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**A Study of Trends Relating To Online Education Initiatives by Indian Government**



**Aishwarya Sharma,**

M. Com., NET

Gujarat University, Ahmedabad

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### Abstract:

Online Education was already a growing industry and the current Covid-19 pandemic situation has made it a necessity for all educational institutions. The Government of India (GoI) has taken several initiatives to promote online education like SWAYAM, DIKSHA, NDLI, NPTEL and the most recent launch of the online platform YUKTI. In the present study, the researcher wants to analyze the trends of online education indicated by the initiatives taken by Indian Government especially in the wake of current rise in its demand.

**Key words:** Increase in usage of Online Education platforms, GoI, Covid-19

### INTRODUCTION:

The Government of India has taken several Information Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives for promoting free education via digital means through Ministry of Education and University grant Commission (UGC). There has been a spike in the usage of these digital education platforms recently.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To analyze the usage of DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for School Education) platform in last 60 days (14 Sep – 14 Nov) from data provided in its Usage Metrics Report.
- To analyze the trend of usage from top five states reporting highest usage percentage of total usage in the above period.
- To analyze the online education activities undertaken by these top five states identified through India Report – Digital Education issued in June 2020 by Department of School, Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- To infer the effect of Covid – 19 pandemic on increase in usage of online learning platforms from Press Information Bureau report issued on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 titled “Access to the National Online Education Platform SWAYAM and other Digital Initiatives of HRD ministry has tripled in the last one week – HRD Minister”

### PERIOD OF THE STUDY

Period of the present study is 8 months i.e. March 2020 to November 2020.

### TYPES OF DATA

This is an analytical study. Secondary data collected from official government websites has been used for this study.



**TOOLS AND TECHNIQUE**

Trend analysis is used as tools for this study.

**DATA ANALYSIS:**

**Table: 1 Analysis of Top 10 States using the learning platform DIKSHA**

| State   | Learning Sessions | Percentage of Total Learning Sessions | Cumulative percentage |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Uttar Pradesh   | 135247911         | 19.59%                                | 19.59%                |
| Madhya Pradesh  | 96067961          | 13.92%                                | 33.51%                |
| Gujarat   | 89897277          | 13.02%                                | 46.53%                |
| Rajasthan   | 71962012          | 10.42%                                | 56.96%                |
| Bihar   | 56331606          | 8.16%                                 | 65.12%                |
| Odisha  | 52421096          | 7.59%                                 | 72.71%                |
| Jharkhand   | 33931003          | 4.92%                                 | 77.63%                |
| Karnataka   | 27113867          | 3.93%                                 | 81.55%                |
| Andhra Pradesh  | 25776332          | 3.73%                                 | 85.29%                |
| Haryana   | 19514510          | 2.83%                                 | 88.11%                |
| Total Learning Sessions (of all states including states not included above) | 690314940         |                                       |                       |

**Interpretation:**

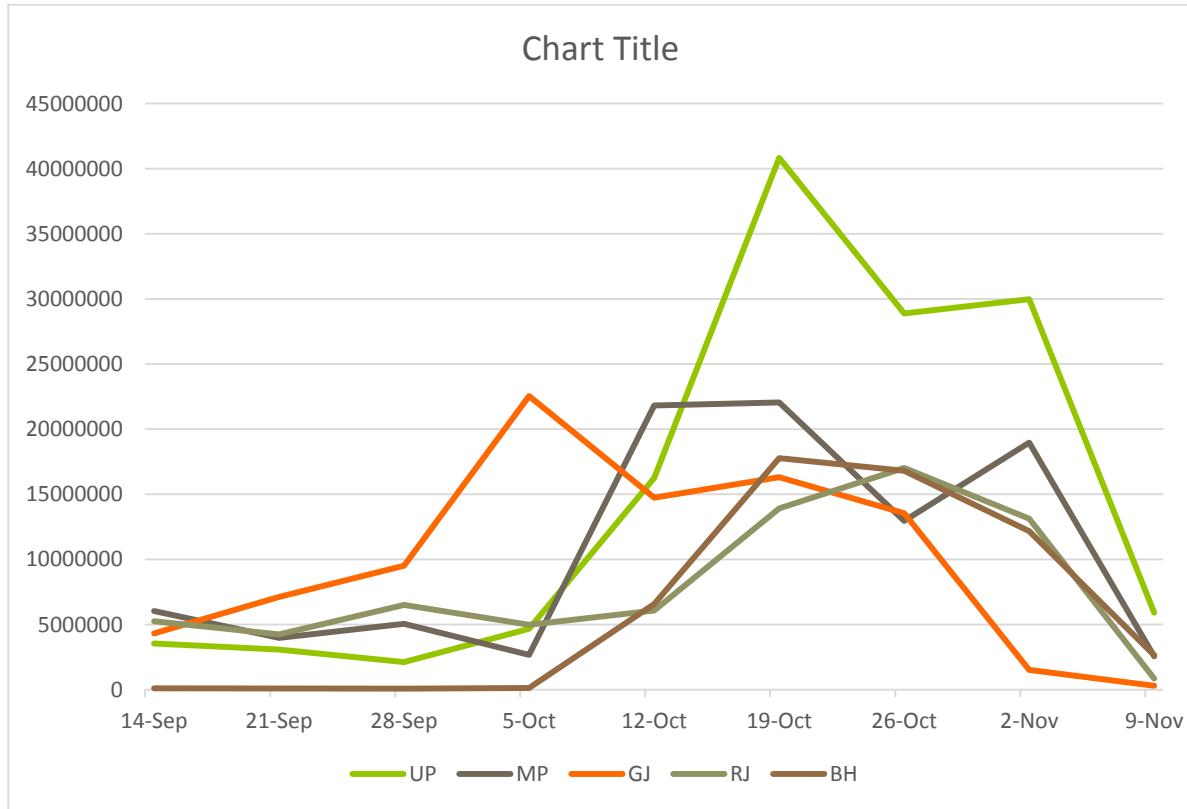
The above data shows that around 65% of the usage of DIKSHA platform is contributed by 5 states namely Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Bihar.

**Table: 2 Data showing usage of DIKSHA platform by Top 5 States from September to November 2020**

| Date   | Uttar Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | Gujarat  | Rajasthan | Bihar    |
|--------|---------------|----------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 14-Sep | 3543860       | 6033526        | 4313088  | 5254205   | 96682    |
| 21-Sep | 3078203       | 3969116        | 7116800  | 4239762   | 83902    |
| 28-Sep | 2111309       | 5056940        | 9518619  | 6504048   | 76409    |
| 5-Oct  | 4669566       | 2663762        | 22536542 | 4973840   | 130182   |
| 12-Oct | 16250494      | 21817115       | 14735151 | 6072883   | 6572836  |
| 19-Oct | 40830687      | 22050498       | 16314342 | 13913492  | 17769134 |
| 26-Oct | 28881233      | 12957978       | 13545418 | 17022320  | 16799274 |
| 2-Nov  | 29972668      | 18963065       | 1518718  | 13128160  | 12165163 |
| 9-Nov  | 5909891       | 2555961        | 298599   | 853302    | 2638024  |
| Total  | 135247911     | 96067961       | 89897277 | 71962012  | 56331606 |



Chart: 1 Usage of DIKSHA platform by Top 5 States from September to November 2020



**Interpretation:**

The above diagram shows that all the top states using DIKSHA platform have seen a huge increase of usage in the month of October and November 2020.

The Ministry of HRD had already issued a report via Press Information Bureau dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 stating that “The Education portals of NCERT like Diksha, e-pathasala, NROER and NIOS and the other ICT initiatives like Robotics education (e-Yantra), Open Source Software for Education (FOSSEE), Virtual experiments (Virtual Labs) and Learning programming (Spoken tutorial) are also experiencing very large access rates.”

The data analysis shows that the access rates of DIKSHA has further increased at a high rate in the month of October and November.



Table: 3 Data showing the digital education activities undertaken by the Top 5 states

| Activities / States                       | Uttar Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | Gujarat | Rajasthan | Bihar |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Digital Classroom                         | ✓             |                | ✓       |           | ✓     |
| ICT Labs                                  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓       | ✓         |       |
| Online Admission                          |               |                | ✓       |           | ✓     |
| E-content repository                      | ✓             | ✓              | ✓       | ✓         | ✓     |
| E-books                                   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓       | ✓         | ✓     |
| Offline books Text Books                  | ✓             |                | ✓       | ✓         |       |
| Interactive resources online              | ✓             | ✓              | ✓       | ✓         | ✓     |
| Educational TV                            | ✓             |                | ✓       | ✓         | ✓     |
| Educational Radio Channel                 | ✓             | ✓              | ✓       | ✓         |       |
| WebTV Channels                            | ✓             | ✓              | ✓       | ✓         | ✓     |
| E-learning Portal                         | ✓             |                |         | ✓         | ✓     |
| Computer based learning                   | ✓             |                | ✓       | ✓         |       |
| Mobile Application                        | ✓             | ✓              | ✓       | ✓         | ✓     |
| Civil Society Partnership                 | ✓             |                | ✓       | ✓         | ✓     |
| Digital Initiatives for Competitive exams | ✓             |                | ✓       |           |       |
| Other Initiatives                         |               |                | ✓       | ✓         | ✓     |

**Interpretation:**

We see that Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan have taken most of the initiatives listed. The common activity that all the Top 5 states have undertaken are E-content repository, E-books, Interactive resources online, WebTV channels and Mobile Application. This analysis can be used to improve the performance of other states as to primarily focus on these areas while planning to implement the activities.

**MAJOR FINDINGS OF STUDY:**

- During the study period there has been an increase in the usage of digital learning platforms launched by Government of India.
- The Top five states leading the Digital Education reform are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Bihar.
- The Top five states have seen a spike in usage of Digital education platforms from October to November 2020 which was already showing an increasing trend from March 2020.



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### **CONCLUSION:**

The analysis indicates that the online education platforms launched by Government of India have shown an increase in usage after the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country. It has also seen a sudden increase in the months of October – November. This highlights the fact that even though due to the pandemic, citizens are forced to stay at home, but they have found ways to make value addition in their education and skills by utilizing the platforms for online learning provided by the Government.

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