

SOFTWARE TRYOUT PROJECT

Innovation in Software Development

Introduction

Reforms in curriculum development of technician education in the western region was initiated in 1971. Development of human and instructional resources was an integral part in the strategy of curricula implementation over the period from 1974 to 1981. A lot of software was developed, relevant to topics of some subjects. No single subject was thoroughly covered. Due to the shortage of teaching faculty in the polytechnics it became difficult to get participants who could design software to fill the gap in availability of software covering any given subject area.

Under the circumstances mentioned above the seed of software tryout project was sown in the earlier part of 1982. The basic idea was to improve teaching learning processes in the polytechnics through proper utilization of existing software, to modify tried out software and make development of software a routine and purposeful activity on the part of the polytechnic teachers. Five polytechnics in Maharashtra, four polytechnics in Gujarat and five polytechnics in Madhya Pradesh were participating in this project.

Objectives

- a. To identify and validate the existing software like OHP transparencies, film strips/slides-tape sequence/multimedia learning packages/films etc.
- b. To promote proper utilisation/tryout of existing software in the classrooms to ultimately improve teaching learning in polytechnics.
- c. To identify gaps in the availability of relevant software for selected subjects.
- d. To develop appropriate additional software as per the need on a continuous basis.
- e. To modify software on the basis of feed back of tryout in classrooms.
- f. To disseminate software to all user institutions.

Strategy

1. Orientation cum planning workshops for experienced polytechnics teachers at NITTTR
 - Analysis of subject for software preparation into instructional units.
 - Identification of units on the basis of difficulties faced in teaching learning process.
 - Integration of software with the instructional schemes of selected units.
 - Developing additional software after analysing existing software in the Media centre of NITTTR as per ideas/instructions of the teacher.
 - Preparing action plan for the tryout of software.
2. Monitoring visits

NITTTR Bhopal faculty members visited the concerned institutes to monitor the progress of the project and assist management as well as teachers in solving allied problems.
3. Software modification workshops were conducted on the basis of feedback of tryout.

Outcomes

Table presents the information about the polytechnic teachers who were participating in the software tryout project and number of subjects selected by them for developing and trying out software. It also indicates the type of software tried out.

The polytechnic principals agreed to provide necessary raw materials to the participating teachers, so that they can prepare simple software like transparencies and charts at the polytechnics.

An attempt was made to identify/develop software such that 10% of each subject is covered in a year.

Table : Numbers of software developed and other details

| S. No. | Description | Number |
|--------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Polytechnics involved | 16 |
| 2 | Teachers participating | 100 |
| 3 | Subjects undertaken in Maharashtra | 18 |
| | Gujarat | 8 |
| | Madhya Pradesh | 16 |
| 4 | Transparencies | 1500 |
| | Slide sequences | 100 |
| | Filmstrips | 20 |
| | OHP Models | 10 |