DBT-BIRAC supports development of a self-learning braille device

New Delhi, Feb 23: Braille literacy rate around the world is abysmal. Literacy rate correlates to employability and affects the economy. There is a significant gap because learning the language needs a person-to-person contact. The teacher needs to spend time with the students individually to make them learn the language.

To eliminate the need for teacher’s physical presence, Thinker bell labs supported by DBT-Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (DBT-BIRAC), has developed an innovation called “Annie” which is a voice coordinated device that accelerates the braille learning process itself and provides a self-learning environment.

Annie enables users to self-learn braille in a fun and gamified manner. It allows special educators to focus on multiple students at the same time thus allowing easy tracking of student’s progress (analytics) and downloading of new content by seamlessly integrating with the ecosystem.

Annie is one of its kind products across the globe wherein all the hardware modules of the device are tailored to teach braille along with interactive content. The interactive content is a blend of both braille as well as audio. The analytics suite allows for the scheduling of tests and lessons as well as enables the educators to give homework. The product introduced first time digital braille games: in single player, multiplayer modes with challenges, learnings & exercises.
The device can be used by beginners having no prior knowledge of braille. The device also comes equipped with first-time digital braille games in single or multiplayer modes with challenges, lessons and exercises. This enables the students to receive instant feedback. This innovation aims to envision a world where education becomes accessible for the visually impaired as it is for the sighted ones. A visually impaired student through Annie can learn to read, write and type in braille on their own while having fun.

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