

TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING POLICY

1. Preamble

One of the important and distinguish objective of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU) is to advance and disseminate learning and knowledge by using diverse means communication technology. The term Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) is the use of technology to support students' learning. Here, the word 'Enabled' refers to facilitate learning process by the use of technology. Technology-Enabled Learning is all about making learning possible, either by different ways of serving existing learners or, potentially providing opportunities for learners who typically have little to no access to educational opportunities because of variety circumstances.

2. Purpose of the Policy

- To Increase the national and international reach by offering online Programmes that can be opted by learners anywhere in the world by using MOOCs
- To Improve accessibility and flexibility for students residing in remote areas
- To Respond to the needs of potential employers and the perceived needs of current and future learners;
- To Offer Programmes in association with other institutions on a collaborative teaching approach
- To Reduce the costs associated with processing student enquiries, enrollments and registrations, and assessment and examinations procedures;
- To Improve or maintain the quality of teaching and learning for all the enrolled learner.

3. Educational Rationale

- Use of Technology-Enabled Learning by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University for teaching engages students in a variety of ways (using text, audio, video, graphics etc.) in their learning and supports learner's interactions with their peers and enables them to engage in collaborative work.
- It also better prepares learners for their careers, personal lives and enables them with better provision of feedback on assignments and tasks. TEL can involve learners in different locations and enable them to work together.
- It ensures more consistency in the quality of teaching and enables the teaching of topics that were previously almost impossible or difficult to teach in the diverse circumstances prevailing today.

- Use of Technology-Enabled Learning by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University offers greater flexibility to the learners i.e. learning irrespective of their place or region and time convenience.
- It supports learners with specific learning difficulties, may be related to access to curriculum and also enhances learners' abilities to link theoretical and practical aspects related to various topics and makes learning possible more active.

4. Technology and Infrastructure

University has all the necessary infrastructure for enabling the Technology-Enabled Learning. University teachers make extensive use of ICTs for Teaching and Learning with the help of digital resources, open educational resources (OER), online library resources and institutional digital research resources, services and spaces. Following are the list of innovative initiatives by the university for Technology-Enabled Learning

- **OMKAR-e:** The university has indigenously designed OMKAR-e (Open Matrix Knowledge Advancement Resource for Empowerment) e-Learning platform. It focuses on bridging the gap between the students and relevant education with ease of learning. Learners have full freedom for selecting their Programme, their schedule for study, their place for study and when to appear for exams. Learners can access OMKAR-e by using any available gadget with internet access.
- **'Chaitanya' Studio:** Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University has established a state-of-the-art HDTV and sound recording studio "Chaitanya" with all the post production facilities suitable for premier educational institution, all the required infrastructure for the production of TV and audio content. BAOU utilizes these facilities for preparation of audio/video instruction material for its Programme.
- **Swadhyaya TV and Swadhyaya Radio:** These innovative initiatives by BAOU, facilitate web-based learning through video and radio.
- **Virtual Classroom:** A classroom without walls, a Virtual Classroom, facilitates web-based learning in an interactive mode. A distance learner gets a feel of face to face interaction like in conventional classroom setting with facilities like hand-raising to ask queries, chatting and power-point presentations. A group of learners can be benefitted by interacting with a domain expert present at any remote location of the world. Software facilitates easy recording, retrieving and archival.
- **Educational Apps:** BAOU does offer facilities to the students like indigenously designed

android mobile educational apps for providing vital information about the university with all ease. All apps can be downloaded from Google Play store for the free of cost.

- **VANDE Gujarat Educational Channel:** University broadcasts content related to various educational Programmes 24x7 on Government of Gujarat's virtual platform 'Vande Gujarat Educational channel on 16'.
- **Digital Self Learning Material:** University has made all Programmes' self-learning material available for all the learners in digital format which can be downloaded and used later.

5. Organizational responsibility

- Learner shall be informed about Teaching-Learning resources by various means such as prospectus, advertisement, orientation Programme, workshop, email, SMS, website, social media etc.
- The audio-visual materials produced for the Programmes by the concern school in 'Chaitanya' studio of the university shall be made available on Swadhyay TV and Swadhyay Radio and shall be broadcast as Lecture Series on VANDE Gujarat educational channel no 16.
- Broadcasting schedule prepared for VANDE Gujarat educational channel no 16 and schedule for Virtual Class room counselling sessions shall be informed to the learners through Learner Support Centre (LSC) and website.
- Programmes content developed by the concern school using four quadrant (Video/Audio, Text, Reference, Self-Assessment) approach and approved by the concern school's Quality Assurance Committee (SQAC), Academic Council (AC) and Academic Planning Board (APB) shall be shared on OMKAR-e online e-Learning platform by the school.
- The Self-Learning Material (SLM) of all the Programme shall be made available to learners through website by the university.
- Faculty and staff members engaged in Teaching Learning Content development shall be regularly provided with capacity building opportunity to familiarize the stakeholders of the opportunities and technical feasible options of the platform.
- Educational Apps shall be regularly updated with the latest information by the university.
- Access to all the stakeholders, Hardware/Software, Networking equipment, servers for digital storage of materials, resources, online tools, servers for student services and Programme administration shall be maintained by the computer department.

6. Opportunities for Development

Following Continuing Professional Development (CPD) shall be organized by the university to promote the TEL.

- **Curriculum and Programme development using technology:** To develop an understanding of the pedagogical rationale of using TEL in their Programmes and modules and the implications of their choices for students, staff and resources with an aim to promote contextualized reflective practice and tactical choices for pedagogically driven technology use and aiming at improving the quality of the student experience
- **Development of students' digital literacy skills:** Academic Programmes must ensure that opportunities exist for students to develop their digital literacy skills. Such skills are not simply about knowing how to use technology, but also about knowing how to use it effectively for learning.
- **Quality assurance and quality enhancement:** University shall build capacity and mechanisms for the design, implementation, reporting of monitoring and evaluation activities (including learning analytics) for quality assurance and quality enhancement purposes.

7. TEL Governance

University shall form a TEL committee wherein there is a representation of all school, directors (Academic) and program analysts to ensure the adequate flow of information to and from users (teachers and students) through appropriate means.

The committee will conduct surveys to provide management with information about how students reacted to and evaluated particular TEL experiences and at a more individual student-oriented level, learning analytics data will provide live dynamic data about students' current progress. This can enable Programme or module leaders and teachers to understand number of students using particular TEL initiatives. The committee shall share the experiences associated with TEL materials and resources development and evaluation

8. Review

The TEL Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the University's review of policy compliance or in response to changes in educational and technical environment.

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