Bhubaneswar Express Exbuzz CAMPUS

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Educational applications have revolutionised the learning scene among students in various City colleges and institutes

● **Soumika M Das**

Classrooms, educational applications are a big hit among students of various colleges and institutes in the City. Integration of technology in learning has helped them in better time management and reduced dependence on expensive tutorial classes. From subject specific notes, critical analysis to interaction with teachers on digital platforms, these applications provide a wide variety of learning solutions to students of various streams. Not just that, some of the applications also help students in searching for specified courses in different universities and check their eligibility. *The City Express* interacted with students of various institutes to bring you which are the most popular learning applications in Bhubaneswar.

Applications like Marrow and Prepladder are popular among medical students in the City. According to reports, most MBBS students aspiring to crack NEET used to spend around ₹1 to ₹1.5 lakh for three year tutorial courses. "Such tutorial classes are not affordable for all. It is much more convenient for us to download and subscribe the applications, which charge around ₹36,000 and contains various features catering to our subject needs. These applications also stream lectures by prominent authors of medical books. By paying another ₹4,000, you can also download handwritten notes," said Chinmay, a medi-

cal student of SOA University.

The dependence on websites or applications for learning is higher among engineering and computer science students. For instance, in a batch of 60 computer science engineering students at IIIT Bhubaneswar, at least 35 students browse through various programming-teaching websites at least once in two days or have subscribed to YouTube channels. "One of the most popular website that the computer science students logon to on our campus is geeksforgeeks. It also offers various short term courses and internship opportunities. Be it core subjects or a specific coding language, you get notes for all segments. The website hosts notes for GATE, coding quizzes and puz-

Chinmay of SOA university using a learning application

zles," said Abhishek Anmol, a computer science student. Abhishek and his friends have also subscribed to YouTube channels like knowledgegate and javatpoint.

A gamified experience, use of artificial intelligence and use of info-graphics make learning fun and easy for the students. "The applications are very useful for students preparing for various competitive exams. These apps present critical topics in simplified manner using enough visuals. So, preparation for competitive entrances gets easier and hassle-free," said Alisha Rath, a humanities student of Utkal University.

At IIT Bhubaneswar, students of various streams use the Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) apps. It is a programme of the

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, that enables professors and faculties of centrally funded institutions to offer online courses to the students. "Though the choice of applications largely depends upon the stream of study, the SWAYAM apps are most-opted for on our campus. These are free. We can listen to the lectures of professors of other IITs too," said Gaurav Pande of IIT Bhubaneswar.

With more and more students turning to e-learning platforms, the edtech start-ups are now focussing on tier-II cities, including Bhubaneswar. These start-ups design special packages, keeping in mind the learning requirements in tier-II and tier-III cities. According to a data provided by iSchool-Connect-an online platform that makes the university admissions process hassle-free,

to students around the globe-Bhubaneshwar ranks 25 among 182 cities across the world in terms of providing online traffic to the portal. The data referred to the period between March to October, 2019.