

THE NEWSLETTER

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COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Many major developments marked the last six months of CEMCA's journey. We were able to, in partnership with Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad, India, bring 14 of the 18 Vice Chancellors of the State Open Universities (OUs) and the Indira Gandhi National Open University in India for a two-day discussion to strategise their role in implementing the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) of India. The meet helped the VCs to spell out the Ahmedabad Declaration which, among other things, promises the formation of a Consortium of OUs and wills to develop a framework for credit transfers within the OUs.

We have been able to complete a study of visually impaired young people in India on their current participation in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programmes for education and skill development. We note that while ODL is the preferred medium of access to education and skills among at least a quarter of the 5008 people, who participated in our research, they are unable to exploit the fullest benefits of technology-enabled learning methods yet, mainly due to little or no attention paid by the stakeholders.

We have completed the mapping of the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) curriculum on cosmetology and electrician trade for their delivery in blended mode,

and the study reveals stunning results. Not only are there opportunities to shorten the period of study, but also to double the intake if delivery institutions make minor adjustments to their current practices.

In an interview on CBS during the 7 October 2023 weekend, Geoffrey Hilton, pitched as the God Father of Artificial Intelligence, stated that "for the first time ever," humanity must grapple with the reality that something else on our planet is "more intelligent than us." With AI as autonomous agents beginning to modify themselves, the lack of detailed understanding of how machine learning algorithms are functioning, and the black box aspect of technology, the human race must seriously worry about and do something. This calls for Responsible AI, an aspect which was highlighted in our participation at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Innovation Workshop in Montreal, Canada, in September 2023.

With the Global Summit of GPAI being organised in Delhi by the Indian government in December 2023, the education and skill development community must pay very special attention to the impact of AI on human lives in the next decades.

Dr. B Shadrach

EDUCATION

OER Policy development workshop conducted at West Bengal State University

On 17 May 2023, CEMCA and the West Bengal State University (WBSU), North 24 Paraganas, West Bengal, India, collaborated to organise an Open Educational Resources (OER) policy development workshop at their campus in West Bengal, India. The workshop aimed to create and implement an OER policy for the university with the involvement of policymakers while providing a platform for meaningful discussions on shaping the policy. The workshop resulted in the production of an institutional OER policy document, which is awaiting approval by university authorities. The university has also developed an OER repository to benefit the educators and students. By embracing OER, the university aims to foster greater access, equity, and quality in education.

Supporting the implementation of blended learning design in HEIs

CEMCA and the Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), West Bengal, India, partnered to host a two-day workshop focused on the implementation of Blended Learning Design in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the state. The workshop took place at the NSOU campus in May 2023 and attracted 65 academicians from various Learner Support Centres affiliated with NSOU. It provided

a platform to them 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.

The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Chandan Basu, the Honourable Vice Chancellor of NSOU. He expressed appreciation for the transformative shift occurring in higher education, which integrates traditional wisdom with contemporary technological advancements. In his keynote address, Dr B. Shadrach, Director of CEMCA, shed light on the implications of Blended Learning in the Indian educational context. He expressed confidence in NSOU's mission to empower faculty members through the implementation of Blended Learning approaches and methods.

Workshop on OER Policy at the University of North Bengal

CEMCA partnered with the University of North Bengal (NBU), West Bengal, India, to organise a workshop on 2 June 2023, on the development of an OER Policy. The policy would ensure the university's compliance with legal requirements while providing educational materials.

The workshop's primary objective was to acquaint policy-level 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 the NBU.



Participants at workshop on blended learning design held at NSOU, West Bengal, India.

Professor Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Vice Chancellor, NBU, emphasised that the policy would not only effectively communicate the institution's teaching-learning objectives, but also serve as a guiding document for future endeavours. Professor Mukherjee also thanked CEMCA for their invaluable support in realising this workshop. The workshop culminated in drafting the institutional level OER policy, which is awaiting approval from concerned authorities.

Scoping Open Educational Practices in three State Open Universities in India

CEMCA and IT for Change, Karnataka, India, conducted a comprehensive scoping study to assess the existing open educational practices (OEP) at 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, between May and June 2023.

The initial scoping study shed light on the specific needs of these universities. It 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.

By implementing the suggested measures, these institutions can foster a more inclusive and innovative learning environment, leading to enhanced access to education and quality learning resources for students across the country.

Successful pilot-testing of micro-courses on innovation and entrepreneurship skills

The Centre for Research and Development Policy (CRDP), Jammu and Kashmir, India, in collaboration with CEMCA, developed a micro-course on innovation and entrepreneurship for high school students. To pilot-test the efficacy of the micro-course, 100 students (both boys and girls) from 9th to 12th standards were selected from ten schools in Srinagar and Budgam districts, representing urban and rural areas. With a focus on interactive learning, the course ran online for six months, with classes held on Sundays only through the Zoom platform. These included lectures, readings, presentations, expert talks, dialogues with start-up owners, and case studies.

The project provided students with exposure to diverse business opportunities available within Jammu and Kashmir and encouraged them to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career path. After completing 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. This hands-on experience helped in



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

enhancing their understanding of the practical applications of innovation and entrepreneurship. All the students received certificates for completing the course. The pilot project received a good response from schools, students and experts. The project will be scaled up towards the end of 2023 and in the following year.

Study on ODL practices among the visually impaired in India

CEMCA and Score Foundation, New 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 their 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.

Open University Vice Chancellors' Forum

CEMCA, in collaboration with the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Gujarat, India, organised the Open University Vice-Chancellors' Forum on 4-5 August 2023, at their campus in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The overarching theme of the event was "National Education Policy-2020: Opportunities and Challenges for Open and Distance Learning Universities." The forum was graced by the presence of 14 Open University Vice Chancellors, the Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), India, and several esteemed participants, including those from Malaysia, Mauritius, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates, who participated virtually.

In the inaugural session, Professor Dr Ami Upadhyay, Vice Chancellor, BAOU, underlined the significance of the event as a platform for sharing challenges, experiences, learnings, and best practices related to the ODL ecosystem. Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, highlighted the pivotal role that ODL and online and digital learning, in alignment with NEP 2020, would play in expanding higher education access and scale in India. Professor Asha Kanwar, President and CEO



Participants at the Open University Vice Chancellors' Forum held in Gujarat, India



Faculty members participating in workshop on micro-credential course creation at BRAOU in Telangana, India

of COL, Canada, addressed participants virtually and emphasised that only ODL and online education can help in achieving NEP 2020's goal of increased access, equity, and inclusion in higher education. In his inaugural address, Professor Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, elaborated on the specific advantages that the Open Universities have, such as providing affordable education, and their potential to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio to 50 or more than 50 per cent in India.

The forum included several plenary sessions and panel discussions around the theme and tabled the Ahmedabad Declaration.

BRAOU faculty members trained in creating micro-credential courses

CEMCA partnered with Dr B R Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU), Telangana, India, to conduct a capacity-building workshop on creating micro-credential courses from 8 to 10 August 2023. The workshop aimed to train the participants in developing micro-credential courses that provide opportunities for lifelong learning and enhance employability. These courses are also emerging as a new model of digital education. The workshop introduced the participants to the world of micro credential courses, which are smaller units of study and shorter than a conventional course. CEMCA Resource Person took them through the processes and steps involved in producing such courses using Moodle learning platform or course management system, focusing on interactivity, accessibility, and content creation. Sixteen faculty members of BRAOU

attended the workshop and learned the techniques for creating these courses.

Developing a National Blended Learning Policy for higher education in India

CEMCA and the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Delhi, India, supported by an Expert Committee with members drawn from prestigious universities and institutions from India and abroad, are drafting the first ever National Policy on Blended Learning (NPBL) for higher education in India. They organised several rounds of discussions with the experts, which resulted in the production of a draft policy document. The draft document was placed before the experts for review and finalisation on 24 August 2023, in New Delhi, India. The meeting, conducted in a hybrid format, marked a significant milestone in the development of the educational policy.

During the course of the meeting, experts underscored several critical aspects of the policy document. These included flexibility to embrace future technological advancements such as AI, while aligning with the learner- and learning-centred approach highlighted in NEP 2020; 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. These issues would be addressed to finalise the document and the next steps in this endeavour would include the formulation of a strategy and communication plan to effectively disseminate the policy among diverse stakeholders.

SKILLS

Pilot testing of ACSI conducted with school students

CEMCA has developed an Academic and Career Skills (Self-Assessment) Instrument (ACSI) for the Central Board of Secondary Education (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.



Pilot testing of ACSI in a school in Haryana, India

Enhancing the efficacy of Basic Cosmetology course for ITIs in India

CEMCA conducted 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 aimed to



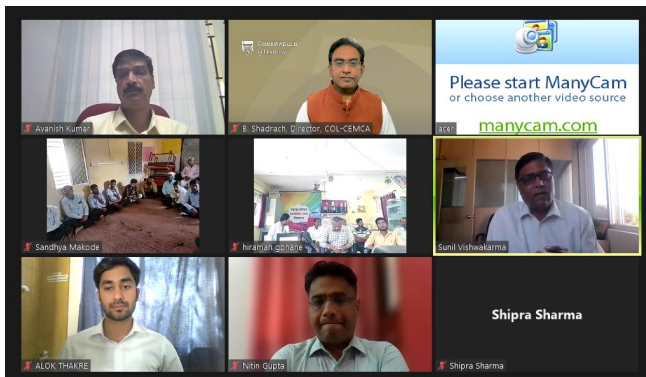
Participants at the ITI Cosmetology course workshop held in Delhi, India

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. In this regard a consultative workshop was held on 24 May 2023. The workshop 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 course, 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.

Empowering Indian farmers and youth in agriculture through blended-mode training

In partnership with CEMCA, the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF), Delhi, India, successfully concluded a first-of-its-kind blended mode training programme on agriculture. It provided knowledge and skills to 550 farmers and youth, both women



Blended mode training for farmers in India

and men, from the villages of Vadodara district in Gujarat, Chhindwara district in Madhya Pradesh and Chandrapur district in Maharashtra, India.

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 Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) provided by COL, GMRVF effectively delivered the training. They imparted training to the participants on a diverse range of topics, such as the System of Wheat Intensification (SWI), micro irrigation techniques, the Internet of Things (IoT) in agriculture, food processing, protected cultivation, organic farming, floriculture, and advances in agriculture. The participants displayed confidence in adopting the new techniques in agriculture and many of them shared their positive experience with them.

Enhancing the employability of Sri Lankan youth through soft skills and spoken English training

In June 2023, to support the National Youth Service Council of Sri Lanka, CEMCA partnered with Together with Youth (TWY) 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 150 young individuals, enabling the identification of key areas for course development. Leveraging their expertise, TWY has formulated a preliminary course content outline encompassing a wide range of multimedia training materials.

Developing multimedia modules on elderly caregiver course

In June 2023, CEMCA collaborated 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). To facilitate this endeavour, CEMCA is creating a multimedia content package spanning 180 minutes, encompassing eight modules.

Exploratory study to enhance 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.

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.

Skillfest 2023 concluded with the announcement of winners

CEMCA and National Skills Network (NSN), Telangana, India, came together to organise the first Skillfest 2023, which was open to participants from nine Asian Commonwealth countries – Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, and Sri Lanka. This exciting competition, designed as an online festival of skills, offered participants the opportunity to showcase their talents through short five-minute videos.

The response to the online skills competition was overwhelming, with multiple entries from enthusiastic participants. Skillfest 2023 witnessed a diverse range of skills in various fields, such as Green Jobs, Agriculture, Media and Entertainment, Food Processing, Beauty and Wellness, Fashion and Apparel, Woodwork and Carpentry, Welding, and Handicraft. An esteemed panel of judges evaluated each participants' performance against fixed parameters, like demonstration of skills, outcome or final result, compliance with submission instructions, and overall presentation, and the results were announced on 15 July 2023. These could be viewed at: <https://www.nationalskillsnetwork.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CEMCA-NSN-Skillfest-online-skills-competition-results.pdf>. All the selected content generated during Skillfest 2023 will be featured in CEMCA's OER repository for TVET.

Augmenting Tourism course for CBSE

CEMCA has partnered with CBSE to enhance skill-focused education by creating multimedia material for the Class XI Tourism Course. To accomplish this, CEMCA is producing and filming 300 minutes of content. The script has undergone rigorous refinement and gained approval from CBSE's Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). The filming of course content has begun, and initial footage is being shared with SMEs for review.

Fashion Design course enhanced for CBSE

CEMCA is supporting CBSE to enrich the Fashion Design course for Class XI students by producing multimedia resources. For this purpose, CEMCA has created around 360 minutes of multimedia course content. The content is ready, and it has been assessed by CEMCA, principals of schools affiliated with CBSE, and SMEs.

MOOC on Developing 21st Century Skills through Sports

CEMCA is collaborating with Global Pro Sport Development (PSD), Delhi, India, to create a MOOC on 'Developing 21st Century Skills through Sports'. They conducted several rounds of online and face-

to-face consultations in March 2023 with experts from India and abroad for reviewing and re-shaping the draft course outline of the MOOC. The process has resulted in the finalisation of four Modules of the MOOC by September 2023.

CEMCA Collaborated with FICCI to Deliberate on India's Skill Landscape at the 14th Global Skills Summit 2023

CEMCA collaborated with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Delhi, India, as a Learning Partner during the fourteenth edition of the Global Skills Summit 2023 (GSS 2023) with the theme, 'Building Skills | Empowering Youth | Creating Future', held on 20-21 September 2023 in Delhi, India. Dr B. Shadrach, Director of CEMCA, delivered opening remarks during Session 1, titled 'Education & Skills: Pillars for making India the Skill Capital of the World'. Acknowledging NEP 2020's ground breaking convergence of the skills and education sectors, he underscored the pivotal role that Open, Online, Distance, Digital, and Blended Learning approaches, championed by COL and CEMCA, can play.



In another enlightening session, 'Skilling Initiatives in India: Sharing of Best Practices', CEMCA expert Mr. George C Varughese delved into the potential of blended learning in engineering and ITI courses to elevate their efficacy and learning outcomes. On the side-lines of GSS 2023, CEMCA also demonstrated the Academic and Career Skills (Self-Assessment) Instrument (ACSI) developed for CBSE. The students enthusiastically participated in creating their skills profiles through the ACSI.

COMMUNITY MEDIA

Insights from CEMCA's Listeners-to-Learners Project's Mid-line Study

Along with key stakeholders – S M Sehgal Foundation, Haryana, India; ISAP Foundation India (earlier known as Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals), Delhi, India, and Search for Truth and Return To Science (START), Delhi, India – CEMCA conceived an Action Research Pilot Project on 'Listeners-to-Learners' (L2L). The objective of the project was to prove that the knowledge, attitude and practice of listeners can be enhanced through non-formal and informal learning using audio programmes. The mid-line study, conducted in April-May 2023, aimed at assessing whether the project was going in the right direction so that course correction measures could be taken, if necessary.



Under this project, START partnered with the Voice of Azamgarh Community Radio to raise awareness on the significance of the first one-thousand 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 mid-line findings reveal 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 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.

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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.

Curriculum on Climate Change Literacy for Community Media Professionals

CEMCA and Seeking Modern Applications for Real Transformation (SMART NGO), New Delhi, India, have developed a comprehensive learning programme for the skill development of radio practitioners. This curriculum provides them with the necessary skills in programme conceptualisation, scriptwriting, and audio production on topics related to SDG 13 – Climate Action. It also aims to increase the competence of radio practitioners in community engagement. The curriculum comprises ten modules with activities and quizzes to keep the

learners engaged. The curriculum is being piloted by some Community Radio Stations in India, which will pave the way for its scale-up.

International Yoga Day celebrated with Community Radio Stations

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Ayush (MOA), Government of India, CEMCA celebrated a 50-day countdown to International Yoga Day from 8 May to 21 June 2023 in collaboration with more than 200 Community Radio Stations (CRS). The objective was to promote yoga for improved physical and mental well-being.

During this period, the CRS developed jingles and promotional clips in regional languages, which were broadcast on radio. 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. CEMCA's collaborative efforts with CRS and the MOA exemplify their commitment to promote CRS's role in community empowerment.



School children performing Yoga in their school in Maharashtra, India

Webinar on International Yoga Day celebrations

CEMCA collaborated with Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS) and Radio Manav Rachna 107.8 FM, Haryana, India, to organise a webinar to commemorate International Yoga Day 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.

Community Radio Compendium 2023 and documentary on Indian Community Radio movement released by MIB Minister

Supported by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), Government of India, CEMCA facilitated the compilation of Community Radio Compendium 2023. It was formally released by Mr Anurag Thakur, Honourable Minister of MIB and Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, during the two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelan (North) held at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, India. A host of CRS representatives gathered on the occasion to celebrate the work and achievements of CRS across the country. The Honourable Union Minister also conferred the Eighth and Ninth Community Radio Awards and released a documentary film on the Community Radio Movement in India, which was developed by CEMCA.

CEMCA, being the knowledge partner of MIB for the creation of the CRS Compendium 2023, collected and collated the information provided by the CRS in a homogenised manner to produce the Compendium.



Honourable MIB Minister, GoI, releasing CR Compendium 2023 at a ceremony held in Delhi, India



CMC 2023 jury members reviewing short films

CEMCA and UNESCO New Delhi announced winners of Community Media Challenge 2023

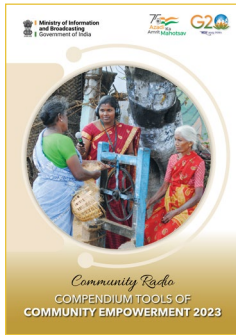
CEMCA, in collaboration with UNESCO New Delhi, marked a significant milestone as it completed a decade of hosting the Community Radio Video Challenge (CRVC) Competition. This year, the competition expanded its horizons to include all forms of media, transforming into the Community Media Challenge 2023 (CMC 2023). The theme for CMC 2023 was “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” (AKAM), symbolising the celebration of freedom.

Through this initiative, CEMCA aimed to showcase the talents of youth in storytelling using a variety of media formats. The competition invited students from schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions across India to participate. The call for entries for CMC 2023 resonated strongly with students at all levels and a total of 45 entries were received by CEMCA and UNESCO.

The submissions underwent meticulous review by a prestigious panel of jury chaired by Professor Ashok Ogra, Advisor (Mass Communication), Apeejay Educational Society, on 19 September 2023 in New Delhi, India. All the entries were judged against four criteria: Overall impact (persuasive, informational, educational), Originality and creativity (concepts, ideas, format), Relevance and clarity of message, and Technical proficiency and quality.

The Jury selected Mr. Hruday Ranjan Parida’s film, ‘Untold Questions of Every Raktashanta’ for the first prize. The second prize was awarded to Ms. Jharana Kadraka for her film, ‘A Small Step (Voice of Courage and Action)’. The third prize was won by ‘Keladi Kanmani’, directed by Bharanidharan. Additionally, five outstanding films received special recognition awards. The videos can be viewed at: <https://www.cemca.org/crvc/result.php>.

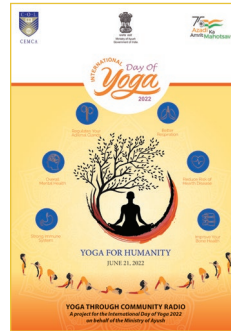
NEW PUBLICATIONS



Community Radio Compendium 2023

Community Radio Compendium 2023 inspires a deeper appreciation for CRS, celebrates their impact on local communities, recognises their potential as catalysts for positive change, and acknowledges and embraces the limitless and extraordinary power of community radio. This

Compendium is an invaluable reference resource for all functional CRS in India. The Compendium can be accessed at: <https://mib.gov.in/sites/default/files/Community%20Radio%20Compendium%202023.pdf>.



Yoga for Humanity: Yoga through Community Radio

This publication details the International Yoga Day celebrations undertaken across India by Community Radio Stations. The report can be accessed at: <https://www.cemca.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/YOGA%202022%20REPORT%2018-11-2022.pdf>

COL Updates



Professor Peter Scott – a recognised leader in open and distance learning – has been appointed as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) commencing 8 January 2024. He most recently served as the President of a Canadian online institution, Athabasca University. He succeeds Professor Asha Kanwar who completes her term on 31 December 2023.

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 IGNOU during its 36th Convocation held on 03 April 2023. The Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, Professor Nageshwar Rao and Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, presented the citation and cash prize of Rs. 25,000/- to Savita Kumari.



CEMCA PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL EVENTS

Business Transformation, Innovation, and Sustainability: Changing Global Paradigm, 28 April, 2023

Dr B. Shadrach addressed the participants as an eminent speaker at the inaugural session of the international conference on 'Business Transformation, Innovation, and Sustainability: Changing Global Paradigm', organised by School of Management and Commerce, Manav Rachna University, on 28 April 2023.

Implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Higher Education, 10 May 2023

During the meeting convened by AIU to conduct a comprehensive review of the draft report on the Implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Higher Education, Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, highlighted the immense opportunity to advocate for universal internet access and ample bandwidth for all HEIs as a policy decision to lay the groundwork to facilitate this process.

Launch of Capacity Building Programme for Special Needs Teachers in Mauritius, 27 May 2023

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Government of the Republic of Mauritius, the Special Education Needs Authority (SENA) launched a programme for the capacity building of 400 special needs educators on 27 May 2023 in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission and Polytechnics, Mauritius Ltd. CEMCA Director, Dr B Shadrach spoke about COL support to the programme on this occasion.

Launch of Refresher Course on 'Digital Skills and Competencies for Teachers: With Special Focus on MOOCs and E-Content Development', 09 June 2023

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and Amity University Haryana (AUH), India, jointly organised a two-week Online Refresher Course on the topic:



Director, CEMCA, at the launch of refresher course on digital skills

'Digital Skills and Competencies for Teachers: With Special Focus on MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and E-Content Development' from 9 to 22 June 2023. CEMCA Director Dr B. Shadrach was the 'Guest of Honour' at the launch of the course on 9 June 2023.

Capacity Building Programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education, 19-30 June 2023

The Academic and Administrative Development Centre and Centre for Machine Learning and Intelligence of the Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education, Tamil Nadu, India, organised a capacity-building programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education from 19 to 30 June 2023 with support from AIU. As the Chief Guest, the address of Dr B Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, focused on the role of AI in education, discussing its various paradigms, evolutionary stages, foundational principles, and its potential challenges. He emphasised that collaboration among educationists, technologists, markets, and learners is essential to leverage the full potential of AI in 'bringing education right to the doorsteps of learners'.

International Workshop on the Adoption of Gender Green Teacher (GGT) Programme, 27-28 June 2023

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, delivered the welcome address at the International Workshop on the Adoption of Gender Green Teacher (GGT)



Director, CEMCA, at the international workshop on GGT held in Uttar Pradesh, India

Programme in Gautam Buddha Nagar (NOIDA), Uttar Pradesh (UP), India. The workshop was organised by COL and National Institute of Open Schooling, UP, India.

Inclusive Life-long Learning Conference, 3-6 July 2023

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, participated in the Inclusive Lifelong Learning Conference organised by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in Bali, Indonesia. He presented on the topic, 'Digital Revolution: Implications for Inclusive Lifelong Learning'.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) Convocation for ODL Learners, 11 July 2023

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, delivered a speech at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) Convocation for ODL Learners on 11 July 2023. He encouraged the students to become lifelong learners, knowledge workers, trainers/ changemakers, and digitally fluent. Through these skills, they would be able to not only help in doubling the income of farmers, but also in mitigating the workforce challenges and combat the many 'M's, such as merciless moneylenders, greedy middlemen, unpredictable markets and erratic monsoons.



Director, CEMCA, at the TNAU Convocation held in Tamil Nadu, India

Meeting on CRS Policy Guidelines and the Central Sector Scheme, 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India', 18 July 2023

Ms. Monica Sharma, Programme Coordinator, CEMCA, participated in the meeting on CRS Policy Guidelines and the Central Sector Scheme, 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India' organised under the Chairpersonship of Additional Secretary (I&B), by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's CRS Cell in New Delhi, India.

Future of ODL and Online Education: Reality Check and Preparing Roadmap and System-based Research in ODL Methods and Strategies, 11 August 2023

Dr Pema Eden Samdup, Senior Adviser, Open, Distance and eLearning, CEMCA, delivered a talk on "Systemic Research" in the 'Future of ODL and Online Education: Reality Check and Preparing Roadmap and System-based Research in ODL Methods and Strategies', event organised by Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University at Guwahati in Assam, India.

EdTech Talk 4 on 'Day of AI and AI Curriculum Development in Primary Education: Opportunities and Challenges', 22 September 2023

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, delivered EdTech Talk 4 on 'Day of AI and AI Curriculum Development in Primary Education: Opportunities and Challenges', organised by the Centre of Excellence in Teacher

Education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, India. He shared the CEMCA experience in adapting the 'Day of AI' curriculum for training school teachers and, through them, training students at all levels in primary to tertiary education.

Symposium on Empowering Lifelong Learners: Education's Role in Building a Dynamic Learning Ecosystem, 26 September 2023

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, spoke on the concept of Lifelong Learning in the Education System, especially in the AI-era, during the international symposium organised by RCEP-UNESCO, Dubai, and attended by more than 400 participants.

Meeting of GPAI Working Group on the Future of Work, 25-26 September, 2023

Participated as an Expert at Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence's (GPAI) Working Group on the Future of Work on 25-26 September 2023 in Montreal, Canada.

All In 2023 Conference, 27-28 September 2023

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, was invited as one of the panellists in the All In 2023 session on 'The Future of Work in the Age of AI', held on 28 September 2023 in Montreal, Canada. In the context of lack of data for informed decision making in the jobs sector, Dr Shadrach shared that even when governments are collecting accurate statistics, the data focuses on formal workers, especially those engaged in skilled or industrial labour.



CEMCA Director as one of the panelists at the 'Future of Work in the Age of AI' session held in Montreal, Canada

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Roundtable on Mainstreaming Inclusion of Students with Learning Disabilities

Date: 18 December 2023

Venue: Delhi, India

2. Community Radio Awareness Workshop

Date: February 2024

Venue: Guwahati, Assam, India

MOMENTS



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