

Information Literacy Programmes

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Learning Objectives

1. Be introduced to the various information literacy programmes initiated by govt. of India
2. Understand purposes of these programmes

1. National Knowledge Network (NKN)

- In March 2010, the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) approved the establishment of the National Knowledge Network (NKN)

Goals:

- Establishing a high-speed backbone connectivity which will enable knowledge and information sharing
- Enabling collaborative research, development and Innovation
- Facilitating advanced distance education in specialized fields such as engineering, science, medicine etc.
- Facilitating an ultra-high speed backbone for e-Governance
- Facilitating integration of different sectoral networks in the field of research, education, health, commerce and governance
- Link to Global Networks to collaborate with the research communities across the globe

Features of the NKN are:

1. Establishing Connectivity for Knowledge and information sharing
2. Enabling Collaborative Research in emerging areas such as Climate Modelling
3. Facilitating distance education in specialized fields such as medicine, emerging high tech areas covering info-bio-nano technology
4. Facilitating an ultra high speed e-governance backbone for information sharing

2. Right to Information Act 2005

- An initiative of Department of Personnel and Training, Govt. of India
- Right to Information Act 2005 mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information

Objective of the Right to Information Act :

- The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens, promote
- transparency and accountability in the working of the Government, contain corruption, and make our democracy work for the people in real sense
- It goes without saying that an informed citizen is better equipped to keep necessary vigil on the instruments of governance and make the government more accountable to the governed
- The Act is a big step towards making the citizens informed about the activities of the Government

3. Village Knowledge Centre (VKC)

- Village Knowledge Centres serve as information dissemination centre providing instant access to farmers to latest information/knowledge available in the field of agriculture, starting from crop production to marketing
- Every VKC is manned by a “VKC In-charge” who looks after the operations of the VKC

Role of VKC In-charge:-

- Be informed about all the information provided in VKC Portal and how to access the same
- Impart knowledge on new developments, improved methods of cultivation /technologies in the field of agriculture and
- Dissemination of weather data and agro climatic conditions, latest information on prices of agriculture produce to farmers
- Imparting knowledge on diversification of Agriculture and developing at least 2 Farm-based Enterprises in a village per year
- Bring in positive change in the livelihood of at least 300 farmers in a year in the command area of a VKC by increased income levels and higher standards of living.
- Form at least 5 Self Help Groups per village in the command area of VKC

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- Provide constant support to the SHGs to ensure that at least 75% sustain beyond 6 months to become eligible for bank linkage
 - Enable the groups to graduate economically for taking up income generating activities and increasing their credit absorption capacity
 - Form at least 1-2 Farmers Clubs per village in the command area of VKC
 - Create awareness in the command area villages about various government sponsored schemes to take benefit of subsidy/grants
 - Coordinate with Govt. departments to ensure flow of funds to the villages allocated under various developmental schemes
 - Ensure that every family in the command area villages has at least one active bank account

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- Provide financial counselling and inform about various schemes /products of our Bank to at least 5 people in a day
 - Special attention and counselling for the vulnerable people who are heavily indebted to informal sources of finance and defaulter to Banks/FIs to come out of debt trap

Work as a relationship manager between the Bank and the farmers

4. e-Choupal

- Launched in June 2000
- ITC's Agri Business Division
- 'e-Choupal', has already become the largest initiative among all Internet-based interventions in rural India
- 'e-Choupal' services today reach out to over 4 million farmers growing a range of crops - soyabean, coffee, wheat, rice, pulses, shrimp - in over 35,000 villages linked through 6,100 'e-Choupals' across ten states
- Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telengana

5. Akshaya

- It was officially inaugurated by none other than Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on 18th Nov 2002
- Kerala is the first State in India to take initiative for the mass transformation of ICT by the implementation of district-wide e-literacy project 'AKSHAYA' in 2002, with an intention of 'Empowering Kerala'
- In November 2002, the state government of Kerala put into place a project, piloted in Malappuram, with the goal of at least one person in every family to be computer literate in that district
- By bringing ICT to all segments of people Akshaya acts as a vehicle for improved quality of life, accessibility to information, transparency in governance and overall socio-economic growth

Impact of Akshaya

- As a socio-economic development Tool
- As a citizen empowerment tool
- As an e-Governance tool
- Akshaya - An Anti- Corruption tool
- Akshaya – A Social Empowerment tool
- Participation & Empowerment of weaker sections
- Akshaya –A measurement tool for social return on investment
- Banking Services

6. The Bhoomi Project (Digitization of Land Records)

- The '**Bhoomi**' project was undertaken and developed by the State Government of Karnataka
- to computerize all the records of the land in Karnataka

Features:

- Software for printing land records at any time (i.e. whenever the records needed to be printed) was created
- Online updation of record certificates for farmers
- Bio-Login metrics system (from Compaq): Authentication of users through fingerprints; to avoid imitation of users and hack of the database system
- Using the software for generation of reports on soil, land-holding size, types of crops grown and many more (to make informed policy decision)

Key Benefits for FARMERS

- They can get their land records quickly from kiosks; the record acts a proof of land property or lease and the farmers won't face extortion or any kind of harassment
- Easy access to farm credit
- Easy in case of legal matters

7. TARA Akshar

- It is an ICT based program which imparts functional literacy in Hindi and basic arithmetic in just 56 days
- It functions via highly comprehensive software developed through stages of intensive grassroots level research and study of best practices globally
- Specially designed classes are conducted by locally trained instructors in the learners' own communities
- The learners are taught to instantly recognize the sound of letters, syllables, numbers and form words and sentences using the 'Memory Hook' technique embedded in animated movies and exercises

References:

1. NKN. Retrieved from <http://nkn.gov.in/en/> on 16/04/2020
2. Right to Information Act 2005. Retrieved from <https://rti.gov.in/index.asp> 16/04/2020
3. **Village Knowledge Centre (VKC).** Retrieved from <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/rabd-csr-village-knowledge-centre.aspx#> on 15/04/2020
4. E-Choupal. Retrieved from <https://www.echoupal.com/> on 16/04/2020
5. Akshya. Retrieved from <http://www.akshaya.kerala.gov.in/> on 17/04/2020.
6. **The Bhoomi Project.** Retrieved from <https://e-governnsc.weebly.com/the-bhoomi-project.html> on 16/04/2020
7. **TARA Akshar.** Retrieved from <https://taraakshar.org/home.aspx> on 16/04/2020

Assignment-2

1. Write in detail about Role of libraries and librarians in promoting information literacy by giving some examples

The students have to submit their assignment on or before **24/04/2020** through E-mail mode only.

Thank You

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