Project Details: NAeG/14-15/00010

Project id -	NAeG/14-15/00010
Name of The Project	Online Programs - mLearning
Category of Award Applying for	Outstanding eGovernance initiative by Academic and Research institutions
Date of Launch	01-06-2013
Summary/Objective of the project	Uttarakhand Open University (UOU) was established by an Act of Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly in 2005 (Act No. 23 of 2005) with the aim of disseminating knowledge and skills through distance learning, using the flexible and innovative methods of education to ensure independent learning. The major objective of the University is to impart quality education by maintaining high academic standards. The vision of the University is to provide the most critical components of growth through quality higher education, to the state of Uttarakhand. Continuing with its quest for excellence and high effectiveness in the quality of education imparted to the students, Uttarakhand Open University launched its premium Online courses in August 2013. The robust online platform provides the student the access to quality content from the best professors across the world. Tools such as Video lectures, audio lectures, E-quizzes, E-notes and relevant links to learning material in the web, provide an interesting and engaging learning The University was aware that most of the students hail from remote areas and would face network issues. Also it was observed that almost every student today has a smart phone or a tablet and is comfortable using that for his education and entertainment needs. Taking this into consideration, the University launched the Mobile application along with the regular Online Courses. The Mobile application allows students to interact with the University. The Mobile application provides a synchronization of the online and offline academic content thus enabling students to access the course anytime anywhere. These premium online programs of the university have been aimed at: Enhancing student-to-student and faculty-to-student communication By the efficient use of several chat sessions, discussion boards and emails, we strive to improve the communication with the students. The students can now share their perspectives, experience a sense of equality and have easy and simple access to the faculty. Enabling student centric teaching approaches Every student has a unique way of learning. Some are visual learners whereas some are experiential learners. These online programs shall use a wide variety of resources so that each one of the learner uses what suit them most. This shall ensure that we can accommodate different learning styles, provide enough opportunities for exploration and encourage additional rehearsal time. Provide 24 x 7 access to online study material Some students work best in the morning, some in the evening. Our learning management system shall provide continual access of learning material to our students. Our online campus shall remove the need for reliance on physical attendance of the students. The students can use the web based collaborative tools to conduct group activities within themselves. Provide continuous feedback to students about their progress Using the powerful analytics available in the software, students shall be able to measure their performance against time and also against their peers. The online faculty shall be efficiently monitor the progress of the students and provide just-in-time feedback. Use your smart phones you do not need computers to study online Our online learning management system integrates a powerful mobile learning tool that the students can download on their android enabled mobile phones. The mobile application shall help the students access the video content offline without the need of a high-speed internet connection. The university has also enabled the facility of Online payment of fees using the credit card, debit card or net banking. However, we continue to accept fees in demand drafts from students who find that comfortable.
Beneficiary of the project	The interesting learning methodology coupled with ease of admission process created an interest for UOU Online programs. Lots of students from the state and outside have found the programs very relevant and valuable. The students who were frequent travelers found accessing learning content from the web to be much easier and engaging. Working professionals, housewives, self-employed people, businessmen and even retired people found the program helpful. The program also brought in inclusiveness in the higher education space in the state. The students from smaller and remote parts of the state could also take admission into this high quality courses of the university. The access of the content through the smart phones gave a new meaning to Online learning and took away the single impediment of the availability of the PC and the Internet connection. The courses are priced equal to the traditional correspondence courses of the

University but with very high levels of student engagement and quality teaching. b.One of the major problems was the lack of infrastructure in the remote areas of the State. Students had to face the problems of scarcity of computers and little or no Internet connectivity most of the time which hampered the learning process. Solution provided - UOU provides the advantage of mobile learning or m-learning to its students. Students of online programs have an option of viewing the lectures in the offline mode (no internet connection required). The lectures and textual content can be accessed by using any android device (phone or tablet) once the mobile application is installed. Also the mobile application has the feature to sync the online data in the presence of a 3G or Wi-Fi network. This ensures that the mobile data is continuously updated which proves beneficial to the students.

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Supporting documents:-

Award Specific Form
Self Certification by the Project Head
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