

DIKSHA: An Initiative for Digital Open Educational Resources in School Education

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1. Introduction: India is using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to leapfrog growth in key sectors such as education, health, infrastructure, finance, agriculture, manufacturing and perhaps most importantly, governance. The emphasis is on a skills-based, inclusive and globally competitive educational framework with education at NEP 2020. (Wenka et al., 2025). The objective of this policy is to promote an education system keeping in mind the multilateral needs of the 21st century, which is deep in Indian ethics and in line with global standards. After the implementation of NEP 2020, more attention is being focused on the use of technology in the education sector. An important facility for education has been made available to rural areas with ICT.

The importance of online education resources has increased after the corona period. When educational institutions were closed during the Corona period, digital education media played an important role in continuing education as a means of maintaining continuity in education. With the guidance of the Ministry of Education, educational materials have been provided for students, teachers and parents from primary to higher education on the online education platform. Government initiatives including DIKSHA, e-Vidya and SWAYAM PRABHA have facilitated access to educational resources, enabling students to learn from home (Varma et al., 2024).

The main purpose of this paper is to create awareness and increase use as an effective teaching material by knowing various aspects of DIKSHA. DIKSHA's ability to transform education is immense, and its continued evolution will play a key role in shaping a more inclusive and technologically advanced future for learners across India.

2. DIKSHA- an Importance initiative

The name "DIKSHA" is derived from the Sanskrit word for 'learning' or 'initiation', reflecting the platform's mission to usher in a new era of digital education in India.

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is a national initiative, a national digital platform launched under the Digital India Initiative. DIKSHA is a key component of the PM e-Vidya program, which envisages 'One Nation: One Digital Platform' for education. DIKSHA is a central platform designed to empower teachers, students and the broader education community. This innovative digital platform, which stands for 'Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing'. It has emerged as a powerful tool to democratize access to technological innovation and promote digital inclusion in the education sector. Developed by the Ministry of Education, the platform offers a huge repository of e-books, e-contents and other digital resources contributed by states, union territories and national institutions. DIKSHA is built on open-source technology and is integrating with the National Repository. DIKSHA ensures accessibility and adaptability to the diverse needs of teachers and students across the country. Which caters to the diverse needs of learners across India.

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DIKSHA is created using an open, modular platform, which states are free to prepare DIKSHA's own contents based on their own needs and priorities. In many states DIKSHA helps teachers get supplemental materials aligned with the subjects they teach at the school. With more than 1,00,000+ pieces of e-learning content available in more than 30 languages, the platform meets the diverse needs of students, teachers, school heads and parents. This multilingual accessibility ensures that learning opportunities are not limited to urban centers but are equally accessible in remote and underserved areas. Hence, it can be said that the use of DIKSHA has freed up the boundaries of the classroom.

2. Steps for Digital Education in India

By providing high-quality digital content, DIKSHA aims to ensure that exceptional education is accessible to children from all backgrounds, regardless of their geographic location. The platform can be accessed at <https://DIKSHA.gov.in> making it an important resource for the education community.

With initiatives like DIKSHA in Indian education, a more inclusive, accessible and equitable educational landscape is coming to be created with a focus on digital education. By leveraging technology and promoting a culture of innovation, India is making significant progress towards achieving the vision of **'One Earth, One Family, One Future through Education'**. These efforts are not only transforming education at the national level, but are also contributing to the global goal of ensuring quality education for all, as outlined in the SDGs.

In India, the government has taken significant steps to eliminate the digital divide and promote digital literacy through various initiatives. For instance, the 'GYANKUNJ' project in schools in the state of Gujarat has provided smart boards, laptops, sound systems and digital programs to facilitate digital education to students and ensure that all learners get access to the tools they need to succeed. Smart T.V. in every school for technology based education laptops are provided. Tablets have been given to upper primary students with the help of donors under 'Deepshala' in Amreli district. These efforts have been made to bring about radical change with technology in education and to create a more inclusive environment.

4. E-Content on DIKSHA

Initiation is a national digital framework for teachers, supporting the efficiency of the education system. It helps in the educational development of teachers, preparing planning, preparing classroom materials, and evaluating. Also very useful for self-education of students. **DIKSHA APP** in Gujarat has been included in the classroom learning process.

The Gujarat State Textbook Board has included DIKSHA QR CODE in the textbooks of class 6 to 8, through which academic material related to the subject can be easily obtained. DIKSHA's QR by scanning the code, DIKSHA videos, text materials of any issue can be easily used. In addition, evaluation can be done through the given interactive activity. DIKSHA material can be used online. The great advantage of DIKSHA is that students and teachers can use DIKSHA at convenient times and places as per their convenience. Students can do self-study through initiation. Students can use DIKSHA for repetition and reinforcement even after school hours.

Currently, DIKSHA hosts an extensive library of digital content in multiple languages, including Indian Sign Language and Audio-Books, catering to a variety of learning needs. The platform has facilitated billions of education sessions underlining its widespread adoption and impact.

The e-content available on DIKSHA is spread across 32 Indian languages and is designed for students from classes 1 to 12, ensuring inclusion and accessibility. NCERT has collaborated with DIKSHA to consolidate the

resources of leading portals such as the National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER), the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), and E-Pathshala. This integration of educational content ensures seamless access for students, teachers, and other stakeholders.

Kotecha Darshana,(2018). A conducted PhD level research on study of **Effectiveness of digital education on secondary school students of Saurashtra**. The main objective of which was to improve effectiveness and productivity in the class of secondary school students. As a result, digital education brings to life the knowledge acquired by the students and digital education also plays an important role in developing the latent strengths of the students.

5. Continuous professional development of teachers through DIKSHA

DIKSHA is not just a student-only platform; it is also a holistic tool for teacher development. The platform is designed to empower teachers to provide opportunities for continuous professional development enhance their skills and stay updated with modern pedagogical practices.

Ratan Verma at al.(2024). A research study on “**A Study on Access and Use of Diksha for School Teachers amid Covid-19 in Rajasthan**” found that 96% of teachers and 95% of students were aware of the portal. These findings suggested a shift towards digital education in India in rural areas. During Corona, more than 87% teachers and 72% students registered for the courses available on the DIKSHA portal. Overall, the result showed that online learning portals like DIKSHA were useful for teachers to create lesson plans, use them in class, evaluate students, connect with other teachers and expand their knowledge and skills.

States and Union Territories have taken advantage of DIKSHA to establish online teacher training programs, ensuring that teachers across the country can benefit from high-quality professional development resources. One of the main opportunities is the **NISHTHA(National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement)** program, which provides online courses for teachers in eleven languages: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Odia, Telugu, Punjabi, and Urdu.

Primary teachers have to undergo the necessary training for professional preparation, out of which online training through initiation is mandatory for the first phase. DIKSHA Training Certificate is issued after completion of training and evaluation. Then face-to-face training is given in the second phase. Thus, DIKSHA provides a great platform for vocational skills training of teachers.

NCERT has also collaborated with DIKSHA to offer ongoing professional development courses for teachers, ensuring they can continue their learning journey and adapt to the changing demands of education. This focus on teacher development highlights DIKSHA's commitment to promoting a skilled and empowered learning community.

6. Key Features of DIKSHA

DIKSHA, an innovative educational platform, is designed to transform the learning experience through its comprehensive and user-friendly features. Each facility is designed to meet the diverse needs of stakeholders in education, including students, teachers, and administrators. Below is an extensive overview of the main features of DIKSHA:

Repository of educational materials

DIKSHA has an extensive library of educational resources, including textbooks, videos, interactive modules, and assessment tools. These resources are carefully curate by experts to align with the various academic curricula in India. The platform also integrates content from reputable sources, ensuring a broad spectrum of

learning content. Additionally, DIKSHA allows for crowd sourcing content, enabling users to contribute more and enrich the repository. This feature ensures that users have access to a dynamic and constantly updated wealth of knowledge.

Personal education

The platform offers personalized learning avenues, allowing users to tailor their educational journey based on individual needs and preferences. With adaptive learning capabilities, DIKSHA provides recommendations based on performance, meeting a variety of learning styles. This feature is especially beneficial for students who need additional support or those eager to explore beyond the standard curriculum. It promotes tailored learning experience, ensuring that each user's educational goals are effectively met.

Collaboration and knowledge sharing

DIKSHA emphasizes collaboration through forums and discussion groups, enabling teachers to share resources, strategies, and best practices. This promotes a vibrant community of teachers, promoting peer review and mentoring programs. By facilitating the exchange of ideas, DIKSHA contributes to professional development and enhances the teaching method.

Multilingual support

DIKSHA Available in multiple languages, including Hindi, English, Gujarati and many regional dialects, DIKSHA promotes inclusiveness. This feature ensures accessibility to a variety of linguistic backgrounds, with voice-based navigation assisting non-literate users. Breaking down language barriers, initiation ensures equal educational opportunities across India.

Evaluation and feedback tools

The platform offers a variety of assessment tools, including quizzes and tests, to assess student performance. These tools provide constructive feedback and real-time performance tracking, allowing teachers to identify learning gaps and implement targeted interventions. This feature enhances learning outcomes by enabling data-driven educational strategies.

Integration with other initiatives

DIKSHA integrates seamlessly with other government initiatives, such as SWAYAM, which offers online courses. This integration expands the platform's resource base, providing a holistic learning experience. By linking to other educational platforms, DIKSHA creates an integrated ecosystem that supports different educational needs.

7. Facilities available at DIKSHA

Quiz

To promote active participation and strengthen the preservation of knowledge, DIKSHA has introduced a series of engaging and interactive quizzes. These quizzes are thoughtfully designed to captivate students and stimulate their learning process through enjoyable and competitive activities. This quiz not only evaluates students' knowledge but also motivates them to explore new topics and ideas, fostering curiosity and a sense of lifelong learning.

Vidyadan

Vidyadan is a leading national content contribution program integrated into the DIKSHA platform, serving as a collaborative space where educational institutions, private institutions and individual professionals can contribute high-quality e-learning resources for school education. Educational resources are made relevant,

inclusive and accessible to a wider audience by bridging the gap between content creation and dissemination through DIKSHA Vidyadan. This program not only enriches the platform with different perspectives and empowers contributors to play an active role in shaping the future of education.

8. Advantages of DIKSHA

Empowering teachers

DIKSHA is designed to empower teachers by providing a wealth of resources and opportunities. This includes high quality teaching materials such as lesson plans and educational tools, which help teachers, create engaging lessons. Professional development is supported by online courses and workshops, allowing teachers to enhance their skills. Additionally, the platform provides tools to assess student progress, enabling teachers to effectively track their students' performance.

Increase student learning

Students benefit from DIKSHA through access to interactive content such as video and simulation, making complex topics more understandable and engaging. Individualized learning plans allow students to focus on their weaknesses and move at their own pace, making learning more effective. In addition, accessibility of resources ensures that students can learn anytime and anywhere, providing flexibility and convenience.

Promoting inclusiveness and equality

DIKSHA bridges the gap between urban and rural education by providing equal access to resources, ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, have opportunities to succeed. The platform addresses challenges such as Internet penetration and digital literacy, providing offline facilities to reach potentially disadvantaged areas. This outreach ensures that education is equal and inclusive.

Supporting continuous business development

Teachers can engage in continuing education through a variety of resources such as online courses and collaborative forums. These opportunities allow teachers to stay updated with educational trends and share ideas with peers, promoting a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.

9. Some reviews on DIKSHA initiative: The main area of focus should be continuous updating and validation of the content available on the DIKSHA platform. Ensuring that resources remain consistent, accurate, and of high quality is paramount to maintaining the trust and confidence of its users. This can be accomplished through strong partnerships with educational institutions, subject matter experts, and teacher communities. Regular content audits, peer reviews, and feedback methods can help identify outdated or ineffective content, which can then be updated or changed. In addition, the inclusion of different perspectives and regional languages in the content updating process will ensure that DIKSHA remains inclusive and responsive to the needs of teachers and learners across India. By promoting a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement, DIKSHA can establish itself as a reliable repository of educational resources.

Promoting digital literacy among teachers and educators should be a top priority. While DIKSHA provides a wealth of resources, its effectiveness depends on its users' ability to navigate and use the platform effectively. Targeted training programs, workshops, and online courses can equip teachers with the skills they need to take advantage of DIKSHA and other digital tools. By empowering teachers with digital literacy, DIKSHA can unlock its full potential as a catalyst for educational change.

Increasing the accessibility of the platform is essential to increase the use of DIKSHA and ensure its long-term impact. It should be ensured that high-speed internet services are available in all schools and villages including rural areas.

10. Conclusion

DIKSHA represents an important milestone in the digitization of India's education sector, providing a wealth of resources and opportunities for teacher empowerment and professional development. The DIKSHA platform has made significant progress in promoting technology integration and equal access to educational resources, demonstrating its potential to change the way teachers are taught and learners engage with knowledge.

DIKSHA has the potential to become a model for digital education initiatives not only in India but globally. By leveraging technology to empower teachers and enhance educational outcomes, DIKSHA aligns with the vision of Digital India and contributes to the broader goal of creating a more inclusive and effective education system for all. Through continued innovation, collaboration, and commitment to excellence, DIKSHA can pave the way for such a future.

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