Making Education Unstoppable Using OER

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Abstract

Education in the current scenario has been paralyzed along with the pandemic. The mask teaching using technology has taken education altogether to a newer platform. Technology which had a slow crawl in the field of education has now become a unavoidable platform for teaching and learning. Our government has taken many initiatives to make education unstoppable. This paper briefly discusses the needs, challenges and practices to make OER effective at institutional level

Keywords : Eduacation, OER, Technology, Pandemic, Government initiatives

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INTRODUCTION:

Education is being globalized with sharing of educational resources online, common platform and various tools. Education at various ways has become handy. ng to UNESCO, Open Educational Resources are defined as "technology enabled, open provision of educational resources for consultation use and adaptation by the community of the users for non –commercial purposes". According to Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) "open educational resources are digitized materials offered freely and openly for educators, students and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning and research. OER includes learning content, software tools to develop, use and distribute content and implementation resources such as open licences"

NEED:

- Faculty using OER has portrayed to be more quality in the teaching then the teachers who does not
- It helps in widening their knowledge
- Using OER as supplementary teaching material enhances the quality o fteching – learning
- It enables students to learn at their own style and pace
- Students through OER can learn from anywhere in the world with just a smartphone and the Internet.
- OER-based teaching can reach anywhere than the textbook teaching
- It helps to learn and master the concept by providing various informations
- It creates a platform for teachers to create courses based on OER and sell them as well
- Cost effective.
- It provides updated informations unlike text books
- It provides broader knowledge

OER in India

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India had developed the OER movement recently and is marching on the way to digitalize education during these times of pandemic. Following are some of the initiatives taken in our country to make education unstoppable.

- Digital Library of India – It was launched by the National Digital library of India to make resources available for students from primary to post graduate in all Indian Languages
- National Digital Library – A virtual repository of learning resources of all streams, which is a collection of all national and international repositories
- Shodhganga – It is a digital repositories of Indian theses and dessertations submitted in the universities in India
- Vidyanidhi – it is the repository of scholarly publications of journals, articles, conference articles and so on
- Shodhgangotri – A repository of Indian researches that are in progress
- NPTEL – Creates web and video courses and thereby provides resources
- OSCAR – It is a repository of web based learning objects and simulations to teach science
- NCERT – School textbooks and reference books are made available here
- SWAYAM – It is a massive open online course made accessible and available to all
- NIOS – It provides access to school educational materials as well as for vocational and community engagement learning
- Flexilearn – It has free learning resources which the students can access whenever needed
- Shakshat – It provides lifelong learning for students, teachers and those who are working by providing high quality knowledge modules as e contents

CHALLENGES:

Eventhough there are countless resources available., the challenges curbs the fullest use of various reasons like:

- Lack of awareness towards the use of OER
- Lack of support to use OER
- Lack of training
- Lack of funds in Institutions to use OER
- Qualty control
- Accessibility of content

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BEST PRACTICES IN INSTITUTION TO USE OER:

Each educational institution can take responsibility in making the Open Educational Resources used to the maximum even during these times of pandemic

- Supplementary reading link can be created from the OER sources available online to make students engage in the process of learning
- Teachers can be given awareness of Open Educational resources available and that which the can avail for free of cost
- Based on the quality, Educational institutions can take steps to reach and update faculty and students on using the right resource
- Teachers can use OER in the replacement of textbooks, which expands knowledge and helps students to master in the particular field
- Institutions can set up digital library in their institutions where students can access diital resources
- Talks can be conducted on OER, which everyone can get access to

CONCLUSION:

The world is at the finger tip of everyone. Making technology useful and worthwhile is in the hands of educators. Government has taken many initiatives towards OER to make education available even to the farthest. The pandemic has created an opportunity to use OER to the maximum. As teacher Educators let us tap the knowledge resources available and work towards expansion of knowledge.

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