Resource Based Quality School Education*

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The two Program Units, Open Education Resource for Schools (OER4S) and e-Teacher Training (eTT), of VSLH add quality to the Virtual School programs by offering quality resources and training to teachers. The OER is so organised that it can be easily used by students and teachers at PPK centers or through internet access or through MKCL network of 3500 access centers.

OER for students is at present under construction and development. It uses the constructivist approach and creates various spaces and facilities for student's learning and working. All these are at various levels and Learning Objects will be developed / obtained and deposited in two ways: in packages such as courses, pp-presentations, lectures with available media, etc., and in the formats of reusable learning objects (RLO). On the whole structure for students, teachers and parents is similar in nature but differing in content, standard and purpose.

OER Spaces for Student Learning

Student's space is divided into FOUR parts:
1. Information space,
2. Interaction space,
3. Creation space. and
4. Learning tools and technologies

The information is further classified for different stages of K-12 and levels of achievements. It stores contents in packages already used for studies (books, courses, self-instructional materials, etc.) for lectures (pp presentations, slide sets, etc.).

The RLO's are stored in Information space in various layers. The layer for Content with categories – information / facts, concepts/meaning, procedures/experiments, theories/principles and development/impact. The other layers contain information about the media used and the performance assessment measures in learning. The interaction space provides for action oriented learning achieved through individual or group efforts. The creation space provides for various types of approaches and methods for assessing developmental and creative activities such as projects, services, innovations, etc.

This paper is a part of the main paper on 'Generating Mass Movement for Creating Quality School Education for All' and appears as its Annexure 2.

A provision for learning tools and techniques for all the three stakeholders is made in a different space as given above. After developing architecture of students' spaces the other spaces will be taken up for development.

A workshop organised recently for creating content for OER was attended by about 80 expert and experienced teachers. They created many different formats of content, which makes it essential to create additional boxes for storing the information. This activity is in progress.

Dynamic OER

The goal is to make the OER4S dynamic tool for learning working and creating. It will also be associated with many activities to ensure wider use or OER. We are having plans for developing a *question answer forum* for the all stakeholders with a focus on the questions raised by students. A child will be encouraged to send his/her question through email which would be answered by an experts in the field. The answer would then be stored in the 'Why Files' of the website for the use by a large number of students and teachers. Anyone who reads the answer is free to modify it as per his/her interest and background. In fact, the program aims at making all the stakeholders (teachers, student, parents and researchers) equal partners in the development and implementation these resources.

The content of OER will be in English and Marathi the regional language of Maharashtra. However, for the sake of rural areas, vital and essential information will be translated in Marathi.

Teachers' Training

Based on the support of OER4S which contains content for teachers also, a program of training is being planned at two levels: one for those who can create and edit content in various forms and the other for using OER for offering quality education and tutoring with personalisation.

Another program planned to make VSLH effective is to organise training of teachers linked with the activities of Virtual School and Olympiad programs. It will be developed on the basis of requirements of PPK and NETS for school children .