

29th IATUL Annual Conference, Auckland, New Zealand
on
21 - 24 April 2008

DIGITAL LIBRARY
INITIATIVES IN INDIA:
A PROPOSAL FOR OPEN
DISTANCE LEARNING

Dr. Sujatha Gurram
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University, India
sujathag_dr@hotmail.com

INFORMATION IS POWER

- **Information – crucial for Power & wealth – very crucial for Economic & Social Development**
- **India Digital Libraries – Mostly Govt. funded**
- **Problems, Challenges and Issues in design & development of DL**

OBJECTIVES:

- **To study the initiatives of the Government and others in India on digital libraries.**
- **To examine the challenges and problems faced in the digital library initiatives, and**
- **To propose a digital library initiative for the ODL institutions in India.**

DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES – GLOBAL SCENARIO:

- Started in early 1990s
- 1992 - Cornell University, USA
- 1992 - Yale University, USA
- 1994 - US Digital Library Initiatives launched
- Late 1990s – Initiatives launched in UK

Initiatives in Open Universities:

- Open University of Hong Kong
- UK Open University
- ICDL

DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN INDIA:

- Thought process has begun in mid 1990s
- Archives of Indian Labour
- Digital Library of India
- Digital Library of art Masterpieces
- Down the Memory Lane
- Indian National digital Library in Engineering Science & Technology
- Kalasampada

DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN INDIA:

- **Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library**
- **Mobile Digital Library (Dware Dware Gyan Sampada)**
- **Mukhtabodha Digital Library and Archiving Project**
- **National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore**
- **National Mission for Manuscripts**
- **National Resource Centre for Women**
- **Parliament Library**
- **Vidyanidhi**

DIGITAL LIBRARIES- PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED:

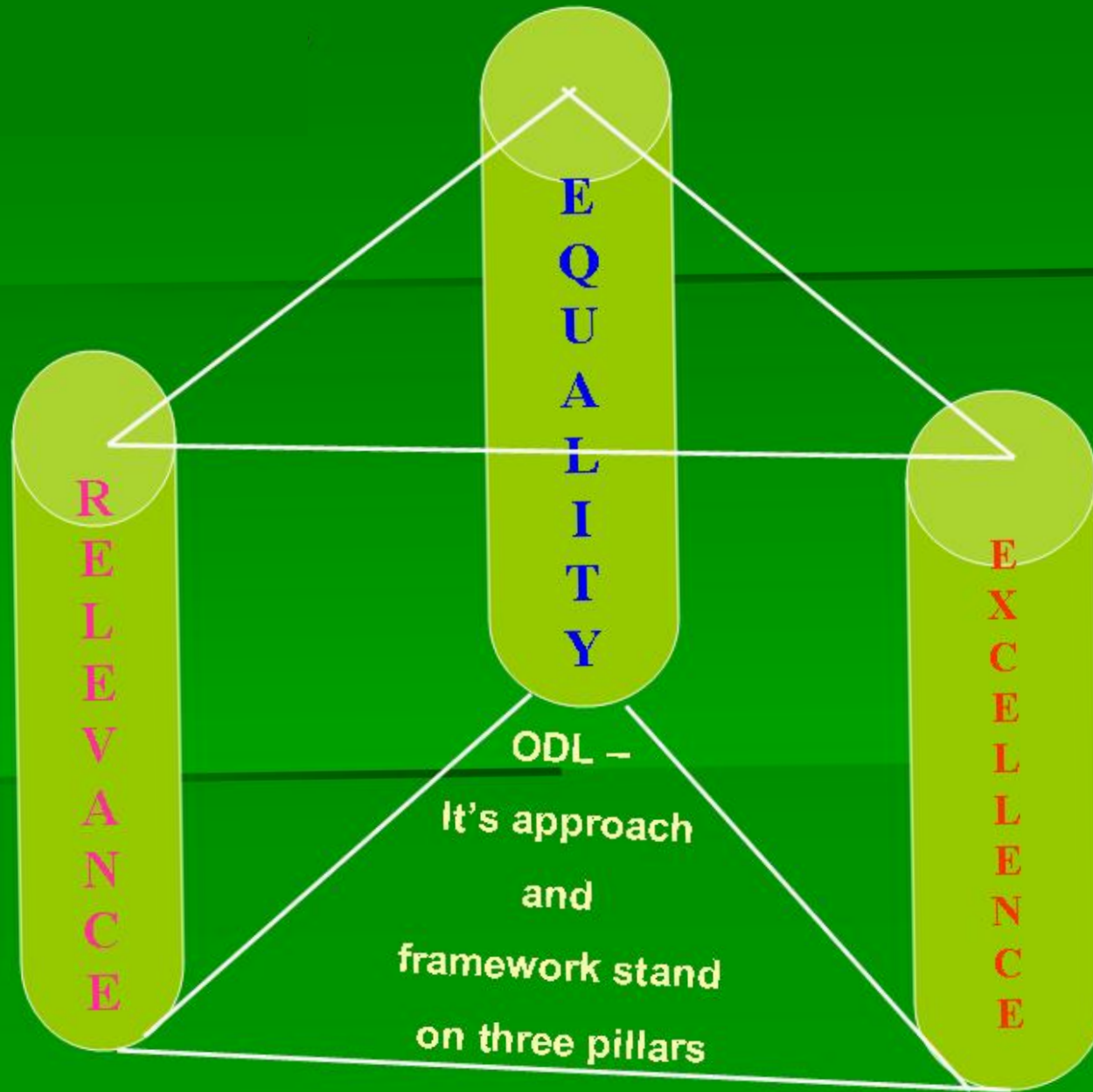
- National Policy
- Compatibility of Software and Hardware
- New technological advancements
- OCR Facilities
- Non-standardized technical activities
- Skilled personnel
- Management's policy
- Preservation policy
- Intellectual Property Rights policy
- Publishers' policies

SUGGESSTED SOLUTIONS:

- **National Policy on Digitization**
- **Sustainability Issues**
- **Digital Divide**

DISTANCE EDUCATION IN INDIA:

- **1962-Distance learning programmes Introduced**
- **1982- Establishment of First Open University in the Country**
- **106 Dual Mode Institutions**
- **14 Single Mode Open Universities**
- **DEIs through 40 conventional Universities**



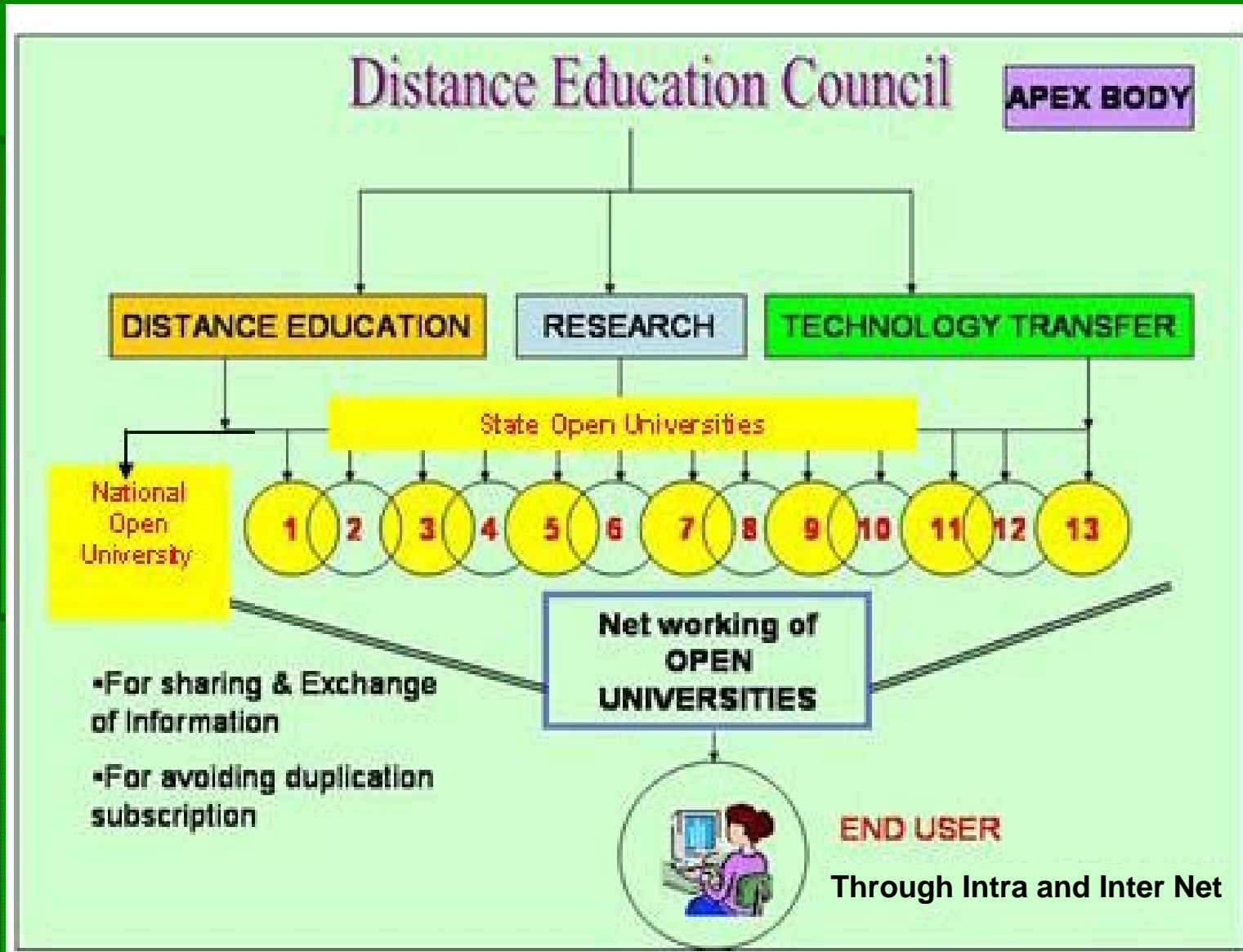
ROLE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL:

- An authority of IGNOU to regulate the Distance Education
- Co-ordination and Maintenance of Standards in DE
- Support to Open Universities and other Correspondence Course Institutions
- Technical and Financial Support for development of infrastructure
- Institutional Reforms
- Professional Development and Training
- Students Support Services
- Computerization and Networking

DIGITAL LIBRARY – A PROPOSAL FOR ODL IN INDIA:

- **Constraints of Distance Learners in accessing libraries**
- **Special features of Distance Learners**
- **Digital Library most suitable for Distance Learners**
- **Consortium for the benefit of distance learners**
- **Digital rights management system**
- **Avoiding duplication of resources**

PROPOSED DIGITAL LIBRARY NETWORK OF ODL



ROLE OF NODAL AGENCY :

- Online databases;
- Online electronic journals
- 'Research in progress
- Linking to all the related ODL institutional digital repositories;
- Expertise

EXPECTED SERVICES:

- Digital / virtual reference service
- Information service through e-mail
- Access to OPACs
- Powerful search tools

EXPECTED BENEFITS :

- **Easy Networking and sharing of resources**
- **Cost effective solutions to libraries**
- **More information**
- **No travel from long distances**
- **Continuous updatation**
- **Collaboration and exchange of Information**
- **Improved preservation of resources**

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS :

- **Need for coordination and concerted efforts in digital library initiatives**
- **Need for continuous financial support & also proper planning for continuity**
- **There is an urgent need to recognize ‘ the need for continuing education programmes is ever increasing.**
- **ODL will have its crucial role in educating the masses in thickly populated country like INDIA**
- **The proposed consortium of ODL digital libraries would certainly go a long way in making the INDIAN WORKFORCE the best of its kind in the world.**

**THANK
YOU**