OPEN @ ANDC

The word 'Open' used here is a collective term to describe institutional practices and programmatic initiatives that broaden access to the learning and training than traditionally available in the University system. At Acharya Narendra Dev College we envisage that true education can only be attained in a collaborative, sharing and open environment. Under such conditions, there is neither space for proprietary software nor copyrighted materials.

FOSS

Use of FOSS (Free & Open Source Software) is an enabling condition for students to learn how a source code works, modify source code, develop new code besides being able to customize according to user-specific environments. FOSS is ingrained into the bulwark of the college - FOSS also offers extended advantages in security besides being free and easy available.

As a part of its larger commitment to promote FOSS, the College has adopted the following measures:

◈ Since 2008, three of five computer laboratories exclusively run on FOSS – and Ubuntu is the preferred OS. Curriculum considerations demand use of dual boot machines in the remaining two laboratories. Even college office, Web Facilitation Center and 4YUP student laptops provided by University run solely on Ubuntu.

◈ FOSS CLUB established in 2007 has been conducting hands-on training and workshops towards popularization of Linux and FOSS.

◈ An on-line forum – ANDC Linux Users Group provides help / support to new users besides addressing their queries.

◈ The Spoken Tutorial Project at IIT-Bombay, Mumbai under the aegis of National Mission of Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), Government of India has made training on FOSS easy. The participants are additionally certified by IIT-Bombay, Mumbai.

We invited Dr. Richard M. Stallman (RMS), Founder of the Free Software Foundation (FSF, USA) and a free software activist to the college in 2012 and again this year in January 2014. The students had a lot of fun and learning interacting with him.

College Website on DRUPAL

The College chose DRUPAL - an open source Content Management System (CMS), for developing a new website in 2009. The website is not only *entirely developed by students* but also maintained in-house. Training on FOSS has helped students build careers in MNCs like IBM, ORACLE, Facebook etc.

Vision and Commitment towards Open Educational Resources (OER)

The year 2006 saw Principal and two faculty members being introduced to Open Educational Resources (OER) organized by Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Vancouver, Canada. The exposure led to the realization that only such a paradigm – wherein content is free of copyright – can help spread knowledge in India. Content can only be considered free when they allow the following 4 R's - Reuse, Revise, Remix and Redistribute.

As one of the pioneers in OER usage in India, ANDC way back in 2008, initiated training University faculty in the creation and use of OER in education. Over 20 Learning for Content (L4C) workshops were conducted with support from COL and Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) besides a dozen others. This support has also enabled us to prepare and upload e-content as OER. Faculty from ANDC, have conducted content development workshops in Bangladesh besides presenting papers in several international forums.

Dr. Savithri Singh, Principal has been the inspiration behind our college's unwavering commitment to FOSS & OER. She is an elected member and Vice-Chair of International Community Council of Wikieducator. She was invited as a member of the Planning team for developing a multinational OER project for the Global South under International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada (2012-2013). The project has since matured into ROER4D – Research on OER for Development in the Global South (2013-2015) – that has Dr. Singh as one of the five Advisory Board members. The project encompasses research being undertaken across countries in Africa, South America and South Asia. Steadfast commitment to OER has also led to the college being accepted as a FTE4WE member of the Open Education Foundation, New Zealand.

AND College organized an International Conference on 'OPEN 2011 – Open Paradigms in Education' and a one-day Seminar on 'Teaching Redefined: Open Access to Education' as part of the 'Open Access Week' in 2011.

Several faculty members have prepared learning material for 4YUP courses as OER. A repository of biological specimens has been created as e-museum (http://wikieducator.org/Department_of_Zoology_at_ANDC/Zoology_Museum/Museum_specimens).

Commitment towards release of OER under Creative Commons (CC) license has resulted in the college getting recognized as an **Affiliate of Creative Commons in India** (May 2013). ANDC along with two other affiliates in India - Wikimedia India & Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore - organized the 'Relaunch of Creative Commons in India' in November 2013 at New Delhi.

In 2011, the college was recognized internationally at Berlin, through 'the OPAL Awards of the the Open Educational Quality Initiative, a consortium including UNESCO, ICDE, EFQUEL and several European Universities working to promote open educational practices in higher and adult education. The OPAL Awards recognize excellence in OER policy, promotion and use, which have resulted in the improvement of quality and innovation in educational organizations.

"Acharya Narendra Dev College (ANDC), University of Delhi, India was awarded highly commended status in the Award for Institutions. This Award recognizes institutions with a policy of encouraging open educational practices through the provision of resources and support for the development of OER, participation in research and development, and a clear strategy for motivating its staff."

The jury praised the strong motivation at ANDC to change traditional patterns of teaching, and a robust process for encouraging the creation of OER based on a self-funding model. The jury gave special mention to the College's work with the University of Mumbai to spread use and reuse externally, and its work to overcome faculty resistance to change.