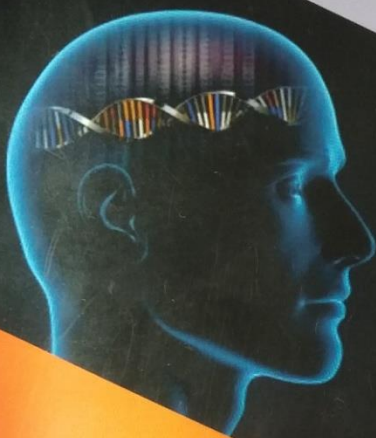


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Rajarshi Shahu Mahavidyalaya, Latur (Autonomous)
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CEM-12
2018-19
"New Dimensions in Higher Education"
One Day National Open Forum (Seminar)

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Dr. Mahadev Gavhane

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16th Oct. 2018

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EBOOKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION: FOR QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

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ABSTRACT:

Indian higher education, currently the third largest in the world, is likely to surpass the U.S. in the next five years and China in the next 15 years, to become the largest system of higher education in the world. India, by 2030 will be amongst the youngest nations in the world. With nearly 140 million people in the college-going age group, one in every four graduates in the world will be a product of the Indian education system. Higher education in India has recorded impressive growth since independence, but there is an immediate need to transform the country's higher education system.

Amitabh Jhingan, EY (Ernst and Young) said, "In order to realize the goals we envision for 2030, adopting a transformative and innovative approach is critical across all the levers of higher education: from curricula and pedagogy to the use of technology to partnerships, governance and funding. Making rapid progress over the next two decades would require a committed and concerted effort from all stakeholders involved i.e academia, industry, and government."

University leaders and managers concern themselves with developments that align with institutions' strategic priorities, deliver competitive advantage, improve teaching and research performance, reduce costs and enhance value for money. EBooks have the potential to engage with all these strategic priorities. EBooks promise much to universities aspiring to enhance student's

educational experience, enrich research resources and streamline services

KEY WORDS: EBooks, EText.

INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the ways to upward social mobility. Good education is seen as a stepping-stone to ensure not only one's livelihood and but also quality of life. Over the last two decades, India has remarkably transformed its higher education landscape. At the time of Independence of India, there were only 20 Universities and 500 Colleges in the country with 2.1 lakhs students in higher education. The numbers now have increased to 30 times in the case of the Universities, 74 times in the case of Colleges and the students enrolment has gone up to over 100 times in the formal system of higher education in comparison to the figures at the time of independence. A target of 30 percent Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 2017 from 15 percent in 2012 was set for the XII Plan. India has not only bettered its enrolment numbers but has enhanced its learning outcomes. The five percent net increase was sought to be achieved through a dual strategy that include increasing the number of educational institutions, opening gates for foreign institutes and enhancing the intake capacity of existing institutions

The country has also undertaken large-scale reforms to better faculty-student ratios by making teaching an attractive career path, expanding capacity for doctoral students at

research universities and delinking educational qualifications from teaching eligibility.

It is important to adopt a learner-centered paradigm of education, introducing multi-disciplinary, industry-oriented, entrepreneurship, and skill-based courses, and adopting new pedagogical techniques such as blended learning, flipped classroom and experiential learning.

University Grants Commission (UGC) is designing programmes and implementing various schemes through academic, administrative and financial support, which will contribute in the growth and development of Indian higher education.

In the changing landscape, entrance of private universities will be a game changer. The education in these universities is highly subsidized but it will give more options to the students.

Large sections of education leaders also believe that entry of foreign universities will change the face of Indian Higher Education System. It is seen as an opportunity that, many foreign higher education institutions to expand their reach beyond the boundaries of their own nation not only to provide education to Indian student community but also in generating good revenue.

EBOOKS IN EDUCATION:

University leaders and managers concern themselves with developments that align with institutions' strategic priorities, deliver competitive advantage, improve teaching and research performance, reduce costs and enhance value for money. Ebooks have the potential to engage with all these strategic priorities. Following the successful integration of E- journals into the academic workflow, eBooks promise much to aspiring to enhance students' educational experience, enrich research resources and streamline services.

Ebooks have the potential to engage with

three key strategic priorities common to most universities:

- To enhance the student experience and academic outcomes within an increasingly competitive environment;

- To drive innovation in learning, teaching and research; and

- To help to use space and human resources more effectively and efficiently

SIGNIFICANCE OF EBOOK IN EDUCATION :

All universities have clearly a key strategic driver: to enhance the student experience.

- Ø To sharpened by ever increasing global competition for well-qualified students. Competition clearly is not limited to student recruitment; universities also strive to improve the educational outcomes of their students in order to prepare them for employment and to reinforce institutional reputations.

- Ø Ebooks contribute to this scramble for competitive advantage by offering the exciting possibility of enhancing the student experience.

- Ø Ebooks enhance educational benefit by improving access to titles that students are expected to read.

- Ø Ensuring timely access to key books: Particularly, those books have been a fundamental, and largely intractable, challenge for universities and their libraries for many years, lack of sufficient copies. It has regularly featured as the top complaint in student surveys over many years.

- Ø It make students to access books more convenient, anytime, anywhere.

- Ø It helps to meet student expectations and to assist students who are juggling the demands of study with complicated personal commitments.

- Ø Ebooks ,Etext and digital information in

students' learning and in universities' provision of texts to support both teaching and research is quite significant.

A 2015 case study that looked at student participation levels and motivation suggested students prefer eTexts to print textbooks — as long as their instructors actively used the course materials in the class. In those classes, a slight majority of students said they read and learned more.³ UK, while ebook provision and use via libraries is growing rapidly (for example, the University of Leicester Library acquired 1086 ebooks in 2008/9 rising to 406,576 in 2012/13) library spending on books is still dominated by spending on print. The 2011/12 Annual Library Statistics published by the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL 2013) report that across the 147 higher education institutions making returns total expenditure on printed books was £46.4 million and on ebooks £14.8 million.⁴

CHALLENGES

- Students recognize the value of technology but still need guidance when it comes to better using it for academics
- IT infrastructure barriers (such as a lack of convenient charging outlets and/or charging stations and insufficient network access) that keep away students from using their devices effectively while on campus.
- ETexts initiative treats textbook acquisition as software licensing.
- The availability of digital materials is growing in the higher education market the concept of the traditional print textbook remains steadfast. In the UCF bookstore, for instance, digital materials comprise about 3 percent of course material purchases. In the 2016–2017 academic year, approximately 40 percent of required textbooks were also offered in a digital format.⁵

CONCLUSION:

India, by 2030 will be amongst the youngest nations in the world and currently the third largest in the world and currently the U.S. in the next five years and China in the next 15 years, to become the largest system of higher education in the world. Obviously, to be competent Indian Education System, it needs to establish a university-wide task force on textbook affordability, with a special focus on adoption of digital materials. Expand professional development to include student support and pedagogical strategies, such as careful e-textbook selection.

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