INDIA-EU PROJECT (2013-17)

Enhancing Quality, Access and Governance in Undergraduate Education in India
University of Hyderabad, India
Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development

Two –Day Undergraduate Student Conference on Online recourses in advancing knowledge and skills and its implementations

23-24 July, 2015, University of Hyderabad

Concept Note

The academic community world over has become exposed to novel, pedagogical methods significantly in the past few decades. Noteworthy is the role of technology in the transformation of the modes of knowledge transmission. As education is central to all human endeavors this changing scenario poses one many a challenge on various fronts outlined in the themes below. Our focus here is to deliberate and debate the relevance of various web based tools and platforms for the undergraduate students. Hence students of EQUAL partner universities and other institutions are invited to present papers and posters on the themes. An abstract will have to be sent first and based on their quality and relevance full paper will be invited for presentation in the conference. Vision of education as we understand doesn't just aim to develop skills required for a profession, rather it aims at developing free and open minded individuals with the faculty of critical thinking. Also the idea of knowledge is far wider than mere factual information and know how.

Critical reviews of various learning and teaching approaches in Undergraduate education.

Presently there are three primary approaches, traditional universities using a blended learning approach, open online platforms such as MOOCs, open/flexible and distance learning . Your contributions will review critically one or more of these approaches from the point of view of impact on learning, management of the learning environment, challenges and/or benefits etc.

Evaluating online learning environments

Are the traditional evaluation mechanisms sufficient for evaluating online learning environments? Your contributions will review critically traditional or latest evaluation approaches and discuss the factors that should be associated with a successful online learning environment.

Multiculturalism, multilingualism

Does online learning cater for multiculturalism and multilingualism? How does it accommodate the needs of the independent learner? Your contribution will explore whether cultural issues and diversity are accommodated in the design and delivery of online learning.

Intellectual hegemony of the dominant centers of knowledge production

Will new centers of knowledge that recruit from an international student audience lead to knowledge colonialism? What are the key issues that undergraduate higher education need to address in this respect?

Emerging role of industry in undergraduate education

What are the economic and ethical issues that we need to priorities when we design learning for students in the 21st century?

Accessibility, approachability and psychology of learners of every pace and intellectual dispositions:

Will new approaches to learning lead to new inequalities or will they remove the existing inequalities?

Reception of online, blended learning in social sciences vs. humanities vs. science vs. performing arts, management

Are particular subjects more suited to online or blended learning? How comfortable are students engaging with online learning? How effectively can skills be developed in performing arts? Perceptions of online or blended learning in different disciplines e.g. social sciences, humanities, sciences, performing arts, in the sciences, what about management studies etc.

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 Important Dates :

Submission of Abstract : 1st June, 2015

Announcement of Selected Abstracts : 7th June 2015

Submission of Full Paper : 30th Jun 2015