

ICT initiatives in E-learning of the Ministry of Education, Government of India as the most valuable digital platform for NEP 2020: An emphasis on SWAYAM and SWAYAMPRAKASHA

Dr Nikhil Hazarika

Librarian, Madhabdev University, Narayanpur, Lakhimpur, Assam-784164, India

E-mail: nikhildhp@gmail.com

Abstract

By rethinking higher education and re-visioning and redesigning crucial parts of higher education in India, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 seeks to bring about a paradigm change. The NEP's principles align with the goal of education in the twenty-first century. The NEP places a strong emphasis on fostering literacy and numeracy skills as well as higher-order cognitive abilities including critical thinking and the ability to address social, ethical, and emotional issues.

As NEP 2020 is built on a Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS), a student's accrued credits are digitally kept in the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) system. With a suitable "credit transfer" mechanism, the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), a national facility, will encourage the adaptability of the curriculum framework and interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary academic mobility of students across the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India. It is a mechanism that enables students to select their learning path to achieve a degree, diploma, or certificate. As SWAYAM is the national MOOC platform, therefore E-learning platforms in India like SWAYAM and SWAYAMPRAKASHA will fulfil the mission and goals of NEP 2020 in present digital India. In this study, hence, the author wants to find out the major contributions of SWAYAM and SWAYAMPRAKASHA in the field of E-learning platforms under NEP 2020.

Keywords

NEP 2020,
SWAYAM,
MOOC,
SWAYAMPRAKASHA,
E-learning

1. Introduction

The National Education Policy 2020 has suggested different technological innovations in the field of education. A new paradigm started with a digital form when the Government of India launched the “Digital India” Programme in 2015. The government of India has also developed different digital platforms in the educational sector, from the school to the higher education system. Initiatives in E-Learning, E-content, Digital document Wallet, Software, Research Networks, Network connectivity, and Initiatives in Hands-on Learning, etc. are some ICT initiatives taken by the Ministry of Education, GOI. In this paper, the author focuses only on the ICT initiatives in E-learning platforms, which will benefit the students and teachers under NEP 2020. There are a lot of E-learning platforms in India, i.e., SWAYAM, SWAYAM-PRABHA, E-PG Pathshala, NPTEL, DIKSHA, etc. Here the author wants to bring out the major contributions of SWAYAM and SWAYAM-PRABHA in the field of E-learning platforms under NEP 2020.

2. SWAYAM(www.swayam.gov.in)

SWAYAM indicates Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds. It is the national Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform in India. Universities and any affiliating institutions with the approval of the competent authority may adopt SWAYAM Courses for the benefit of their students. A student will have the option to earn credit by completing quality-assured MOOC programmes offered on the SWAYAM portal which are approved by the UGC or regulatory body from time to time. At the same time, there is a provision to transfer the earned credits to the parent institution/university of the same student under the Credit Transfer Facility of SWAYAM.

2.1 Salient features of SWAYAM

Swayam is designed to achieve the three basic cardinal principles of India’s Education Policy, i.e., access, equity, and quality.

Access: it is accessible 24 x 7 hours to anyone from any corner of the globe;

Equity: in all parts of the country no learner is deprived of learning irrespective of whether the learner may be advanced, slow or medium;

Quality: provide quality-based educational materials prepared by the best faculty members in the country who are an expert in the particular field.

To enrich the learning experience, students can explore the SWAYAM courses in four quadrants-

- a. Lectures are prepared in videos,
- b. A downloadable and printable high-level study material in text formats,
- c. Tests and quizzes (Assignments),
- d. Forums like an online discussion for clearing doubts, etc.

2.2 Course Level

The courses under the SWAYAM are provided from the school level (class 9 onwards) to Post Graduate level having different durations. Credit and non-credit courses running in the SWAYAM are for individual subjects or multi-disciplinary natures. These courses can be categorized under different levels-

- a. Certificate Level or Diploma Level course,
- b. Core paper at the school level,
- c. Elective Paper / Core paper at Undergraduate and Post Graduate Level,
- d. Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT),
- e. Teacher Education, and
- f. Any Continued Education courses

2.3 National Coordinators of SWAYAM courses

Nine national bodies of academic organizations are entrusted with the responsibility of National Coordinators appointed by the Ministry of

Education, GOI to produce and deliver the best quality course content at the different levels. These bodies are:

Table 1: National Coordinators of SWAYAM

Sl. No.	Academic Body	Jurisdiction
1	All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)	Self-paced and international courses
2	National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)	Engineering
3	University Grants Commission (UGC)	Non-technical post-graduation education
4	Consortium for Educational Communication	Undergraduate education
5	National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)	School education
6	National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)	School education
7	Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)	Out-of-school students
8	Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB)	Management studies
9	National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR)	Teacher Training programme

Table 2: Course Level of the National Coordinator of SWAYAM

Sl. No.	Course Level	Name of the Academic Body
1.	School level (Regular School, Open school level)	NCERT, NIOS
2.	Out-of-school level courses	IGNOU and NITTTR
3.	Undergraduate level	NPTEL, AICTE, CEC, IIMB
4.	Post-Graduation Level	NPTEL, AICTE, IIMB, UGC

2.4 Credit Transfer System in SWAYAM

The National Education Policy 2020 places a strong emphasis on giving students the freedom to attend classes in a variety of ways, including online, offline, or even hybrid learning. SWAYAM offers students more course selection options. Another flexibility of SWAYAM is that a student from any other Indian institution or university may enroll in a course, and the credit score earned for that course may be directly added to the student’s record at the institution where the student is currently registered for regular study. This is possible through the Credit Transfer Facility of SWAYAM courses. The UGC

Regulation 2016 (Credit Framework for online learning courses through SWAYAM) says that under SWAYAM, a student can take any credit transfer course from any SWAYAM-recognized university in the online mode and his/her marks will be credited to the original mark sheet through credit transfer facility. More recently, the UGC Regulations-2021 (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) allows an institution to allow up to 40% of the total courses offered in a particular programme in a semester to be completed online using the SWAYAM platform. This provision is one of the greatest developments in the field of online learning.

2.5 Certification in SWAYAM

SWAYAM does not prevent any learner from learning. The learner will have the option of choosing either learning on their interest or studying with certification. After finishing the course, the learner may need to go through an evaluation process if they want a certificate. For certificates, the learner must take a proctored examination; however, for exams, the student must travel to an examination centre in person to sit for an online test.

3. SWAYAM PRABHA

(<https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in>)

SWAYAMPRAKHA is another ICT initiative of the Ministry of Education, GOI where learners

can learn with the help of satellite channels on a 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite. These programmes are broadcast on television from the school to the higher education level. There are currently 34 DTH TV channels available that provide excellent educational programming. It is a blessing for students to have access to educational materials even without internet connectivity. Since the programmes are rebroadcast five more times each day, students can watch them whenever it suits them. There are 12 channels devoted to school education and 22 channels to higher education. These channels have their unique name and telecast high-quality educational programmes on different subjects and courses (Table 3).

Table 3: Name of the DTH Channels and their coverages

Channel Name	Subjects/ Courses
PMeVIDYA	Class I to XII
VAGEESH	Language and Literature
SANSKRITI	History, Culture and Philosophy
PRABODH	Social and Behavioural Sciences
SAARASWAT	Education, Psychology, Home Science and related subjects
PRABANDHAN	Management, Library Science, Information Science and related subjects
VIDHIK	Law, Lega; studies, Human Rights and related subjects
KAUTILYA	Economics, Commerce and Finance
ARYABHATT	Physical sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and related subjects
SPANDAN	Life sciences
DAKSH	Applied Sciences, Allied Physical and Chemical sciences and related subjects
VYAS	Higher Education-Degree courses in Colleges and Universities (UGC)

Besides these channels, IIT online classes and popular NPTEL courses are also transmitted through SWAYAMPRAKHA DTH TV educational channels.

3.1 Features of SWAYAMPRAKHA

a. It is a collection of 34 DTH channels that broadcast programmes from elementary school

(class I) to higher education (UG and PG level).

b. Only when students want to watch previously aired programmes, do they need internet connectivity. However, internet connectivity is not necessary to see live content. With the aid of SWAYAMPRAKHA DTH TV channels, it is accessible.

c. It does not have a certification programme; it merely offers learners a venue for learning.

4. Conclusion

Despite having nomenclatural names that are relatively similar, SWAYAM and SWAYAMPBHA differ significantly from one another. SWAYAM offers MOOC courses that include certification while SWAYAMPBHA broadcasts educational programming in the meantime. The facility of video content is the sole thing it offers the students. Therefore, in current digital India, e-learning platforms like SWAYAM and SWAYAMPBHA can achieve the mission and goals of NEP 2020 by offering high-quality educational materials and a “credit transfer” system.

References

- Nic, L. P. (n.d.). *Department of Higher Education / Government of India, Ministry of Education*. Retrieved October 31, 2022, from <https://www.education.gov.in/en/ict-initiatives>
- Pal, B., & Hazarika, N. (2021). *Textbook on skill enhancement course in library and information science*. EBH Publishers.
- Swayam Central*. (n.d.). Retrieved October 31, 2022, from <https://swayam.gov.in/>
- Swayam Prabha / Free 34 DTH channels*. (n.d.). Retrieved October 31, 2022, from <https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/>

Access this Article in Online	
	Website: www.ijarm.com
	Subject: Education
Quick Response Code	
DOI: 10.22192/ijamr.2022.09.11.006	

How to cite this article:

Nikhil Hazarika. (2022). ICT initiatives in E-learning of the Ministry of Education, Government of India as the most valuable digital platform for NEP 2020: An emphasis on SWAYAM and SWAYAMPBHA. *Int. J. Adv. Multidiscip. Res.* 9(11): 49-53.
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22192/ijamr.2022.09.11.006>