

ADINET e-News Digest

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HAPPY DIWALI

May this Diwali Light up your Lives, so that each day of the year becomes healthy & happy! To achieve this we need a positive attitude & integrity in our work and relations.

PAUSE & PONDER

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.”

- Plato

A ‘vacuum’ in education: We need to teach kids, not just hold exams:-

Many resourceful young people feel the need to enhance and enrich the education that is being dished out in schools.

India does not have a system of education,” proclaimed Prof. Krishna Kumar in his recent talk on “Teaching the Indian Constitution” at a conference in Kolkata. “We have a system of examinations — not education,” he clarified to an audience, which nodded and hummed in total agreement. He then lamented the complete dependence of teachers on textbooks. Teachers, he had observed, perceived that teaching meant explaining the text. The teachers in the audience protested, saying that the textbooks were so content-heavy that there was no scope for anything else in the classroom.

Many resourceful young people feel the need to enhance and enrich the education that is being dished out in schools. They have created products and services which are truly commendable. However, there are many who having smelt the opportunity to make a lot of money, and try to capture the education market with gimmicky marketing strategies. Many institutions fall for these ploys, but happily pass on the costs to parents who will invest any amount to ensure a bright future for their offspring. The “education business” is thriving because the education vacuum is real.

To take it chronologically — there are educational toys and games for the very young while for older students “fruitful educational experiences” that a regular school does not give, are on offer. There are packages to teach reasoning and logic, online programs for middle-school students to improve mathematical skills and others to develop an interest in science. Now there is a proliferation of robotics courses.

It has been widely noticed that a combination of IIT and IIM talent always enhances the value of an educational product in the eyes of a potential customer. “Discover the genius within your child”, says the brochure of a company which is run by IIT-IIM alumni. Another company promises to teach kindergarten students lateral thinking, creativity and problem-solving, thereby developing “critical skill-sets”.

Thus, despite the attempts of resourceful entrepreneurs, it appears that until we replace our current examination system with a proper education system, the education vacuum is here to stay.

Source | <https://www.asianage.com/>

'Reading Mela' in UP schools on I-Day

Besides, primary and upper primary schools in Uttar Pradesh have also been directed to establish reading corners on their campus where five to six children could sit and read books of their choice, said a circular by the department.

To inculcate the habit of reading among students at a young age, the Basic Education Department is organizing a 'Reading Mela' on Independence Day across the state.

Besides, primary and upper primary schools in Uttar Pradesh have also been directed to establish reading corners on their campus where five to six children could sit and read books of their choice, said a circular by the department.

In the circular, the schools have also been asked to rope in parents of students for participation in this program. "Besides children, their parents should be involved in reading, storytelling, and poetry reciting," said Sarvendra Vikram Bahadur Singh, director, basic education in the circular.

Other activities that would be held on Independence Day would include role-playing, poetry reciting, storytelling, group reading, and picture story. "Children should be divided into the small groups and asked to read some stories relating to Independence Day and act on some scenes," he said.

UP has 1.59 lakh primary and upper primary schools where 1.54 crore students are enrolled.

Source | [News Headlines, English News, Today Headlines, Top Stories | Hindustan Times](#)

UGC recognizes 14 new higher education institutes for open and distance learning:-

University Grants Commission has recognised 14 new Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) for providing courses through distance education. This list is in addition to 82 such institutes that were recognised by the UGC in May this year.

14 New Higher Education Institute List | https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/264272_2_HEI-recognition-2019-and-onwards.pdf

Final List | <https://images.firstpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/FINAL-RECOGNITION-STATUS-08-05-2019.pdf>

Source | www.ugc.ac.in

Mobile Library Bus Service Launched to Reach Out to Delhi Readers - 'GharGharDastak GharGharPustak':-

The five-bus mobile library service was launched under the 'GharGharDastak GharGharPustak' Scheme of the Delhi Public Library.

Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel on Wednesday flagged off a mobile library bus service which aims to reach out to readers in Delhi, especially those in slums, resettlement colonies and rural areas.

The five-bus mobile library service was launched under the "GharGharDastak GharGharPustak" Scheme of the Delhi Public Library (DPL).

According to the ministry, the buses have been procured under CSR (corporate

social responsibility) assistance from the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Motivating young students to develop reading habits during the launch, Patel explained how there cannot be all-round mental development of a person without reading books.

The minister also directed the DPL to maintain a special collection of books on eminent personalities which must be made available to the masses through the mobile library buses.

Source | <https://www.india.com/>

One woman is transforming libraries to make lifelong readers out of Indian children:-

Dalbiri Kaur Madan is on a mission to make lifelong readers out of children.

In 2011, she set up the One Up library and bookstore in Amritsar, in the north Indian state of Punjab, with that view. "I also realized that there were limited public spaces for children. The only options were the shopping malls," she told Quartz.

What began as a physical space gradually evolved into a larger project to breathe new life into school libraries. Madan began consulting with schools in the city and signed up for numerous courses in pedagogy and learning methodologies in New York.

While there are several new initiatives that are trying to engage children and offer them alternatives to smart phones and gadgets, Madan's consultation projects with schools is unique. A school's library can often be a static space, and no new

books may be added to the shelves for years. When Madan works with a school, she helps it design reading programs and an ever-expanding, comprehensive list of books.

After a successful run in Amritsar, she moved to New Delhi and set up the One Up children's library in the affluent neighborhood of Vasant Vihar in 2017. Through this space, Madan helps children as young as 7 months to build a relationship with books.

At the end of the day, a school's library was as good as the person it was blessed with. Principals and librarians would sometimes display great ambition, but I felt the library spaces weren't empowered to think differently.

This led me to speak to school heads and to work with them to develop reading program as part of the curriculum. I wanted to help schools and parents change the way they nurtured their readers. When children come to a school at 3 years, they are curious, they are readers and they want to read. But how do we ensure that when those children step out of the school at 18 years, they continue to be readers?

How is your library different from a traditional library?

Research suggests that if a parent reads out aloud to their children for 15 minutes every day, up to the age of 3, a child can develop a subconscious vocabulary of 157,000 words. A research in the US says that there can be up to a 30-million word gap between kids born into a family that reads or where parents read aloud to the child, and those who don't.

So ours is a library where facilitators read out to children. We encourage the parents of our members to accompany them and read out to the toddlers themselves. As the children grow older, they not only develop a thirst for reading but also the stamina to stay focused. What I try to emphasize through One Up is the fact that reading—like any other activity or hobby—needs practice and focus.

I also try to keep parents engaged so that reading truly becomes a habit for a child. For instance, we have fun competitions where we tell parents to send us photos of their children reading on vacation. We host activities like “drop everything and read”, and encourage children to write book reviews so they are thinking critically.

One could argue that One Up is a space for the affluent alone.

That may well be true, but I am hoping I can help raise privileged children to become responsible adults. Our books offer a window into all kinds of realities that privileged Indian children are shielded from.

Besides this, One Up has also helped set up the Bandana Sen community library in a South Delhi slum area. I have taken children from One Up to visit this space and even that I feel was a learning experience for them.

Source | <https://qz.com/>

The benefits of writing :-

The practice of writing regularly not just helps to clear mental clutter but can help improve relationships

Source | [Times of India](#) | 11th August 2019

National Artificial Intelligence Resource Portal (NAIRP) – IIT-KGP & Amazon Initiative

IIT-KGP, Amazon join hands to develop AI portal :-

Kolkata: In a bid to promote learning and development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur announced a collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to develop a National Artificial Intelligence Resource Portal (NAIRP) platform, an official said.

"There is already a great demand for professionals skilled in AI as well as resources, and this need will only increase in our society. The development of this platform will help boost the AI community in India," Sudeshna Sarkar, Head of Centre for Artificial Intelligence at IIT Kharagpur, said.

Source | <https://news.siliconindia.com/>

Education: Beyond the Learning Curve :-

The forthcoming new education policy and steps to scale up higher education are encouraging; now, for integrated action.

The Journey So Far

The K. Kasturirangan committee has submitted the Draft National Education Policy, 2019. The new education policy could come in November.

Five public universities have been given the 'Institution of Eminence (IoE)' tag; five private varsities have received letters of intent for the same.

In all, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended IoE status for 15 public and private institutions, respectively.

The Unfinished Agenda

A five-year action plan is needed to implement the most critical reforms, such as a new education regulatory mechanism and body

Vacancies must be filled within a set deadline

Source | <https://www.indiatoday.in/>

AICTE to approve B.Tech course in AI, data science:-

IoT, cyber security may be offered as specialisation

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to approve a Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech) course in Artificial Intelligence and data science to cater to the growing demand for skilled manpower in these technologies, said AICTE chairman Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe in Chennai on Saturday.

Link | <https://pralhad-fyilibrarian.blogspot.com/2019/09/aicte-to-approve-btech-course-in-ai.html>

Source | <https://www.thehindu.com/>

LMS (Learning Management Systems) - A learning experience! :-

Learning Management Systems is an innovative web based training that most schools are adopting in their quest for technology- based learning. There is a lot happening with learning management systems (LMS) when it comes to imparting quality education in schools.

Unlimited access to eLearning materials - Once the eLearning course materials is uploaded onto the LMS and published, then it can have unlimited access to information. Even those who are on the go can login to the eLearning platform via their smartphones and tablets. They won't have to wait until their next online training session to develop skills and perfect work- related tasks. This makes LMS an essential tool for global audiences in different time zones.

Good to track learner progress and performance - A good LMS helps to keep track of learner's progress and ensure that they are meeting their performance milestones. Most Learning Management Systems feature reporting and analytics tools that also allow you to pinpoint areas of your eLearning course that may be lacking, as well as where it excels. For example, an online lesson can be modified to meet the learning appetite of online learners for specific lessons if you find it inadequate for the learners.

Saves costs- Online learners can carry out their training online, which means that they can save a sizable amount on instructor travel costs, online training site rental and printed eLearning materials.
Saves time - A Learning Management System can even reduce online training times. Online learners get only the information they need in a direct and organized manner, instead of having to sit through half hour online training courses. Online exams, quizzes, interactive simulations, eLearning video highlighting

complex tasks help to instantly give knowledge of what is needed.

Source | [Mid Day | 11th September 2019](#)

Give student loans on future income: IIT-Delhi :-

The suggestion is part of IIT-Delhi's pitch for more financial autonomy for the country's 23 premier engineering institutes.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi has urged the government to emulate Australia and extend income-contingent loans to students to cover tuition fees and seek repayment only after they have found a job.

Australia's Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) lends students the cost of their tuition fees, and repayment begins after they start earning above a fixed threshold. HELP is different from mortgage-style loans in which a debtor has to repay regardless of her income. IIT-Delhi has suggested that the HRD Ministry should consider setting up an agency similar to the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) "for directly funding students with full or partial tuition fee based on their needs and put in a process to recover as additional tax/cess once he/she gets employed." HEFA is an agency that extends ten-year loans to

government educational institutions for infrastructure development.

"It is important for IITs that our graduates do not always choose high-paying jobs but follow their passion in other fields, including research and public service. Very high loan as a burden eliminates career choices as can be seen even today from the IIM type loan based education," the proposal states.

Source | <https://indianexpress.com/>

India creates 1K scholarships for ASEAN kids to pursue PhDs:-

New Delhi: With 1,000 PhD scholarships for ASEAN students in India's Indian Institutes of Technology or IITs, New Delhi on Monday formally announced its largest capacity development initiative for ASEAN countries.

The total budget outlay of the scholarship program is Rs 300 crore and the first batch of ASEAN students will be admitted starting January 2020.

Source | [Daily News Analysis | 17th September 2019](#)

Information for this issue has been provided by Mr. Pralhad Jadhav, Senior Librarian, Khaitan & Co. Mumbai