

**A workshop on
Wikieducator and Open Educational Resources (OERs)
Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani.**

A Report

by Mr. Subhash Kumar and Ms. Shalu Mahajan
Acharya Narendra Dev College, University of Delhi

A three day workshop on Wikieducator was organised by CEMCA from June 14 to June 16, 2010 at the Uttarakhand Open University (UOU), Haldwani, Uttarakhand. Approximately 40 participants participated in the workshop. The participants were from different educational institutions in and around Haldwani. The participants were from a broad spectrum of backgrounds ranging from humanities, languages, science, technology and also from administrative fields. The venue of the workshop was the UOU office at Haldwani. The resource persons for the workshop were:

1. Mr. Subhash Kumar, Assistant Professor-Physics, Acharya Narendra Dev College,
University
of Delhi and
2. Ms. Shalu Mahajan, Assistant Professor-Commerce, Acharya Narendra Dev College,
University of Delhi
Dr. Pema from CEMCA was the Programme coordinator

Day 1, 14th June 2010.

The workshop started with registration of participants followed by the inauguration function. Besides the participants, the inaugural function was attended by the resource persons, Dr. Pema and officials of UOU and the participating institutions. This session was an interactive one where discussions took place on Wikieducator, copyright issues, open source tools and the relevance of open educational resources (OERs). After a brief round of introduction of participants, each participants were asked to speak about their expectations from this workshop. This was specially planned, so that the workshop could be accordingly planned.

After the tea break, the first technical session began.

In this session, the participants were acquainted with the Wikieducator.org and Wikieducator.org/India sites and the process of getting a User account was explained. This was followed by a detailed explanation of the process of putting content on the User page. The basic syntax for putting text were demonstrated.

The session after lunch was a hands-on session. All the participants after creating a User account attempted to put some text on their user page. The participants were further given instructions for other text-editing tools viz., making fonts bold-faced, italics, and underlining. Instructions were also imparted to create lists - bulleted or numbered. Some time was also spent in giving demonstrations for creating headings (different levels) and subheadings. The participants enthusiastically attempted to implement all the instructions provided. The resource persons went around to each participant's terminal to see their progress and provide help, wherever required.

Day 2, 15th June 2010.

The second day began with the feedback from each participant on the sessions of day-1. All participants expressed satisfaction about the progress made and expressed the desire to do many more things on their user page. Discussion took place on the various possibilities and options available on a Wiki page.

The technical session which followed the tea break was devoted to imparting instructions to the participants about creation of new page/sub-page and how to put internal as well as external links in the contents of the Wiki page. The various syntax of an internal as well as external linking were explained and participants were encouraged to implement each one of them. In this session some time was also spent in putting font-color and background-color.

The post lunch session was an interesting session which involved uploading Photo and creation of image gallery. The general method to upload different media and Pdf files was also taken up in this session. The participants were successful in uploading their photos on their user pages and other media files on their page.

Day 3, 16th June 2010.

The 3rd and the last day started with discussion on the significance and impact of the wiki movement in creation of OERs in the Indian context. Since the majority participants were from an open university, they appreciated its usefulness in education and propagation of local traditional knowledge in a hill state.

The first technical session of the day was utilized in putting the names and details of the participants on a newly created wiki page of the workshop. The url of the page is:

http://wikieducator.org/Learning4Content/Workshops/Face-to-Face_schedule/L4C64

The session further involved imparting instructions and implementing the creation of tables and use of wiki templates. Participants utilized certain templates to put their content. A brief session on collaborative video was also taken up, but due to time constraints hands-on session on this was very limited. A brief introduction on Latex was also given to the participants.

In the post lunch session certain features of communication and interaction among the wiki community was taken up, wherein features like use of talk page, watchlist, my contributions and email notifications were explained to the participants.

This was followed by the valedictory session. This was attended by senior officials of the university besides the participants and the resource persons of the workshop. While expressing satisfaction with the outcome of the workshop, the participants pledged to take the wiki movement forward and harness its full potential by creating educational contents through the medium of wikieducator.

Remarks:

1. Lack of proper infrastructure i.e., absence of conference room with net connectivity was a limitation. Instructions could not be given simultaneously while participants were at their terminals.
2. The participants of UOU were not relieved of their duties, while attending the workshops. So many of them had to miss some sessions.
3. Another follow-up workshop with the same participants can be useful, which can concentrate on content creation exclusively.