



Outcome-based education must to meet future challenges, says Ambedkar varsity Vice-Chancellor

‘Improve faculty and infrastructure to get accreditation from NAAC’

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Vice-Chancellor Koonam Ramji on Friday asked all affiliated colleges to focus on outcome-based education since it had become a must for the educational institutions to face new challenges and meet the needs of the industry. He said that it was the responsibility of the colleges to improve their faculty and infrastructure which were needed to get accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and other organisations.

The Government of College for Women (Autonomous), which could get NAAC-A grading three years ago, organised a national conference on ‘Future Challenges of Higher Educational Institutions in Assessment, Accreditation, Procedures and Ranking Framework Methodologies’ to clear doubts of many colleges over NAAC and National Board of Accreditation (NBA) rules in ensuring grading for the respective institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ramji said that mechanical and conventional approach in teaching would not help students in future. He said that many private universities were designing courses and curriculum to improve skills which were required for industries and government. College Principal K. Sreeramulu, who is member of many NAAC teams, said that adequate

faculty and improvement of infrastructure and understanding the new rules of NAAC would enable the institutions get grading within no time.

Convener of the conference G.S.N. Rao and Co-Convener P.L. Saranya said that subjects such as Need of the Redesigning the Conventional Method of Education, Bringing Gaps between Academia and Industry, Challenges of Higher Education in India, Social Media- A Tool for Learning Resources were discussed at length on the first day of the conference.

Berahampur University retired Professor Jagannath Panda, former Principal of Srikakulam Women's College K. Mythili, Andhra Loyola College Professor Srirangam Mathews, Government Degree College-S.Kota Principal I. Vijayababu and others were present in the conference. They clarified doubts of professors and lecturers of various colleges which are keen to apply for NAAC and NBA grading.

Former Director of Directorate of Distance Education-Utkal University of Odisha, Indian Institute of Management-Visakhapatnam Assistant Professor Bishakha Majumdar and other academicians will participate in the second day session on Saturday, according to the organisers.

[Link:https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/outcome-based-education-must-to-meet-future-challenges-says-ambedkar-varsity-vice-chancellor/article30703996.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/outcome-based-education-must-to-meet-future-challenges-says-ambedkar-varsity-vice-chancellor/article30703996.ece)

NEP has potential to transform higher education sector: Governor

The National Education Policy 2020 has the potential to transform the Indian Higher Education sector to meet the needs of the 21st Century and the challenge lies in its strategic implementation," said Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan.

He participated as Chief Guest in the South Zone Vice Chancellors Meet 2020-21 organised through video conference by the Association of Indian Universities on Wednesday. Harichandan said the NEP 2020 is a forward looking, innovative, and learner-centric policy, launched after a long gap of 34 years and the policy envisages to develop knowledge, skills, values and dispositions with commitment to human rights, sustainable development and reflects a truly global education.

Association of Indian Universities (AIU) is a flagship body of Indian higher education institutions and offers policy advice to the Government of India and acts as a representative body of Indian universities. The AIU is also responsible for according equivalence to degrees/qualifications offered by foreign universities with those offered in India. The South Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet was coordinated by GITAM University.

[Link:https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/the+new+indian+express-epaper-](https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/the+new+indian+express-epaper-)

How Computer-based testing is redefining the education system's evaluation process

To equip the youth of India with relevant skills for their professional journey, the Indian Government is focusing on digitising the education sector. This can be seen from initiatives like the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, SWAYAM, the National Digital Library, Virtual Labs, e-Yantra, and FOSSEE.

With many people turning to online learning, certifications are now being granted on the basis of computer-based testing (CBT). The convenience, security, and efficiency that CBT brings to the table outshines the traditional pen-and-paper based method of testing. Scheduling a computer-based exam through a test centre is convenient for both the examiner and the test-taker.

The latter doesn't have to travel to a test centre and, since they're being monitored remotely, any irregular behaviour can be easily flagged, thereby maintaining the integrity of the test. This way, both students and professionals can gain new certifications without having to take time off from work or travel long distances. The organisation offering the exam can deliver the test globally, without any geographical constraints. CBT also allows the candidate to choose the date and time according to their convenience.

With CBT, the problems of the traditional test are nullified. A digital test paper is uploaded to the test centre on the day of the exam and encrypted. Furthermore, with the help of AI, different question papers can be set at the same difficulty level and, by randomising the order of questions and possible answers, each question paper becomes different.

Another major benefit of CBT is that it significantly reduces logistical expenses of procuring answer sheets, printing question papers, transporting answer sheets to the evaluation centre, and so on. Offering CBT in small test centres can offer a valuable alternative to pupils who are unable to take their exams in schools.

However, with the majority of rural India still not having access to high-speed Internet and technology penetration still being quite low, people who haven't been exposed to technology are often sceptical. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has already started tutoring students in rural areas on how to take tests on computers. By participating in regular mock tests, students have become more confident and are better able to understand the benefits of CBT.

As AI and machine learning continue to advance, we can be sure that CBT will shape the future of assessment in India.

[Link:https://www.thehindu.com/education/how-computer-based-testing-cbt-is-redefining-the-education-systems-evaluation-process/article33586706.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/education/how-computer-based-testing-cbt-is-redefining-the-education-systems-evaluation-process/article33586706.ece)

Digital impetus to learners

A comprehensive online education ensures the timely availability of the right content to learners

Pandemics like the ongoing COVID-19 change the way people across the world live. We are working from home, interacting with each other in virtual environments and accessing required reading material on the web. Several publishing houses, education boards and universities have opened their content on electronic media for all.

With physical proximity becoming potentially fatal, virtual environments are the norm. This could be an opportunity to leverage the power of online education in terms of its asynchrony, availability, accessibility and versatility and also to overcome the glaring weaknesses of our existing education system.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is the core enabler of online education, and its intangibility provides unfathomable opportunities for its evolution. However, the tangible aspect of ICT is expensive and requires huge investments. While governments and universities are planning and installing the technology resources, there is an urgent need to strengthen the soft aspects of online education to achieve the desired learning experience. These include the choice of content, mode of delivery, pedagogical considerations, solo or collaborative endeavors, assessment and other factors that may seem to be trivial but make a big difference to the process of learning. For example, providing an opportunity to raise an opposing view in a classroom discussion anonymously (but visible to the facilitator) can help boost the courage of a hesitant/scared learner.

Opportunities aplenty

A comprehensive online education ensures the timely availability of the right content to the learner. In this era, content is everywhere and the prowess of an educator is manifested through the quality of content that includes dependability, relevance and novelty. The power of the Internet can be exploited well by mashing up finely selected content in their relevant forms (printed, audio, visual) for making learning meaningful. This not only needs a detailed planning by the facilitator, but a robust understanding of the process of learning and the tools/mechanisms that facilitate it. In India, educators usually depend on textbooks and related reading material to impart knowledge on a subject.

Online education has opened a huge space to integrate legacy content with stories, games, real-time problems from the field, and so on. However, this needs training on the effectiveness of different types of content and the interfaces that make the integration of content seamless. We need a plethora of online courses for our educators not only for creation of content, but also on the way content and its integration can lead to effective learning. Similarly, facilitators need to learn about other components of online education such as setting directions on discussion boards, using assignment as a tool for learning, channelising the evolution of collaborative creation of knowledge through wikis, and so on.

India now has an opportunity to enhance the quality of education by building the capability of its educators and increase its ICT infrastructure due to the pandemic.

Link:<https://www.thehindu.com/education/digital-impetus-to-learners/article31877942.ece>

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