Samridhi Khanna Reflections on Open Education

Open Education Student Ambassador

As a student ambassador for Open Education at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, what I find most fascinating and motivating about participating in OER is its foundational principle of viewing education as a fundamental human right. The concept that education should be within reach for everyone resonates deeply with me. This idea of raising awareness about Open Education directly contributes to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals aimed at making education accessible to all.

The foundation pillars of open education focus on sustainability by reusing and redistributing educational materials, assignments, and resources. Open education promotes the efficient utilization of existing content. This not only reduces the duplication of effort but also minimizes waste, contributing to a more sustainable approach to education. At KPU, the implementation of these principles and collaborative effort ensures that education is truly accessible to all students. Not only does this initiative help reduce the financial burdens on students, but it also offers materials in various licensing, copyright, and format options, enhancing accessibility, and inclusivity, and enriching the learning experience.

Further, contribution to the ZTC initiative where students do not have to pay for textbooks, and yet other equally good materials are provided to students without any cost. With the advent of technology, I would say, this is a transformational shift in the history of education. Students are not just forced to learn something in a certain way, instead, they are given a choice on how to gain more knowledge through digital resources, open licensing, and making the educational resources widely available.

Moreover, the involvement in the ZTC initiative, which aims to eliminate textbook costs for students while offering equally valuable materials at no expense, marks a significant advancement in education. With the advent of technology, I would say, this is a transformational shift in the history of education. Students are not just forced to learn something in a certain way, instead, they are given a choice on how to gain more knowledge through digital resources, open licensing, and making the educational resources widely available. This aspect also addresses the importance of inclusivity and recognizing that individuals learn in diverse ways. Educational institutions are actively embracing this concept in practical terms, making it more applicable and relevant to real-life learning experiences.

Without an iota of doubt, students are empowered through these options in learning and this trend will have increased scope in coming years.