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Education Through Radio in Odisha

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Why in News

Recently, the state government of **Odisha has decided to reach out to children in remote areas through the radio** as online classes fail to reach most students due to poor mobile connectivity.

Key Points

- **Education Through Radio:**
 - The state's **School and Mass Education Department** has launched **classroom teaching through All India Radio**.
 - Students from **Class I to VIII** can learn their lessons through **15-minutes of teaching by experienced teachers** through radio.
 - It has been highlighted that a student can **cover six pages of his textbook within 15 minutes** of a radio programme.
 - Although teaching through radio **would not be effective as it could have been in a physical classroom**, the dire situation has **forced the administration to try different methods** for reaching students.
- **Other Initiatives:**
 - Students have been provided with textbooks even though schools in Odisha have been closed since **17th March 2020**.
 - **Three hours of classroom instruction** are also available **through Doordarshan**.
 - Since considerable time has been lost due to the closure of schools, **school syllabus has been reduced by 30%**.

- **Reasons for the Move:**

- The schools could not be opened due to **Covid-19 pandemic** so the education department **tried to reach students with online classes**, mostly through smartphones.

However, out of the 60 lakh students, hardly 22 lakhs were being reached during the lockdowns.

- The **situation worsened when the lockdown was lifted** and **parents started going to their workplaces taking the only smartphone in the family** with them.

It led to a further **drop of 6 to 7 lakh students attending virtual classes**.

- Those who have a sufficient number of smart devices for students, **suffer due to poor network coverage**.

Other Nationwide Initiatives for Education

- Centre's announcement to **start the 2020-21 academic year virtually**.
Plans to distribute laptops or tablets to 40% of all college and university students over the next five years and to equip all government schools with **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**.
- **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) mobile app** has been offered to the states as a platform to provide content in local languages.
- The **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan** has deployed its **SWAYAM Prabha** portal which has lectures on **direct-to-home (DTH)** and online, to help students.
- **Different e-learning techniques through virtual platforms** like YouTube, Zoom app and Google Classroom are being used by some institutions.
- **PRAGYATA guidelines on digital education**.

Source: TH