



Frequently Asked Questions about OER based Courses

Q. What are OER and what does it mean by '*Courses created using OER*'?

Ans. OER - Open Educational Resources - are teaching and learning materials that are in the public domain or released with a license that allows for their free use, adaptation, and distribution.

Thousands of education institutions including world's best universities like MIT, Harvard, Stanford, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Yale, Carnegie Mellon University, etc, are opening up their learning material as OER.

Examples of OER include: course syllabi, learning modules, class lectures, quizzes, lab activities, simulations, and even full courses in digital media collections

I see that on some of the courses on NIESBUD's site, it says, 'Course created using OER'. What does it mean?

This means that these courses have been structured and created using learning materials from OER.

Q. How does learning from OER benefit you as a student?

Ans. Through the use of OER in learning, you get:

- Opportunity to learn from the best teachers in the world
- Most up-to-date learning material
- Better learning outcomes
- Lower cost of learning
- Better career options

Q. Why OER initiative by NIESBUD?

Ans. There is a soaring demand of education in India. By 2022, India will be short of over 180 million skilled workers.

In order to sustain and extend its leadership role in the changing landscape of education, NIESBUD is using advances in technology and OER to offer online training to meet and exceed the demands of workforce in the coming years.

Increasing adoption of OER by education institutions around the world provides a strategic opportunity to dramatically improve both the access and the quality of education in India. Through vast amount of highly quality learning materials available as OER, under this initiative:

- New courses can be structured and created very fast
- Learners from remote parts of India will also get an equal opportunity to learn from the best teachers in the world

- The cost of learning will reduce

NIESBUD is India's first organization that has adopted OER in skill development.

Progia LLC, a USA based company, is NIESBUD's partner for its OER initiative. To read about Progia's work in OER, please visit <http://www.contentbyexperts.net>.

Q. What is NIESBUD's plan in introducing more OER based courses?

Ans. In order to plan and create successful training programs, it is important to understand how the nature of work force is changing and what new skills will be in demand in the next five to ten years.

With this understanding and analysis, NIESBUD will keep on creating many more OER based training programs in partnership with Progia.

Q. Which platform NIESBUD is using to deliver its OER based courses?

Ans. NIESBUD's OER courses will be delivered on 'Open LearnWare'.

Open LearnWare is a powerful online learning and teaching platform that makes it easy to create custom courses using OER. Students can take the courses and self assessments online with any Internet connected device including laptops, tablets, smart phones etc. Students can participate in on-line group discussions, can ask questions from each other or from the instructor, can take notes etc.

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