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## PRODUCTION OF RADIO LESSON IN BRAOU

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In the world educational scenario a number of new technologies are coming day by day. Radio technology is widely used in both formal and informal education. Radio is the one of the oldest and powerful mass media in disseminating and imparting education for large group of population. Radio plays an extensive role as an educational media both in developed and developing countries. As compared to the other teaching technological devices, radio program requires less time and less money. Now a day the rate of radio listeners are increasing due to wide range of accessibility. Many students are showing interest towards a radio programme, because it is easy to carry and can be listen at any working conditions also.

### **Historical perspective of Radio in Education:**

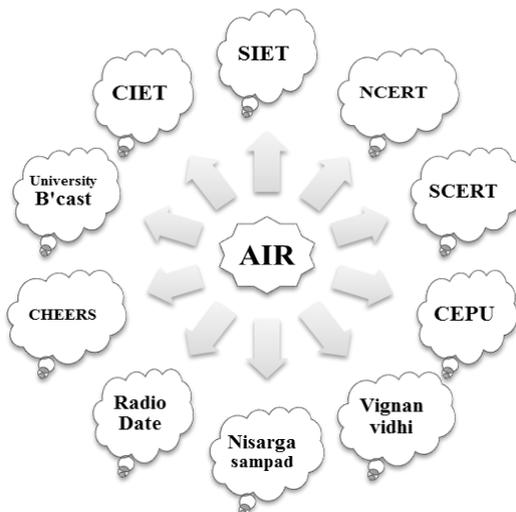
Initially radio education was started in 1922 in UK with the initiation of British broadcasting company. In 1929, Australian broadcasting corporation introduced educational broadcast. In early thirties saw the school broadcasting at first with national broadcasting company having music association hour in United States of America. Later American school of the air had a significant contribution by broadcasting daily program on different subjects. Afterwards when we observe in Canada school broadcast started by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on experiment basis and after that permanent school broadcasting started daily. Later periods it was extended to all other countries like India, France, Japan, Malaysia, Kenya, Mexico etc.

### **Indian scenario:**

In 1923 radio came to India as a beginning with an educational perspective and it is used in all the possible fields. It was the only medium at that time to reach the massive public throughout the country. A radio broadcast started informally and non formally to educate the listeners by giving some morals and messages. After wards formal educational programmes are started for the schools and universities. At first in January, 1929 Bombay started educational broadcast through radio occasionally as it is followed by madras. In 1937 Calcutta started educational broadcast in a regular basis on demand of university of Calcutta and educational department of Bengal government. In 1938 the controller of broadcasting issued an instruction to follow this step by other situation also. Gradually all the main stations started school broadcasting and later all other auxiliary stations also relayed to their main channels.

All India radio becomes more dominant by broadcasting the school programmes in different languages in different places. It supplements to the curriculum at school level and also at university level. The success of a radio programmes depends upon the transmission of high quality programmes which

fulfill the current needs of both teachers and students. To fulfill the growing needs there are so many organization involved in broadcasting the educational programs thorough AIR. The following are the list of organizations shown in the Fig.1.



**Fig.1: List of organizations broadcasting educational programmes through AIR**

### **Radio Education in Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University:**

Now a day everyone is using the mobile radio and access the programmes in it. Compared to previous conditions now the technology is changing rapidly and the people are also running behind them and adapting the new technology regularly. People are not denying the new technologies. Everyone is showing interest towards these from richer to poorer. Radio is easy to carry and also flexible to listen the programmes at anywhere like travelling, working places etc., it is not necessary to sit somewhere and to listen. The rate of listeners is increasing towards radio day by day because of its flexibility and accessibility. Small and handy transistor is easy to found its place everywhere like offices, home, markets shops, fields, parks, journeys etc.

Distance education has been an outcome of the application of different technologies in education. Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) is adopting new technologies to bring the open education to the door step of the learners. Adopting the technologies is not an easy process. It requires planning, communication and has to develop an atmosphere that will promote application of new technologies. One of the major issues facing the university is, technology undergoes so many changes in due course of time. Even though radio media is one of the oldest media and many students are using till now. Since 1983 BRAOU have been broadcasting radio lessons through AIR. At later period BRAOU set up an exclusive centre for Audio and Video production in 1986 is known as Audio Visual Production and Research Center (AVPRC). BRAOU is broadcasting radio lessons

every day through AIR from 6.25 pm to 6.45pm. AVPRC have produced approximately three thousand radio lessons in different subjects. Every year the AVPRC will produce nearly 150 to 200 new radio lessons in different subjects. . AVPRC have been providing duplication facility to the students who need those CDs. All these radio lessons are available in CDs format in the tape library at AVPRC studio. Regularly student visits the AVPRC and getting radio lesson CDs in their particular subjects. Here we should take care of the process of production to make the programme very interesting and motivate the listeners to be habituated to listen every day. When the programmes are produced well then the learners automatically show interest upon these programmes. Production of radio lesson involved so many techniques.

Production process includes mainly three steps; they are preproduction, production and post production. The success of a programme depends upon an integrated outcome of all these steps. It is a team work and everyone has to play their own role. In a team work every member is having their own ideas but here we have to interlock our ideas like a gear and to move forward in three stages of production as shown in the Fig.2.

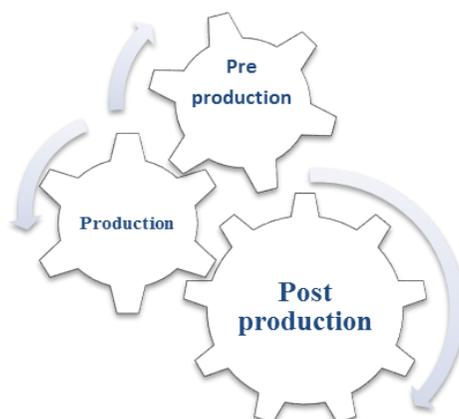


Fig.2: Three stages of Production process

At first in the preproduction process a number of steps involved in it. The internal faculty members select the topic and send the letter to AVPRC. The producer has to take the permission of higher officials to record the programme. The expert has to prepare the script according to the topic. Team is formed at this stage and every team member has to play their own role properly. Producer has a major role to play in different stages like pre production, production and post production. Radio producer need some peculiar skills and qualities like imagination, creativity, new ideas etc. which are shown in Fig.3. Producer has to follow certain procedure to get qualitative radio programme. Everyone has quality of creativeness in doing something new so that the students get attracted. The students get bored with the same way of preparing the radio programme at all time.

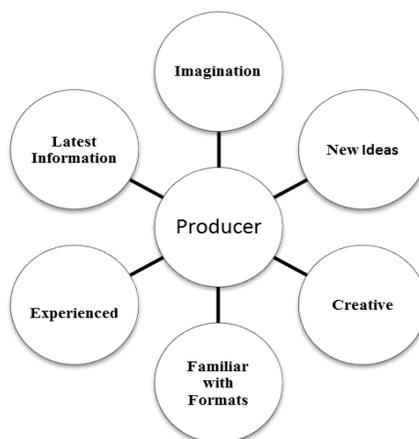


Fig.3: Qualities / Skills of Producer

While producing the radio lesson there are two important basic key points to take care i.e script and voice. These are the main components to produce good programme and become interesting to listen for the students. If you did not take care of these points the programme will not be interesting to the students. To catch the interest of the listeners it is important to select the best voice. For radio lessons voice plays key role and the listeners are attracted by voice itself. Much care should be taken in selecting the best voice for attracting the student's interest. Voice should be clear and way of delivering the script is also more important. If the voice is very impressive then the students get motivated towards the lessons and understand the lesson quickly. Due to this the students remember the content for a long period in his mind and it is human psychology.

Here another important point to attract the students is script. The content of the script is precise and subject oriented. While writing the script so much of care should be taken. The script should be easy to understand by the every student. Because students are of different back grounds in ODL institutions. The language and ascent is also very important in writing the script. The resource persons should write a lesson by using the simple words to be easily understood by the common public and also take care of common language used by general public of that particular region. Because the students are from that back ground itself. The experts should aware of the student's social back ground while writing the script. Otherwise if the expert uses difficult words in his script the student cannot understand the lesson properly. Ultimately the students do not show interest towards radio programme and he never listen the radio programme after wards. It is very important to take care of the language and it should be very easy to understand by the students and grasp the subject. Otherwise the radio programmes should not survive. While preparing the radio script the expert has to use the right words at the right time and in right manner. For that the expert needs very good knowledge and

vocabulary. Following are the important elements required for the script preparation as shown in the Fig.4

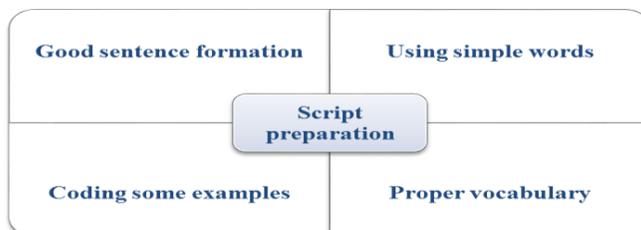


Fig.4: Elements of script preparation

Second step in this process is production; here we will record the radio lesson in the studio of AVPRC. Before recording the expert has to follow the certain points. In this process an important point is way of presentation or style of presenting the script and it catches the student's interest. The style of presenting the script depends upon the subject and topic. The resource persons should think a while in selecting the topic. All the topics are not suitable for the radio lessons. Too many equations, formulas, calculations and tables are not suitable for the radio lesson. The students get confused with those. The content of the topic should be theoretical and subject oriented. Style of presentation, subject and topic are interlinked with the each other. For example suppose if we are preparing a Telugu lesson the style of presenting depends upon the topic. If the expert selects a story then the way of style is like story telling but for poems then the way style becomes different and presenting the poems like a song. In case of the history lesson the style of presentation is different with the other subjects.

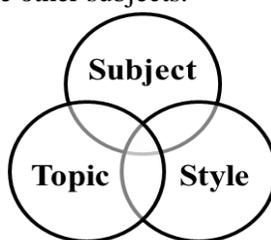


Fig.5: Showing interlocking of Subject, topic and style

During recording the expert has to maintain the equal level of voice for the entire programme. It should not be high and low levels. The tempo of presentation is same for the entire radio lesson. Otherwise the listeners feel irritation in listening the programme. Some time the expert's starts the lesson with high pitch and the lesson goes on the level of the pitch become low and it disturbs the student's concentration towards the lesson. These are all very sensitive issues while preparing the radio programmes. If we are not take care of all these things in producing the lesson it ultimately effects the student listening, catching their interest and motivating towards lessons. All these are chain linked with each other towards

catching the attention of students. Minute care has to be taken while recording and editing the radio programme. While recording the radio programme minute noise will also catch the mike and so care should be taken to avoid all these noise. Before recording the programme proper instruction has to be given to the experts to record good programme like same voice level, way of presentation, avoiding paper noises, maintaining tempo, way of ascent, avoiding fumbling and vocabulary. All these are shown in the Fig.6

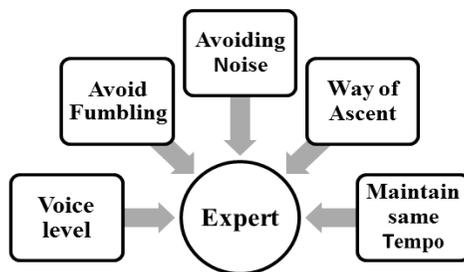


Fig.6: List of instructions to the expert

All these are in equilibrium then the high quality radio lesson will be produced. Ultimately the lesson will be attracted by students. So many people think that the radio lesson is easy to produce and take it is easy to do. Here the minute thing's also to take care into an account but not for other programmes like video. Depending upon the topic also the expert should select the format of presentation like lecture mode, discussion mode and question and answer mode. In the studio radio lessons are recorded in a room with sound proof facility. Microphones are of different types like unilateral, Bidirectional and Omni directional etc. Depending upon the format of the lesson we used to select the microphones. When you speak before a microphone, you do not have to shout , but you have to speak normally and it will made louder when we use speakers to listen.

Editing process is a major aspect after recording process is completed. This is the last step involved in production process is post production. AVPRC is using Protocol soft ware for Audio recording and editing process in the studios At the time of editing process any noises, flubbing and repeats a re to be edited. The role of studio elements involved in preparing the radio lessons are shown in Fig.7.

Sound effects plays an important role while preparing the radio lesson and the producer should have the esthetic sense in selecting the sound effects and incorporate it at proper contest and place that make the radio lesson to provoke the interest of the students. Sound effects can be used in different ways. But generally we use it in two ways like, effects that are created as we speak or spot effect and already recorded one. There are certain computer software is available in market to

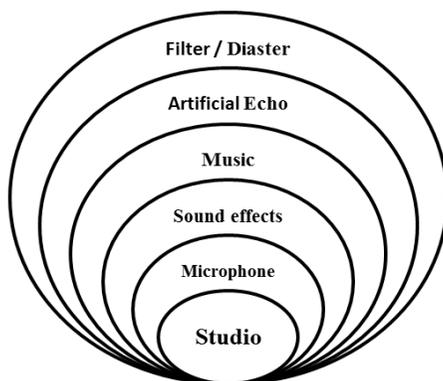


Fig.7: List of Studio Elements

get the readymade sound effect CDs. Music is also one of the important elements in preparing the radio lesson and it is used as a signature tunes. It gives life to the radio programme and it breaks the monotony. Depending upon the situation of the spoken word we can use the appropriate effect of music like early morning situation is there, for that we can select the music having the flute and chirping birds. Artificial echo is used as a technical input in preparing the radio programme and it the same time we can use distort or filter to make the voice realistic. Some time distorts and echoes are used simultaneously by using the technology. After completion of the post production finally all the team members sit together and preview the programme and approved for broadcasting. Then the CD is ready for broadcasting through AIR and also available in the tape library. The total steps involved in producing the radio programmes are given in Fig.8.

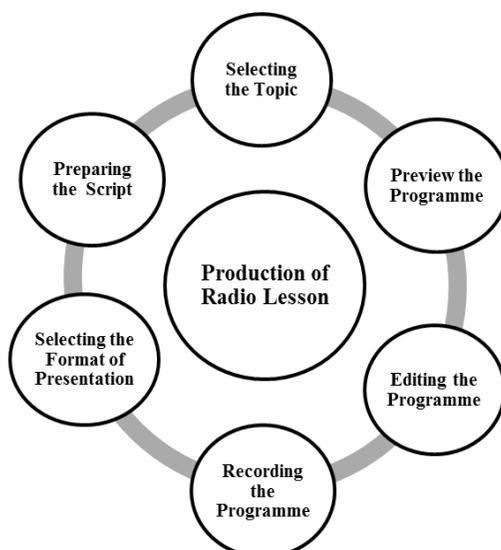


Fig.8: Total steps involved in Production Process



**Conclusion:** in ODL institutions radio is the oldest media but still it is surviving. Role of radio in education is to activate the student's participation during learning. According to human psychology as compared to print material the usage of technologies in education can generate a lot of excitement during learning situation. Due to its flexibility the student can choose their material in their own time and at their own place. So it is called flexible learning. In this paper while preparing the lessons a series of steps should be followed, then only we will get the good programme which catches the attention of the student and the students become habituated towards these lessons.

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