Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University Institutional Open Education Resources (OER) Policy

1. Preamble

Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University (Dr.BRAOU), the first Open University in India, established in 1982, is dedicated to provide access to Quality Higher Education to a large number at affordable cost by using Open distance learning methodologies. The University is established mainly to democratize higher education, and to realize Ambedkar's social transformative vision of education. Open Educational Resources (OER) i.e. the educational resources that are freely accessed is an idea of our times. Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University ((herein after referred as the University) is committed to promote and implement the creation, reuse, revision, remixing, redistribution and retention of OER within an open licensing framework. The Policy- a statement of objectives, processes and actions- provides a framework of vision and implementation of OER in the University.

2. Definitions

2.1. Open Educational Resources (OER): Based on the 2012 Paris OER Declaration (UNESCO, 2012,), Dr.B. R. Ambedkar Open University interprets OER as teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost, access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or

limited restrictions. Open licensing is built within the existing framework of intellectual property rights as defined by relevant international conventions and respects the authorship of the work.

2.2. OER Creation: The development/production and online sharing of quality assured OER.

2.3. OER Adoption: A practice of adopting existing OER for use in a course without any change.

2.4. OER Integration: This is viewed as a logical and systematic approach to the "five Rs" (Hilton, Wiley, Stein & Johnson, 2010) of reusing, revising, remixing, redistributing and retaining of OER.

2.5. OER Sharing: Making OER freely accessible and downloadable especially online.

2.6. Content Developer: Any person (typically author) engaged in the development of teaching and learning materials used by the institution.

2.7. Copyrights: Laws that regulate the use of the work of a creator, such as an ***artist*** or author. This includes copying, distributing, altering and displaying creative, literary and other types of work as per copyright law of INDIA. Unless otherwise stated in a contract, the author or creator of a work retains the copyright. The author(s) retains the moral rights to assign the rights to any other person or legal entity, and share the materials with others in any other conditions he/she may desire.

2.8. Open License: **"**A license that specifies what can and cannot be done with a ***work*** (whether sound, text, image or multimedia). It grants permissions and states restrictions. Broadly speaking, an open license

is one which grants permission to access, re-use and redistribute a work with few or no restrictions".

2.9. Institutional Repository: A set of services offered by an institution "to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organizational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials, including long-term preservation where appropriate, as well as organization and access or distribution".

3. Policy Objectives:

The objectives of the policy are to:

3.1. Formulate the necessary strategic inputs, outputs, tasks and performance indicators to achieve OER creation, adoption, adaptation and integration in the development/delivery of courses;

3.2. Develop awareness about the concept and practices related to OER among all staff;

3.3. Build capacity among academic and academic support staff to use OER appropriately in their professional engagements;

3.4. Prepare institutional guidelines and manuals for OER creation, adoption, adaptation and integration;

3.5. Establish an institutional repository to distribute OER;

3.6. Continuously monitor and ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;

3.7. Develop and incorporate an effective feedback mechanism that will facilitate informed decisions for any mid-term corrections during OER implementation; and

3.8. Consider and incorporate changes to the process based on new developments in the field of OER and the circumstances of the institution.

3.9 Adopt and Create OER in multilingual, depending on the needs of the target groups.

3.10 Encourage learners to use and contribute to the development of OER.

4. Applicability

The OER policy is applicable to the following:

4.1. All content developers within the university and those engaged by the university for writing materials on short-term basis as subject matter experts for payment of certain fees or for free;

4.2. All types of learning materials released in any physical or electronic format.

4.3. In cases where the material is developed in collaboration partnership with other institutions, the guidelines governing that collaboration as indicated in the MOU/ MOC will prevail. However, any such agreement should duly consider the OER Policy before any deviation is agreed upon with justification approved by the competent authority of the University.

5. Types of Licenses

5.1. While the *University* supports free and open access to all educational resources and will make them freely available on OER Repository through Creative Commons Attribution all contents it owns or co-owns with the following exceptions:

5.1.1 The University may make exceptions to the sharing of intellectual property it owns On a case by case basis with detailed reasons for limiting the free access to material. Such restrictions should be time dependent.

5.1.2 Intellectual property owned by the University that it considers is commercially sensitive may also be restricted.

5.2. Open licensing allows IP owners to modify the copyright on the intellectual property to facilitate openness. The most popular and well-known open license is the Creative Commons license (CC). Creative Commons licensing does not change the copyright ownership; it rather allows for affordances and sets stipulations for end- users based on the following license conditions:

5.2.1 Attribution (By) The standard condition for CC license in which usage requires citing, referencing of the creator/ source.

5.2.2. No Derivatives (ND). This condition mandates that no derivative works or adaptations may be made by users.

5.2.3. Non-Commercial (NC). This condition mandates that users do not sell or make commercial usage of the licensed materials.

5.2.4. Share-Alike (SA). Usage requires that any derivatives, remixes, or adaptations of the work be licensed under the same Creative Commons license.

5.3. Six specific types of CC licenses are available at

http://creative commons.org/ licenses/

5.4. The choice of licenses will be decided by the faculty concerned who has developed the material and shall be vetted by the internal OER Quality Review Board. **Or** All materials developed by it and having exclusive rights shall be released on the university OER Repository site under CC By-SA.



5.5. For derivatives and reproductions of other CC licensed materials, the University will follow respective CC provisions and the licenses therein.

5.5.1. Single licensing system for university materials

5.5.2. For general, which include, works of eminent persons who involved in ODL and related fields, Conference proceedings, invited lectures, edited volumes, pictures, ppts, etc

5.5.3. All SLMs (Self Learning Materials) – CC-BY-SA

5.5.4. Any kind of Research materials, Thesis and Dissertations – CC-BY-NC-SA

5.6. While sharing the materials of the University in appropriate licenses, it does not permit derivatives to use University logo for differentiation from the original.

6. Quality Assurance and Review System

6.1. The University OER Repository strives to provide resources of the highest quality. The reviewing process will be carried out at different levels.

6.2. University curriculum based learning resources developed through peer reviewing and strict quality assurance mechanism inbuilt in the course development process will not require further reviewing for uploading on the repository. All other contributions will be peer reviewed within the department before uploading on the OER Repository. For this OER Quality Review Team (OER-QRT) should be constituted.

7. Liability

7.1. All OER materials shared at the University OER Repository to the world at large will carry a disclaimer indicating that the material is for educational purposes only and that the university absolves itself of any practical misuse of the OER materials or their content. OER materials authored and published by faculty and staff of the university and others does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the university.

7.2. All learning materials published under CC license should include the following information in the credit page:



© *year*, .*Name of the university.* This learning resource is available under Derivatives of this work are not authorizes to use *university* Logo.

8. Role of the Faculty/Teachers/Content Developers

8.1. The faculty member responsible for development of a course shall be personally responsible for management and adoption of OER in the specific course. However, the discipline concerned shall take appropriate decision, on why a course will not be put on CC license, in a meeting and put the same on record.

8.2. In general, the concerned faculty should search for appropriate OER to adopt/adapt in a course, thereby reducing the cost of the course production, as well as reduce the time to produce such material, and improve student learning.

8.3. If no OER is available in a topic, then that part of the content should be developed either by internal faculty or by engaging an appropriate expert(s) from outside as per the normal procedure of the University.

8.4. When an external writer is engaged, the material should be reviewed, and appropriate copyright assigned to the University with indemnity to the University for Plagiarism, if any, so that the material can be released by the University under CC license.

9. Institutional Arrangements

9.1 The University proposes to engage in OER in three phases. In the **first phase** the University OER repository will include works of eminent persons in the field of Open distance learning (ODL), University Organized lectures, seminar proceedings and University commissioned works on ODL and other relevant fields. In the **second phase** OER will include open access online platform materials, MOOCs and other open materials. In the **third phase** ODL teaching-learning materials developed by the University shall be made available on OER.

9.2 Prof G.Ram Reddy Research Academy of Distance Education (GRADE) is the Nodal agency for operationalisation of the OER Policy. The OER Review and Monitoring Board (RMB) will be constituted by the Vice-chancellor with representatives from academic, administration, computer centre and Library and such

other units as Vice-Chancellor deems fit and a few outside experts with vice-chancellor as Chairperson to review, monitor, co-ordinate and guide the OER Policy Implementation. Director GRADE will be the convener of the Board. The Board shall meet at least 3 times a year to review and monitor the OER implementation and submit Annual Report to Executive Council.

10. University Position

10.1. The University encourages staff and students to use, create and publish OERs to enhance the quality of the student experience, provided that the resources are fit-for-purpose and relevant.

10.2. Use, creation and publication of OERs are consistent with the University's reputation, values and mission to "make a significant, sustainable and socially responsible contribution to Telangana state and the Country, promoting health and economic and cultural wellbeing."

10.3. Whether or not OERs are used or published in a School, Department or Service is ultimately a decision of the University. Unless stated to the contrary, it is assumed that use, creation and publication of single units or small collections will be allowed. Where use, creation and publication are to be restricted, Schools, departments and Services are encouraged to identify and communicate a rationale for restriction. It is expected that justifications for restriction will normally be based on the overall policy of the University.

10.4. When using OERs, students and staff must comply with the terms of the licence of use.

11. Review

The OER Policy will be reviewed frequently as part of the University's review of policy Compliance or in response to changes in legislative or regulatory requirements.



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University

Institutional OER Policy

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OER Policy for Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University.
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Nodal Agency for OER of the University

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Web Access of OERR – www.braouvidyagani.in