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Online Curriculum Frame Work for e-Courses in Indian Languages

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Abstract: India is a Multilingual Country, ICT and modern Language tools broken the language barriers and bridge the gap between various sections of the society. In recent years the formal education system running towards the online education system where the learning became more collaborative, contextual and active. According to changes in the system and needs of the society, there is an emergency to change the strategy of teaching learning process. In past decades language classrooms were crowded with full of students gradually becoming to empty classrooms, especially compared to the Telugu Language Classrooms. The reason behind the emerging of empty classrooms is that, the language teaching and learning process was not upgraded with the resent technology to meet the standards of the learners who getting knowledge from outsources and to meet the presents needs of the learners. In online courses, with instant access to vast resources of data and information encouraged the students to run towards internet and other open sources resulted no longer dependence of students on Teacher for learning.

In this changing paradigm in Indian education system the Teacher need to become a facilitator instead of giving lengthy lectures in the classroom. The learning process is to be a continuous process round the clock. To tackle all these problems, need to recognise the suitable objectives to design online courses which can be proposed to solve the problems of present day's language teaching process. In this paper I revealed some of Innovative Practices to Teach Indian Languages in general and Telugu Language in particular in Online Education System. I also suggested the important issues like Curriculum Development, Teaching Practices, Learning Processes and Evaluation Techniques to be remembered to design Language Courses according to the present needs of the learners as well as society.

Keywords: "Multilingual", "ICT", "e-Education System", "Online Pedagogy", "Language Tools"

1. Introduction

India is a multilingual country, to break the language barriers and to bridge communication gap between various sections of the society The Department of Information Technology (DIT) Govt of India initiated a programme, Technology Development for Indian languages (TDIL). This programme intended to motivate general public to use ICT tools and technology in their day to day work and to develop information processing tools and techniques to facilitate human-machine interaction without language barriers and to access multilingual knowledge resources. The Indian Education system running towards e-Education system from formal Traditional Education system with the influence of revolutionary changes taken place in ICT.

Impact of ITC in education in India developing the information technology solutions for Indian Languages. In recent years there has been an explosion of internet in the use of online education for language teaching abroad, these different types of educational tools that can be used to help in teaching Indian Languages are to be adopted. Traditionally in teacher-centred class rooms the teacher is a monopoly on information and Text Books were used for the ultimate solutions for their problems. In online courses, with instant access to vast resources of data and information, students are no longer dependents on teacher for information or knowledge. The learning became more collaborative, contextual and active; this changing scenario requires changes in curriculum and pedagogy. In order to succeed the online language teaching and learning process the tremendous changes are required in curriculum framework, teaching methodology and evaluation process.

2. Online Curriculum Frame Work

Present Language curriculum was framed at the time of Gurukul Education System, only meagre changes have been taken place in the curriculum on the advises of the Educational policies framed time to time in India. Curriculum of Telugu Language teaching is used to modify for every five years, it follows the way that, the literary topics were selected from the works of classical and modern poets and writers irrespective of needs of the learner. But the Curriculum for online Education should be designed according to the different learning styles or combination of styles of activity based concepts in order to provide significant experiences for each class and each participant.

“For performing learners, design environments that are protect-or task-oriented, energizing, competitive, interactive environments, which use coaching, practice, and feedback to encourage self-motivation, holistic thinking, problem solving, self-monitoring progress, and task sequencing, while minimizing the need for extra effort and difficult standards(Martinez,2001)”

The curriculum must resemble the needs of the learners and aspirations of their parents. Now a day's no student is a student for time pass, but he is an innovative to learn something and achieve new thing.

“There is indeed a great deal of enthusiasm and emphasis on education as a means for achieving personal growth and development. The growing aspirations of children and parents across the cross-section of society are reflected in an increasing demand for education, which has far exceeded the supply” p.171, 172. [1]

3. Online Pedagogical Approaches

“It is our contention that innovative approaches to professional development have the potential, to promote the kinds of sustainable change and improvement in online pedagogy that can accommodate institutional and departmental strategic initiatives, and the more personal interests of academics and academic groups, amidst the day-to-day demands of academic work in the contemporary academy” [2].

In an online Course the Teacher must become a facilitator and recognise the goals and objectives and then consider how the online environment can best serve the instructional objectives and activities of the curriculum. Online teaching requires changes in pedagogy in order to succeed online learning where instructor facilitates in guiding the learners. There is no physical contract of the teacher and student or student and student in online classes, so the learning activity must be used in combination with other instructional strategies. Lectures can be prepared, presented via audio or video over the internet.

Teacher should act as mentor in online teaching serves as a guide rather than lecturing the concepts or topics. An online mentorship gives an opportunity for frequent, convenient communication between mentor and learner via e-mail or other online tools can guide the learners to clarify their doubts in time. Online projects are another best way to provide the learner experience and sense of accomplishment, shared working with other learners. Group projects can include simulations, role plays, case studies, problem

solving exercises, group collaborative works, debates, small group discussions and brainstorming which are very useful for language learning.

The other interesting ways for teaching and learning a language through online are online grammar and quizzes sourced from the web, for example user-friendly website is an internet TESL journal, self-study Quizzes for ESL students available at <http://a4es.org>, which can also be developed for Indian languages. Online seminars, workshops and forums also very useful for language teaching. The learners from Telugu Language are very poor and can't afford to attend to the regular classes; they can be able to attend the above language teaching and learning techniques at anytime and anywhere in the world.

4. Online Learning Methods

Students may have different learning styles, learning activities should be designed to motivate the students according to their perspectives and approaches towards the course. Make the learners to control over navigation of course material and control over the sequence learning activities. Online course should be designed with number of activities that can encourage active learning in which learners are expected to participate and provide creative thinking. Activities should be problem based to generating questions to develop critical thinking for formation their own meaningful concepts within the syllabus. Language learning gives more opportunities to the learners to develop their critical and creative thinking in natural environment.

“Overall, the chapters from this and the first two parts of Teaching literature and language online present many useful lessons, while provoking thought about the pedagogical and institutional challenges that arise with the use of technology; they are well worth reading individually with these practical goals in mind”. (2 pp. 34–38) [3].

Language conversations like plays, dramas, small stories, poetry recitations, loud reading etc. Should be introduced to enhance the interaction among the learners. In Telugu Language Astavadhanam, Shatavadhanam are very effective interactions which develop the creative thinking and retention power, such type of activities must be included in online curriculum. *“Online tutorials can be an effective means of education for graduate students. According to Prestamo (1998), experience has shown that faculty and graduate students often do not ask others for help” [4].*

Student Assignments may be used to assess the language vocabulary of the learners, also develop the comprehension, precise writing and expansion writing. Some translation techniques used with Computational Linguistics and Machine Translation help the learners to learn as many as languages to remove language barriers.

5. Evolution Techniques

The evaluation for every teaching is very important to determine how much and how well their students are learning. Most of the techniques used for evaluation in Traditional Education system were Tests, Examinations, Lab Reports, Homework, Assignments, Project works, Quizzes, Interviews, Group discussions etc. In ongoing classes also Teachers should evaluate the students to know how the content can be understood by the students. Evaluation can be formative, summative or a combination of both.

Evaluation techniques are different in online education system that is of Traditional Education system. Evaluation of the learners in online education system can be done by timeliness feedback, readability level of print material, appropriateness of topic, student involvement, submitting assignments, classes participation via e-mail etc.

“Based upon the review of the literature as well as the findings from this study, online evaluations are most effective when faculty and administrators “buy in” to the process, and when focused efforts are directed at encouraging student participation”.[5]

Evaluation Techniques in online course can also useful for the teachers to collecting feedback for teaching improvement. Evaluation may be done by developing a port folio for an application, gathering data to prepare personnel decisions.

Online Evaluation for language teaching can be done in an effective manner, to evaluate Telugu language learners may be asked to write essays, poetry, or any other literary work in connection with their curriculum. Creative thinking and standardising of their writing can be evaluated by their works and suggestions can be made to improve further.

“I think the online evaluations are a much better gauge of how we feel about the class. One suggestion is that we not have just one evaluation at the end of the semester because we tend to forget things we like/dislike about the lecturers/material early in the semester....our classes are broken up into blocks of material with different lecturers for each section. It may be beneficial to complete a survey after each instructor finishes his/her section.”(Article 5.34) [6].

6. Conclusion

In this paper I revealed some of the best practices and Instructional strategies for the development of online courses for Indian Languages in general and Telugu Language in particular. The strategies were deviding into curriculum framework, teaching practices, learning-method and evaluation techniques. These a few lines may not sufficient to suggest the Online Courses for Language Teaching and Learning. Further research need to concentrate on new techniques used for the development of Indian Languages to withstand on worlds Language platform.

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