Education Through Radio in Odisha

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

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