

WORKSHOP ON OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES & WIKIEDUCATOR JUNE 9-11, 2010

Introduction

School of ICT, Gautam Buddha University in collaboration with Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia N. Delhi. (CEMCA) organised a three (3) days (9th June -11th June 2010) workshop on the use of Open educational resources and WikiEducator skills for the faculty members and the administrative officers of Gautam Buddha University to promote the use of Wiki skills not only in classrooms but also to develop a collaborative culture of knowledge sharing and dissemination. Some of the objectives of the workshop were:

1. Carry out a capacity building initiative within the institution
2. Create content during the workshop and upload it available on WikiEducator
3. Provide a platform to build up knowledge sharing within GBU and collaborate with other universities.

The workshop was attended by twenty eight participants. The list of participants is attached in Appendix 1.





Inaugural Function

The inaugural function started at 10am on 9th June 2010 which was presided by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Gautam Buddha University , Prof. R.S. Nirjar. The welcome address was given by Prof. Sanjay Jasola, Dean, School of ICT, Gautam Buddha University who also introduced the theme of the workshop. Dr. R. Sreedhar, Director, CEMCA New Delhi emphasized on the use of OERs and WikiEducator and develop free and open content for national curriculum. Mr D K Tetri Finance and Administrative officer and Dr. Pema Samdup, Program officer CEMCA, were also present on this occasion.





Workshop proceedings

The workshop was facilitated by Prof. Sanjay Jasola, Dean, School of Information and Communication Technology. The workshop started with an introductory session on the use of Web 2.0 tools and their Applications. It also aimed at addressing the benefits that Teachers can derive from the use of Wiki based technologies with main objective of creative and collaborative authoring of content. The Facilitator then focused on the practical use of WikiEducator. Each of the participants had access to a computer with very good internet connectivity and all participants registered on the WikiEducator website. Since the internet connectivity was very good and fast, the facilitator decided to have the participants work directly on the WikiEducator website thus all activities were directly performed on the internet. The following lessons were covered on the first day:

- Introduction to Wiki Technologies, their advantages and disadvantages;
- How to register and create account in the www.wikiEducator.org website;
- How to edit a format text within Wiki;



The session on second day (10th June 2010) started well with a continuation of the Wikieducator training. Prof Sanjay Jasola, the Facilitator introduced the participants to the following:

- How to create internal links in Wiki; and
- Uploading images in media Wiki
- How to communicate on the wiki and to using the discussions and talk features on WikiEducator;
- How to manage collaborative editing with the ability to fall back to earlier edited wiki version and inherent WikiEducator features that prevail against content vandalism; and
- Creation of External links within WikiEducator



Upon completion of the above lessons the participants embarked on the process of converting actual educational content and making it available on wiki format within WikiEducator. The Participants were grouped into two groups (Mathematics and English contents conversion groups). This was the most challenging part of the workshop but the participants performed exceptionally well. By the end of the day, all the participants had uploaded introduction page on the wikieducator.

The last and final day focused on working and refining the already uploaded content on WikiEducator. A session on the copyright issues and ethical practices was also conducted by the Facilitator, Prof. Jasola. Each of the participants worked on their sections of the content. More exercises were performed on wiki formatting including how to upload media content on the WikiEducator and to integrate images to existing wiki content. This went on till 4:00pm when the closing ceremony was held and the workshop was closed with certificate and pendrive distribution which carried the content of the workshop and the presentation slides.

Workshop Outcomes

The participants noted that they have acquired the skills sufficient for them to start working on content development in the area of their expertise. Each of the participants was asked to produce content in the area of their expertise and submit it to WikiEducator. Plans to hold a follow-up workshop were communicated to the participants and they agreed that they should develop their own raw content that can be easily wikified.

Participants were introduced to the Learn4Content Initiative during the workshop and how it relates to the overall objectives of collaborative content development for the use in Classroom teaching. More specifically the following were the outcomes of this workshop:

1. The participants agreed to participate in the Learn4Content Initiatives and to start mobilizing content developers in their respective area
2. To produce content and upload it in the Wiki Educator website in preparation for a follow-up workshop. This has to be done before the 15th July'2010
3. Created a mailing list and the participants page which can help them to contribute as a team towards content development.

From the success of this workshop, it was noted that, though the participant numbers were large (28 participants) for a single facilitator, good progress was made as WikiEducator content production processes are easy to learn and already meet most of educators' requirements in terms of content production. The WikiEducator website is easy to work with and though most or all of the participants had little computer background not to mention wiki skills, they were able to catch up fast and convert existing content into Wiki within a very short period (Three days).

Appendix 1

List of Participants

S.No.	Name	School of
1	Dr. Nagendra Singh	BioTechnology
2	Dr. Vivek Kumar Shukla	Engineering
3	Dr. Vivek Shrivastava	Engineering

4	Dr. Rajesh Mishra	Information and Communication Technology
5	Dr. Vidushi Sharma	Information and Communication Technology
6	Dr. Abdul Wahid	Information and Communication Technology
7	Dr. Md. Tashfeen Ashraf	BioTechnology
8	Dr. Bhaswati Banerjee	BioTechnology
9	Mr. Ashok Kumar Suhag	Engineering
10	Mr. Bhavnesh Kumar	Engineering
11	Mr. Pradeep Tomar	Information and Communication Technology
12	Mr. Ahlad Kumar	Information and Communication Technology
13	Mr. Arun Solanki	Information and Communication Technology
14	Ms. Sandhya Tarar	Information and Communication Technology
15	Mr. Karan Singh	Information and Communication Technology
16	Mr. Bablu Pandey	Information and Communication Technology
17	Mr. Abhinav Sharma	Information and Communication Technology
18	Ms. Sarojini Vudumu	Information and Communication Technology
19	Dr. D.K. Sharma	Management
20.	Dr. Naveen Kumar	Management
21	Dr. S. Pandey	Management
22	Dr. Ombir Singh	Management
23	Mr. Mange Ram	Library
24	Dr. Savneet Kaur	BioTechnology
25	Dr. Vishwas Tripathi	BioTechnology
26	Mr. Sandeep Rana	Central Computer Centre
27	Dr. Siya Ram	BioTechnology
28	Dr. Seema Devedi	BioTechnology