

BUILDING CAPACITY OF COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY TEACHERS OF WEST BENGAL ON BLENDED LEARNING PRACTICE (TRAINING-4)

Organized by

Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)

in collaboration with

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)

3-Day Workshop (On Campus)

25, 26 & 27 March 2022

REPORT PREPARED BY

NSOU PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

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PROFESSOR, EDUCATION

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About the Project:

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic disrupted education and training in unprecedented ways, affecting all stakeholders, viz., learners, teachers, parents, academic institutions, and the entire curricular process. Teachers at all levels were confronted with the problems of transitioning from traditional classroom instruction to online instruction on a digital platform. However, these difficulties have underlined the bright future of learning and the rapid improvements in delivery methods for high-quality education. On the flip side, the knowledge and availability of ICT tools, as well as sufficient capacity building and professional development of HEI teachers and academicians, is a pressing demand. 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. The blend necessitates consideration of learning outcomes and a learner-centered instructional environment. As digital technologies emerge and become increasingly important in teaching and learning at all levels from K.G to P.G. The NEP 2020 recommends the use of blended learning models and recognizes the importance of face-to-face in-person learning while promoting digital learning and education. Various effective blended learning models will be identified for various subjects as precedence to cope up with the contemporary learning styles.

Project Objectives:

The Project lays emphasis and intends-

- **♣** 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.
- ♣ To find out the prospects and challenges of providing online/blended learning in the context of Higher Education Institutions in West Bengal.

Workshop file

Date & Time: 25, 26 & 27 March 2022, 10 AM-5 PM

Venue: Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar, NSOU Headquarters, Kolkata

Participants- Comprised of 80 teachers and academicians (Male-55, Female-25) from HEIs of West Bengal (List appended at the end of the report).

Preview:

Blended learning is a teaching and learning approach that combines traditional classroom methods with ICT-mediated activities. This pedagogical approach combines face-to-face and online activities, as well as synchronous and asynchronous learning tools, allowing for the most effective learning processes. Blended learning is the practice of combining digital learning tools with traditional classroom teaching. In a true blended learning environment, both student and teacher should be present. Regardless, students should be able to use the digital tools to control the pace and topics of their learning. Blended learning bridges the gap between traditional schools and online classrooms by combining physical and digital learning (eLearning).

Under the auspices of this collaborative venture of NSOU and CEMCA, three workshops at three RCs (Durgapur-F2F, Jalpaiguri-through blended mode and Kalyani-F2F) were organized successfully. In this milieu, **the fourth workshop in the series** was conducted at the NSOU HQs. College/ University teachers from Kolkata, East & West Medinipur, Howrah, Hooghly and North & South 24 Parganas registered for the workshop. The proceedings of the workshop are as follows:

Inaugural Session:

The 3-Day Workshop was inaugurated on 25/03/2022 at 10.30am. NSOU & CEMCA has the unique distinction of bringing together a teeming academician for a vibrant and intense exchange of views, knowledge and experience on the minutiae of blended learning and its implementation in educational context. The session progressed through the following addresses:

Welcome Address was delivered by Professor Anirban Ghosh, Project Director and Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance. He greeted the attendees warmly and set the tone for the workshop by deliberating upon the University's ICT endeavours as one of its visions for 'Reaching the Unreached.' He noted that, despite the epidemic, NSOU's teaching-learning framework had remained undisturbed due to the various ICT support provided to learners. Prof. Ghosh further stated that equipping teachers with blended learning methodology will ensure the much-needed learner-centric approach and benefit the social environment as a whole. He reiterated that the university has been collaborating with CEMCA on many projects to improve the equity, quality, and accessibility of higher education and will continue to do so.





Address by Dr. A. B. Aich, Director, Study Centres, NSOU underpinned the importance of digital learning for all HEIs and the role of the Study Centres for acting as bridges between the University and the learners in the Open and Distance mode of learning. He emphasised upon the UGC's concept note on Blended Learning envisioning that it is time to take on a policy that is undoubtedly learner-centric, or what can be safely put down as Education 4.0.

Address by C.A Sri Kishore Sengupta, Registrar, NSOU. The Registrar traced the growth of the University from its humble beginnings to the recent attainment of Grade 'A' in NAAC and its other remarkable achievements including the present workshop with CEMCA for empowering the teachers.

The **Presidential Address** was delivered by **Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar**, **Hon'ble Vice Chancellor**, **NSOU** and reflected the vision and mission of NSOU as the sole State Open University of West Bengal. He emphasized the significance of ODL mode institutions in increasing the GER of Indian academic institutions and pointed out their future role in reaching out to the learners from every stratum of society, promoting lifelong learning,

technology-driven learning and education for sustainable development, reverberating with the key tenets of UN-SDG 4.

Formal **Vote of Thanks** for the inaugural session was proposed by Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra, Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of History, NSOU and Joint Project Coordinator.

Thereafter, the **Day-1 Technical session** began with an introduction on Blended Learning by Prof. Anirban Ghosh. The workshop was taken over by the workshop facilitators- Mr. Purandar Sengupta and Dr. Shounak Ray to continue with the sessions.

The entire programme was deftly compered by Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, School of Education, NSOU and Joint Project Coordinator.





Technical Sessions:

Session 1 was an orientation and a brief 'Introduction to Blended Learning' by the Project Director, Prof. Anirban Ghosh which set the tone of the sessions to come. His address reverberated that blend necessitates consideration of learning outcomes and a learner-centred instructional environment. As digital technologies emerge and become increasingly important in teaching and learning at all levels from school to higher education. The NEP 2020 recommends the use of blended learning models and recognizes the importance of face-to-face in-person learning while promoting digital learning and education.

Session 2: 'Ice-breaking Session on Competency Mapping - Master Trainer Mr. Purandar Sengupta and Dr. Shaunak Roy in a warming-up session, divided the participants into groups and used 'competency mapping' to elicit the psycho-social competencies of the participants as the true identifier of their respective personalities, which they in turn could use later to understand their learners better. Human process lab coupled with appreciative enquiry technique was energetically performed by the participants. Performance analyses exposes the competence, focusing on past achievement, tracing performance analyses unravels a competence. The mentors further added 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: Fish Bowl exercise & 'Introduction to Blended Learning & Orientation to "Edutainment" as a Pedagogical Tool in Blended Learning'-The resource persons oriented the participants towards blended learning as a tool of joyful learning i.e., Edutainment, so that they could make their classes entertaining to their learners. The participants were grouped

into 6 clusters with 12-13 participants in each cluster. Mr. Purandar Sengupta engaged the participants of each and every group to perform the fish bowl exercise. It deciphered the operational pros and cons leading to organizational development and also serves as a potential tool for metacognitive domains.





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 given an idea of the relevant ICT tools which they could use in their classes. They were trained for 'mind mapping', using these tools for divergent as well as convergent thinking. Dr. Shaunak Roy opined that when teachers are effective at integrating technology into the curriculum, technology plays a significant role in student learning. ICT has also become an essential part of the teachinglearning interaction, as demonstrated by the use of interactive digital whiteboards in place of chalkboards and the use of students' own cell phones or other devices for learning during class time. When teachers are digitally literate and trained to use ICT effectively, these approaches can help students develop higher order thinking skills, provide students with creative and individualized ways to express their understandings, and prepare students to deal with ongoing technological change in society and the workplace. Additionally, a survey was done to ascertain the list of ICT Tools that instructors often utilize for classroom teachinglearning. The participants were advocated that numerous ICT tools are available for developing courses, producing examinations, preparing multiple choice questions, collecting student feedback, and conducting evaluations.





DAY 2 (26.03.2022)

Session 5: Intervention Strategies like parentheses, paraphrasing, mnemonics, probing through role play was very captivating as the participants had to enact to display and demonstrate these strategies. Mr. Sengupta explained that as a part of component display

theory for retention of learning, these strategies are very effective. These interventions are not meant to assess knowledge but it unleashes the hidden potential of the learners in a learning environment. It also fosters meta cognition elements.

Session 6: 'Facilitation with Participatory Tools and Methods'- These two interesting sessions introduced the participants to participatory analysis, motivational success stories, design thinking, situational planning among other innovative teaching-learning strategies.

Session 7: 'ICT Tools in a Blended Learning Context, Gamifying the classroom, Creating Quizzes, Creating Infographics'- These ICT tools were explained in details by providing many examples and their role in collaborative and participatory learning was emphasized by Dr. Shaunak Roy. These were introduced and vividly demonstrated as: ICT tools for explaining concepts, gamification, quizzes, assessment and sharing contents or resources.

Session 8: 'Activity Sessions'- Learning by activity proved to be very popular with the participants. The energy during the Escape Room Game was palpable. The link to venture

participants. The energy during the Escape Room Game was palpable. The link to venture into the game was posted in the dedicated Workshop WhatsApp group for participation. Each and every participant responded with enthusiasm to crack the game. This led to a joyful learning. The process to create and develop escape room and quizezz in Google forms were explained through presentation and hands-on.

DAY 3 (27.03.2022)

Session 9: 'Effective Learning Models in Higher Education and development of Course design through blended approach'- The participants were introduced with Situation driven learning. Resources related to this were shared beforehand by the mentors for readiness among the participants. It was ideated properly through role-playing among participants. 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. 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 was development of course design through blended approach. The participants were distributed among 10 discipline/subject specific groups. A course design template (appended at the end of the report) was provided to each group. The group members designed a subject specific course and was submitted to the mentors. During the entire group activity, Prof. Ghosh, Dr. Roy and Mr. Sengupta diligently facilitated the session to enrich the experiences of the participants and supported them with assimilation of ideas and methods.

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 participants to engage in dialogue driven intervention, participatory learning, collaborative learning, discovery learning, experiential learning and last but not the least all culminating into joyful learning.





Valedictory session: The valedictory address was delivered by Prof. Kajal De, Director, School of Sciences, NSOU. Prof. Anirban Ghosh echoed the essence of sustainable education with 21st century learning skills for the millennials. He also put into record that education should have inclusivity in its conception and implementation. Followed by this, the participants shared their views and experiences during the 3-day workshop. They appreciated all the learning materials provided to them and 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. Prof. Ghosh rightly pointed out that NSOU was the only HEI in West Bengal to have organized such series of capacity building workshops on implementation of blended learning.





Outcome of the workshop:

The workshop recognized the following outcomes categorically:

- Collaborative, engaging, facilitating and innovating mindset were regenerated
- ♣ Contemporary and context-specific ICT tools, software and their blending with situation-based learning were unified in an orchestrated manner
- ♣ Set the understanding of Effective Learning Models and Cognitive-Behavioural Interventions, connecting with context and experiences
- ♣ Triggered engaging activities and exercises to promote collaborative, facilitating and participatory learning environment

The session concluded with group photograph and distribution of certificates to all active participants. Dr. Papiya Upadhyay proposed the vote of thanks to one and all involved and extended support to make the workshop truly outcome-based and fruitful.

---Report Prepared by the Project TEAM members





Implementation of Blended Learning in Higher Education Institutions in West Bengal

(Enhancing Capacity of Higher Education Teachers)

Organized by

Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)

in collaboration with

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)

Date: 25, 26 & 27 March 2022 Venue: NSOU Headquarters, Kolkata

Programme Schedule

DAY 1 (25/3/2022)

2111 1 (10/0/10/10/10)				
Time	Activities/Sessions			
10.00AM-10.30AM	Registration			
	Inaugural Ceremony			
	Welcome Address by Dr. A.B. Aich, Director, Study Centres, NSOU			
	Address by Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance, NSOU			
10:30 AM-10:50AM	Address by CA Kishore Sengupta, Registrar, NSOU			
	Presidential Address by Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NSOU			
	Vote of Thanks: Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra, Associate Professor & Head, Dept of History, NSOU			
Compere: Dr. Pa	apiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, School of Education, NSOU			
10:50AM-11.05AM	Tea Break			
11.05AM-11.30AM	An Introduction to Blended Learning by Professor Anirban Ghosh			
11.30AM012.15PM	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 (26/3/2022)

Time	Activities/Sessions
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)

DAY 3 (27/3/2022)

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				

Workshop Facilitators/ Mentors:

Mr. Purandar Sengupta, Master Trainer & Mentor

Dr. Shaunak Roy, Faculty of Management, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)

Project Coordinators

Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra Associate Professor History, NSOU

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay Assistant Professor, Education, NSOU

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COURSE DESIGN TEMPLATE WITH BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH

Instructions:

- O Participants are required to develop a two-week online course (based on the subject they teach), following the given template.
- O The template provided below is only for reference purposes.

TITLE OF THE COURSE

Please include the title of the course you shall be teaching here.

DURATION/TIMEFRAME OF THE COURSE

Two Weeks (Mandatory)

COURSE CONTENT / TOPICS TO BE COVERED

Please include the topics/modules you shall be covering in the two weeks in this segment.

The second secon	
DURATION OF THE PERIOD FOR ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING ¹	DURATION OF THE PERIOD FOR SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING ²
Out of the 2 weeks of the proposed course, what would	Out of the 2 weeks of the proposed course, what
be the duration of the course you shall be covering for	would be the duration of the course you shall be
asynchronous learning?	covering for synchronous learning?

us ynchronous tearning	g:	or synchronous tearni	ng:					
DESCRIPTION OF ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING (INPUTS & ACTIVITIES)								
Text Based inputs	Video Based Inputs (with YouTube link)	Interactive	e Activities					
Please specify which	Please specify which topics (and its contents) you shall be facilitating through video-based inputs. You are required to	Interactive Activities with the Mentors	Interactive Activities with Peers					
topics (and its contents) you shall be facilitating through text-based inputs.	create a short YouTube video, that explains any content that is to be covered by you. After the video is taken, you can share the link of the video in this segment. Please ensure that you specify the Course Name, Module Name and Specific Topic you have included in the video.	Please specify which interactive activities you intend to conduct through WhatsApp, Padlet and/ or other digital tools.	through					

DESCRIPTION OF SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING (INPUTS & ACTIVITIES)

Facilitation		Pro	blem Solving	Interim Assessment		
Topics	Process of Facilitation	Topics	Process of Analysis and Solution	Topics	Method	
Which topics shall be covered synchronously?	How would the topics be facilitated?	Specify the topics here.	How would you analyse the problems raised and offer solutions?	Specify the topics here.	How would you assess the students?	

MODE OF FINAL ASSESSMENT

Please specify the mode of final assessment you would use for the final assessment, viz. Diagnostic, Formative, Interim, and Summative Assessment.



¹Synchronous classes run in real time, with students and instructors attending together from different locations.

²Asynchronous classes run on a more relaxed schedule, with students accessing class materials during different hours and from different locations.