

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 684

ANSWERED ON 08/02/2023

Digital education policy for Children with Disabilities

684 Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 'Vidya Daan' contributions are nowhere to be found on the DIKSHA website, and if so, reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the lessons provided on SWAYAM portal are one-sided and too surface-level in their instruction and if so, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the audiobooks present on the DIKSHA app do not cover the same material as regular Central/State board textbooks, and the content is missing for most grades and subjects;
- (d) if so, reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by Government to make digital learning accessible to children with disabilities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a), (c) & (d) VidyaDaan is a platform for content sourcing that has been developed and designed for scale to create a warehouse of crowd sourced content from various sources after following a structured approach as per defined taxonomy (Board, medium, grade, subject, learning outcome etc.) and can be leveraged by Centre and States/UTs for various programs (<https://diksha.gov.in/vidyadaan/>). The curation committee scrutinizes the content and approved content is uploaded on DIKSHA. DIKSHA (<https://diksha.gov.in/>) an initiative of the Ministry of Education for digital online education, has QR coded textbooks and various specialized e-Contents for classes 1-12 and teachers in 33 Indian languages. On DIKSHA, states and UTs have their own vertical along with those of NCERT, CBSE and NIOS. DIKSHA usage statistics as on date 25.01.2023 are as under:

- Total Learning sessions on DIKSHA – 518+ crores.
- Total Learning in minutes on DIKSHA – 6,070+ crore minutes.

- Page hits on DIKSHA from 31.10.2022 – 1,463+ crores.
- 6,577 Energized Textbooks developed by states/UTs and NCERT
- 3,10,615 pieces of e-content are live on DIKSHA as on date.

(b) SWAYAM portal facilitates hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from 9th standard till Post-Graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time. All the courses are interactive, prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available, free of cost. The courses hosted on SWAYAM are developed in 4 quadrants – (i) video lecture (using audio-video, multi-media, animation and state of the art pedagogy / technology), (ii) specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded/printed (iii) Discussion Forum for raising of doubts and clarifying them by the Course Coordinator or his team (iv) self-assessment tests through tests and quizzes. So students are able to ask and discuss about queries within discussion forum. In some of the courses based on the requirement live classroom session are also organized.

(e) To facilitate the online learning by all students a comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated as part of AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multimode access to education. The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA is the platform for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (**one nation, one digital platform**). DIKSHA complies with World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 level AA. This enables people with visual impairments to access the website using assistive technologies, such as screen readers. Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired is developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube. In all 4,247 textbook based ISL videos have been recorded, out of these 954 textbook based on ISL videos are uploaded on DIKSHA. A 10,000 word ISL dictionary has been uploaded on DIKSHA. Also, 3,715 audiobook chapters have been developed and uploaded on DIKSHA (as on 25 January 2023).
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel).
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani.
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.

All these schemes/programmes are available in the public domain to all the students across the nation.
