launched this program in order to provide online education to all the students of the country. The government is going to take all the essential steps to ensure that the education of students does not suffer due to the nationwide lockdown. Now the students of the country are not required to be physically present in order to get an education as they will get an education from the comfort of their home. This will save a lot of time and money and will also bring transparency to the system.

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