Recognition & Assessment of Prior Learning in Adult Literacy in India

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ABHIMANYU, THE EARLIEST PRIOR LEARNER
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Structure of the Presentation

- Context
- Adult Literacy and Education in India
- RPL : Where we Are
- RPL : Where we Wish to Be
- The Way Forward
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Context

- Adult Education is undergoing a radical alteration in India
- The Vision of the Ministry is to create a Literate Society through Quality literacy and Education
- Strategic Shift from Literacy to Life Long Learning
- 2020: Fully Literate, 500 skilling persons,
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Adult Literacy and Education in India

- Access, Equity, Quality and Good Governance

- Saakshar Bharat Mission
  - Basic Literacy, Basic Education, Skill Development and Continuing education
  - Goals: 80% Literacy; Reduction in gender gap
  - Target : 70 Million Adults (Basic literacy)
  - Decentralised Model, ICT enabled
  - Budget: 1 Billion USD (for 5 years)
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Where We are?

- In Nascent stage
- Basic Literacy
- Basic Education
- Languages
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Where We are?

WHO IS A LITERATE?

A person having Literacy Skills, Knowledge and Competencies = 3 years of schooling

- Reading
- Writing
- Arithmetic

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Where We are?

WHO IS A LITERATE?

Reading - Competences

○ Reading aloud, with normal accent, simple passages on a topic related to the interest of the learner at a speed of 30 words per minute.

○ Reading silently small paragraphs in simple language at a speed of 35 words per minute.

○ Reading with understanding road signs, posters, simple instructions and newspapers for neo-literates, etc.

○ Ability to follow simple written messages relating to one’s working and living environment.
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Where We are?

WHO IS A LITERATE?

Writing - Competences

- Copying with understanding at a speed of 7 words per minute.
- Taking dictation at a speed of 7 words per minute.
- Writing with proper spacing and alignment.
- Writing independently short letters and applications and forms of day-to-day use to the learners.
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Where We are?

**WHO IS A LITERATE?**

**Numeracy - Competences**

- To read and write 1-1000.
- Doing simple calculations without fractions, involving addition, subtraction, up to three digits and multiplication and division by a single digit number.
- Working knowledge of metric units of weights, measures, currency, distance and units of time.
- Broad ideas of proportions and interest (without involving fractions and their use in working and living conditions.)
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Where We are?

Assessment/Validation & Certification

- Started in August 2010
- Same as for a Neo-Literate
- Bi-Annual: August, September
- Free of Cost to the Adult
- Certification
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Where We are?

Mere Certification, No Value Addition?

- Successful Enrolled for the Next Level
- Unsuccessful, Covered under Literacy Programme
- Saves Time to the Individual
- Saves Cost to the Government
- Credibility and Brand Equity
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Where We are?

EQUIVALENCY : March, 2013

○ **Level A*** (3 years of Formal Schooling)
  ○ Language, Environment studies, Mathematics, Vocation (one)

○ **Level B*** (5 years of Formal Schooling)
  ○ Language, Environment studies, Mathematics, Vocation (one)

○ **Level C*** (8 years of Formal Schooling)
  ○ Language, Environment studies, Mathematics, Science, Vocation (one)

○ **Level O** (10 years of Formal Schooling)
  ○ 1 language + 4 Subjects (mix and match)

* Minimum Age = 17 Years,  *Minimum Age = 25 Years
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Where We are?

English Language

- Central University of English and Foreign Languages – the Nodal Body
- Committee of Experts
- Competencies
  - Curriculum
  - Teaching Learning Material
  - Assessment
- Paid Service
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Where we wish to Be?

The VISION  DREAM

- **Flexibility**, Overcome rigidities of structured formal education
- **Value Addition**, Meet the Gaps of Formal Education
- ‘Employability’ to be the mool-mantra
- **Competition** based Independent Parallel Education System
- **Branding**, Advantaged and Disadvantaged
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The way Forward

- Develop Simple, but highly scientific tools of Measurement
- Employers to be the Principal Stakeholders
- Reorienting Support Structures
- Capacity building
- International Collaboration and Cooperation
Summary

- Prior Learning is Intrinsic to lifelong learning
- RPL is tool for ‘Education For All’ with Equity
- RPL does not create skills, knowledge and competencies
- Necessary to promote End to End Solution
- High Brand Value