NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND DIKSHA PLATFORM

Miss Shubhangi Nivrutti Lavate

Research Student,

Dr. Patangrao Kadam Mahavidyalaya, Ramanandnagra (Burli)

lavatesulbha@gmail.com

Abstract

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 an important role in the improvement of educational processes and outcomes; thus, the relationship between technology and education at all levels is bi-directional. National Educational Policy 2020 emphasize on use of digital technology in teaching and learning process. The thrust of technological inventions will be for the purposes of improving teaching, learning, evaluation processes, supporting teacher preparation, professional development, enhancing educational access, educational planning, management and administration including processes related to admission, attendance, assessment etc.

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 and advantages of technology while acknowledging its potential risk and dangers. It calls carefully designed and appropriately scaled pilot studies to determine how the benefits of online/digital education can be raped 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. Giving the emergence of digital technologies and emerging importance of leveraging technology for teaching-learning at all levels from school to higher education, this policy

recommends the following key initiatives: Pilot studies for online education, Digital Infrastructure, Online teaching platform and tools, Content, creation, digital repository and dissemination, Addressing the digital divide, Virtual labs, Training and incentives for teachers, Online assessment and examination, Blended models of learning and Laying down standards.

Digital Technologies are electronic tools, systems and resources that generate, store or process data. Well known examples include social media, online games, multimedia and mobile phones. Digital learning is any type of learning that uses technology. It can happen across all curriculum learning areas. English is universal language. Pandit Jawaharlal Neharu says, "English is the window of modern world." During second half of the 20th century, modern digital technology was used to support English language teaching and learning in the classroom of higher classes. There should be sustainable development in English language teaching and learning. Now a day, it is necessity of using digital technology in English language teaching and learning. The tools of Digital technology such as ICT- based teaching and learning including LED projector, computer, laptop, Android Mobiles, language laboratory, Notebook, Digital videos, LAN, various Websites, Email, E- Libraries, Computer mediated conferencing, Audio-visual conferencing, Blogs, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Skype, Satellite, Podcast, CD-ROM, DVD, Whiteboard, Epidiascope, Over Head Projector, Film strips, Shodhganga, e-Sindhu and now recently Chat GPT.

A rich variety of educational software, for all above the purposes, will be developed and made available for students and teachers at all levels. All such software will be available in all major Indian languages and will be accessible to a wide range of users including students in remote areas and regional languages, as well as by the NCERT, CIET, CBSE, NIOS and other bodies or institutions and will be uploaded onto the DIKSHA platform. This platform may also be utilized for teacher's professional development through e-content. CIET will be strengthened to promote and expand DIKSHA as well as other educational technology initiatives. Suitable equipment will be made available to teachers at schools so that teachers can suitably integrate e-contents into teaching –learning practices. Technology based educational platforms such as Diksha/Swayam will be better integrated across school and higher education and will include rating/reviews by users, so as to enable content developers create user friendly and qualitative

content. The present paper focuses on Diksha Platform and its various uses in teaching-learning process.

Key Words: Diksha, Digital technology, ICT, Online education etc.

India is a huge populated country. It has a big, diverse and complex structure in population and so as in Indian classrooms in school. There are more than 1.5 million schools in India. More than 248 million students are taking education in schools. More than 156 million people are taking education in government and aided schools. 92 million and more than it are taking education in private and other schools. There are more than 60 educational boards of instruction across country that is central and states. The medium of instruction is in regional languages. There are more than 20 languages through which the instruction is done. The core goals of National Educational Policy-2020 are 1. To enhance education system that contributes to an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing education to all. 2. To develop a deep sense of respect towards the fundamental rights, duties and constitutional values, with one's country and a conscious awareness of one's role and responsibilities in a changing world. 3. Instils skills, values and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development and living and global well-being, thereby reflecting a truly global citizen. National Educational Policy emphasize upon unique capabilities of recognizing and identifying them in each student. It emphasize upon conceptual understanding, critical thinking and creativity, respect for diversity and local context, Equity and inclusion, continuous review, community participation and use of technology.

To implement these policies, we want digital innovations that can work at our scale, diversity and complexity. National Educational Policy-2020 has multiple provisions for inculcating and promoting digital innovations. For content creation, digital repository and dissimilation, there are provisions of coursework, learning games, item banks, TPD, virtual labs, augmented reality and virtual reality apps and gratification of Indian art and culture. For addressing the digital divide and equity, there is the provision of use of television, radio and community radio, removing language barriers-content in Indian languages and e-content for disabled students. For training of teachers, the provisions of ICT integrated pedagogy and to make teachers high

quality content creators themselves. To promote digital learning through different effective models of blended learning. To lay down standards in content, technology, pedagogy for online/digital teaching-learning and guidelines for e-learning by states, boards and schools for inculcating and promoting digital innovations. There is the provision of online learning for vocational courses. Teaching of languages and knowledge of India, rich e-content for gifted children, open school, adult education and e-libraries and virtual museums etc.

We want digital infrastructure for all over in India in various service sectors such as learning services, collaboration services, content services, registry services, credentialing services, and language services. DIKSHA platform is an excellent option to fulfil all these service requirements. DIKSHA means Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing. It is a national platform for school education, an initiative of National Education for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), under the aegis of the Minister of Education (MoE), launched in 2017 by honorable Vice President of India, Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu. DIKSHA has been adopted by almost all the states, Union Territories, central autonomous bodies/boards including CBSE. DIKSA was developed on the basis of the strategy and approach paper for the national teacher platform released by honorable minister for Human resource Development in September 2017. DIKSHA can be accessed by learners and teachers across the country and currently supports 36 Indian languages. Each state and Union Territory leverages the DIKSHA platform in its own way, as it has the freedom and choice to use the varied capabilities and solutions of the platform to design and run programs for teachers, learners and administrators. DIKSHA policies and tools make it possible for the education system (educationist, experts, organizations, institutions- government, autonomous institutions, non-govt and private organizations) to participate, contribute and leverage a common platform to achieve learning goals at scale for the country. NCERT Textbooks are licensed under CC by NC-ND and all the resources under CC by NC-SA. Under the PM eVidya initiative of the GoI which was decleared as part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat, DIKSHA has been decleared as 'One Nation, One Digital Platform'.

Diksha provides us various services such as content and learning services, taxonomy and tagging, contribution and curation, practice, sensing and assessment, learning telemetry and analytics, credentialing and badging, language and translation and learning infra services. There

are various uses of Diksha in teaching-learning process. They are- 1. Energized Textbooks 2.Online Courses, 3.Question Bank Tools, 4.Content Sourcing Tools, 5.Content Authorizing Tool, 6. Quiz 7. Content Consumption Tools, 8.Data Tools and Dashboards, 9.Chatbots, 10.Digital Credentials etc. Learning partners are- teachers, students, parents, administrators and community members. Multiple programs are available on Diksha to continue learning and training. The instruction material for learning and training process is available in more than 30 languages. Programs available on Diksha are: ·

- **Energized Textbooks (ETB):** Physical textbooks to phygital textbooks are available on it.
- **Content Sourcing:** Sourcing high quality content in a controlled manner.
- **National Quizzes:** Interactive and competitive learning quizzes are available.
- **PM eVidya:** It aims to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable equitable multi-mode access to education.
- **Digital Teacher Training:** A nationwide capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".

PM evidya program:

Coherent access under PM evidya program ensures inclusive, equitable access to education for all. To enable coherence, the broadcast content is to be uploaded on DIKSHA, where this content is accessible any time even after the live broadcast, along with additional resources. Explanation·resources and learning resources are available for content created and curated for broadcast on television and radio. Teacher Focused resources are available for Online Live Classroom. Recorded live sessions are available on Online Live Classroom. Interactive online resources, courses and E-books, Physical learning resources are available on DIKSHA by most of the states and Union Territories.

Energized Textbooks with QR Codes:

Energized Textbooks with QR Codes are available on DIKDA. There are more than 3500 million Energized Textbooks with QR Codes. Among them 600 plus million textbooks have been printed and distributed across the country. More than 180 million students and 7 million

teachers are beneficiaries of these Energized Textbooks. These Energized Textbooks lead an easy access to relevant digital content across the nation and enable continuity of learning. The instruction material for learning and training process is available in more than 30 languages. Programs available on Diksha. These languages are English, Hindi, Marathi, Sanskrit, Konkani, Awadhi, Urdu, Bhutia, Khasi, Chhatisgarhi, Asamese, Arabi, Telgu, Mizo, Gondi-Dantewada, Manipuri, Gujarati, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Sargujia, Malyalam, Lepcha, Halbi, Oriya, Punjabi, Kudukh, Bangla, Gondi-Kanker, Bundelkhandi and Tamil.

Digital Teacher Training:

Digital Teacher Training has enabled continuity in training in training of teachers during COVID. 18 modules are contextualized and translated in ten regional languages for NISHATA on DIKSHA. Three months programme of Digital Teacher Training was organized for the whole year in the pandemic. 2.5+ teachers trained at primary and upper primary level (grade 1-8). Teachers play a crucial role in the content development. Experienced teachers are the expert to create and develop the digital content.

Leading to variety and diversity in content:

DIKSHA leads variety and diversity in content. It is a journey from content to competence. It facilitates various activities such as: Read-Along stories and poems, Fun/Interactive Assessment, Games for Learning, Immersive AR/VR/3D content, Simulation Exercises, Virtual Labs, Robots/Toys for Learning, PPTs/PDFs/ePubs, Videos, Worksheets and Quizzes/Assignments, Critical Thinking Questions and Mind Mapping. There is the inclusion of the content for children with special needs. The content is available for hearing impaired in sign language. The content for visually impaired in digital accessible information system (DAISY). The programmes follow a well-defined decentralized model of content contribution and review governed by central and state institutional structures to ensure quality.

Organization of a variety of assessment:

Five questions are shared every week to enhance higher order five competencies of learners and content learning with real life solutions. There are various quizzes on joyful mathematics, science, reading comprehension, constitution of India, Yoga etc. have been launched on DIKSHA. Quizzes promote interactive, engaging and competitive learning.

Conclusion:

DIKSHA Platform facilitates Energized Textbooks (ETB), content Sourcing, National Quizzes PM eVidya and Digital Teacher Training. Diksha provides us various services such as content and learning services, taxonomy and tagging, contribution and curation, practice, sensing and assessment, learning telemetry and analytics, credentialing and badging, language and translation and learning infra services. There are various uses of Diksha in teaching-learning process. They are- 1. Energized Textbooks 2.Online Courses, 3.Question Bank Tools, 4.Content Sourcing Tools, 5.Content Authorizing Tool,6. Quiz 7. Content Consumption Tools, 8.Data Tools and Dashboards, 9.Chatbots, 10.Digital Credentials etc. Learning partners are- teachers, students, parents, administrators and community members. Multiple programs are available on DIKSHA to continue learning and training. Indeed it is the fulfilment of use of digital technology in teaching-learning process of school education which one of the most policy in National Eduation Policy-2020.

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