



Use of ICT in Education

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Recently, the **Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC)** has launched a **mobile application** and **plans to book a slot with the All India Radio (AIR) for the audio broadcast** of study materials for government school students.

The initiative aims to help the government school students, so that their studies do not suffer due to the **Covid-19** lockdown.

Key Points

- The mobile application named “**Unnayan: Mera Mobile, Mera Vidyalaya**” has been launched for **Class VI to XII of over 70,000 government-run schools**.
- The app has been jointly developed by the **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**, the **Bihar government** and **Eckovation**, a social learning platform.
- In collaboration with UNICEF, **class-wise and subject-wise study materials are being prepared** which will be broadcast by AIR.

Radio has a deep penetration into villages and is much simpler to operate.

- The BEPC has also encouraged students for the use of **online education portals like Diksha**.

On Diksha app NCERT books are available free of cost for Class 1 to XII and have also integrated audio-visual media along with digital textbooks.

Challenges

- **Digital Divide:** There is a **huge digital divide** that exists in Bihar.
- **Poverty:** Most of the **people in Bihar are poor and live below the poverty line** and are currently **struggling to meet their daily sustenance**. Expecting them to find ways to make their children digitally connect with schools or participate in online classes is irrational.

Television and **Internet facilities are still luxury items** for many people

- **Capacity Development:** Expecting teachers to seamlessly move to online platforms **without adequate training** and support would also be unreasonable.

- **Inequalities:** In a State like Bihar **distance learning has also revealed glaring challenges** that stem from socio-economic, digital and educational inequalities.

UNICEF

- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is a special program of the United Nations (UN) **devoted to aiding national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children.**
- It was **created in 1946 as the International Children’s Emergency Fund (ICEF)** by the UN relief Rehabilitation Administration to help children affected by World War II.
- **Objective:** It is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly **to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.**

It is guided by the **Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.**
- **Nobel Prize:** It was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1965 for “promotion of brotherhood among the nations”.
- **Headquarters:** New York City.

Source: TH