

Leadership Talk with Prof Partha Chakraborty

Date: April 10th, 2020

Time: 11:00 AM

Speakers:

- **Dr Abhay Jere, the CIO of MHRD Innovation Cell, Govt. of India**
- **Prof Partha Chakraborty, the Chairman of National Digital Library**

Brief description of the discussion:

Dr. Abhay Jere, the Chief Innovation Officer of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Innovation Cell, Government of India, began the discussion by introducing to the viewers Prof Partha Chakraborty, chairman, National Digital Library, Ex Director, IIT Kharagapur .

The first question from Dr Abhay asked for an explanation of what is national digital library and what are its capabilities and how is it relevant in this covid 19 crisis. Answering this, Prof Partha first touched upon the fact that during this crisis ,it feels that the immense effort that the authorities have put in making this project is now bearing fruitful results.He then says that the National Digital Library is basically an organised collection of educational resources from kg to pg .Students can choose from a plethora of resources right from text,software ,simulation and what not and its completely free.

Dr Abhay then enquired that what was the USP of national library over other platforms available online such as you tube.Dr Partha enlightens by saying that the national digital library isn't a competitor to any of these platforms but an integrator.The national digital library is a place where you access resources from all these contributors , be it MIT,NPTEL or even KHAN ACADEMY. Students can then filter out to choose what they need.

Dr Abhay then asked if they would also provide resources from private contributors for preparation of competitive exams like jee,neet or upsc to which Prof Partha says yes absolutely.Also they have plans to bring in the entire NEET curriculum in their platform and are hence in talks with AICTE .In this way ,they are also aiming at cross linking along with integration to curate resources.

Dr Abhay asked next,that since the pandemic has put a stop to research activities,so this is basically an ideating phase.For this purpose ,will the Digital Library be having enough research papers/journals .Prof says that the library isnt just restricted to papers but the journals which have subscription and cannot be accessed without the institutions ip address can be accessed through the national library.Also the library contains data that will be helpful for researchers.

Dr Abhay asked next, regarding the copyright issue.Answering to this ,prof says although the topic of digital copyright , is quite complex till now they did not face any such case,although minor cases have been resolved.Also the contributors have an option of having their copyright in that case they may provide the link in digital library or may decide to provide it to the national digital library.

Dr Abhay raised a popular question next if the institutions i.e. universities that decide to contribute to the National Digital Library their digital resources or other available resources, in that case how will the National Digital Library help them. Answering this, the guest mentions that there are two parts to this wherein a part that houses the thesis and all exclusive to the institution and for the second part is the one that contains the catalogue of everything. This will be hosted in a repository and will be harvested by the NDL. In this manner, the NDL has connected with most of the colleges in India.

Dr Abhay asks if this is just available for the Indian citizens or is it available throughout the globe. Also if the NDL has decided to collaborate with its foreign counterparts to make a larger network.

Prof Partha began his answer by saying that they are already a part of the European consortium where they are collaborating and sharing content with the Europeans. Also they are working with American libraries and UNESCO to provide the digital library services to SAARC nations.

He elaborates by saying that NDL is now the face of India in the digital library platform, hence they are cross-linking and cross-integrating with the other worldwide libraries and are part of various worldwide consortiums.

Dr Abhay raised a concern that most of the resources are available in English and also in some other languages. This might prove to be an obstacle for people at the grassroots level. Prof Partha, thanked Dr Abhay for raising this concern for they look upon it as their future goals and are working upon it.

The session thus concluded on an optimistic note, with Dr Abhay hoping that the digital library flourishes and increase its users from 25 lakhs to 2.5 crore active users.

The poster features a central black banner with the text "Leadership talk with Prof. Partha Chakraborty" in yellow and white. On either side of the banner are portraits of Prof. Partha Chakraborty (left) and Dr. Abhay Jere (right). Above the banner are logos for MHRD, MIC, AICTE, and the Institution's Innovation Council. Below the banner, a blue bar contains the names and titles of both speakers. A central blue bar with a Twitter icon and "LIVE @abhayjere" encourages a live stream. The date and time "Friday, 10th April 2020 at 11.00 AM" are displayed in yellow. At the bottom, an orange bar says "Follow us on" with a Twitter icon and the URL "www.twitter.com/mhrd_innovation".

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Chairman, National Digital Library
Ex-Director, IIT Kharagpur

Dr. Abhay Jere
Chief Innovation Officer
MHRD Innovation Cell

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Promotional Poster of the Leadership Talk, released by Dr Abhay Jere



The discussion in progress, between Dr Abhay Jere and Prof Partha Chakraborty