



**BUILDING CAPACITY OF COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
TEACHERS OF WEST BENGAL ON BLENDED
LEARNING PRACTICE (TRAINING-3)**

Organized by

Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)

In collaboration with

**Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia
(CEMCA)**

3-Day Workshop (On Campus)

Report Prepared by

NSOU Project Team Members

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About the Project:

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic caused not only unprecedented disruption in the provision of education and training but also affected the children, teachers, parents, families, institutions and entire process of teaching learning. The teachers of all levels had to face the challenges of shifting from traditional classroom teaching to online teaching on digital platform. However, these challenges have also highlighted that the promising future of learning and the accelerated changes in modes of delivery for quality education. The availability of technological tool as well as a proper training of teachers is also a big challenge. The world is constantly changing, and so are the domains. Even in education, there are no exceptions. With the advent of digital learning platforms, traditional teaching methods have been rendered obsolete in educational institutions. Today, both technology and traditional learning methods are needed. Because of this, the term “Blended Learning” was coined to describe the art of combining digital and traditional classroom teaching methods.

Project Objectives:

The Project lays prominence and expects-

- ✚ To improve the knowledge and skills of teachers/academicians in higher education to develop and offer Online/Blended Course.
- ✚ To enable the staff/faculty members to the process of planning, designing, developing and delivering online courses.
- ✚ To adopt appropriate ICT tools and learning platforms as an adjunct to face-to-face teaching and to teach in a full online or distance learning context.
- ✚ To find out the prospects and challenges of providing online/blended learning in the context of Higher Education Institutions in West Bengal.
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Workshop Details:

- Date & Time: 25th, 26th and 28th February, 2022, 10.30AM-5.00PM
- Mode: F2F (On campus)
- Participants- 54 teachers (Male-37, Female-17)

Backdrop:

In keeping with the changing times, there have been remarkable changes in all sectors, and most of them have become technology-driven except for the Education sector that was reluctant to use it. Although ICT tools of learning have been around for past many decades, the educators were not comfortable using them. But with the coronavirus pandemic attacking life and learning as we know it, the ‘new normal’ in education had to abruptly fall back on technology driven education overnight and use the digital platform for teaching-learning. Unfortunately, the teachers were not adequately trained for this sudden shift from offline to online education, nor were the requisite technological tools easily available to them. In online education internet connectivity also became a major issue of concern.

In this context it was also important for the teachers to change their roles to that of facilitators, ‘a guide by the side’. This involved the development of a Blended form of teaching-learning which is not a mere combination of the online and face to face mode but an innovative methodology, facilitating the educator to adopt a more learner-centric approach, developing life skills, lifelong learning, better opportunities of employment with ultimate focus on higher human ideals of social cohesion and harmony at the global level.

In this backdrop, CEMCA and NSOU collaborated to organize a series of workshops on 'Enhancing Capacity of Higher Education Teachers' to equip the teachers of Higher Education with the nuances of blended learning. The first workshop was organized Face to Face (F2F) successfully in Durgapur RC, NSOU. However, due to Covid-19 upsurge infection and government order for maintaining protocols, the second 3-Day workshop to be held in Jalpaiguri RC was shifted from Face-to-Face (F2F) mode to hybrid/blended mode. Nevertheless, this workshop was equally successful and fruitful like the first one. The third workshop in the series was conducted at Kalyani RC where the College/ University teachers from Nadia, 24Parganas (N), Murshidabad were invited to attend the workshop.

DAY 1 (25 February 2022)

Inaugural Ceremony:

The 3-Day Workshop was inaugurated on 25 February 2022 at 10.30am

Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. Premananda Jana, Director, Kalyani RC, NSOU. He warmly welcomed the participants, resource persons, guests and academicians assembled for the 3-Day-Workshop for 'Enhancing Capacity of Higher Education Teachers' and highlighted the academic activities carried out by the University at the Kalyani RC.

Address by Project Director-Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance, NSOU deliberated on the ICT initiatives of the University as one of its missions for 'Reaching the Unreached'. He pointed out that even in the helm of the pandemic, the teaching-learning milieu of NSOU did not get disrupted owing to various ICT support provided to learners. Prof. Ghosh also reinstated that empowering teachers will ensure compounded and multiplier effect on the teaching-learning context of an academia at large. He extended that the University has been working with CEMCA for different collaborative activities to enhance the equity, quality and accessibility to Higher Education arena.

Address by Director, School of Education, NSOU- Dr. Atindranath Dey highlighted the importance of the present 3-Day Workshop in view of NEP 2020. He mentioned that the NEP 2020 was published in such a time when the population was affected by global pandemic and educational institutions were forced to shut down. The different chapters of NEP in view of global pandemic is very pertinent in respect of lifelong learning, technology enabled learning and education for the sustainable development.

Formal Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra, Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of History, NSOU and Project Coordinator. Thereafter, the Day-1 technical sessions were taken over by the workshop facilitators- Mr. Purandar Sengupta and Dr. Shaunak Ray.



Technical Session:

Session 1 & 2: ‘Ice-breaking Session on Competency Mapping Master Trainer Mr. Purandar Sengupta and Dr. Shaunak Roy in a warming-up session, deliberated that competency is causally related to Performance. Facilitation is an intricate and elaborate process which encapsulates various psychosocial interventions that accelerates collaborative learning to a great extent. To be a successful Facilitator, it is desirable to get endowed with a set of Psychosocial Competencies. These Psychosocial Competencies in turn make it easier for a Facilitator to make judicious utilization of the Participatory Training Methods and the multiple Psychosocial Interventions.

Session 3: ‘Introduction to Blended Learning & Orientation to “Edutainment” as a Pedagogical Tool in Blended Learning’-The resource persons oriented the educators towards blended learning as a tool of joyful learning i.e., Edutainment, so that they could make their classes entertaining to their learners.

Session 4: ICT tools in a Blended Learning Context, Introduction to ICT Tools & its Relevance in Higher Education Mind Mapping using ICT Tools using hands-on approach) - In the last session of the first day, the participants were trained for ‘mind mapping’, so that they could become effective facilitators to their learners. Dr. Shaunak Roy advocated that numerous ICT tools are available for developing courses, producing examinations, preparing multiple choice questions, collecting student feedback, and conducting evaluations.



DAY 2 (26 February 2022)

The second day started with a presentation by the Project Director and Director, CIQA, NSOU, Prof. Anirban Ghosh. He voiced that blend necessitates consideration of learning outcomes and a learner-centred instructional environment. He pointed out that NEP 2020 recommended the use of blended learning models with the integration of ICT tools and facilities. Prof. Ghosh also gave an overview of SWAYAM MOOCs to the participants with a power point presentation on ‘Blended Learning Approach in post COVID 19: Role of Teachers’. The attendees received the same with much enthusiasm.



Session 5 and Session 6: ‘Facilitation with Participatory Tools and Methods’- These two interesting sessions introduced the participants to participatory analysis, motivational success stories, appreciative inquiry, behaviour modelling, paraphrasing, probing, design thinking, situational planning among other innovative teaching-learning strategies. Master trainer Purandar Sengupta recommended the use of ‘Motivational Success Stories’ for increasing facilitation and promoting two-way communication, participatory, discovery, collaborative, problem-based, experiential and joyful learning. He adopted a hands-on activity approach by dividing the participants into six groups encouraging each group to create their own success stories. This methodology was extremely fruitful in creating an empathetic bond between the participants.

The participants in the six groups were as follows:

Group 1	Sarbajit Roy, Arpita Mukherjee, Arundhati Misra, Sumit Ghosh, Binayak Chanda, Biraj Kanti Mondal, Amitlal Bhattacharya, Srabanti Chaudhuri, Misha Roy
Group 2	Somnath Chakraborty, Ushnish Sarkar, Malay Kr. Ghosh, Bhranti Adhikary, Ananya Sarkar, Susanta Ghosh, Parimal Sarkar, Aniruddha Saha
Group 3	Arun Kr. Pal, Goutam Sarkar, Dr. Bipul Mandal, Suchismita Sarkar, Lilack Biswas, Sintu Ganai, Rahul Hazra, Chanchal Mandal, Pranab Nath Mallick
Group 4	Mrinal Nath, Subrata Ghosh, Dipika Lama, Susanta Patra, Swapna Roy, Soma Roy, Debajit Goswami
Group 5	Nandini Bandyopadhyay, Sohini Ghosh, Manoj Sharma, Dipali Kundu, Samir Mandal, Gopal Das, Santus Biswas, Chinmay Ghosh, Shuvankar Madhu, Dipen Biswas
Group 6	Balai Chandra Das, Nantu Acharya, Sharmistha Saha, Atreyi Das, Samsul Haque, Avik Roy, Rajib Sarkar, Goutam K Mallick, Propid Das



Session 7: ‘ICT Tools in a Blended Learning Context, Gamifying the classroom, Creating Quizzes, Creating Infographics’- These ICT tools were introduced and vividly demonstrated as ICT tools for explaining concepts, gamification, quizzes, assessment and sharing contents or resources by Dr. Shaunak Roy. He particularly explained in details the use of Padlet as an important ICT tool. The participants found the live link provided by him very engaging and raised many relevant queries regarding the ICT tools which they could use in their communication with their learners in the future.

Session 8: ‘Activity Sessions’- The process to create and develop escape room in Google forms were explained through presentation and hands-on. Learning by activity proved to be a very popular with the participants. The link to venture into the game was posted in the dedicated Workshop WhatsApp group for participation. Even after the workshop ended, the participants kept responding to the game till late in the night, proving that the workshop was indeed a joyful experience to them.

A Template on developing course content was also shared by the CEMCA resource persons on the Whatsapp group and hard copies of the same were also distributed by the Project Coordinators. The participants were requested to develop their course content keeping in mind their training in the workshop and communicate it to the trainers in a fortnight (**Annex-1**).

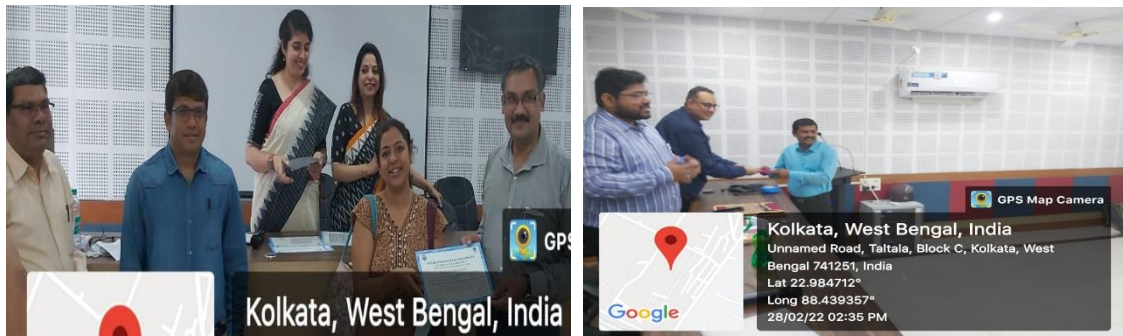
DAY 3 (28 February 2022)

Session 9: ‘Effective Learning Models in Higher Education’- This session instilled means of upskilling problem-solving behaviour among learners. This session also surfaced the ideas of direct and indirect counselling process between facilitator and learner. Resources related to this were shared beforehand by the mentors for readiness among the participants and effective learning models were through role-playing among participants. In addition to this, various learning models were discussed which could be used by them effectively to facilitate and engage their learners. The next phase of the session dealt with demonstration on some ICT tools.

Activities: The participants were grouped for role play. Each group had to present through role play on assigned facilitation techniques (e.g., metacognition through probing, positive reinforcement as a social learning mechanism etc.) as envisaged in the various learning models.

Session 10: ‘Discussion on Programme Output, Q & A, Wrapping Up’: Master Trainer and CEMCA Resource person Purandar Sengupta encouraged the participants to discuss the outputs that had emerged during the 3 day-long sessions. The learners made many relevant points and their queries were answered with expertise by both the resource persons.

Wrapping Up-It was concluded that the workshop had trained the educators to engage in dialogue driven intervention, participatory learning, collaborative learning, discovery learning, and experiential learning and last but not the least all culminating in joyful learning.



Valedictory session: At the end, the participants shared their views and experiences on the workshop. They appreciated all the learning materials provided to them. They lauded the role of the resource persons and the project team members in organizing a truly interactive and innovative workshop and hoped NSOU and CEMCA would conduct further programmes to enhance the capacity of teachers. Professor Ghosh rightly pointed out that NSOU was the only educational institution in West Bengal to have organized such capacity building workshops on implementation of blended learning.



Outcome of the workshop:

The workshop recognized the following outcomes categorically:

- ✚ A collaborative, facilitating and innovating mindset were rekindled.
- ✚ Context-specific ICT tools (authoring, delivery and assessment) Edu-software and their blending with situation-based learning were integrated.
- ✚ Appreciative of Effective Learning Models and Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions, connecting with context and experiences.
- ✚ Stimulated engaging activities and exercises to promote collaborative, facilitating and participatory learning environment

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Project Coordinator and Asst. Professor, School of Education.

Programme Schedule

DAY 1 (25/2/2022)

Time	Activities/Sessions
10.00AM–10.30AM	Registration
Inaugural Ceremony	
10:30 AM-10:50AM	Welcome Address by Dr. Premananda Jana, Director, Kalyani RC, NSOU
	Address by Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance, NSOU
	Address by Dr. Atindranath Dey, Director, School of Education, NSOU
	Vote of Thanks: Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra, Associate Professor & Head, Dept of History, NSOU
Compre: Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, School of Education, NSOU	
10:50AM–11.05AM	Tea Break
11.05AM-12.15PM	Session 1: Ice-breakers and Orientation to “Edu-tainment” as a Pedagogical Tool in Blended Learning
12.15PM–1.30PM	Session 2: Effective Learning Models in Higher Education
1.30PM–2.00PM	Lunch
2.00PM–3.30PM	Session 3: Introduction to ICT Tools & its Relevance in Higher Education
3.30PM–3.45PM	Tea Break
3.45PM–5.00PM	Session 4: Activity and Hands-on Sessions

DAY 2 (26/2/2022)

Time	Activities/Sessions
10.00AM–10.30AM	An introduction on Blended Learning by Project Director
10.30AM-11.30AM	Session 5: Cognitive Behavioural Interventions & its Applications in Higher Education
11.30AM–11.45AM	Tea Break
11.45AM–1.30PM	Session 6: Use of ICT Tools for creating mind-maps; creating quizzes; gamifying the classroom
1.30PM–2.00PM	Lunch
2.00PM–3.30PM	Session 7: Activity Sessions
3.30PM–3.45PM	Tea Break

3.45PM–5.00PM	Session 8: Activity Sessions (Continued); Administering Presentation Topic for Discussion on Final Day (to be prepared by different participant groups)
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DAY 3 (28.2.2022)

Time	Activities/Sessions
10.00AM–11.30AM	Session 9: Group Presentations
11.30AM–1.30PM	Session 10: Discussion on Program Output, Q &As & Wrapping Up
1.30PM–2.00PM	Closing Ceremony

Participants List

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TEMPLTE (*Annex-1*)

TITLE OF THE COURSE

DURATION/TIMEFRAME OF THE COURSE
Two Weeks (Mandatory)

COURSE CONTENT / TOPICS TO BE COVERED

DURATION OF THE PERIOD FOR ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING	DURATION OF THE PERIOD FOR SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

DESCRIPTION OF ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING (INPUTS & ACTIVITIES)			
Text Based inputs	Video Based Inputs (with YouTube link)	Interactive Activities	
		Interactive Activities with the Mentors (through WHATSAPP, PADLET and other digital tools)	Interactive Activities with Peers through WHATSAPP, PADLET and other digital tools)

DESCRIPTION OF SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING (INPUTS & ACTIVITIES)					
Facilitation		Problem Solving		Interim Assessment	
Topics	Process of Facilitation	Topics	Process of analysis and Solution	Topics	Method

MODE OF FINAL ASSESSMENT

-----The End-----