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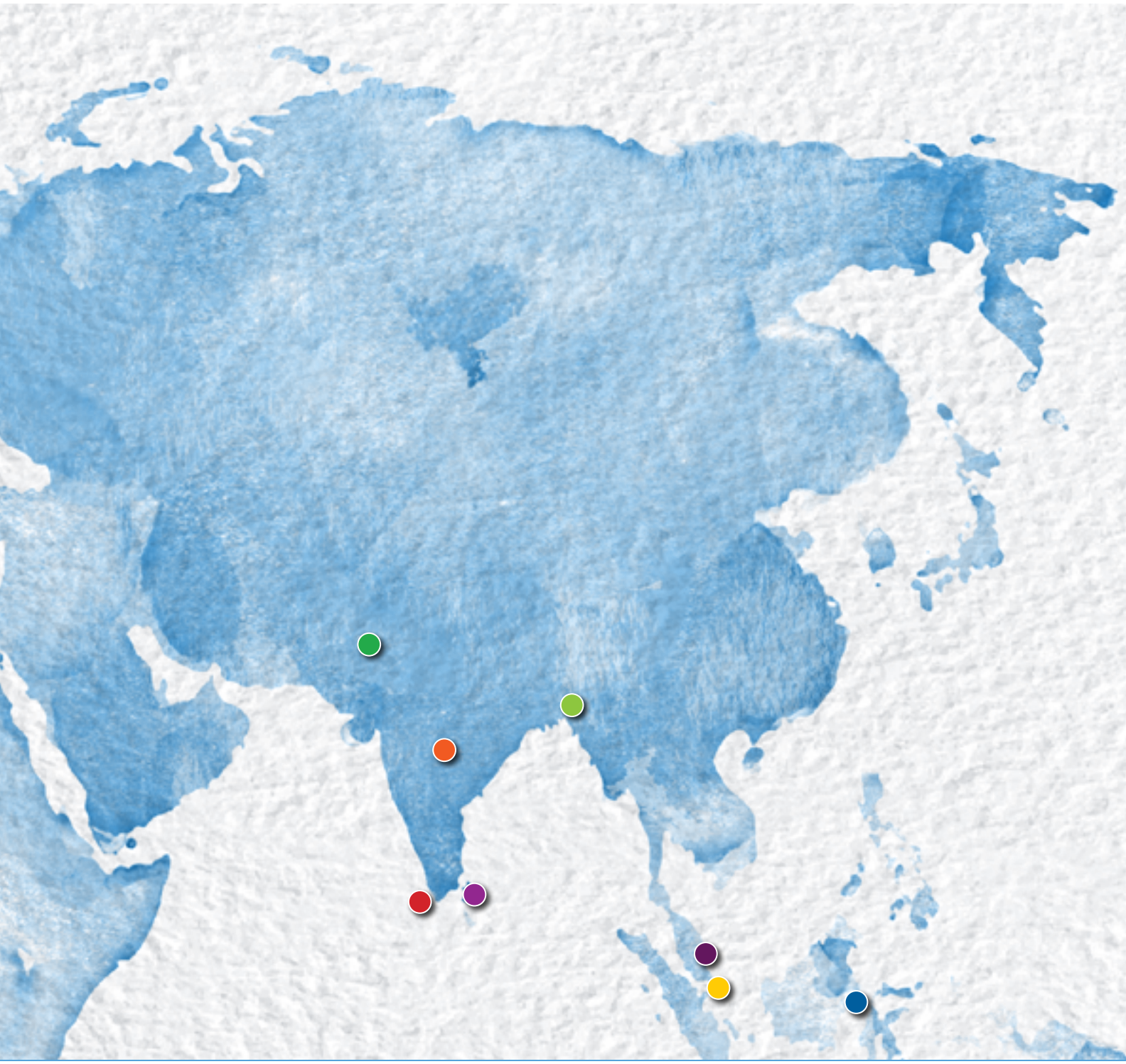
CEMCA

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATIONAL MEDIA CENTRE FOR ASIA
NEW DELHI, INDIA

CEMCA FOOTPRINTS



- Bangladesh
- Brunei Darussalam
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CEMCA

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATIONAL MEDIA CENTRE FOR ASIA
NEW DELHI, INDIA

COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was created by Commonwealth Heads of Governments during their meeting held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1987. The organisation was established to promote distance learning and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and to strengthen cooperation in education among the Member States of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) was established by COL in1994 to respond to the needs expressed by the Commonwealth countries of the Asian region for more effective utilisation of educational media resources for Distance Education. The COL and the Government of India (GoI) signed the Host Country Agreement on 31 August 1998. CEMCA was notified as a diplomatic mission under the United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947 by the GoI on 10 February 2000.

For details, visit: www.col.org

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ACRONYMS

ACSI	Academic and Career Skills (Self-Assessment) Instrument
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIU	Association of Indian Universities
APSCHE	Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education
AR	Augmented Reality
BRAOU	Dr B. R. Ambedkar Open University
BSDU	Bhartiya Skill Development University
BWSSC	Beauty and Wellness Sector Skill Council
CAC	CEMCA Advisory Council
CBSE	Central Board of Secondary Education
CC	Creative Commons
CDOE	Centre for Distance and Online Education
CEMCA	Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia
CMIL	Centre for Media and Information Literacy
COEL	Centre for Online Education and Learning
COL	Commonwealth of Learning
CR	Community Radio
CRDP	Centre for Research and Development Policy
CRS	Community Radio Stations
DELNET	Developing Library Network
Ed-Tech	Educational Technology
FDP	Faculty Development Programme
FY	Financial Year
GGT	Gender Green Teacher
GLA	Green Learning Agenda
GMRVF	GMR Varalakshmi Foundation
GOI	Government of India
HEI	Higher Education Institution
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
IIT-BHU	Indian Institute of Technology – Banaras Hindu University
IOT	Internet of Things
ISAP	Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals
IT	Information Technology
ITI	Industrial Training Institute
JSOU	Jharkhand State Open University
L2L	Listeners to Learners
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MKU	Madurai Kamaraj University
MOA	Ministry of Ayush
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course

MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPBOU	Madhya Pradesh (BHOJ) Open University
MRIIRS	Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies
MSSRF	M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
NBU	North Bengal University
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research and Training
NCVET	National Council for Vocational Education and Training
NEP 2020	National Education Policy 2020
NIEPA	National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration
NIMI	National Instructional Media Institute
NIOS	National Institute of Open Schooling
NITTTR	National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research
NPBL	National Policy on Blended Learning
NSN	National Skills Network
NSOU	Netaji Subhas Open University
ODL	Open and Distance Learning
OEP	Open Educational Practice
OER	Open Educational Resources
PCF	Pan-Commonwealth Forum
PSD	Pro Sport Development
RBM	Results-based Management
RIE	Regional Institute of Education
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLM	Self-learning Material
SMART	Seeking Modern Applications for Real Transformation
START	Search for Truth and Return To Science
SWAYAM	Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds
SWI	System of Wheat Intensification
TASL	Title, Author, Source, License
TEL	Technology-enabled Learning
TNSDC	Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation
TOT	Training of Trainers
TWY	Together with Youth
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UGC	University Grants Commission
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UOU	Uttarakhand Open University
UPRTOU	Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University
VMOU	Vardhman Mahaveer Open University
VR	Virtual Reality
VU	Vidyasagar University
WBSU	West Bengal State University

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

COL was established by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1987 as the foremost agency to promote 'Learning for Sustainable Development' in Commonwealth countries. The organisation supports efforts to provide Commonwealth citizens with greater access to quality education and training through open, distance and technology-enabled learning (TEL), thereby enabling them to benefit from improved livelihoods, greater gender equity and overall economic, social and cultural development.

As per its Strategic Plan 2021-27, COL is working primarily in two sectors: Education and Skills with the addition of Gender Equality and TEL as cross-cutting initiatives. The current plan period is marked with greater focus on innovation, inclusion and measuring impact. It aims to achieve impact through three overarching pathways of change, i. e., Building National Resilience, Strengthening Institutions and Improving Lives and Livelihoods.

CEMCA plays a pivotal role as the regional centre for Asia, aligning its activities with COL's mission to advance 'Learning for Sustainable Development.' Established in 1987, CEMCA's mandate is to facilitate access to high-quality education and training for Commonwealth citizens in the Asian region. By championing open, distance, and technology-enabled learning, CEMCA empowers individuals to enhance their livelihoods, fosters gender equity, and promotes holistic economic, social, and cultural development.

CEMCA's Strategic Focus

In alignment with COL's Strategic Plan 2021-27, CEMCA concentrates its efforts in two core sectors: Education and Skills, complemented by cross-cutting initiatives in Gender Equality and TEL. The current plan emphasises innovation, inclusivity, and rigorous impact assessment. During the Strategic Plan period, CEMCA will:

- Build the capacity of institutions to transition to online and blended learning;
- Support gender-responsive skills development for livelihoods; and
- Develop innovations in a range of technologies from Community Radio (CR) to AI based solutions for reaching the last mile.

CEMCA's Impact and Key Initiatives (2022-23)

CEMCA Impact: Overall, in 2022-23, CEMCA trained 1118 institutional staff including government officials/staff; helped Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, India, to develop institutional policy/ strategy; brought out two knowledge products; and produced five courses and 16 multi-media resources.

In addition, CEMCA was able to enroll 23,142 learners in quality assured courses (offered by COL and partner institutions) to promote increased, equitable and inclusive access to quality learning opportunities, which included more than 600 farmers, both men and women, who were trained on a range of advanced agricultural techniques. The organisation sensitised 20,769 community members on ODL, OER, and various other community based livelihood activities.

Education Sector: In the education sector, CEMCA activities focused on adapting policies and practices to leverage ODL/online learning and OER in higher education; enhancing capacity for better teaching and learning using ODL and blended learning approaches; and adopting innovation to improve learning opportunities. Notable achievements include training faculty members of five state level open universities in OER creation, curation, and adoption. CEMCA also advocated for institutional blended learning policy at various fora organised by the Association of Indian Universities.

During this period, CEMCA also commissioned one research study on ODL practices among the visually impaired learners in India. In this study, the respondents enrolled in ODL institutions highlighted several positive aspects, such as

cost-effectiveness, relaxed learning environment and flexibility in scheduling study time. Nine out of ten respondents expressed their willingness to recommend ODL to visually impaired individuals, emphasising their belief in its effectiveness and suitability as an alternative educational option for them.

CEMCA also facilitated the training of higher education faculty members from Sri Lanka to effectively use Virtual Labs for practicals and experiments in the teaching of science and engineering subjects. Additionally, CEMCA helped Vidyasagar University faculty members in developing four ODL Courses.

Skills Sector: CEMCA focused on capacity-building of vocational trainers, skill development for livelihood improvement, and 'listeners to learners' programme, integrating Community Radio for non-formal learning. In the past year, CEMCA's noteworthy initiatives in the Skills sector included developing training curriculum for vocational educators; training engineering faculty members in 21st-century skills in Andhra Pradesh, India; collaborating with the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission, Sri Lanka, to develop the Elderly Caregiver course; and partnering with Together with Youth to enhance the soft skills and spoken English proficiency of Sri Lankan youth.

CEMCA has developed an Academic and Career Skills (Self-Assessment) Instrument (ACSI) to enable students in taking informed decisions to select their career paths. CEMCA also endeavoured to explore the integration of blended learning in ITI Cosmetology and Electrician courses. The studies revealed that it would not only shorten the period of study, but would also help in expanding the seats offered by training institutions if they make minor adjustments to their current practices. Another significant contribution is the creation of a MOOC on '21st Century Skills through Sports' for school level physical education practitioners. In addition, CEMCA and its partners developed a course to train community radio broadcasters in highlighting grassroots stories around climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Collaborative Endeavours

During the reporting period, CEMCA collaborated with the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, to coordinate activities for the International Day of Yoga 2023 (IDY 2023). This collaboration, especially with more than 200 Community Radio Stations (CRS), involved a 50-day countdown to IDY 2023, mobilising communities and organising diverse activities to spread awareness about Yoga and its benefits and, organising an international webinar to celebrate the occasion and CRS experiencing sharing on Yoga Day, i. e., 21 June 2023.

CEMCA Award

The 2022-23 CEMCA Award for the best female student in any ICT discipline was awarded to Ms. Savita Kumari, a student of Master of Computer Application at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) during its 36th Convocation held on 3 April 2023. The Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, Prof. Nageshwar Rao and Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, presented the citation and cash prize of Rs. 25,000/- to her.

In conclusion, CEMCA continues to be a beacon of innovation, inclusivity, and impact in promoting learning for sustainable development in the Asian region. Through strategic initiatives focusing on capacity building, institutional strengthening and cross-sectoral collaborations, CEMCA is driving positive change and contributing to achieving COL's overarching goals in the region.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was established in 1987 by Commonwealth Heads of Government "… to create and widen access to opportunities for learning, making use of the potential offered by distance education and by the application of communication technologies to education." (Memorandum of Understanding on the Commonwealth of Learning).

COL is an enabler, capacity-builder and catalyst for collaboration within the Commonwealth and beyond. It supports efforts to provide Commonwealth citizens with greater access to quality education and training through open, distance and technology-enabled learning, thereby allowing them to benefit from improved livelihoods, greater gender equity and overall economic, social and cultural development. As the foremost agency that promotes 'Learning for Sustainable Development', COL is committed to promoting equitable access to quality lifelong learning for all – believing, in effect, that access to learning opportunities will lead to progress in achieving sustainable development.

1.1 CEMCA

COL established the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) in 1994 in response to the needs expressed by the Commonwealth countries of the Asian region for more effective use of educational media resources in distance education. Under a host country agreement signed between COL and the Government of India (GoI) in 1998, CEMCA has its headquarters in New Delhi, India.

The GoI notified CEMCA as a diplomatic mission under Section 3 of the United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947 (46 of 1947) vide the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) dated 10 February 2000. CEMCA works in eight Commonwealth countries in Asia – Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, and Sri Lanka.

1.2 COL Strategic Plan 2021-27: Learning for Sustainable Development

COL developed its Strategic Plan 2021–2027 after holding wide consultations with the Board of Governors, Focal Points, partners and members of the public to identify the priorities that it needs to address. The common concerns that emerged across the regions were mitigating the impact of COVID-19; promoting quality education; integrating ICTs into teaching and learning; skilling and re-skilling the workforce for livelihoods; and reaching the unreached.

CEMCA Vision and Mission

Vision

To be the foremost agency in Commonwealth Asia that promotes Technology-enabled Learning for sustainable development.

Mission

To assist governments, institutions, and organisations in expanding the scale, efficiency, and quality of learning by using multiple media resources in Open and Distance Learning (ODL).

In light of stakeholders' recommendations, during the period 2021-27, COL will:

i) build on its expertise in ODL, Open Educational Resources (OER) and Technology-enabled Learning (TEL) to play a more influential role in national policy development and implementation;
ii) invest in innovations and research;
iii) support the digital transformation of institutions and organisations;
iv) promote gender equality; and
v) implement a rigorous Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan.

Within the framework of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, and the priorities of member states, COL programmes will promote 'Learning for Sustainable Development'. These will be guided by the following strategic goals:

- Quality education and lifelong learning for all
- Skills development for sustainable livelihoods
- Gender equality and inclusion

During the strategic plan period, COL will organise its work in two sectors: Education and Skills with the addition of Gender Equality and TEL as cross-cutting initiatives. The change in approach includes a greater focus on innovation, inclusion and measuring impact.COL will focus on three pathways of change to achieve impact:

- Building National Resilience: Work with governments to use gender-responsive ODL policies and strategies for increasing equitable access to quality learning.
- Strengthening Institutions: Support institutions to strengthen ODL systems and capacities for providing quality education and training.
- Improving Lives and Livelihoods: Provide learners, especially from disadvantaged groups, access to learning and resources for improved livelihoods.

1.3 CEMCA Strategic Plan 2021-27

As COL's regional centre for Asia, CEMCA's activities centre around COL Strategic Plan 2021-27. At the same time, CEMCA retains its regional focus, keeping in view the challenges and requirements of Asian Commonwealth countries. It envisages catering to the education and training needs of people across Commonwealth Asia and reaches out to people with quality educational resources and training, using all forms of educational technologies including community media. CEMCA engages with the best academicians and professionals from academia, civil society, community media, industry, and bureaucrats from the governments of Asian Commonwealth countries. During the Strategic Plan period, CEMCA will:

- Build the capacity of institutions to transition to online and blended learning;
- Support gender-responsive skills development for livelihoods;
- Develop innovations in a range of technologies from Community Radio (CR) to Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions for reaching the last mile.

CEMCA's Core Objectives are to:

- Serve as a regional educational media resource centre;
- Facilitate an effective exchange of information on educational media resources between educational and media organisations in the region;
- Empower marginalised communities including women using community media;
- Undertake research in emerging media technologies including mobile devices;
- Facilitate access to training in the development and use of electronic media resources for distance education; and
- Serve as an information centre for educational technology.

2. TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS (JULY 2022-JUNE 2023)

CEMCA primarily works in two sectors– education and skills with gender as a cross cutting theme. Reflecting on the priorities of the stakeholders in the education and skills sectors, during the 2022-23 Financial Year (FY), CEMCA focused on:

- Adapting policies and practices to leverage ODL/online learning and OER in higher education
- Enhancing capacity for better teaching and learning using ODL and blended learning approaches
- Innovation to improve learning opportunities
- Capacity-building programme for vocational trainers
- Skill development for livelihood enhancement
- Using community media to reach marginalised communities and transform listeners into learners.

The following Table shows CEMCA achievements against targets during 2022-23:

Impact Statements	Indicators	Target	Achievement
Building National Resilience	Support to national policy/strategy development	1	0
Institutional Strengthening	Institutional staff trained	4,500	1,118
	Institutional policies/strategies developed	5	1
	Advocacy events/sessions conducted	5	7
	Learning opportunities developed/ improved (Courses)	13	5
	Learning opportunities developed/ improved (Resources)	3	16
	Knowledge products created and shared	5	2
Improving Lives and Livelihoods	Learners who accessed quality assured courses (offered by COL and partner institutions)	13,000	23,142
	Community members sensitised	11,000	20,769

Engineering faculty members at the training on 21st Century Skills and Teaching Methodologies in Andhra Pradesh, India

3. CORE PROGRAMMES (JULY 2022-JUNE 2023)

3.1 EDUCATION

CEMCA's activities in the education sector support formal and non-formal education from secondary school to tertiary levels across the Asian Commonwealth countries. These are oriented towards strengthening educational institutions, capacity building of educators and enhancing access to quality learning opportunities for learners, especially those from the vulnerable sections of the society, such as women, girls and people with disabilities (PWDs). Reflecting on the priorities of the stakeholders in the education sector, during 2022-23, CEMCA focused on:

- **Adapting policies and practices to leverage ODL/online learning and OER in higher education:** Under this, CEMCA worked with higher education and teacher education institutions to train leaders, teachers and educators in ODL, OER and online learning; provide support and technical guidance; and develop gender-responsive ODL and online learning policies and strategies as well as OER, which would then be implemented or scaled up.
- **Enhancing capacity for better teaching and learning using ODL and blended learning approaches:** Under this, CEMCA worked with higher education and teacher education institutions to enhance the capacity of staff and educators in micro-credentials, online assessment and pedagogy and to develop gender-responsive courses as OER. With CEMCA's support, the staff and faculty improved their knowledge and skills in these areas. CEMCA also supported the development of micro-credential courses to be offered by partner institutions.
- **Innovation to improve learning opportunities:** Under this, CEMCA worked with educational institutions to initiate research in OER, ODL, online and blended learning and to enhance the capacity of staff and educators in the innovative use of Augmented Reality (AR)/Virtual Reality (VR)/Virtual Lab and their development for better learning opportunities.

Figure 1 describes the Logic Model for the Education sector with expected outputs, outcomes and impact for the period 2022–2023:

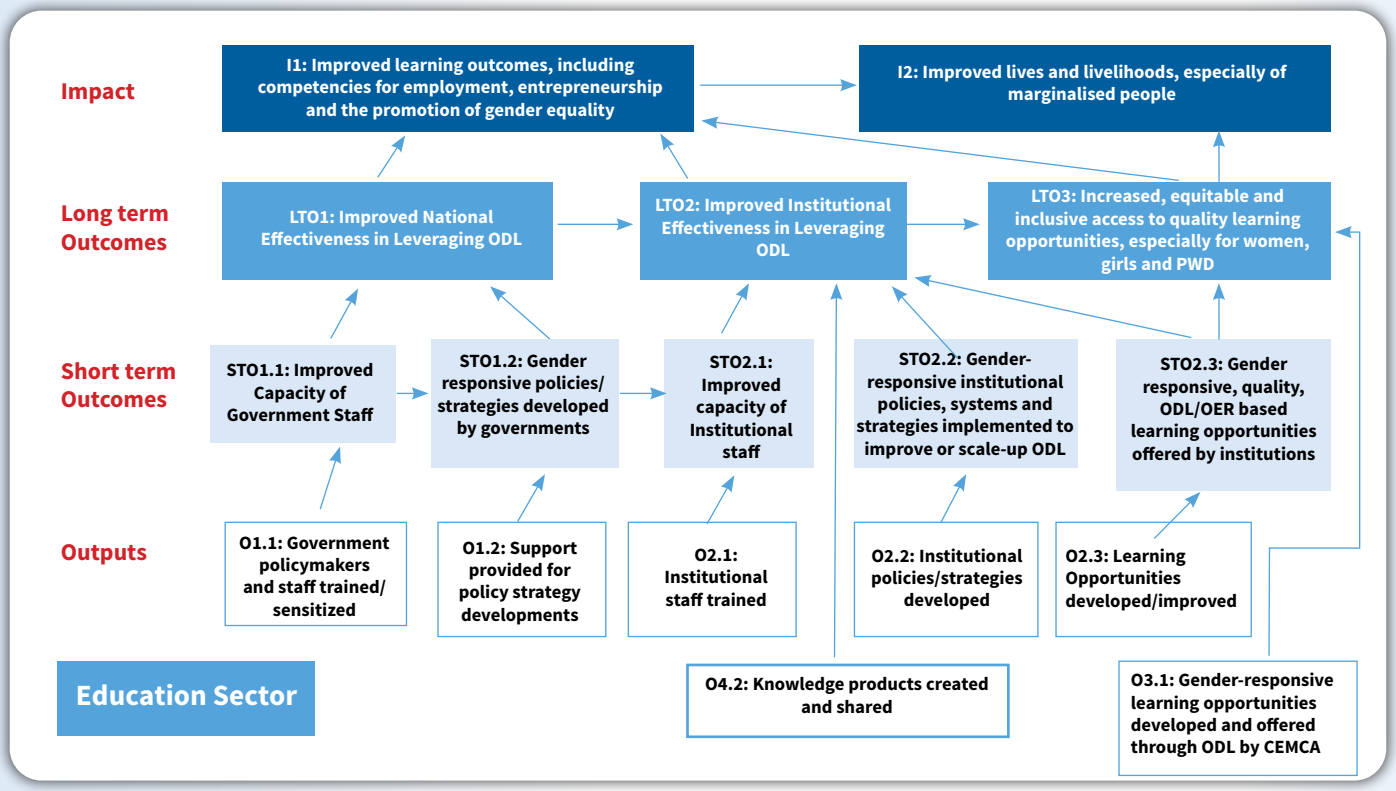


Figure 1. CEMCA Education Sector Logic Model 2022-23

3.1.1 Adapting policies and practices to leverage ODL/online learning and OER in higher education

UPRTOU Teachers Trained in Content Development Using OER

CEMCA organised a workshop for the teachers and staff of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU), Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, India, from 19 to 21 July 2022 on content development using OER. It was attended by 44 (34 males and 10 females) faculty members from different Schools/Departments responsible for developing various courses offered by the University. The workshop trained the faculty members in creating, sourcing, and adapting OER for ODL and attaching appropriate Creative Commons (CC) licenses for wider use.

Webinar on Leveraging OERs to Enhance Higher Learning

CEMCA, in collaboration with the Developing Library Network (DELNET), India, organised a Webinar on 'Leveraging OERs to Enhance Higher Learning' on September 30, 2022. It covered topics, such as the basics of OER, and its genesis and growth in teaching and learning. The participants were also exposed to open-source tools for sharing their institutional OER and attaching appropriate CC licenses to the newly created OER. The webinar significantly contributed to creating awareness among 701 participants (418 males and 283 females) that included Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals, teachers, educators, learners, education support personnel, teacher trainers, and educational policymakers.

CEMCA Collaborated with Vidyasagar University to Create OER and Draft their Institutional OER Policy

CEMCA collaborated with Vidyasagar University (VU), West Bengal, India, to adopt OER for better teaching and learning. In this regard, CEMCA conducted a workshop on OER for the university teachers, followed by the development of institutional OER policy from 9 to 12 November 2022 at VU campus, located in West Medinipur District of West Bengal. The objective of the workshop was to support the teachers in achieving conceptual clarity on the intricacies of OER, searching for OER resources, creating OER content and attaching appropriate open licenses to them, and also drafting the institutional OER policy for the University. In total, 38 (20 males and 18 females) teachers participated in the workshop and 14 (11 males and 3 females) policy level staff (Registrar, Librarian, Deans, Heads of Departments, Information Technology (IT) Professionals, Directors) engaged in drafting the OER policy for the University. The approved policy was implemented by the university.

Participants at UPRTOU OER workshop in Uttar Pradesh, India

BRAOU Faculty Members Trained in Integrating OER in ODL Courses

CEMCA and Dr B. R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU), Telangana, India, collaborated for the 'Implementation of OER and Online Education'. Under this project, a workshop on Integrating OER in ODL Courses was organised from 24 to 26 November 2022, by the Centre for Online Learning and Education (COEL), BRAOU. Attended by 51 participants (30 males and 21 females), it aimed at providing the needed training and support to BRAOU faculty members, course writers and other stakeholders in utilising OER for developing and revising ODL courses. The participants were trained in understanding OER and open licenses; search for quality OER in multiple media; explore CC license compatibility for remixing OER; build attribution in the Title, Author, Source, License (TASL) format; integrate OER with BRAOU Self Learning Material (SLM); and creating and publishing OER in text, video and HTML5 Package (H5P) interactive content.

CEMCA Supports BRAOU, Telangana, India, in Creating their OER Repository on Dspace

In partnership with CEMCA, BRAOU held a two-day capacity building workshop for 20 (10 males and 10 females) technical staff, mainly from the computer and library departments, on OER repository (Dspace) on 27-28 February 2023. They were taught about Dspace and its purpose and how to upload content on Dspace including audio and video lessons. They also learned to implement Meta Data scheme for BRAOU OER. The training resulted in the creation of an OER Repository, which is functional and can be accessed at https://oer.braou.ac.in. All the learning resources of BRAOU will be hosted as OER on this platform.

West Bengal State University Faculty Members Trained to Use and Create OER

CEMCA and West Bengal State University (WBSU), India, organised a capacity building workshop on OER from 1 to 3 March 2023 at WBSU campus in West Bengal, India. The workshop focused on training 67 faculty members (33 males and 34 females) of WBSU, 52 affiliated colleges and other prominent Higher Education Institutions of West Bengal in using, curating, creating OER, and attaching appropriate licences. The three-day workshop proved to be an enriching experience to the participants.

BRAOU, Telangana, India, Faculty Members Trained in Creating Online Courses Using OER

As part of the CEMCA-BRAOU-Hyderabad project on the Implementation of Open Educational Resources and Online Education, the second 3-day workshop on Developing Moodle-enabled Blended/Online Learning Courses was organised by the Centre for Online Learning and Education (COEL) on 11-13 April 2023. Twenty-one participants (11 males and 10 females) participated in the workshop.

Workshop on integrating OER in ODL courses at BRAOU in Telangana, India

This workshop aimed at providing the needed training and support to BRAOU faculty and other course writers in designing and developing online ODL courses using OER on Moodle LMS.

OER Policy Development Workshop Conducted at WBSU

On May 17, 2023, CEMCA and WBSU joined hands to organise an OER policy development workshop at the university campus in West Bengal, India. Twenty-two participants (12 males and 10 females) attended it. The workshop aimed at creating and implementing an OER policy for the university with the policymakers. With this initiative, the university joins a select group of global institutions with OER policies and practices in place. The workshop provided a platform for meaningful discussions and collaborative efforts in shaping the OER policy for WBSU. By embracing OER, the university aims to foster greater access, equity, and quality in education. The policy document was shared with the university authorities for approval.

Workshop on OER Content Creation and Policy Development Held at the University of North Bengal

CEMCA collaborated with the University of North Bengal (NBU), West Bengal, India, to organise a workshop from 31 May to 2 June 2023, on OER content creation and policy development. The policy would ensure the university's compliance with legal requirements while providing educational materials. The workshop's objective was to acquaint stakeholders with the key components of OER, licensed under Creative Commons. Moreover, it showcased examples of open educational policies adopted by other prestigious Indian universities, serving as a template for creating a tailored policy specifically for NBU. The workshop marked a progressive step taken by the University of North Bengal towards fostering an open and inclusive educational environment while ensuring adherence to legal protocols. The policy document was submitted to university authorities for approval.

3.1.2 Enhancing capacity for better teaching and learning using ODL and blended learning approaches

National Consultation on Blended Learning in Higher Education

In collaboration with the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, India, CEMCA organised a brainstorming session to discuss various aspects of blended learning to enhance the quality of education and skill development on 15 July 2022 in New Delhi, India. The session was attended by 31 (20 males and 11 females) academics, policymakers, educational leaders, and experts from various reputed educational institutions, corporates, and government bodies. The participants deliberated upon state mechanisms to formulate National Blended Learning Policy for higher education and Institutional Blended Learning Policy in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs); the role of

National Consultation on Blended Learning in Higher Education at NIEPA in New Delhi, India

government and apex agencies like the University Grants Commission (UGC) in implementing blended learning in higher education; and the role of agencies like CEMCA, COL and UNESCO in facilitating the adoption of blended learning in higher education. The participants came up with various solutions to address the questions, and, based on these, an actionable report was prepared for its implementation and practice. In addition, the consultation strongly affirmed the need for a national policy on blended learning in higher education.

Netaji Subhas Open University Offered MOOC on Foundations of Heutagogy

CEMCA collaborated with Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), West Bengal, India, to offer a four-week MOOC on Foundations of Heutagogy from 1 to 30 September 2022. In total, 5605 participants enrolled in this course.

Uttarakhand Open University Offered First Cycle of MOOC on 'Developing Online Courses for SWAYAM'

CEMCA has developed a two-week Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on 'Developing Online Courses for SWAYAM', India's national MOOC platform. The first cycle of this course was offered by Uttarakhand Open University, India, from 1 September to 15 October 2022. In total, 879 learners (409 males and 468 females; two persons did not mention their gender) enrolled in this MOOC. They found the course very informative, engaging, and productive for their professional development and competency enhancement.

Digital Forensics MOOC Offered by CEMCA

CEMCA collaborated with Uttarakhand Open University to offer a four-week MOOC on Digital Forensics from 1 September to 30 November 2022. In total, 3883 participants (2580 males and 1298 females) enrolled in this MOOC.

CEMCA Collaborating with AIU to Develop a National Policy on Blended Learning

CEMCA and Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi, India, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November 2022 to develop a National Policy on Blended Learning in Higher Education in light of the recommendations of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). Over the past months, CEMCA and AIU meticulously organised a series of Expert and Drafting Committee meetings aimed at reviewing and refining the document created by a resource person. This iterative process facilitated the incorporation of valuable feedback and suggestions from all committee members.

Vidyasagar University faculty members at ODL course development workshop in West Bengal, India

During the course of these meetings, experts underscored several critical aspects of the policy document. These included the contents of the document, key prerequisites for successful policy implementation, considerations regarding language, visual appeal, comprehensibility, and accessibility of the document, as well as the establishment of parameters for measuring its success.

Experts stressed that the policy should not be excessively prescriptive but rather open and adaptable to the diverse needs and resources of institutions, particularly those located in smaller towns and rural areas. Moreover, it should have the flexibility to embrace future technological advancements, including artificial intelligence (AI), while aligning with the learner- and learning-centred approach emphasised in NEP 2020. The document should also incorporate case studies and best practices to facilitate its smooth implementation. They suggested the creation of an online repository of blended learning strategies and practices for higher education institutions to refer to and adopt.

Bridging the digital divide in terms of access and connectivity, as well as addressing gender-based discrimination in access to digital devices, was deemed critical for its successful implementation. Equally important is preparing both teachers and learners to adopt blended learning through orientation and capacity-building and enhancing institutional readiness by augmenting resources. Furthermore, they stressed the need to redefine the teaching-learning process, shifting from traditional methods like lectures, tutorials, and practicals to listening, transaction, and practice in blended learning. Institutions should consider adopting a phased implementation approach, alongside building a future-ready education system with focus on results-based management and AI integration.

CEMCA and CRDP Collaborate to Develop Micro-course on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Schools

CEMCA has been collaborating with the Centre for Research and Development Policy (CRDP), Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), India to develop micro course on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Schools. A panel of experts from industry and academia participated in the development of the curriculum and course framework. The course aims to teach school students the basics of innovation and entrepreneurship, and its types, forms and framework with examples and stories. The contents selected for the course were scrutinised across various aspects, such as age group and level of understanding of 9th to 12th standard students. The experts finalised the content, delivery mode, and scale-up and Training of Trainers (TOT) strategies for nine modules.

Vidyasagar University Faculty Members Developed Four ODL Courses after Training

CEMCA and the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, India, organised a workshop on 'Course Development for ODL' from 27 to 29 December 2022. This workshop trained 20 VU faculty members (11 males and 9 females) in developing four courses, namely, Security and Nuclear Issues in South Asia (Programme: MA in Political Science); Modern Indian English Novel: M.R. Anand, R.K. Narayan and Raja Rao (Programme: MA in English); Biotechnological Applications in Plant Improvement (Programme: M.Sc. Botany); and Nutritional Management of Health and Fitness (Programme: M.Sc. in Dietetics and Community Nutrition Management). The workshop was unique and exceptional in nature as it helped the faculty members to become acquainted with creating quality self-learning materials by using OER and other multi-media resources.

Essential Life Skills MOOC Concluded Successfully

The six-week MOOC on Essential Life Skills developed by CEMCA and Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU), Uttar Pradesh, India concluded successfully in February 2023. It included topics such as critical thinking, problem solving, informed decision making, and social and inter-personal skills. In total, the course attracted 3,266 learners, out of which, 535 learners received Competency certificates and 91 learners received Participation certificates.

CRDP Pilot-testing Micro-course on Innovation and Entrepreneurship

CRDP organised the pilot-testing of Micro-course on Innovation and Entrepreneurship to assess its efficacy. For this purpose, students (both boys and girls) from 9th to 12th standards were selected from schools in Srinagar and Budgam districts in J&K, representing urban and rural areas. With focus on interactive learning, the course ran online for six months with classes being held on Sundays only through Zoom. It included lectures, readings, presentations, expert talks, dialogues with start-up-owners, and case studies. The project provided students exposure to diverse business opportunities available within Jammu and Kashmir and encouraged them to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career path. After the completion of the modules, the students visited the Rangreth industrial cluster and the National Institute of Technology in Srinagar in May 2023 where they interacted with entrepreneurs and officials. All the students received certificates on the completion of the course. The pilot project received good response from schools, students and experts. The project will be scaled up towards the end of 2023 and the following year.

CEMCA and NSOU Collaborate to Promote Blended Learning

CEMCA and Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), West Bengal, India, jointly hosted two-day workshops at Kolkata and two NSOU regional centres in Durgapur and Jalpaiguri, focused on the implementation of Blended Learning Design in HEIs of West Bengal. These workshops provided a platform to participants to engage in experiential and contextual discussions, exchanging views, knowledge, and expertise on Blended Learning. Participants explored various design models and their effectiveness within the modern educational landscape. NSOU also launched the second cycle of MOOC on 'Understanding Neurodiversity'. The course was revised based on valuable feedback received from experts and mentors. It provided an opportunity to the learners to delve into the intricacies of neurodiversity.

Field visit by J&K school students participating in pilot testing of Micro-course on Innovation & Entrepreneurship

3.1.3 Innovation to improve learning opportunities

Teacher Educators Trained in Using 360 VR Platform

CEMCA has developed a learner friendly 360 Virtual Reality (VR) Educator platform that allows learners to immerse in content beyond the real world and develop their critical thinking and creativity. CEMCA organised a workshop in September 2022 at the Regional Institute of Education (RIE), Bhubaneswar, NCERT in Odisha, India, to train 46 teacher educators (25 males and 21 females) from 25 institutions in the state in using this platform. After the training, the participants will use VR techniques to enhance their teaching and learning practices.

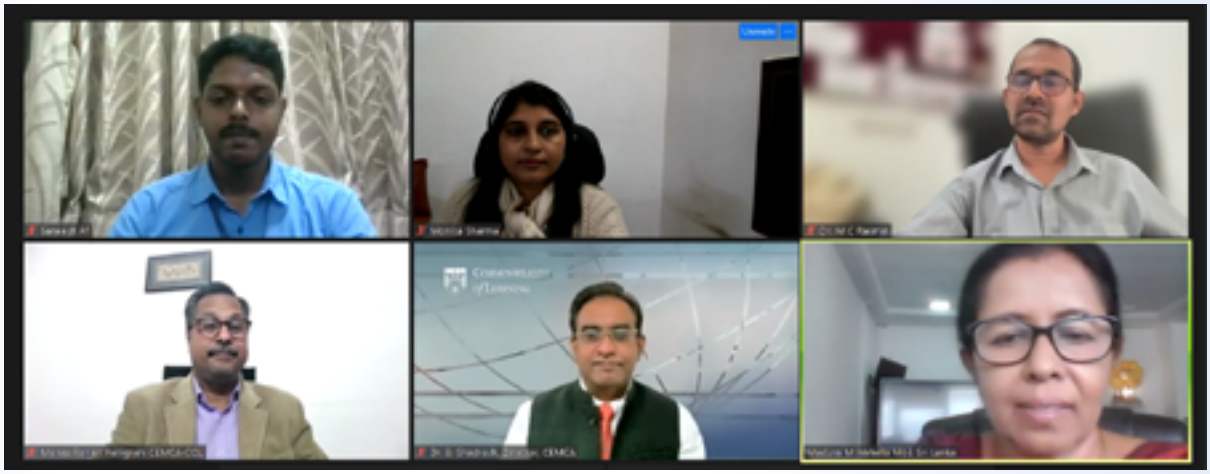
Sri Lanka's Higher Education Teachers Trained in Using 'Virtual Labs' for Experimentations

Virtual Labs are an effective alternative in situations when science and engineering teachers and students cannot access physical labs due to resource and/or mobility constraints. To train Higher Education teachers from Sri Lanka in using these labs, CEMCA organised an online workshop on 22-23 November 2022 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka. It was facilitated by Centre for Media and Information Literacy (CMIL), Sri Lanka. The training aimed to enhance the capacity of higher education teachers to effectively integrate Virtual Labs for practicals and experimentations in the teaching of science and engineering subjects. The virtual training was attended by 301 (183 males and 118 females) participants.

Scoping Open Educational Practices in Three Indian State Open Universities

CEMCA and IT for Change, Karnataka, India, are conducting a comprehensive scoping study to assess the existing open educational practices (OEP) in three Indian state open universities: Vardhman Mahaveer Open University (VMOU) in Kota, Rajasthan; Madhya Pradesh (BHOJ) Open University (MPBOU) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh; and Jharkhand State Open University (JSOU) in Ranchi, Jharkhand, India.

The study has revealed that capacity-building initiatives are essential to equip the staff with knowledge and skills pertaining to OEP and OER. Additionally, exploring viable alternatives to proprietary software was identified as a crucial area of focus for these institutions. By leveraging ICTs, audio, video, multimedia, and online technologies, these universities can increase access to quality learning materials and create an environment that encourages collaboration, innovation, and lifelong learning. Implementing OEPs will position the Open Universities at the forefront of open education initiatives, benefiting the institutions and their stakeholders. In addition, continuous evaluation, feedback mechanisms, and adaptability are essential to ensure that the plan of action remains aligned with the universities' evolving needs and goals. The study also explored potential areas of collaboration and support between the universities and CEMCA.



Inauguration of training for Sri Lanka's higher education teachers in using virtual labs

Study on ODL Practices among the Visually Impaired in India

CEMCA and SCORE Foundation, Delhi, India, collaborated to conduct a comprehensive study on ODL practices among visually impaired individuals in India. A meeting was convened in New Delhi, India, on 5 June 2023, to discuss the study's significant findings and develop a plan for dissemination.

For this study, Score Foundation interviewed over 5,000 visually impaired individuals. The findings showed that 20 percent of the respondents had enrolled in an ODL course at some point. They highlighted several positive aspects of ODL courses, such as their cost-effectiveness, relaxed learning environment and the flexibility in scheduling study time. The survey results showed that majority of respondents reported significant improvement in their knowledge after completing an ODL course, followed by skills and personality improvement. Nine out of ten participants expressed their willingness to recommend ODL to visually impaired individuals, emphasising their belief in its effectiveness and suitability as an alternative educational option for them.

The study suggested several policy recommendations to make ODL more inclusive for visually impaired people in India, such as focus on accessibility, support for assistive technologies, capacity building of educators, and sensitisation and awareness initiatives to foster a supportive learning environment.

3.2 SKILLS

In the Skills sector, CEMCA works with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and educators from the secondary school to tertiary levels to increase equitable and inclusive access to skill development opportunities for all in the Asian Commonwealth countries. It strives to increase access to good-quality digital content to develop vocational skills of the youth and people from marginalised communities, especially women, girls and PWDs, to enhance their employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities, leading to improved lives and livelihoods. Reflecting on the priorities of the stakeholders in the skills sector, during 2022-23, CEMCA focused on:

- **Capacity-building programme for vocational trainers:** Under this, CEMCA worked with governments, civil societies, schools and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions to train vocational trainers in ODL and online learning, which led to improved knowledge and skills among these trainers. It also supported skill institutions in implementing foundational courses, policies and strategies in ODL and online teaching, quality and assessment.
- **Skill development for livelihood enhancement:** CEMCA provided training in job-related skills directly to learners, supported the recognition of learners' existing skills through adequate assessment techniques and established partnerships with the labour market. This led to increased access to quality learning opportunities and improved learning outcomes, specifically in employable skills areas, which, in turn, led to improved livelihoods.
- **Listeners to learners:** CEMCA is adopting an integrated approach to Community Radio for non-formal learning to support the establishment and capacity development of Community Radio Stations (CRS). This led to improved knowledge and skills among media professionals to use community radio as a gender-responsive and inclusive strategy for reaching marginalised communities and converting listeners into learners.

Figure 2 describes the Logic Model for the Skills sector with expected outputs, outcomes and impact for the period 2022–2023.

3.2.1 Capacity-building programme for vocational trainers

Strengthening the Capacity Needs of Vocational Educators and Trainers

CEMCA organised a 'Brainstorming Session to Strengthen the Capacity Needs of Vocational teachers and Trainers' on 6 September 2022 in New Delhi, India. The participatory and outcome-oriented Session aimed to produce a draft outline of a new course with clearly spelt out outcome for various target groups, embedded with blended approaches for its delivery. It was attended by 23

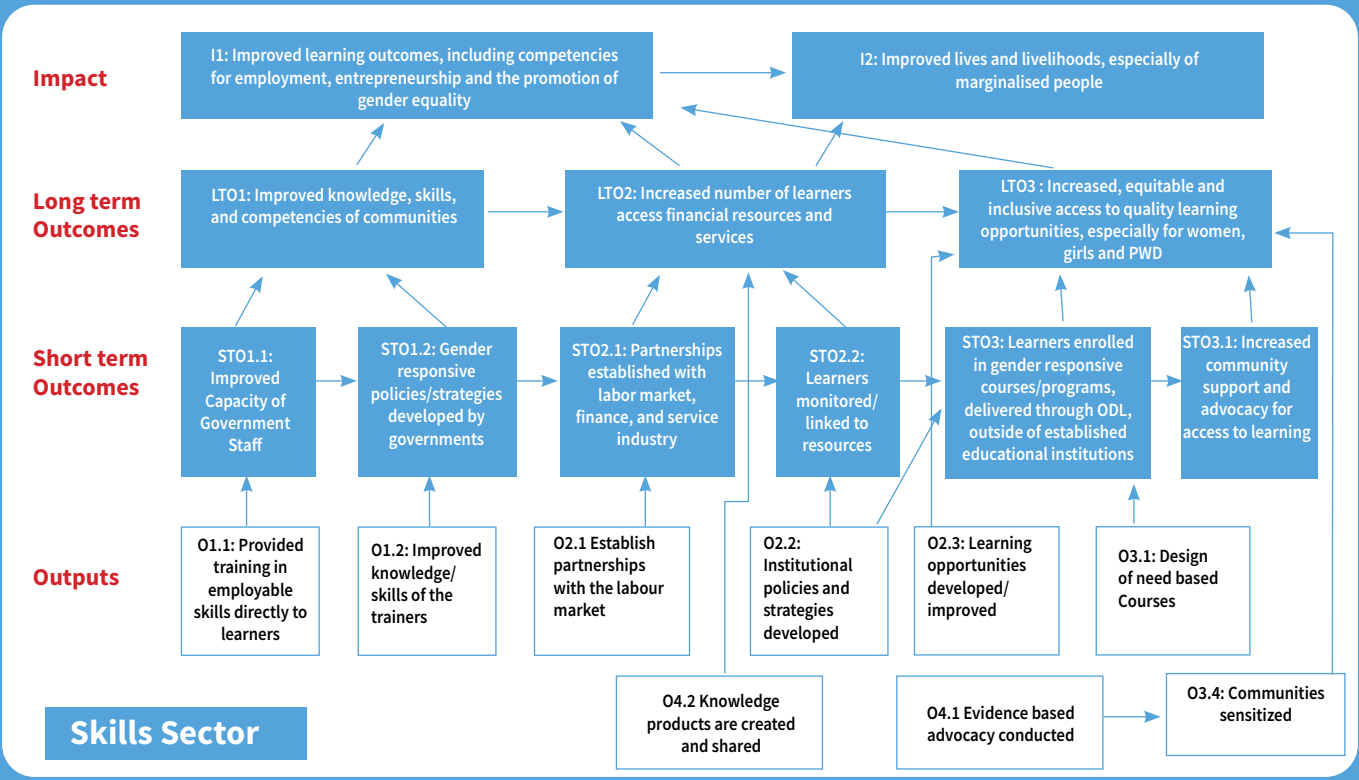


Figure 2 CEMCA Skills Sector Logic Model 2022-23

eminent participants (16 males and 7 females) from Government Institutions, Skill Universities, Schools (Vocational Education), Skill Centres, and TVET experts. The Session adopted a combination of group work, round table discussions, and group presentations to engage all the stakeholders. The outcome of the brainstorming session was a draft outline of the course structure.

Consultation with NITTTR on Diploma Teachers' Training Curriculum Development

CEMCA collaborated with the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR) - Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (MP), India, to up-skill the teachers of Polytechnics across India to make them at par with the global standards of teaching and facilitation. In this context, on 13 September 2022, CEMCA organised a consultation at the NITTTR Campus in Bhopal to discuss the outline of their capacity-building curriculum.

Consultative Meeting on Validation of Skill Pedagogy Curriculum for Vocational Educators

CEMCA and Bhartiya Skill Development University (BSDU), Rajasthan, India, organised a Stakeholders' Consultative Meeting for Validation

Brainstorming Session to Strengthen the Capacity Needs of Vocational Teachers and Trainers held in New Delhi, India

Experts discussing skill pedagogy curriculum for vocational educators at BSDU in Rajasthan, India

of Skill Pedagogy Curriculum for Vocational Educators of Indian Universities on 10-11 November 2022. Thirty-three stakeholders (26 males, 7 females) from the vocational domain, such as subject matter experts, educationalists and eminent professors from various universities and industries attended the consultation. During the workshop, the experts reviewed and validated the skill pedagogy curriculum designed by CEMCA and gave their input in redesigning the overall course structure.

As a follow-up to the meeting, CEMCA identified five subject matter experts for developing a 40-hour MOOC for vocational educators, designed to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and professional attitude necessary to excel in their teaching and training practice and inspire their learners for educational excellence. All the modules were reviewed by an expert from Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, for further enhancing the content. The content will be further validated by vocational educators.

Engineering Faculty Members Trained in 21st Century Skills and Teaching Methodologies

CEMCA and Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE), Government of Andhra Pradesh, India, organised five Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) on '21st Century Skills and Teaching Methodologies' between December 2022 and January 2023. These workshops were conceptualised to help the engineering faculty members acquire a broad set of knowledge, skills, work habits, and character traits that are critically important to succeed in today's world, particularly in collegiate programmes and contemporary careers and workplaces. This would, in turn, empower them to inculcate the same skills in their students. These workshops were attended by 197 faculty members (102 males, and 95 females) from various engineering colleges of Andhra Pradesh, India. The workshops were conducted at Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati; Andhra Loyola Degree College in Vijayawada; Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Kakinada; Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur and Andhra University, Visakhapatnam.

'Building Excellence in Teaching' Curriculum for Diploma Teachers

CEMCA and NITTTR–Bhopal, MP, India, organised a national consultation on the curriculum on 'Building Excellence in Teaching' for Diploma faculty members on 12-13 January 2023 in New Delhi, India. This consultation was attended by 26 participants (19 males and 7 females), who comprised heads of education department of various states, subject matter experts, instructional designers, and other stakeholders. The experts emphasised on the professional development of TVET teachers, who are going to play a key role in realising the vision and objectives of NEP 2020. Together, they affirmed the need to develop an

online training programme for enhancing the skills and professional development of vocational teachers in India.

Training on Teaching Digital and Social Media-based Marketing to Learners

In partnership with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), India, CEMCA organised two FDPs for the Computer Science and Commerce faculty members of Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU), Tamil Nadu, India. They were trained in teaching digital and social media-based marketing on Udemy platform. The training, held from 8 to 14 February 2023 in hybrid mode, aimed at helping the higher education faculty members of MKU in understanding the modules of the course on 'Social Media Marketing Agency: Digital Marketing + Business' for teaching purpose. This would enable the faculty members to better engage with their students; enhance their knowledge of emerging technologies and improve their employability. The workshop was attended by 60 participants (43 females and 17 males).

3.2.2 Skill development for livelihood enhancement

CEMCA and INBAR Collaborated to Offer Multimedia Modules on Bamboo Furniture Making as OER

CEMCA collaborated with International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) for developing audio-visual modules on bamboo furniture making. These modules are tailored for virtual training sessions, targeting artisans and aspiring entrepreneurs in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The training materials are available in Sinhala, Bengali and English languages, aiming to facilitate comprehensive learning and skill development in the local community.

CEMCA Partnered with IPSC to Create Technical Video Content for General Plumber Course

In a strategic collaboration, CEMCA and the Indian Plumbing Skills Council (IPSC) produced technical video content tailored for the General Plumber Course. The videos will serve dual purpose, acting as instructional materials for training IPSC students and as valuable resources for the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme. This initiative seeks to enhance the quality of plumbing education and ensures comprehensive learning experience for both students and trainers.

CEMCA Collaborated with INBAR to Produce Technical Video Content in Malay and English Languages

CEMCA partnered with INBAR to create technical video content as OER, focusing on Bamboo Scrimber, Laminated Composites, and Value Added Products. The initiative is geared specifically for Bamboo Entrepreneurs in Malaysia and Brunei. The comprehensive collection comprises six videos in Malay and five videos in English languages, fostering knowledge dissemination and skill development in the local bamboo industry.

Experts at the national consultation on 'Building Excellence in Teaching' curriculum held in New Delhi, India

Launch of 'Introduction to Block Chain' Course by Annamalai University

CEMCA, in association with Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, India, conducted a five-week course, 'Introduction to Blockchain,' from September to November 2022. The course helped the learners gain an understanding of the concept, technologies, applications and impact of Blockchain at the industry as well as societal levels. This course was offered through the mooc4dev platform and attracted 2438 learners.

Course Development for Improving Teaching Techniques of TVET School Teachers

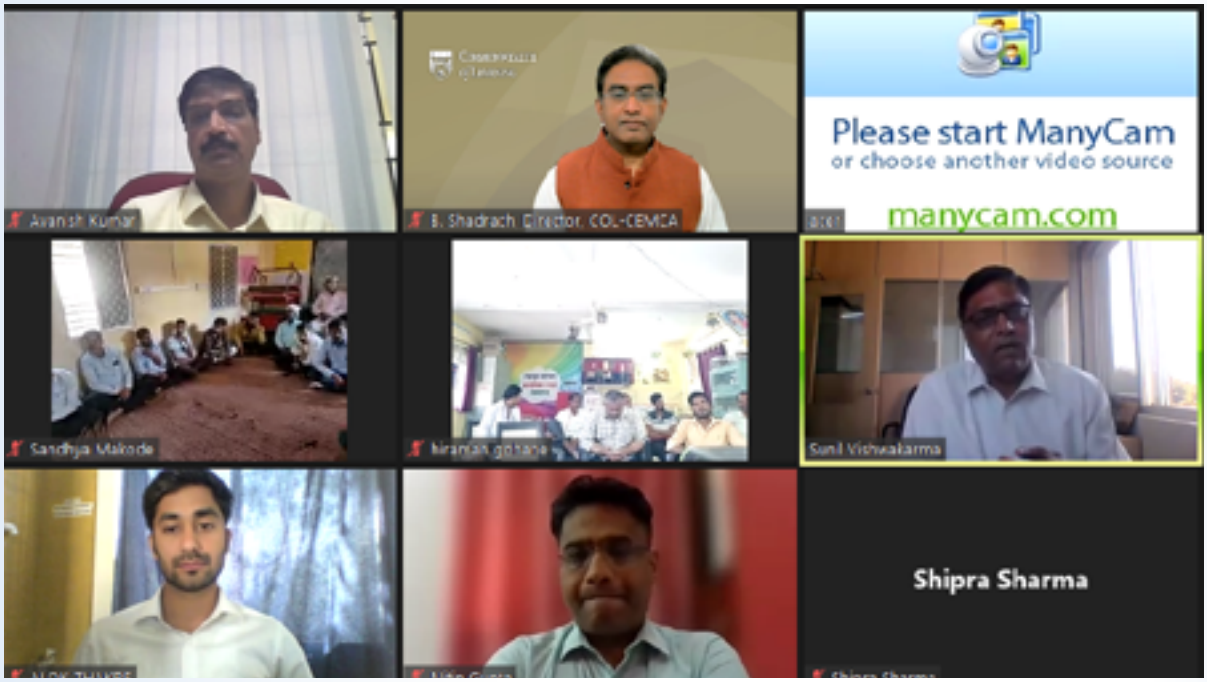
CEMCA and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Delhi, India, organised a National Consultation on Course Development for 'Improving Teaching Techniques of TVET School Teachers' on 19-20 December 2022 in Delhi, India. The consultation aimed at understanding the key challenges and requirements in the delivery of vocational courses/ programmes from the perspective of vocational school educators. It would help in creating an online self-learning programme to upskill them with relevant skills to improve their teaching techniques and pedagogy. The consultation was attended by 50 TVET teachers (17 males and 33 females) from various states across the country. It was highly participatory in nature using open house and group discussion formats.

CEMCA and TNSDC Collaboration to Enhance the Employability of 15,000 Youth

In February 2023, CEMCA and TNSDC entered into an Agreement to conduct online capacity building programme for 15,000 learners through COL Scholarship programmes. These students belong to various institutions empanelled with TNSDC's Naan Mudhalvan Upskilling Platform, which is a flagship industry relevant skill enhancement initiative for the youth of Tamil Nadu to make them employable and help them in selecting a career of their choice. The students will receive two additional credits after undergoing these trainings.

Empowering Indian Farmers and Youth in Agriculture through Blended Mode Training

In partnership with CEMCA, GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF), Delhi, India, successfully concluded a first-of-its-kind blended mode training programme on agriculture. The training provided knowledge and skills to 519 farmers and youth



Valedictory session on the completion of farmers' training by GMRVF

(353 males and 166 females). In December 2022, CEMCA joined hands with GMRVF to introduce this innovative training, combining online and offline skilling methods, which concluded in June 2023. Leveraging the OER and MOOC provided by COL, GMRVF effectively delivered the training. This collaboration not only facilitated the training itself, but also enabled CEMCA to enhance the capacity of GMRVF staff in implementing blended mode training. They imparted training to the participants on a diverse range of topics, such as the System of Wheat Intensification (SWI), Internet of Things (IOT) in agriculture, micro irrigation technique, food processing, protected cultivation, organic farming, floriculture, and advances in agriculture.

MOOC on 'Developing 21st Century Skills through Sports'

CEMCA is collaborating with Global Pro Sport Development (PSD), New Delhi, India, to create a MOOC on 'Developing 21st Century Skills through Sports'. From 2 to 7 March 2023, three rounds of online consultations with experts from India and abroad were conducted for reviewing and re-shaping the draft course outline of the MOOC. A face-to-face consultation with physical education practitioners was held on 15 March 2023 in Delhi, India. The objective of the MOOC is to train physical education practitioners to use sports as a medium to develop essential 21st Century skills, such as problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, team building, leadership, etc. among learners. In all, 26 physical education practitioners (17 males and 9 females) participated in these consultations. The process resulted in the finalisation of Module 1 of the MOOC by June 2023.

Academic and Career Skills (Self-Assessment) Instrument to Guide School Students in Selecting their Future Career Paths

CEMCA has developed an Academic and Career Skills (Self-Assessment) Instrument (ACSI) for CBSE, Delhi, India. The Instrument aims to assist students in making informed decisions regarding their educational stream and future career paths. It assesses the interests, skills, personality and values of the student with the intent to provide direction in the choice of academic stream and career options after completion of Class VIII and Class X, which are important milestones in the school education system in India. The pilot testing involved the participation of 234 students from Class VIII and 248 students from Class X. The purpose of this exercise was to validate the effectiveness and relevance of the instrument in aiding students' decision-making process. The pilot test served as an important step in refining and improving the ACSI, ensuring its suitability for wider implementation.

Consultation on developing 21st century skills through sports held in New Delhi, India

Enhancing the Efficacy of Cosmetology ITI Courses in India

CEMCA is conducting an exploratory study to analyse ways to enhance the efficacy of the Basic Cosmetology Course (NSQF-3) offered under the Craftsmen Training Scheme at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in India. The study aims to understand the industry's requirements, review the current system of curriculum delivery, and suggest ways to enhance the effectiveness of the cosmetology course through the application of blended learning approach. Consultations with stakeholders concluded that the innovative blended learning approach incorporates the advantages of e-learning while maintaining face-to-face workshop sessions for hands-on training, thereby helping in optimising learning outcomes.

Alongside identifying gaps in the content of the Basic Cosmetology curriculum, the exploratory study, conducted over three months, strongly focused on the use of technology in the trade and in training delivery. It recommended the use of interactive e-learning modules with virtual demonstrations and collaborative activities to help learners develop skills in a more immersive and practical manner. The proposed Model curriculum not only embraces the use of technology in course delivery but also addresses major gaps in the existing vocational training system. It can serve as a starting point for designing blended learning courses in other trades as well.

Enhancing the Employability of Sri Lankan Youth through Soft Skills and Spoken English Training

To support the National Youth Service Council of Sri Lanka, CEMCA partnered with Together with Youth (TWY), Sri Lanka, to enhance the soft skills and spoken English proficiency of Sri Lankan youth, thereby enhancing their employability. To lay the groundwork for this initiative, a comprehensive baseline survey was conducted among youth, enabling the identification of key areas for course development. Leveraging their expertise, TWY is developing a preliminary course content outline encompassing a wide range of multimedia training materials.

Multimedia Modules on Sri Lanka's Elderly Caregiver Course

CEMCA is collaborating with the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) of Sri Lanka to develop a comprehensive course aimed at training Elderly Caregivers, aligning with the National Competency Standard and Competency-Based Training Curriculum for Caregivers (ELDER). CEMCA is creating a multimedia content package spanning 180 minutes, encompassing eight modules. These include Module 1 – What is Elderly Care, Module 2 – Attending Domestic Affairs of the Elderly Person, Module 3 – Preparing Living Area of the Elderly Person, Module 4 – Maintaining Personal Hygiene and Appearance of the Elderly Person, Module 5 – Maintaining Nutrition of the Elderly Person, Module 6 – Administering Medicine to Elderly Person, Module 7 – Checking and Recording Vital Signs, and Module 8 – Care of an Elderly Person.

Launch of Skillfest 2023 by CEMCA and National Skills Network

CEMCA and National Skills Network (NSN), Telangana, India, have come together to organise the first Skillfest 2023, which was open to participants from Asian Commonwealth countries – Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia,

Participants at the workshop on enhancing the efficacy of cosmetology ITI course organised in New Delhi, India

Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, and Sri Lanka. It aimed at promoting and acknowledging the universal nature of skills through a captivating competition. In addition, it emphasised the value of skills, and provided participants a platform to showcase their talents through short 5-minute videos on a diverse range of topics, such as Green Jobs, Agriculture, Media and Entertainment, Food Processing, Beauty and Wellness, Fashion and Apparel, Woodwork and Carpentry, Welding, and Handicraft. All the selected contents generated during Skillfest are going to be featured in CEMCA's OER repository for TVET.

Exploratory Study on Enhancing the Efficacy of ITI Electrician Course in India

CEMCA embarked on a study in November 2022 to investigate methods for improving the effectiveness of the Electrician Course offered by the ITIs in India. The final report was submitted in June 2023. The study began by conducting a literature review and consulting with key stakeholders to gain insights into India's vocational education and blended learning ecosystem. Subsequently, the study analysed and identified gaps and opportunities within the ITI Electrician programme in relation to blended learning initiatives and the policy framework in India's public education sector.

Based on its findings, the study recommends transforming and transitioning the ITI Electrician course into a blended curriculum and assessment framework to enhance its efficacy and improve the overall learning and teaching experience. The study shows that it is possible to transition and transform the current course curriculum into a blended programme with 50:50 ratio of online and face-to-face elements. This transition is deemed timely and should be approached systematically rather than implemented in a piecemeal manner. The Learning Management System will play a critical role in providing a seamless learning experience to students.

Fostering Inclusive Entrepreneurship Education

CEMCA partnered with the Management Education Research Institute (MERI), New Delhi, India, to promote the concept of inclusive entrepreneurship among aspiring individuals, particularly those from marginalised communities. This is a significant step towards expanding educational opportunities and fostering entrepreneurship skills among diverse learner groups. As a result of this partnership, video resources are being developed for an online course designed to equip learners with the skills and knowledge required to initiate and manage small-scale entrepreneurial ventures, with sustainability at its core. This Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is organised into three comprehensive modules, each tailored to guide learners through the entrepreneurial journey from inception to sustainable success. The project concluded in June 2023.

Aquaculture Worker and Organic Grower Learning Modules Pilot Tested with Trainees

CEMCA collaborated with Joy Gopalpur Gram Vikas Kendra (JGVK), South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India, on developing a pilot sustainable model village using skill as a driver in line with the UN SDG goals in the area of sustainable agriculture and aquaculture. They developed customised learning modules for implementation of training programmes - Aquaculture Worker and Organic Grower, which were pilot tested with 42 trainees (26 males and 16 females). The training helped JGVK in identifying good practices, suggest improvements, and recommend measures for scaling-up the model as well as for strengthening the curriculum and learning modules. JGVK feels that the trainees should be supported to start their ventures. The pilot project was completed by June 2023.

Enhancing Tourism Course for CBSE

CEMCA partnered with CBSE in enhancing skill-focused education by creating multimedia material for Class XI Tourism Course. CEMCA is producing and filming 300 minutes of content. The script has undergone rigorous refinement and gained approval from CBSE's Subject Matter Experts. The project is still on with CEMCA having initiated the filming of course content, which are simultaneously being reviewed by CBSE and subject matter experts.

Enhancing Fashion Design Course for CBSE

CEMCA is supporting CBSE in enriching the Fashion Design course for Class XI students by producing multimedia resources. For this purpose, CEMCA is creating around 360 minutes of multimedia course content by June 2023. The project is still in progress and the content is being assessed by CEMCA, principals of schools affiliated with CBSE, and subject matter experts.

3.2.3 Listeners to learners

Transforming Listeners into Learners

CEMCA organised a brainstorming consultation on, 'A Journey from Listeners-to-Learners (L2L)' on 23 August 2022 in New Delhi, India, with the aim to discuss strategies to engage audio programme listeners as lifelong learners. The day-long consultation was attended by several participants representing the academia, Ed-Tech sector, civil society organisations, and community radio practitioners. In addition to exploring newer and novel methods of using audio content as learning material for skill development, livelihood generation, and behavioural change, the consultation also looked at the role of traditional, emerging and web2.0 technologies in transforming listeners into learners.

Workshop on Proposal Development for Listeners-to-Learners Action Research Pilot

CEMCA organised a workshop on 'Proposal Development' for the Action Research Pilot Project on 'Listeners-to-Learners' in New Delhi, India. It was attended by four representatives (2 males and two females) from S. M. Sehgal Foundation, Haryana, India; ISAP India Foundation (formerly known as Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP), Delhi, India; and Search for Truth and Return To Science (START), Delhi, India, who are the key project stakeholders. The objective of the workshop was to understand how to establish a model to prove that knowledge, attitude and practice of learners can be enhanced through non-formal and informal learning. It focused on how audio-based learning, when blended with social capital, need-based vertical learning, horizontal learning and interventions, improves their learnability, and paves the way for life-long learning.

Insights from Mid-line Study of L2L Project

Under the L2L project, START partnered with the Voice of Azamgarh Community Radio to raise awareness on the significance of first 1,000 days of mother-child healthcare on an infant's growth, learning, and development in three villages of Azamgarh district, Uttar Pradesh, India. On the other hand, S M Sehgal Foundation through Alfaz-e-Mewat and ISAP India Foundation through Kisan Vani Sironj, raised awareness on soil health and soil testing in three villages of Nuh district, Haryana and three villages of Vidisha district, Madhya Pradesh, India, respectively.

START's project revealed that efforts to raise awareness, provide accurate information, and involve key stakeholders such as husbands and ASHA workers have positively impacted maternal and child health outcomes in the intervention villages. The intervention involved the production

The discussion on transforming listeners into learners in progress, New Delhi, India

A group of farmers listening to community radio programme by Kisan Vani Sironj on soil health and soil testing

and distribution of a 15-minute audio episode, repeat broadcasts, and the use of mobile technology to effectively communicate information on prenatal and postnatal care.

The mid-line study conducted by S. M. Sehgal Foundation and ISAP India Foundation also reveal that raising awareness on soil health and soil testing through community radio programmes enhanced farmers' knowledge and encouraged them to adopt new practices. They utilised various communication channels, such as radio broadcasts, animated videos, podcasts, and on-ground demonstrations to disseminate information on soil testing and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

SDG Fellowship for CR Broadcasters by CEMCA, UNESCO New Delhi and SMART

CEMCA collaborated with UNESCO New Delhi and SMART (Seeking Modern Applications for Real Transformation), Delhi, India, to launch SDG Fellowship for Community Radio broadcasters. The Fellowship provided an opportunity to CR broadcasters to highlight important and under-reported grassroots stories related to the SDG goals, specifically SDG 13 – Climate Action. The Fellows were identified through a rigorous selection process, and placed under mentors, who would support them in creating interesting grassroots stories.

Curriculum on Climate Change Literacy for CR Broadcasters

CEMCA and SMART have come together to develop a curriculum for CR broadcasters. The process was initiated through an orientation workshop held on 15 February 2023 in New Delhi, India, which was attended by 10 Fellows and CEMCA and SMART staff (16 participants/7 males and 9 females). The participatory content development process would draw inputs from the SDG Fellows. It would help in bridging the gap of a systematic learning programme for the skill development of radio practitioners. The course would enable the CR broadcasters in preparing the grassroots communities for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The curriculum developed under the programme will be pilot tested with 10 SDG Fellows. The pilot would pave the way for its scale up. Through this curriculum, CR broadcasters would be trained to use story telling as a medium to make communities aware on climate change and take appropriate action.

Community radio practitioners participating in curriculum development on climate change literacy held in New Delhi, India

4. EXTERNALLY FUNDED ACTIVITIES

4.1 Ministry of Ayush, Government of India

Community Sensitisation on the Benefits of Yoga

Under the aegis of Ministry of Ayush (MOA), Government of India, CEMCA celebrated 50-day countdown to International Yoga Day from 8 May to 21 June 2023, in collaboration with 217 Community Radio Stations (CRS) across India. The objective was to promote yoga for improved physical and mental well-being. During this period, CRS developed jingles and promotional clips in regional languages, which were broadcast on radios. They also utilised social media platforms to share their activities, aiming to reach a wider audience and inspire people to embrace yoga as a holistic practice. It is estimated that 217 CRS were able to reach approximately 20 million people within their broadcast range of 15-20 kms. The Common Yoga Protocol course was also well received by the community members. This is the fourth collaboration between MOA and CEMCA after the Immunity Enhancement Campaign of 2020-2021 and promotion of International Yoga Day 2022.

School children practicing Yoga in Maharashtra, India

CRS Share Best Practices on International Yoga Day

Supported by the MOA, the 50-day countdown to International Yoga Day culminated in CEMCA collaborating with Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS) and Radio Manav Rachna 107.8 FM, to organise a webinar to commemorate the occasion on 21 June 2023. During the webinar, approximately 200 Indian CRS, including an expert from Sri Lanka, shared their experience of celebrating International Yoga Day and promoting the benefits of yoga. It provided them an opportunity to share stories of community members embracing yoga. Overall, the webinar underscored the role of CRS in promoting yoga, the significance of yoga in education, and the enthusiastic engagement of communities in celebrating International Yoga Day.

A group of women performing Yoga in Gujarat, India

5. CEMCA PARTICIPATION IN PCF10

COL's Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF) on Open Learning is a triennial event, co-hosted with different partners in different regions of the Commonwealth. It is one of the world's leading international conferences on open, distance and technology-enabled learning. The tenth edition of this Forum (PCF10) was hosted jointly by COL and Athabasca University (AU) in Calgary, Canada, from 14 to 16 September 2022, at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre. The theme of the Forum was 'Innovations for Educational Resilience'. CEMCA was represented by Dr B. Shadrach, Director; Dr Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Senior Programme Officer (Education); and Ms Monica Sharma, Programme Coordinator.

During the event, Dr Shadrach chaired two sessions – the first parallel session was on 'Building Resilience' where the participants discussed innovative practices, especially the ones developed during the Pandemic. The second parallel session was on Fostering Lifelong Learning in which the presentations highlighted the need for partnerships in education and skilling. In the book release function, facilitated by Dr V Balaji, Vice President, COL, he presented COL's publication entitled, Sustainable Development and Education in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

On the sidelines of the event, he held one-to-one meetings with Ministers from Mauritius and Maldives and government officials along with his colleagues from COL and CEMCA. The discussions centred around skilling and capacity building initiatives. They also met Professor Seetharama Rao, Vice Chancellor, Dr B R Ambedkar Open University, Telangana, India, to discuss COL's support to the OER work carried out in the university.

Dr Panigrahi served as the lead for the sub-theme – 'Building Resilience' at PCF10. He also moderated a session on Resilience through Educational Tools at PCF10. Dr Panigrahi supported Dr Kaushal Kumar Bhagat from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India, in facilitating the 360 Degree Virtual Reality (VR) Platform workshop that was attended by 12 PCF participants who shared their views on the importance of the platform for their respective institutions. The innovative '360 VR Educator' platform was also showcased at the 'Market Place' – the PCF10 exhibition area for global delegates. The suggestions provided by PCF10 participants at the Market Place encouraged CEMCA to add more features to make the app user-friendly. Ms. Monica Sharma also distributed CEMCA publications to participants at the Market Place.

CEMCA representative with Prof. Asha Kanwar, COL President and CEO

CEMCA representative with Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Vice-PM & Minister of Education, Mauritius

At PCF10, Ms Monica Sharma met Dr Zahid Majeed and Dr Nasir Mahmood from Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan, and discussed the possibilities to collaborate with CEMCA for skill based training and OER activities in their country. Dr Majeed suggested to initiate online training for their faculty on OER and some vocational and skill based courses. She also held a meeting with Mr Rajiv Kumar Singh, Director (Academic), National Institute of Open Schooling, India, to strengthen their community radio programmes for school education and vocational courses.

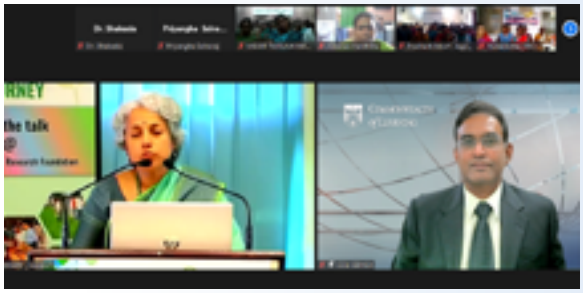
From India, Professor Ami Upadhyay, Vice Chancellor, BAOU-Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India, became one of Commonwealth of Learning Honorary Fellows and Dr Kaushal Kumar Bhagat received the COL Award for Excellence in Innovations in Distance and Online Learning. Dr B. Shadrach read his citation at the award ceremony.

6. CEMCA PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL EVENTS

1. Chair at the session on 'Leveraging Pedagogy, Relationship, and Technology for Education in a Pandemic' during 6th CII School Summit 2022: Education for All Through Innovative Teaching and Learning on 22 July 2022, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi, India.

6th CII School Summit 2022

2. Presentation on 'Best Practices of Community Radio and Sustainable Development Goals' at Leading from the Front: A Workshop for Lead Community Radio Stations on 26 July 2022, organised by UNESCO New Delhi in Delhi, India.
3. Participation in High-level Round Table for Vice-Chancellors and Senior Officials of ODL Institutions on 29-30 July 2022, organised by COL in Penang, Malaysia.
4. Talk at International Conference on Sustainable Development in Hill and Coastal Ecosystems on 7 August 2022, organised by M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.
5. Participation in International Literacy Day during the release of COL's Gender Green Teacher Certificate Course by Honourable Smt Annpurna Devi, Minister of State for Education, Government of India, on 8 September 2022, organised by NIOS in New Delhi, India.
6. Participation in panel discussion on 'The Ecosystem of Skill Development in the Tourism Sector' at the symposium on World Tourism Day 2022: Rethinking Tourism on 27 September 2022, organised by School of Vocational Studies, Dr B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi, India.



MSSRF Women's Day

7. Guest of Honour at the Inaugural Session of the international conference on Sustainability and Digitalisation: Business, Economic and Societal Perspective on 28 September 2022, organised by Jamia Hamdard University and the Indian Institute of Social Science Research, New Delhi India.
8. Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, conferred Honorary Professorship of Management for his three-decade long contribution in the field of development on 9 November 2022 at the 9th Convocation of Padampat Singhania University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.
9. Inaugural address at national event on 'Integration of Digital Technology for Enhancing the Competencies of Educational Administrators and Teacher Educators on 1 December 2022, organised by NIEPA in New Delhi, India.
10. Participation in Presidents' Meeting of the Consortium for Benchmarking Framework for Online, Open and Smart Technology-enhanced Higher Education on 6 December 2022, organised by Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University, United Arab Emirates (Virtual).
11. CEMCA Director's Meeting with Smt. Annpurna Devi, Hon'ble Minster of State, Ministry of Education, Government of India on 7 December 2022, New Delhi, India.
12. Panellist in Technical Session II on Blended Learning during the East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet held on 13-14 December 2022 at Gangtok, Sikkim, organised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
13. Guest of Honour at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology on 14 December 2022 in Sikkim, India.

Meeting with Smt. Annpurna Devi, Hon'ble Minster of State, Ministry of Education, Government of India

East Zone Vice Chancellor's Meet

CEMCA representative at 13th International Film Festival on Disability

14. Chief Guest at We CARE' – 13th International Film Festival on Disability on 16 December 2022, organised by Apeejay Institute of Mass Communication in Delhi, India.
15. Panellist in the session on 'Towards Sustainable E-Learning' at Global Trends in eLearning 2023 (GTEL2023) on 23 January 2023, hosted by the Saudi Electronic University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Virtual).
16. Participation as a distinguished member in First Meeting of Skill Development Committee on 2 February 2023, hosted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi, India.
17. Participation in Consultative Meeting on Making Tech-enabled Learning More Inclusive, Qualitative and Collaborative at Every Level on 13 February 2023, convened by NIEPA in New Delhi, India.
18. Inaugural Address at the Radio Festival 2023 on 13 February 2023, organised by Seeking Modern Applications for Real Transformation in New Delhi, India.
19. Panellist in the session on Innovations in Radio Broadcasting and Community Radio at 27th International Conference and Exhibition on Broadcast and Media Technology (BES EXPO 2023) on 16-18 February 2023, organised by Broadcast Engineering Society in New Delhi, India.
20. Panellist in Technical Session I on 'Continuous Assessment and Evaluation' during West Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India, on 21-22 February 2023, organised by AIU.
21. Participation in G20 Roundtable Discussion on Digital Inclusion: Connecting the Unconnected on 23 February 2023, organised by Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations and the Department of Telecom in New Delhi, India.
22. Panellist at the session on 'Importance of Skill Development in Propelling Growth of MSME Clusters in India' at Seminal Discussions on the Life and Works of Late Prof. Y.K. Alagh for 'Sustainable Growth of MSME Clusters in India' on 28 February 2023, organised by Foundation for MSME Clusters in New Delhi, India.
23. Chief Guest at a special programme on International Women's Day 2023 – Accelerating

West Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet

Gender Equality with Innovations: The MSSRF Experience on 7 March 2023, organised by MSSRF in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India (Virtual).

24. Participation in the first workshop under the Transform Nation series titled 'Leveraging AI to Maximise Outcomes of GatiShakti' on 17 March 2023, hosted by Dt4T Advisors LLP in New Delhi, India.
25. Panellist in the panel discussion on "Exploring Effective Strategies for Blended Learning for Higher Education in Agriculture at International Conference on Blended Learning Ecosystems (ICBLE 2023) on 21 March 2023, organised by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and World Bank in New Delhi, India.
26. Participation in Technical Session-III on the theme 'Reforms for Holistic Education' during 97th Annual Meet and National Conference of Vice Chancellors on 23-25 March 2023 in Meghalaya, India, organised by AIU.
27. Valedictory Address at the International Seminar on Indian Knowledge System (IKS) for LIS and Allied Disciplines (IKS-LISAD 2023) on 24 March 2023, organised by NSOU in Kolkata, West Bengal, India.
28. Eminent Speaker at the inaugural session of the international conference on Business Transformation, Innovation, and Sustainability: Changing Global Paradigm on 28 April 2023, organised by School of Management and Commerce, Manav Rachna University, Haryana, India (Virtual).
29. Participated in the Launch of Capacity Building Programme for Special Needs Teachers in Mauritius on 27 May 2023, organised by the Special Education Needs Authority, Higher Education Commission and Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd. under the aegis of Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Government of Republic of Mauritius (Virtual).
30. Guest of Honour at the Launch of Refresher Course on 'Digital Skills and Competencies for Teachers: With Special Focus on MOOCs and E-Content Development' on 9 June 2023, organised by Amity University Gurugram, Haryana, India (Virtual).
31. Chief Guest at the Capacity Building Programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education on 19 June 2023, organised by the Academic and Administrative Development Centre and Centre for Machine Learning and Intelligence, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Tamil Nadu, India (Virtual).

Panelists at the discussion on exploring effective strategies for blended learning for higher education during ICBLE 2023

7. REGIONAL FOCAL POINT MEETING – ASIA

COL organised the Regional Focal Points Meeting – Asia in New Delhi, India, on 27-28 December 2022. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Asha Kanwar, President and CEO, COL. Dr Sanjaya Mishra, Director – Education, COL, and Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, facilitated the meeting that aimed to engage the Focal Points in identifying three key priorities of their respective countries in the Education and Skills sectors where COL and CEMCA would support them.

As it was the first face-to-face meeting post the COVID-19 pandemic, joined by some new Focal Points, the meeting also intended to get them acquainted with the role of Focal Points, COL Strategic Plan 2021-27, COL Monitoring and Evaluation system, OER and the Green Learning Agenda (GLA). It also provided them an opportunity to understand Education and Skills related activities in the region, and the digital transformation brought about in these sectors as a result of the pandemic.

The Focal Points present on the occasion included Mst Rokhsana Begum, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh; Ms. Rosimah Sumaimah binti Haji Matassim, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council, Negara Brunei Darussalam; Mr. Mrutyunjay Behera, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Education, Government of India; Mr. Ahmed Mausoom, Education Development Professional, Ministry of Education, Government of Maldives; and Mrs. Hasini Thalagala, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka. Ms. Noor Jismin binti Mohd Yusoff, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, represented the Malaysian Focal Point, YBhg Datin Noorazah binti Omar, Under-Secretary of International Relations Division, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia. Ms Siti Nabilah binti Haji Abu Nipah, Special Duties Officer – Lifelong Learning, Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam and Dr Mohd Azmir Mohd Nizah, Associate Professor, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, also participated in the meeting as government representatives.

The meeting began with Prof. Asha Kanwar welcoming participants from six Asian Commonwealth countries. She provided an overview of Focal Points meeting and COL, focusing on how technology related emerging trends and practices were shaping Education

Focal Points present at COL's Regional Focal Point Meeting - Asia

and Skills in the post-COVID world. According to her, the Blended Learning practice would be the norm in the coming years. The Commonwealth countries should integrate the Green Learning Agenda in their education system to tackle the crisis resulting from climate change. Prof. Kanwar summarised COL purpose and activities as: i. Promoting learning for sustainable development; ii. Supporting innovation for affordable and accessible technologies; and iii. Serving the last person at the last mile.

The meeting adopted an interactive and participatory approach to engage all the Focal Points in discussions around their countries' priorities. Dr Sanjaya Mishra elucidated the Results-based Management (RBM) and the 'Theory of Change' approaches adopted by COL for implementing and monitoring its programmes. Dr Shadrach provided an overview of CEMCA and its activities in the region and presented the country reports shared by the Focal Points. The key national priority areas identified by the participants were: i. Teachers' capacity building; ii. Embedding Blended Learning in their respective education systems; and iii. Skills for livelihood, while a few countries also mentioned Life-long Learning for Farmers and skill building for Blue Economy as priorities.

The participants appreciated the support extended by COL and CEMCA to their respective countries. Prof. Kanwar concluded the Meeting by highlighting the role of Focal Points as COL's Ambassadors. They are responsible for informing their higher authorities about COL activities in the region and justifying their countries' contributions to COL. In addition, they have an important role to play in the Green Learning Agenda as Climate Change Champions.

8. CEMCA AWARD

To encourage women's participation in graduate/ post-graduate courses in media and ICT through ODL, CEMCA awards the best performers in media and ICT related academic programmes. The 2022-23 CEMCA Award for the best female student in any ICT discipline was awarded to Ms. Savita Kumari, a student of Master of Computer Application at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) during its 36th Convocation held on 3 April 2023. The Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, Prof. Nageshwar Rao and Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, presented the citation and cash prize of Rs. 25,000/- to Savita Kumari.

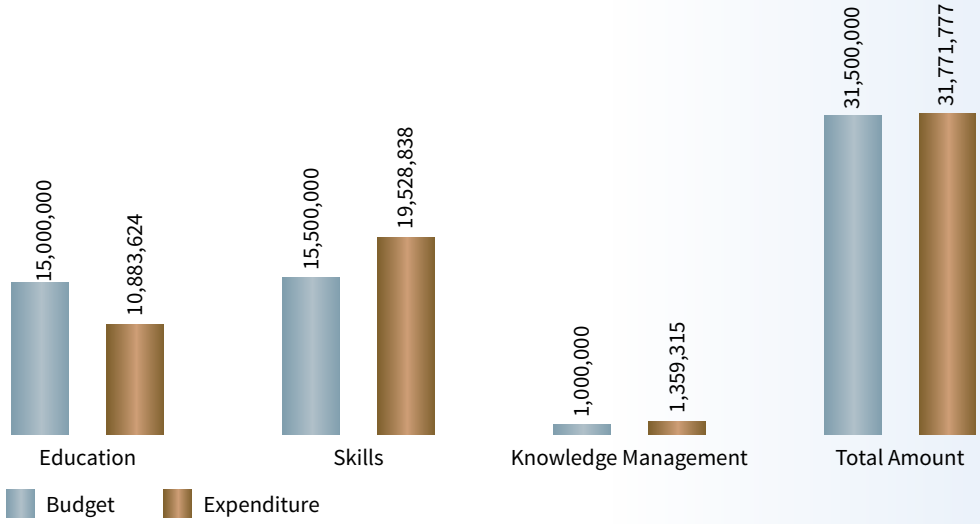
9. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

During the year 2022-23, CEMCA received INR 56,000,000 (CAD 933,333) from COL for its operation and planned programme activities. The details are given below: -

9.1 Income and Expenditure – Core Activities

S. No	CEMCA Programme	Budget		Expenditure		Expenditure (in %age)
1.	Education	INR	15,000,000	INR	10,883,624	73%
		CAD	250,000	CAD	181,394	
2.	Skills	INR	15,500,000	INR	19,528,838	126%
		CAD	258,333	CAD	325,481	
3.	Knowledge Management	INR	1,000,000	INR	1,359,315	136%
		CAD	1,6667	CAD	22,655	
	Total Amount	INR	31,500,000	INR	31,771,777	101%
		CAD	525,000	CAD	529,530	

CEMCA's Core programme expenditure figure is inclusive of the carry forward expenditure of INR 888,786 (CAD 14,813) of the previous year, i.e., 3%. CEMCA's Expenditure on Salary and other office expenditure was INR 22,740,280 (CAD 379,005).



9.2 Income & Expenditure – External Funded Project(2022-23)

S. No	Source of Additional Contribution	Receipt		Expenditure	
	Ministry of AYUSH				
1.	International Yoga Day - 2022	INR	3,080,000	INR	3,080,000
		CAD	51,333	CAD	51,333
2.	International Yoga Day - 2023			INR	428,200
				CAD	7,137
Total Amount		INR	3,080,000	INR	3,508,200
		CAD	51,333	CAD	58,470

10. ADVISORY COUNCIL

CEMCA's Advisory Council functions as an advisory body of COL on CEMCA's affairs and is responsible for broad policy formulation in the programme areas. Besides, the Council provides informed guidance, monitors and evaluates CEMCA's progress, and suggests ways and means for improving its performance. The Advisory Council meets once a year keeping in view the exigencies of the business. The membership is rotated among the members in the region.

COL

Prof. Asha Kanwar
(Chair)
President and CEO

Dr Venkataraman Balaji
(Vice Chair)
Vice President

BANGLADESH

Prof. (Dr) Syed Humayun Akhter (Member)
Vice Chancellor,
Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh

Mst. Rokhsana Begum
(Member)
Deputy Secretary
Scholarship & Engineering University Section
Ministry of Education
Govt. of People's Republic of Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

INDIA

Mr. Mrutyunjay Behera
(Member)
Economic Advisor
Department of Higher Education,
Ministry of Education,
Government of India,
New Delhi

Prof K Seetharama Rao
(Member)
Dr. B R Ambedkar Open University
Road No 46, Jubilee Hills,
Hyderabad
Telangana 500033, India

Prof. Saroj Sharma
(Member)
Chairperson, National Institute of Open Schooling
A-24/25, Institutional Area, Sector – 62, NOIDA
Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar,
Uttar Pradesh - 201 309

MALAYSIA

YBhg. Datin Noorazah Binti Omar (Member)
Under Secretary,
Department of Higher Education, Malaysia

SRI LANKA

Ms. Hasini Thalagala
(Member)
Director of Education
(Foreign Agencies & External Affairs)
Ministry of Education,
Isurupaya, Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka

MALDIVES

Mr. Ahmed Mausoom
(Member)
Education Development Professional
Ministry of Education
Male, Maldives

CEMCA

Dr B Shadrach
(Member)
Director

Mr. T. K. Kaul (Secretary)
Head, Administration & Finance
(Upto February 2023)

Mr. Amit Jain (Secretary)
Head, Administration & Finance

10.1 22nd CEMCA Advisory Council Meeting

CEMCA's 22nd Advisory Council meeting was held in New Delhi, India, on 26 December 2022 to review progress and generate new ideas in collaboration with the members.

COL President and CEO, Professor Asha Kanwar chaired the meeting. The participants included official representatives of the Education Ministries in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, as well as Vice Chancellors of Open Universities in India and Bangladesh. For the benefit of new members, Prof. Kanwar shared a brief account of CEMCA and CEMCA Advisory Council (CAC). She informed that the CAC functions as an advisory body of COL on CEMCA affairs for broad policy formulation for its programmes and for monitoring and evaluating CEMCA's progress. Speaking on COVID-19 related learning loss, inequality, and climate change, she underscored the importance of ODL and Blended Learning in the present and future education system.

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, presented the Actions Taken Report based on the Minutes of last CAC meeting held virtually on 9 December 2021 via the Zoom platform, the Annual Report 2021-22

and Achievement Report July-December 2022. He outlined key programme activities in Education and Skills sectors and Community Media. He reported that despite the challenges confronted during the pandemic, CEMCA engaged with significantly more learners. Further, he underlined the increasing importance of Blended Learning, a strategy for enhancing the Gross Enrolment Ratio, as stressed in NEP 2020.

In the ensuing discussions, Council members noted CEMCA's contribution to ODL in the region and outlined the priorities for the future. Professor (Dr) Syed Humayun Akhter, Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University, spoke about the importance of Blended Learning, which would be the trend in future Distance Education. Mr Mrutyunjay Behera, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Education, Government of India, encouraged CEMCA to develop awareness programmes to conserve the environment and to promote Climate Literacy in the Commonwealth countries.

Mst Rokhsana Begum, Ministry of Education, Bangladesh; Ms. Noor Jismin, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia; Mr. Ahmed Mausoom, Ministry of Education, Maldives; and Mrs. Hasini Thalagala, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka, applauded the contributions of CEMCA while highlighting their country specific requirements at the meeting.

Professor K Seetharama Rao, Vice Chancellor, Dr B R Ambedkar Open University, India, highlighted the need for a Consortium of Universities to build Virtual Labs in the country. He further suggested the integration of courses on Climate Change and Action in Biological Sciences. The Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. T K Kaul, former Head – Administration and Finance, CEMCA.

CEMCA Advisory Council members present at 22nd CAC meeting

11. CEMCA TEAM

Dr Basheerhamad Shadrach
Director

Dr Manas Ranjan Panigrahi
Senior Programme Officer: Education
(Upto December 2022)

Mr T. K. Kaul
Head, Administration and Finance
(Upto February 2023)

Mr Amit Jain
Head, Administration and Finance

Mr Saurabh Mishra
Programme Officer: Skills
(Upto February 2023)

Ms Monica Sharma
Programme Coordinator

Mr Sunny Joseph
Administrative Assistant

Mr Sanjeev Kumar
Office Assistant

12. WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS
(JULY 2022-JUNE 2023)

Sl. No.	Activity	Date	Partner	Place/Mode of Activity	Initiative
1.	Multi-media Module on Bamboo Furniture Making	July 2022	International Bamboo and Rattan Organization	Online	Skills
2.	Multi-media Module on General Plumber Course	July 2022	Indian Plumbing Skills Council	Online	Skills
3.	National Consultation on Blended Learning in Higher Education	15July 2022	National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration	Delhi, India	Education
4.	Workshop on Content Development Using OER	19-21 July 2022	Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University	Uttar Pradesh, India	Education
5.	Brainstorming Consultation on A Journey from Listeners to Learners	23 August 2022	CEMCA Stakeholders	Delhi, India	Skills/ Community Media
6.	Workshop on Proposal Development for Listeners-to-Learners Action Research Pilot	September 2022	SM Sehgal Foundation, ISAP India Foundation and Search for Truth and Return To Science	Delhi, India	Skills
7.	MOOC on Foundations of Heutagogy	1-30 September 2022	Netaji Subhas Open University	Online	Education
8.	MOOC on Digital Forensics	1 September-30 November 2022	Uttarakhand Open University	Online	Education
9.	First Cycle of MOOC on Developing Online Courses for SWAYAM	1 Septeber-15 October 2022	Uttarakhand Open University	Online	Education
10.	Brainstorming Session to Strengthen the Capacity Needs of Vocational Teachers and Trainers	6 September 2022	CEMCA Stakeholders	Delhi, India	Skills

Sl. No.	Activity	Date	Partner	Place/Mode of Activity	Initiative
11.	Webinar on Leveraging OER to Enhance Higher Learning	30 September 2022	Developing Library Network	Online	Education
12.	Training on Using 360 VR Platform	September 2022	CEMCA Resource Person	Odisha, India	Education
13.	MOOC on Introduction to Blockchain	September-November 2022	Annamalai University	Online	Skills
14.	Workshop on Content Development Using OER	9-12 November 2022	Vidyasagar University	West Bengal, India	Education
15.	Stakeholders' Consultative Meeting for Validation of Skill Pedagogy Curriculum for Vocational Educators	10-11 November 2022	Bhartiya Skill Development University	Rajasthan, India	Skills
16.	MOU to Develop a National Policy on Blended Learning	11 November 2022	Association of Indian Universities	Delhi, India	Education
17.	Institutional OER Policy Development Workshop	12 November 2022	Vidyasagar University	West Bengal, India	Education
18.	Training on Using Virtual Labs for Experimentations for Sri Lanka's Higher Education Teachers	22-23 November 2022	Centre for Media and Information Literacy	Online	Education
19.	Integrating OER in ODL Courses	24-26 November 2022	Dr B. R. Ambedkar Open University	Telangana, India	Education
20.	MOOC on Essential Life Skills	November 2022-February 2023	Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University	Online	Education
21.	National Consultation on Course Development for Improving Teaching Techniques of TVET School Teachers	19-20 December 2022	Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)	Delhi, India	Skills
22.	Workshop on Course Development for ODL	27-29 December 2022	Vidyasagar University	West Bengal, India	Education
23.	Training for Engineering Faculty Members on 21st Century Skills and Teaching Methodologies	December 2022-January 2023	Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education	Andhra Pradesh, India	Skills

Sl. No.	Activity	Date	Partner	Place/Mode of Activity	Initiative
24.	National Consultation for Finalising 'Building Excellence in Teaching' Curriculum for Diploma Faculty Members	12-13 January 2023	National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research	Delhi, India	Skills
25.	Expert Committee Meeting on National Policy on Blended Learning in Higher Education (NPBL)	27January 2023	Association of Indian Universities	Online	Education
26.	Blended Mode Training Programme on Agriculture for Farmers	February 2023	GMR Varalakshmi Foundation	Hybrid	Skills
27.	SDG Fellowship for Community Radio Broadcasters	February 2023	UNESCO New Delhi and Seeking Modern Applications for Real Transformation (SMART)	Delhi, India	Skills/ Community Media
28.	Training on Teaching Digital and Social Media-based Marketing to Learners	8-14 February 2023	Madurai Kamaraj University /CEMCA Resource Person	Hybrid	Skills
29.	Developing a Curriculum for CR Broadcasters	15 February 2023	SMART	Delhi, India	Skills/ Community Media
30.	Workshop on OER repository (Dspace)	27-28 February 2023	Dr. B R Ambedkar Open University	Telangana, India	Education
31.	Capacity Building Workshop on OER	1-3 March 2023	West Bengal State University	West Bengal, India	Education
32.	MOOC on Developing 21st Century Skills through Sports	15 March 2023	Pro Sport Development	Delhi, India	Skills
33.	Workshop on Online course development using OER	11-13 April 2023	Dr B. R. Ambedkar Open University	Telangana, India	Education
34.	Second Cycle of MOOC on Understanding Neurodiversity	May-June 2023	Netaji Subhas Open University	West Bengal, India	Education
35.	Institutional OER Policy Development Workshop	17 May 2023	West Bengal State University	West Bengal, India	Education

Sl. No.	Activity	Date	Partner	Place/Mode of Activity	Initiative
36.	Workshop on Implementation of Blended Learning Design in HEIs	20-21 May 2023	Netaji Subhas Open University	West Bengal, India	Education
37.	Consultative Workshop on Enhancing the Efficacy of Cosmetology ITI Courses in India	24 May 2023	CEMCA Resource Person	Delhi, India	Skills
38.	Scoping Study on Open Educational Practices in Three Indian State Open Universities	May-June 2023	IT for Change	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, India	Education
39.	International Yoga Day Celebration with Community Radio Stations	May-June 2023	Ministry of Ayush and CRS	Across India	Skills/ Community Media
40.	First Skillfest 2023	May-June 2023	National Skills Network	Asian Commonwealth Countries	Skills
41.	Institutional OER Policy Development Workshop	2 June 2023	University of North Bengal	West Bengal, India	Education
42.	Webinar to Commemorate International Yoga Day	21 June 2023	Ministry of Ayush, CRS and Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies	Across India	Skills/ Community Media
43.	Exploratory Study on Enhancing the Efficacy of ITI Electrician Course in India	November 2022-June 2023	CEMCA Resource Person	Delhi, India	Skills
44.	Pilot Testing of Aquaculture Worker and Organic Grower Learning Modules	June 2023	Joy Gopalpur Gram Vikas Kendra	West Bengal, India	Skills
45.	Fashion Design Course for CBSE	June 2023	CBSE	Delhi, India	Skills

13. COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS

1. Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education
2. Annamalai University
3. Association of Indian Universities
4. Bhartiya Skill Development University
5. Central Board of Secondary Education
6. Centre for Media and Information Literacy, Sri Lanka
7. Centre for Research and Development Policy
8. Developing Library Network
9. Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Open University
10. Dr B. R. Ambedkar Open University
11. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
12. Global Pro Sport Development
13. GMR Varalakshmi Foundation
14. India IT for Change Social Service
15. Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University
16. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
17. Indira Gandhi National Open University
18. ISAP India Foundation (Formerly Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals)
19. Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra
20. Management Education Research Institute
21. Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies
22. Ministry of Ayush
23. National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration
24. National Institute of Open Schooling
25. National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research
26. National Skills Network
27. Netaji Subhas Open University
28. North Bengal University
29. Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar
30. Ruralshores Business Services Private Limited
31. Score Foundation
32. Search for Truth and Return To Science
33. Seeking Modern Applications for Real Transformation
34. Sir Padampat Singhania University
35. S M Sehgal Foundation
36. SNDT Women's University
37. Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation
38. Together with Youth
39. Uttarakhand Open University
40. Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University
41. Vidyasagar University
42. West Bengal State University

14. PRESS RELEASES

FDP program in Anantpur from 9th to 12th Jan 2023

ABN

అధ్యాపకులు ప్రతి అంశంపై పట్టు సాధించాలి

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NATIONAL SKILLS NETWORK

Certified Full Stack Develop

A two-day consultation meeting on Model Curriculum for the Training of Vocational Educators will be held by CEMCA and BSDU

On November 10th and 11th, 2022, in Jaipur, the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) and Bhartiya Skill Development University (BSDU), Jaipur, will host a two-day consultation gathering of significant stakeholders from the vocational area. The CEMCA initiative to develop a MOOC for vocational educators to assist their teaching and training methods led to the convening of this consultative meeting.

Stakeholder Consultative Meeting for Validation of Skill Pedagogy Curriculum for Vocational Educators of Indian Universities

Prof. Shadrach, Director of CEMCA, emphasises that there is a need for tens of thousands of vocational trainers to enrol in such courses, particularly to increase their competence in training methodologies and technology-enabled teaching and learning practices.

एनआईटीटीटीआर भोपाल एवं कॉमनवेल्थ ऑफ लर्निंग सेंटर द्वारा संयुक्त प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम पर महत्वपूर्ण बैठक

CEMCA APSHCE Training Program in Kakinada AP

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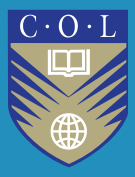
बीएसडीयू में डेनस्टॉमिंग | स्किल्स व अन्य यूनिवर्सिटीज के प्रोफेसर्स, प्रोफेशनल ट्रेनिंग इंस्टिट्यूट के एक्सपर्ट्स और वोकेशनल डोमेन वाले जुटे

कौशल विकास संस्थानों के 30 से ज्यादा एक्सपर्ट्स ने 2 दिन तक की चर्चा

राजमंगा, जयपुर।



CEMCA

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