

Institute of Human Resources Development

(Established by Government of Kerala)

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No. DA1/8251/2017/HRD

Dated: 25.07.2017

From

The Director

To

The Heads of Associate Institutions under IHRD
(Engineering Colleges/College of Applied Science)

Sir/ Madam,

Sub: - Importance of Open Educational Resources (OER) in 2002- Views sought for - reg: -

Ref: - 1. Do Letter No. 7-1/2017 dated. 12.06.2017 from the Secretary MHRD, Government of India, New Delhi.

2. Government letter no. K3/1584153/17H.Edn dated. 01.07.2017.

With reference to the above, you are directed to furnish your views on the importance of OER's as well as the online availability of the educational resources through various flagship schemes of MHRD in Higher education system ie, INFLIBNET, NPTEL, NMEICT, SWAYAM etc. A Copy of letter under refence is also enclosed for reference.

Yours Faithfully

Sd/-

DIRECTOR

Encl: As stated

Approved for Issue

Junior Superintendent



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

No: K3/1584153/17/H.Edn.

Higher Education (K) Department,
Thiruvananthapuram, Dated: 01-07-2017

From

The Secretary to Government

To

8251 HRD

40/13.2.12



1. The Director of Collegiate Education, Thiruvananthapuram.
2. The Director of Technical Education, Thiruvananthapuram.
3. The Deputy Director General, NCC, Thiruvananthapuram
4. State Librarian, State Central Library, Thiruvananthapuram.
5. The Secretary, Kerala State Library Council, Thiruvananthapuram
6. The Commissioner for Entrance Examinations, Thiruvananthapuram
7. The Managing Director, Kerala State Centre for Advanced Printing and Training, H.O.Complex, Vattiyookavu, Thiruvananthapuram - 13
8. The Director, Institute of Human Resource Development, Prajoe Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram
9. The Director, Kerala State Science and Technology Museum, Thiruvananthapuram
10. The Director of LBS Centre, Thiruvananthapuram
11. The Director, Centre for Continuing Education Kerala, Anathara Lane, Charachira, Kowdiar P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 3
12. The Principal, Law College, Thiruvananthapuram/Ernakulam/Thrissur/Kozhikode.
13. The Registrar, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram/ M.G. University, Kottayam/ Sree Sankaracharya University Sanskrit, Kalady, Ernakulam/ Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi/ Calicut University, Malappuram/ Kannur University, Kannur/ Malayalam University, Thirur/ National University of Advanced Legal Studies, NUALS Campus, H.M.T. Colony P.O., Kalamassery, Ernakulam/ A P J Abdul Kalam Technological University, College of Engineering Campus, Thiruvananthapuram
14. The Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council, KSSTM Campus, Vikas Bhavan P.O., Thiruvananthapuram
15. The Director, Kerala Council for Historical Research, Vyloppilly Samskrithi Bhavan, Nalanda P.O., Thiruvananthapuram.
16. The Director, K.R. Narayanan National Institute of Visual Science and Arts, Thekkumthala, Kanjiramattom P.O., Kottayam, Kerala - 686585

DA

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Sir,

Sub:- Higher Education Department – Importance of Open Educational Resources (OER) in 2002 – views sought for - reg.

Ref : D.O Ir.No.7-1/2017 dated, 12-06-2017 from the Secretary, MHRD, Government of India, New Delhi.

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I am inviting attention to the reference cited, I am to forward herewith a brief concept note on the importance of OER as well as on-line availability of educational resources through various flagships schemes of Ministry of Human Resource Development for forwarding your views in the regard directly to Government, MHRD, New Delhi, under intimation to Government of Kerala.

Yours faithfully,
THARUN LALS
Under Secretary
for Secretary to Government

Approved for issue



Section Officer

for

केवल दु. गार शर्मा, भा.प्र.से.
K. K. Sharma, I.A.S.
सचिव
Secretary

Secy (Hedu)
[Signature]

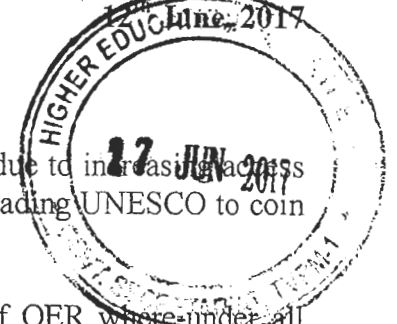


भारत सरकार
मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

Q-1584153
1573742/112/CSO

21 June 2017

D.O. No.7-1/2017-DL



Dear Chief Secretary,

The availability of education resources is changing worldwide due to increasing access to the Internet and the emergence of the open courseware movement leading UNESCO to coin the term "Open Educational Resources (OER)" in 2002.

2. There appears a strong need to have a policy on the usage of OER where under all teaching and learning materials developed with public funds can be encouraged to be released with an appropriate open licence and made available on-line in editable digital formats to all institutions of higher learning.
3. Some of the issues which are important in dissemination of OER are the promotion of their access across institution and retention and revision of the content at the local level to adapt to local needs. Similarly remixing of the revised content and its redistribution are another set of actions which require active support of local beneficiaries and stake holders. Thus, in order to frame an appropriate policy on OER, we would like to get the views of academicians of your state.
4. In order to facilitate the same, a brief concept note is being attached giving therewith the importance of OERs as well as the on-line availability of the educational resources through various flagship schemes of MHRD in higher education system i.e. INFLIBNET, NPTEL, NMEICT, SWAYAM etc. It will be appreciated if you could circulate the concept note among Vice Chancellors of your state to solicit their views on OER.
5. A response within one month will help us in formulating a quick draft policy.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

(K. K. Sharma)

Chief Secretaries (of all States and UTs)

Encl. As above

ANNEXURE

A brief Concept Note on the importance of OER as well as the On-line availability of the educational resources through various flagship schemes of MHRD

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning materials that are available either in the public domain or via an open license, allowing no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions. OER improve access to quality educational resources, facilitate the use and adaptation of free and openly licensed materials, and provide cost – efficiency as well as better engagement of teachers in the teaching-learning process. The potential benefits of OER extend to all stakeholders in education, and OER offer a possible solution to increase access, improve quality and reduce the costs of learning materials.

2. Many countries are contemplating development of OER Policies. The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and UNESCO provide support to develop OER Policies at National level and assist Higher Education Institutions in building capacities, developing content and foster collaboration to enhance further development and use of OER.

3. The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was established through a Memorandum of Understanding between Government of Commonwealth countries in the year 1988. Its Headquarter is located at Vancouver, Canada. The COL's major function is to encourage the development and sharing of open learning/distance education knowledge, resources and technologies. COL is also helping developing nations improve access to quality education and training. India is represented on the Board of Governors and Executive Committee of COL through Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

4. While availability of OER in many disciplines has improved considerably over the years, there are concerns about their usage due to lack of awareness and capacity to reuse and remix the materials, and contextualize the same to integrate in teaching and learning. The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) has also developed several guidelines and publications related to OER. The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) of MHRD has emerged as a flagship initiative for engineering and basic science courses under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).

5. Several Institutions in India have initiated activities in the area of OER and are either developing their own policies or looking forward to guidelines from the Government of India. Apart from the 'Open License Policy' of NMEICT, several Open Universities in the country, including the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), and the Central University of Hyderabad and Central University of Himachal Pradesh have adopted OER Policies.

6. The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) of MHRD hosts e-PG Pathashala, covering large number of modules in various post-graduate subjects. INFLIBNET also hosts an integrated e-content search portal to aid in the discovery of content developed through various NMEICT projects.

7. Connectivity in Higher Education Institutions in India has improved considerably over the years since the establishment of the National Knowledge Network (NKN). This network has already connected large number of institutions in various categories throughout the country. The NKN is designed to provide high speed connectivity for sharing knowledge and information, enabling collaborative research, and facilitating distance education in specialized areas, including medicine, engineering and specific areas of the sciences. The NKN provides the necessary infrastructure to address the critical issue of access and enables a new paradigm for collaboration amongst educational institutions. The available bandwidth ranges from 2.5 to 10 Gbps in different institutions and needs to be further optimized for content sharing. NMEICT is also providing support to educational institutions in the country to improve connectivity.

8. It is necessary to have an overriding focus on excellence while expansion of the existing Institutions and infrastructure are carried out to accommodate the increasing demand and provide lifelong learning opportunities. Integration of appropriate technology will assist in the expansion of quality education opportunities, and the launch of the SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) platform - another MHRD scheme to provide - massive open online courses (MOOCs) to millions of learners across the country through hundreds of quality courses. It is also important that appropriate schemes be developed to provide equity in access to quality education opportunities.

9. There are currently huge amount of educational resources already available as OER in India through NPTEL and INFLIBNET. The NPTEL resources are widely used by many institutions in the country. However, there is a strong need for orientation and capacity building to make use of the available OER and create more OER. In the overall contexts presented above, there is required a policy on OER for Higher Education system through appropriate process.

10. The need of the hour is to devise, catalyse, support and sustain the creation, reuse, remix and integration of OER in teaching and learning at the end of the universities/higher educational institutions to increase access to educational materials, improve the quality of teaching and learning, and optimize the use of available resource.

11. The OER may prove to be a very important tool in the quality teaching and learning processes in the institutions of higher learning. The OERs being created from public funds may reside in the public domain, hence, could be accessed on zero-cost basis for reuse, revisions, remixing, retention and redistribution by others, with no restrictions.

12. The Universities/higher educational institutions may set up their own institutional repository of OER using Open-source software and technology.
