

Digital Content Dissemination Through PM E-Vidya Portal

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This paper aims to describe the content available through innovative initiative PM e-VIDYA by Ministry of Education, Government of India to provide the access to variety of material in variety of formats to support the teaching learning process for all students as well as for teachers. This initiative has become a boon during the pandemic times for continuing education and as a result now blended learning has become a habit for all the learners. In this paper, the descriptive information has been taken from the website <https://pmevidya.education.gov.in/>. There are six main initiatives under the umbrella of PMe-VIDYA which are catering to the needs from school education to higher education. It serves the purpose of Education for ALL. The objective of this paper is to create awareness about the content availability for education from access to material to course certification in online/digital mode. This paper will be useful for everyone being a student, teacher, parent, stakeholder of education as awareness about availability of the content on such authentic source is incredible for densely populated country with highest youth population like India.

Keywords: *Content Dissemination, DIKSHA, Inclusive Education, PM e-VIDYA, Swayam Prabha*

1 INTRODUCTION

In India, Access to education for all is the biggest challenge with the existence of multi lingual, gaps in social structure in different states due to religion, social status, education system, financial capabilities, and access to resources. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, an unexpected situation occurred before the nation, it was not an easy to bring out the ways to make available at least minimum level of education for all the students. As necessity is the mother of invention, online learning became the boon during pandemic time for students and new teaching-learning method evolve nationally for teachers and students. As a part of initiatives by the govt. of India, PM e-VIDYA is

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efficiently designed under the umbrella of ICT initiatives of Govt. of India to disseminate the content in multimode not only for that present time but serves the various future purposes also.

11 ABOUT PM E-VIDYA

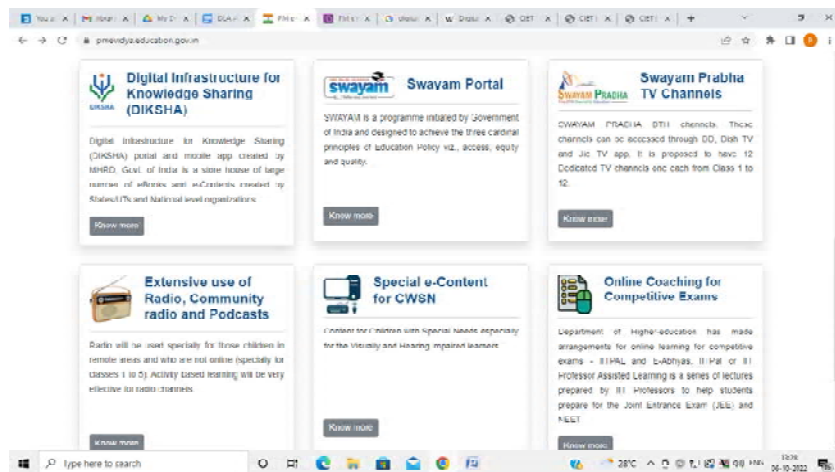
Pradhan Mantri e-VIDYA is an initiative was launched by Finance Minister Mr. Nirmala Sitharaman in May 2020 under the One Nation One Platform for satisfying the need of continuing education during COVID 19 pandemic and played the role of support system as a whole. It is a milestone in the way of achieving total education. With the advent of technology, this initiative brings one stop solution for all learning needs of students at all levels i.e school education to higher education in inclusive manner. PM e-VIDYA unites all efforts to enable multi-mode access to education relating to digital/online/on-air/on-d2H channel. Best feature of such a platform is that it provides authenticate teaching learning educational material to students and platform for teachers for content dissemination as per different requirements of the students. The best part is to deliver the content through Swayam Prabha DTH channel that do not have any access to the internet to support upto the remote level. Apart from educational material, it provides some resources for the children with special needs, open access courses through Swayam portal, educational audio content dissemination on All India Radio, TV channel along with YouTube official channels via internet access and video lectures by IIT faculty for entering into Engineering courses through IITPAL and ABHYAS applications. It's really a tough initiative taken by the Ministry of Education during crisis time of nation in making education as a continuous process. Mental health is also taken into consideration and so many videos were prepared for dealing with examination stress, counseling purposes and YOGA sessions. With the support of information and communication technology (electronic devices with internet facility), this digital education has spread as the new method of teaching-learning even after the pandemic time and it serves the learning 24X7 anywhere in the world without barrier of scheduled time and physical classes.

12 CONTENT DISSEMINATION THROUGH PM E-VIDYA

There are six main portals designed and developed under the umbrella of PM e-VIDYA with different purposes for education at all levels. The objective is to create the one stop solution for all the material to reach out to the maximum no of students across the country

- DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing)
- SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Portal
- SWAYAM PRABHA TV Channels

- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and podcasts
- Special e-Content for CWSN
- On line coaching for competitive exams



(Screenshot for the PM e-VIDYA: <https://pmevidya.education.gov.in/>)

13 DIKSHA (DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING)

DIKSHA is a collaborative measure of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for sharing the learning material for school education and launched by Hon'ble Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu in 2017. It stores the e-textbooks of NCERT and related e-contents with QR codes in many languages. This is developed on the basis of common learning platform which has the solution to design, run programs for teachers, learners and administrators in the country as a whole. Its content partners are schools, teachers, NGOs, corporates etc. As this initiative has been launched before pandemic, it worked like a blessing for massive teacher's professional development programme NISHTHA 1.0 (National Initiatives for School Heads and Teacher's Holistic Advancement) for Elementary grades was launched online through DIKSHA. NISHTHA 2.0 & 3.0 focuses on Secondary and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. Apart from NISHTHA, several States/UTs have designed their own capacity building programs. It also supports the parents during pandemic time in downloading the textbooks. Presently the content available on DIKSHA can be searched by NCERT, CBSE, NIOS and States/UTs. This is continuously enhanced with new content by National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for spreading education at all levels in India.

DIKSHA is android and iOS enabled platform on mobile and can be

downloaded from play store. It includes interactive material and having the facility of downloading the content for access the content without internet or preserved in offline mode. It is very helpful for the teachers also as lessons and worksheets are also given in various file formats such as video, pdf, html etc. DIKSHA facilitates the choice of different regional languages also and content is developed by the educationist, experts, organisation (governmental and non-governmental) for creation of information dissemination at the national level by participation & sharing information by more than 10 million users.

14 SWAYAM (STUDY WEBS OF ACTIVE-LEARNING FOR YOUNG ASPIRING MINDS) PORTAL

This platform is created and designed on the basis of access, equity and quality three cardinal principles with the courses available from class 9 till post-graduation free of cost only charging the examination fees to get the certificates. The course material is developed by the faculties of reputed partner institutions in 4 quadrants which are as follows:

- Video lectures
- Pdf files that can be downloaded/printed for future reading
- Tests/Quizzes
- Online discussion Forums for problem solving

It is also having the credit framework for online learning courses as per UGC Regulations and claim credits by submitting the form available on website.

Sr. No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Courses for	Self-paced and international courses	School students	Out of School students	Under-Graduate/Post-Graduate Education	Technical Post-Graduate Education	Non-Technical Post-Graduate Education	Teacher Training Program	Management Studies
Institution	AICTE	NIOS, NCERT	IGNOU	CEC	NPTEL	UGC	NITTR	IIM, Bengaluru

This part of Digital Indian Initiative is the national level knowledge-sharing hub along with the skill enhancing training programs for teachers/professionals and advanced educational courses for all levels of education. SWAYAM gives a way for self-paced learning and is the boon for those who wish to learn some different skills during their course completion and for those who are working professionals without dropping out from their work they can learn at home or while travelling.

15 SWAYAM PRABHA TV CHANNELS: (WWW.SWAYAM.GOV.IN)

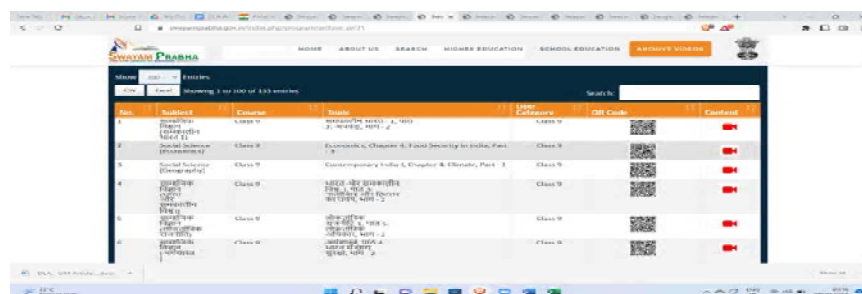
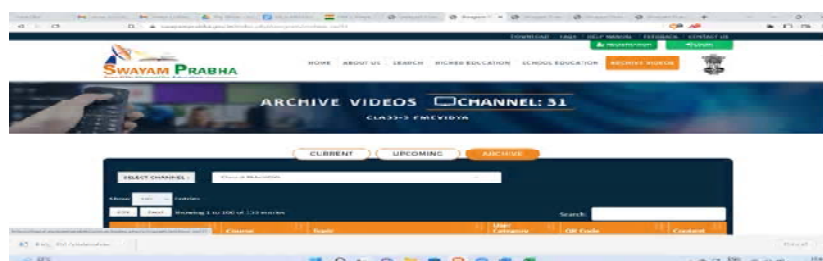
This is portal with the URL: <https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/index.php/schooledu>, having 34 channels in total for different levels of education. For example, there are 12 dedicated channels for class 1 to class 12 (one channel for one class) and content is disseminated through DTH channel and via internet

also. The educational content are curriculum based and developed by NCERT and other partner agencies such as CBSE, KVS, NIOS etc. in English and Hindi languages. All videos are accessible with QR code if scanned with DIKSHA mobile app. This initiative removes the barrier of electronic gadget with internet access to access the digital content on this portal with a channel dedicated to education on TV.

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DTH Channel No.	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34

16 STEPS TO SEARCH CONTENT FOR PARTICULAR CLASS

- Go to <https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/index.php>
- Click on School Education icon, get the access class wise content
- Select the class need to be accessed (Channel will be mentioned of DTH TV)
- Select the Archive option to access the videos already available (In Current and Upcoming option schedule is available for the programme)
- Click on the topic and watch the video



(https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/index.php/program/archive_se/31)

For example, if selected class 9 then channel no. will be #31 and there are total 153 videos are available as on 8th October 2022 with subject name, title of the chapter/topic along with QR code and content in video form. The data can

be saved in excel form for future references. The concepts are being covered in easy language and simple way to make understand the students according to their level. It also has other channels dedicated for higher education (under graduate and post graduate courses) on humanities, Science and Commerce and other subjects along with the facility of credits and certification through MOOCs courses as mentioned above SWAYAM Portal.

2 RADIO, COMMUNITY RADIO, AND PODCASTS

This is an option for disseminating the content in audio format in remote areas where no internet access and for those who are not online. There are number of educational programmes played through radio channels. In India, even now Radio is an important media of communication to reach to the massive population.

21 MUKTA VIDYA VANI

This is an educational web radio for open schooling option for pursuing education for secondary, senior secondary and some vocational streams of NIOS. This includes interactive programmes to reach to the massive group of learners. The broadcast schedule is available on <https://nios.ac.in/departmentsunits/media-unittelecast/mukta-vidya-vani-and-community-radio.aspx> and via FM91.2MHz.

22 SHIKSHA VANI PODCAST

CBSE shares audio content for different classes with various subjects. It is very comprehensible and easy to use. It is also available over play store, for those users having Android phone. The content is disseminated in audio file format which is designed as per the NCERT curriculum.

23 DD AND AIR

Doordarshan and All India radio always delivered the valuable content across the country curriculum-based content from primary classes to higher secondary along with storytelling and quiz shows.

3 CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (CWSN)

Education system should provide the access to the teaching-learning material for all students having different learning abilities. Inclusive education is the main concern for equitable access to education for all. The students can be visually impaired, hearing impaired, physically disabled etc. The special e-content dissemination for the children with special needs has a special impact on their learning. Under this heading, there are following resource materials available on the platforms:

- DIKSHA portal (Audiobooks for visually impaired and ISL (Indian Sign Language) Dictionary for hearing impaired)
- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has worked tremendously for making their website accessible to people with disability. NIOS has developed on technical standard DAISY more than 300 videos in ISL in 7 subjects at secondary level of education. The videos are accessible with the link as
- NIOS website & <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXBn5q8Zv4Bz-LZXWWD7Jxw/playlists>. These material DVDs are also prepared for offline access.
- NCERT also developed exemplar material for providing low-cost quality home education to students with severe disabilities through e-learning and NCERT textbooks converted into digital books can be read by using software Text-to-Speech even on mobile through e-Paathshalamobile app. Tactile maps have also been developed by NCERT along with Barkha: a reading series for 'All' in digital format.

4 ONLINE COACHING FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

PM e-Vidya is not only limiting to school education but also disseminating the content accessibility for the beginning /entering to the first step in Higher Education. This is a portal to help to the community who can't afford to be a part of private coaching institutions due to several reasons such as financial inability, access to private coaching centers etc. This is an initiative under this umbrella of PMe-Vidya for preparing the JEE Entrance Exams. It includes the content developed by the IIT faculty members who help students in appearing and clearance of JEE entrance examination.

41 IITPAL NEET/JEE PREPARATION

Department of Higher-education has come up with online learning for competitive exams IITPAL (IIT Professor Assisted Learning) and E- Abhyas for those who don't have many resources to take coaching at private coaching institution. They have a series of lecture prepared by eminent professor of IIT to help the aspirants of JEE (Joint Entrance Examination). It has contents for Physics, Maths, Chemistry and Biology. IITPAL content is also available on Swayam Prabha Channel.

42 E-ABHYAS

It is a adaptive learning which is personalised and delivers a platform for students who wish to apply for competitive exams such as JEE and NEET conducted by NTA. E-Abhyas is the platform is very easily accessible as it is present in Hindi and English Language and available on playstore.

5 CHALLENGES IN IMPARTING DIGITAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

- Digital divide is the base to deliver the digital education and learning among massive population in India. Digital Divide means an unequal access to digital technology in the form of electronic gadgets (with different features) and internet access.
- Multi-linguist is also a matter of concern as developed resource material is not available in all the regional languages.
- Psychology of stakeholders of education regarding online education pros and cons.
- A different level of learning achievement of students as online mode of teaching-learning is totally different from offline mode.
- Social problems such as poverty, unemployment, rural education, school drop-outs, gender bias, community education etc. are also draw a barrier line for digital education.

6 CONCLUSION

In the scenario of dissemination of educational content with an objective of equitable access for all in the present era, Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives during pandemic by bringing access to electronic gadgets to the students which are even become an important part for hybrid teaching-learning for the students as well as for the teachers and continuing also. Each of the above six main initiatives are continuously enhanced content wise and there is need to create the awareness and promotion strategy for utilization of the available content by the target groups. PMe-VIDYA is a great initiative with NCERT, NIOS, IIT and other partner institutions for content dissemination 24x7 with worldwide access for India.

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