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**Emerging role of Indian government in development  
of digital education resources**

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**Abstract**

Present work is an attempt to provide brief information of digital efforts started by UGC and MHRD, Government of India. This paper put light on the network started by UGC i.e INFLIBNET and various projects of INFLIBNET which works to promote e-learning in higher education. Then MHRD's project National Digital Library which provides e-resource from primary to higher education levels. And in the end the new concept of online learning known as MOOC is also discussed in paper.

**Keywords:** Indian government, digital education resources

**Introduction**

Day by day technology is promoting the new tools and services in the field of information. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is playing wonder in promoting e-learning. These days ICT has brought new revolution to provide right information to right users at right time. Advances in technology have great impact on each and every field. Technology has made everything fast, Easy and Accessible. Information and communication technology has its great impact on education. Computer has changed the learning-teaching process. With the advancement in ICT we can use data in images, audio, video and also in the form of multimedia and makes things easy to understand. WWW and ICT make Teaching-Learning process more effective and easy. With the help of technology and Internet people can attend the class and lecture without any geographical boundaries. Internet and computer open so many ways for knowledge lovers. CDs, DVDs, Audio-Video Books, Virtual classes, Video Conferences, Online Lectures etc are make easy to learn about new things. These days Online Learning is very popular. And it is very greatful that Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India is also taking initiatives to promote online learning and also provide funds to enhance the e-learning. Some projects started by MHRM and UGC to promote digital education in India are discussed as:

**INFLIBNET:** - The information and Library Network Centre (INFLIBNET) in 1996 became an autonomous Inter-University Centre of the University Grant Commission (UGC) of India. It is a major National Programme initiated by the UGC in March 1991. INFLIBNET serves as Information Centre for transfer and access of information through a network of libraries in around 264 Universities, Colleges and R&D Institutions across the country.

**Initiatives of INFLIBNET**

- **The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium:** The Consortium provides current as well as archival access to more than 7500+ core and peer-reviewed journals and 10 bibliographic databases from 26 publishers and aggregators in different disciplines. But at present UGC-Infonet is merged with e-Shodh Sindhu

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- **e-Shodh Sindhu:** The MHRD has formed e-shodh sindhu margining three consortia initiatives, namely UGC-INFONET Digital Librray Consortium, NList and INDEST-AICTE Consortium. The e-sodh sindhu will continue to provide current as well as archival to more than 15000 core and peer reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines from a large number of publishers and aggregators to its members.
- **N-List Programme:** National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-List) project was formally launched by honorable Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Kapil Sibal on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010. N List Programme. Provide access to e-resources i.e. 6000+ e-journal and 1,35000+ebook.
- **Shodhganga: a reservoir of Indian Theses:** The Shodhganga@INFLIBNET centre provides a Platform for research students to deposit their Ph.D Theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access.
- **ShodhGangotri:** (<http://shodhgangotri.inflibnet.ac.in/>) ShodhGangotri is a new initiative that compliments ShodhGanga. While ShodhGanga is a repository of full-text theses submitted to the universities in India, "ShodhGanga" hosts approved synopsis of research topic submitted to the universities in India by research scholars for registering themselves under the PhD programme
- **e-PG Pathshala:** A Gateway to All post Graduate Courses (<http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in>) The inflibnet centre has been assigned the task of coordinating all activities involved in production of e-content at postgraduate level 77subject areas under the initiative called e-PG Pathshala funded by the MHRD under its National Mission on Education through ICT.

**National Digital Library (NDL):** In the time of technology, information is a strong weapon and to meet the information needs of researchers and scholars Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India took an initiative step under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology by starting National Digital Library (NDL) pilot project to develop a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility. NDL helps the users to get their required information with least efforts and in minimum time. NDL is designed to hold contents of any language and provide interface support for leading vernacular languages (currently Hindi, and Bengali). It is being arranged to provide support for all academic levels including researchers and life-long learners, in all disciplines, in all popular forms of access devices and also to differently-abled learners. It is also facilitate users in preparing entrance and competitive exams by providing access to multiple resources without any time and geographical barrier. The pilot project is devising a framework suitable for future scale up with respect to content volume and diversity to become a full-blown National Digital Library of India over time.

NDL to provide service for all kinds educational level students i.e. from primary level to +2level, UG and PG level students, Teachers, Researchers, Professionals, Librarians and all other lifelong learners. It is freely open for all types'

learners. It provides access to resources around the clock with least effort and in minimum time.

**MOOC at National level:** Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is a new platform for knowledge lovers. Unlimited participant at global level can join MOOC courses of their choice at free of cost. The main aim of MOOC is to provide quality education and certified courses to students, teachers and professionals using video animations, web-tutorials and other web resources which is a helpful to provide effective education. Some MOOCs for interest of Indian scholars are discussed here:

- **Apna Course:** (<https://www.apnacourse.com/>) Apna course is one of the best MOOC in India. It was developed by Bangalore based company known as Spearhead EsuOnline Pvt.Ltd in August 2013. Best instructors of Apna Course delivered their video lectures at global level with aimed to enhance the skills and career advancement of their participants. Target audience of Apna Course are students, graduates, postgraduates, teachers, professionals and learners at home.
- **The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning: (NPTEL)** (<http://npTEL.ac.in/>) NPTEL is a joint initiative of seven IITs and IISc Bangalore in 1999 and in 2003Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India funded it with RS 20.5 crore for the creation of 120 web based course supplements, 115 video courses and encapsulation/conversion of existing 110 video courses. It is free for all only a minimal fee have to pay for certificate and exams. It offers 994+corses in various subjects and more than 19428 videos has been uploaded. Duration of NPTEL's courses is 10hrs, 20hrs, 30hrs. It offers four types of certificates to its candidates these are: 1. Participation 2. Successfully Completed 3. Elite 4. Elite+Gold. Till Feb 2016, 4497 female andiadates and 9003 male candidates were certified in various courses of NPTEL.
- **EduKart:** (<http://www.edukart.com/>) Ishan Gupta and his team started online education service named as EduKart in 2011. EduKart.com provide such a platform to education seeker where they can get access to more than 100leading Indian and International Course providers who offer recognized and industry acceptable education. It offer UGC recognized degree courses such as MBA, PGDM, MCA, MA, MCom, MSc, BBA, BCA, BA, BCom etc. and entrance Coaching for IIT JEE, AIPMT, CAT, IAS and many more course s are provided. EduKart charge only UGC prescribed fee.
- **Swayam:** (<https://swayam.gov.in>) Swayam is an effort of Government of India to meet the need of education with technology and internet. Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE) develops Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Mind (Swayam) It offers number of various courses for School, UG, PG, Engineering, Law and many other professional learners. It is free for all only a minimal fee have to pay for certificate Swayam makes learning more effective and easy with audio- video aids, chat, use of social media, group discussions, listening article, test, quiz etc.

**Challenges in Digital education:** It is clear that digital learning is very beneficial for lifelong learning. It has many advantages. But on the second side of coin we have to face some challenges and these are as:

- Lack of proper infrastructure like Computer, Internet, Webcam, Audio-Video aids etc.
- Not familiar with technology.
- Lack of awareness about digital education.
- Lack of Willingness to learn something new independently.
- Lack of Official Recognition.
- A large number of learners to drop out the MOOC courses in-between.
- Cultural differences in pedagogy.
- Lack of training for faculty.
- Lack of funds to run the course.

### Conclusion

The digital education is a bless for Indian higher education system. It satisfy the information needs of the researcher and institutions. It always work to develop interest in learning. For obtaining its goal government also organize training programme, workshops, short time courses, seminars and conferences. Now education system is entered into the world of web2.0. Government takes all initiative to encourage higher education in India. At this digital age, digital learning offer a new way of teaching-learning so here teachers should come heads to aware the learners about technology.

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