Call To Support Open Educational Resources In Urdu Language

Teach In Urdu (https://teachinurdu.org) is a **repository** of teaching-learning material (TLM) and open educational resource (OER) in Urdu, and a **community of practice** (CoP) for Urdu medium Teachers to exchange pedagogic ideas and practices to improve quality of teaching & learning in Urdu medium school settings.

Compelled by the paucity of educational resources (TLMs, OERs etc) in Urdu language Teach in Urdu (TiU) was started in 2015 as a project to translate high quality TLMs from English to Urdu by a few volunteers. Over the years we expanded the work from translation to creation and curation of resources. As of December 2020 TiU website offers more than **150 educational resources in Urdu** including articles on educational ideas and teaching-learning practices, Urdu subtitled TED-Ed videos, Science and Mathematics simulations, lesson plans, activity worksheets, e-Books and other curricular resources. These resources were created/translated/curated by more than 25 contributors. The website receives an average of 2,000 (two thousand) monthly visits.

During the COVID-19 lockdown we started an online webinar series to support Urdu medium teachers and educators and successfully conducted **20 webinars** on various themes including distance modes of Education, psychological & social impact of the Pandemic as well as subject specific topics. Hundreds of Urdu medium teachers and educators from across India attended these webinars which were facilitated by educational researchers and practitioners from premier institutes such as Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), Vigyan Prasar, Azim Premji University (APU), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) as well as practitioners and teachers. Through these engagements we now have an active virtual community of practice **(CoP) of more than 400 Urdu medium teachers and educators** connected through WhatsApp and Telegram groups. Teachers exchange ideas, share their practices and engage in a civilised discourse through these CoPs. The research literature widely emphasises long term benefits of such CoPs which cultivate teachers' professional identity and agency. In August 2020 we also presented our work with the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Need to strengthen and expand the efforts to create TLMs/OERs in Urdu

The paucity of high quality TLMs/OERs in Urdu is a serious concern. Without innovative educational resources and practices the already dilapidated status of Urdu medium schooling will only get worse. According to Census 2011 Urdu is the 7th largest

spoken language in India. From multiple data sources (UDISE, AISES report) it is estimated that there are around 40 thousand educational institutions in India where the medium of instruction is Urdu. While the onslaught of English medium education has impacted almost all the vernacular Indian languages, Urdu is arguably among the most affected. While Hindi has official support from the central as well as many state governments, other scheduled languages also have considerable support mechanisms as official languages of various state governments. However, Urdu having spread across India without an official first language of any state and due to historical reasons remains neglected. The NCERT and few state government agencies do have a mandate to work on development of TLMs in Urdu the efforts are far from adequate. The flagship portals of TLMs and OERs - Digital Infrastructure for School Education (https://diksha.gov.in) and National Repository of Open Educational Resources (https://nroer.gov.in) are evident to this fact. Therefore, it is imperative that on the one hand we impress upon the government agencies to step up creation and dissemination of TLMs/OERs in Urdu, on the other hand there must also be efforts by the research & practitioner community. There are many non governmental initiatives to enhance the quality and experiences of Education. Unfortunately, very few of such initiatives focus on Urdu medium students and teachers. The new National Education Policy 2020 (NEP2020) has brought back the emphasis on imparting elementary schooling in a child's mother tongue/home language. There is a need to proactively make concerted efforts to produce high quality, engaging content to support both teachers and students in Urdu medium.
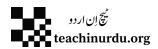
Through the Teach In Urdu initiative we would like to fill this gap in a small way. Over the last five years TiU has grown from an idea to a repository of teaching learning materials in Urdu and an active community of practice for teachers/educators. And, all of this was achieved through a few volunteers. Like any voluntary initiative we too go through ups and downs in terms of availability of volunteers and monetary resources.

What do we propose to do? A roadmap for 2021-2023

Over the next three years we would like to grow as a hub for high quality digital educational resources in Urdu, nurture a vibrant community of Urdu medium teachers and develop teacher training modules for professional development.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3
Digital educational resources in Urdu (create/curate) 1. Digital interactives 2. Videos 3. Worksheets 4. Articles	150	200	200

5. Graphical stories			
Add new teachers to community of practice (CoP)	200	300	400
Webinar	12	12	12
Teacher Trainings for Professional Development	04	06	06
Teacher Professional Development course for Technology Enabled Learning in Urdu	01	01	-
Research and documentation on the status of Urdu medium education in India	03	05	05
Engage and cultivate creators, curators and translators of educational resources in Urdu (including teachers and other volunteers)	08 Every year sponsor young persons to undergo Translation training at reputed institutes such as CIIL, Mysore; MAANU, Hyderabad. ● 01 for long term courses ● 02 for short term courses ● 05 through internships	08	08
Collaborations with ● Govt agencies ● Other NGOs ● Teacher training institutes ● Schools	● MAANU, VP, HBCSE, ITfC, Pratham, NCPUL, UNICEF	Shall be pursued/ strengthened	Shall be pursued/ strengthened
Innovative practices ● Mobile App ● Translate Games ● Digital Badges	● Game - 01 ● Introduce digital Badges to motivate contributors/ volunteers/ participants		

Budget

While the running and sundry costs are taken care of by contributions from Teach In Urdu core team members we are seeking donations and sponsorships for major works over the next three years 2021-23. We welcome contributions from individuals and the wider community, however small that could be. Let's demonstrate that voluntary/crowdsourced works could also be of high quality if done with passion, perseverance and excellence.

1. Offer **fellowship** to two bright youngsters to pursue **postgraduate/masters degree** in Translation studies/Education from any reputed university in India. The fellow will work part time for TiU on the lines of UGC junior research fellowships. We hope to nurture two young scholars who can synergise their academics and TiU's work, and excel in both.

Unit cost (INR)	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Total budget for three years (INR)
Course fees (10,000/-) + Fellowship (20,000/- per month)	250,000.00	500,000.00	250,000.00	1,000,000.00

2. Offer annually one **fellowship** to pursue professional development/skill building **short courses on Urdu translation** and **resource development** from CIIL, Mysore, National Translation Mission, MAANU Hyderabad etc.

Unit cost (INR)	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Total budget for three years (INR)
10,000/- per course per person	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	30,000.00

3. Alongwith the voluntary contributions we would like to give reasonable **honorarium to translators** and **resource creators** so that content quality and pace of publication can be sustained.

Unit cost (INR)	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Total budget for three years (INR)
INR 1/- per word. 500 words per article/video. 50 articles per year.	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	75,000.00

4. Develop Teacher Professional Development **courses** on innovative pedagogical practices and technology enabled learning in Urdu in partnership with another govt/not-for-profit

Unit cost (INR)	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Total budget for three years (INR)
organization.				
30,000/- for online course development 20,000/- for workshop and administration	50,000.00	50,000.00	0	100,000.00

5. Laptop devices: While to the extent possible we use free and open source software, sometimes our interns and volunteers need computing devices to produce **high quality digital work** such as video editing, graphics and digital interactives.

Unit cost (INR)	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Total budget for three years (INR)
Two mid-to-high configuration laptop devices for multimedia production work.	60,000.00	60,000.00	0	120,000.00
Total Budget	**395,000.00**	**645,000.00**	**285,000.00**	**1,325,000.00**

Request for contributions

If you like our work and believe that children and teachers in Urdu medium school settings deserve to get the best of educational resources and learning tools then please support us by funding these initiatives.

Teach In Urdu is an affiliate of Springboard Foundation a registered Educational and Public Charitable Trust (Reg. No. JAY-4-00075-2017-18).

❏ You may send contributions to below bank account (for Indian donors only):

Account Name: Spring Board Foundation
Account Number: 14720200006283
Bank: Federal Bank
Branch: RT Nagar, Bengaluru
IFSC Code: FDRL0001472

❏ Alternatively, you could also contribute on crowdfunding link:
https://www.impactguru.com/fundraiser/help-create-oer-in-urdu-language

Do you have an idea to make us better or have any queries?

Email   teachinurdu@gmail.com
Twitter   https://twitter.com/TeachInUrdu
Telegram   https://t.me/TeachInUrdu
WhatsApp   https://chat.whatsapp.com/LwL2AXPaI6KDCkaYGZZoZq

Teach In Urdu Team

We are a bunch of professionals who are passionate about creating high quality, open and equitable educational resources for Urdu medium students and teachers.

1. Abdul Mumin
   Software Professional, Hitachi, Hyderabad.
   Role in TiU: Website Editor and OER translator, Curator, Reviewer

2. Farhan Sumbul
   Software Professional at BPR&D, New Delhi.
   Role in TiU: Website Editor and OER translator, Reviewer

3. Mujahidul Islam
   Edu-Tech Fellow, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru.
   Role in TiU: Website Editor, OER reviewer and Coordinator

4. Saadat Mulla
   Civil Engineer, Bengaluru.
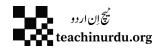   Role in TiU: TLM Translator and Reviewer

5. Sadaqat Mulla
   Faculty, CEIAR, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.
   Role in TiU: OER translator and curator

6. Salman Waheed
   Lecturer, Al Jamia Al Islamiya, Mewat.
   Role in TiU: TLM Translator, Curator

7. Altaf Amjad
    Cluster Resource Person, Basavakalyan
    Department of Education, Govt. of Karnataka
    Role in TiU: Outreach

8. Mohammed Zubair Siddiqui
    Asst. Editor, Srote Magazine,
    Eklavya Foundation
    Role in TiU: Editor and Translator

9. You?