Capacity building of Teacher Educators to Implement Blended Learning in Teacher Education

Report

IT for Change

Bengaluru

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Background

The National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education 2010, (NCFTE) emphasizes the need to structure continuous professional development (CPD) that builds on the professional identities and lived experiences of teachers. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the need in schools and educational institutions, for digital technologies has dramatically increased. Given this background, IT for Change (ITfC) and Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi collaborated to design and conduct workshops on "Capacity Building of Teacher Educators to Implement Blended Learning in Teacher Education" for teacher educators of Karnataka. There were multiple workshops conducted between February 2022 and June 2022.

Workshop objectives

The following were the main objectives of the workshops:

1. Integrating Content, Pedagogy & Technology skills

2. Introducing the teachers and teacher educators to Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) and Open Educational Resources (OER).

3. Exploring OER repositories to access resources and understanding the role of OER in teaching-learning.

4. Introducing teachers and teacher educators to different tools for self-learning, collaborative learning and resource creation.

5. To support the teachers and teacher educators in the creation of context-specific resources (Open Educational Resources) for their classrooms.

6. To create a community of teachers and teacher educators experienced in ICT integration in teaching learning.

Workshop design

The workshop design was based on the NCERT National ICT curriculum themes - Connecting and learning (accessing OER resources, participating in virtual learning communities) and Creating and learning (creating resources for teaching-learning using digital tools). The workshops covered different FOSS tools to access and create OER for their teaching-learning process. It also covered the applications that are of day-to-day use for them – for sharing resources etc...

Separate workshop pages were created (https://karnatakaeducation.org.in/KOER/en/index.php/Digital_Literacy_capacity_building_workshop_for_CRPs,_BRPs_and_ECOs,

https://karnatakaeducation.org.in/KOER/en/index.php/Foundation_Workshop_In_Techno-Pedagogy_Literacy_for_Teacher_Educators) and all the course resources, reading materials, video tutorials etc… were uploaded to these pages. These workshop pages were updated with all the content and was shared with the participants before the commencement of the workshops to enable them to read and come prepared. WhatsApp groups were created before the workshop started for faculty to interact with the participants and for communication during the workshop.

Workshop content

The workshop agenda was as follows:

Session Title	Session details
Introduction to ICT in Education	1. Why use ICT in Education 2. Introduction to FOSS and OER 3. Recent trends in EdTech and impact on Education
Connecting with the World Accessing and Downloading Resources	1. Introduction to Ubuntu 2. Understanding and accessing OER 3. Downloading OER resources – Text, Image, Video and Audio
Creating with ICT Concept map – Analytical Thinking Tool	1. What is concept mapping? 2. Creating concept map using FOSS tool "Freeplane" 3. Using Concept Map in teaching-learning
Creating with ICT Text resources (slide presentation) Text resources (documents)	1. Create presentation on the selected topic using FOSS tool "LibreOffice Impress" 2. Create a text document using FOSS tool "LibreOffice Writer"
Creating with ICT Creation of video resources	1. Create video on the selected topic, using "Vokoscreen" FOSS screen-casting tool
Way forward	1. Participant feedback on the workshop and their plans for taking the learning forward.

Conducting the Workshop

There were three workshops conducted.

1. Workshop for the Cluster Resource Persons (CRP) and Block Resource Persons (BRP) in Bengaluru South-3 block. (1 day workshop conducted in February 2022)

2. Workshop for the faculty of Sri Sarvajna College of Education (2 days workshop conducted in March 2022)

3. National level workshop on Techno-Pedagogy Literacy for Teacher Educators (2 days workshop conducted in June 2022)

More than 85 teachers and teacher educators registered for the offline workshops. The cohorts were heterogeneous, with varying age and subject specialization. Participants included experienced and novice members in technology. Each session was interactive, giving participants enough opportunities to understand and to practise OER creation. Participants were able to practise on individual systems. The course faculty encouraged the participants to share their views/experiences/ideas thereby enabling a peer-learning environment.

Many participants showed great enthusiasm in learning new things. All participants selected one topic (from the subject they teach) on which they were expected to access and create resources. All the participants created their own PDL (resource folder) on their chosen topic. On the last day of the workshops some participants presented their resources created during the workshop.
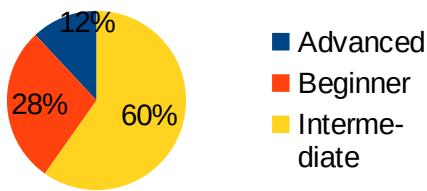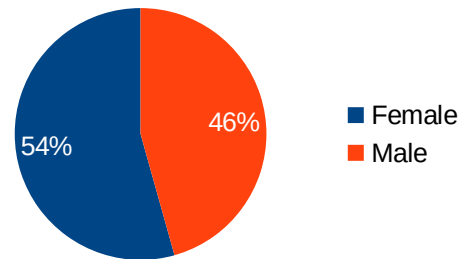

Figure 1: SSCE Faculty at the Capacity Building Workshop, March 2022

Participant Profile

The following are the details of the people who registered for these workshops.

Total no. of registrations : 85

- No. of male registrations : 39
- No. of female registrations : 46

The participants had different levels of computer proficiency and were from multiple districts in Karnataka. This added to the heterogeneity of the groups.

Workshop outcomes

The following were the outcomes from the workshops:

1. Participants became familiar with accessing and downloading OER.

2. Participants understood the role of OER and FOSS in teaching-learning and material making.

3. Participants created OER resources using different FOSS tools.

   ◆ Concept mapping – Freeplane

   ◆ Slide presentation – LibreOffice Impress

   ◆ Videos – Vokoscreen

4. Participants became familiar with BigBlueButton webinar platform to conduct online courses.

Participants selected a topic from their subject area, to create OER using the tools taught in the workshops. During the workshop, participants accessed and downloaded OER from the web, and created concept maps and slide presentations on their topic.

Here are some pictures from these workshops…

Figure 2: CRPs and BRPs in the Workshop

Figure 3: Faculty workshop at SSCE

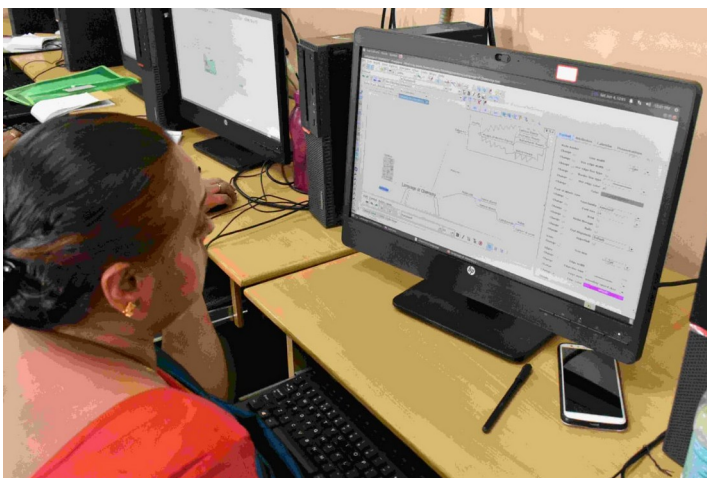*Figure 4: Teacher Educators busy with practice*
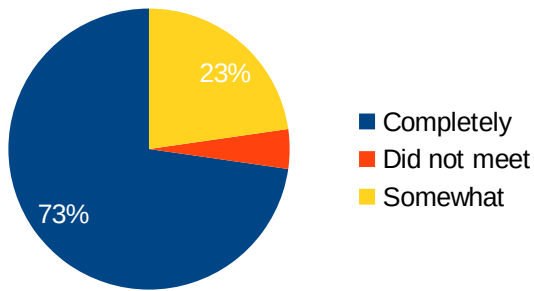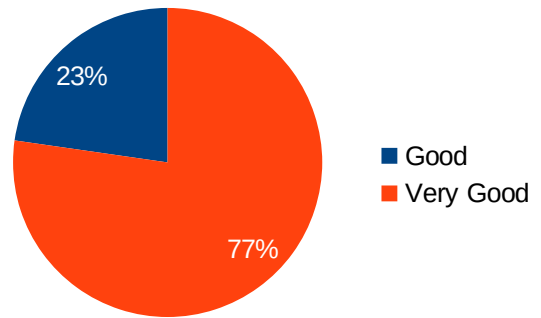

ígure 5: Session in progress

Figure 6: Teacher Educator creating a Concept Map
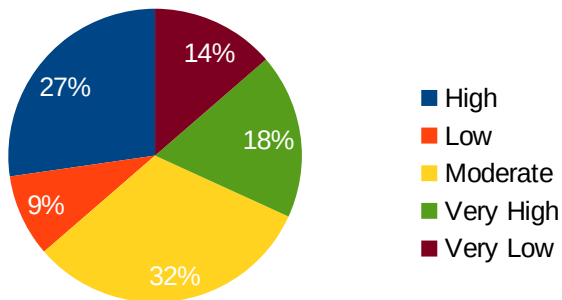
5. Participants feedback

The feedback collected from participants is provided below in graphical format.
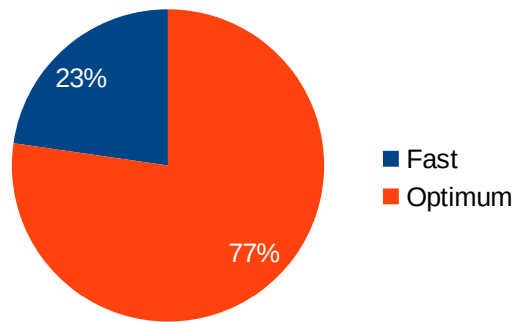

Did the workshop meet your expectations?

Your overall opinion about the workshop

Level of difficulty

Pace of the workshop

Most of the participants appreciated the workshop and said they learned new things which they can incorporate into their teaching-learning.

Select participant's feedback is provided below:

✔ Learning from this workshop is very useful to our educational programs in the level of schools, colleges and higher education. Very interesting and useful to improve and enhance our knowledge. Learning process was very interesting and useful. I liked each and every moment of the workshop which was effective in encouraging positive thinking.

VIJAYA. A (Associate Professor, Shusruthi College of Education)

✔ Learning was very effective and I enjoyed the program. Hands on experience was very good . I learnt how i should teach my students. All the concepts I learnt in this workshop were new to me. It was a great experience.

RajaReddy V (Assistant Professor, Gold Field College of Education)

✔ I got an opportunity to learn which was not at all known to me. FOSS like Ubuntu. Mint. It was very fun to create files using Free Plane.

Mrs Keerthi Dsouza (MEC, Bengaluru)

✔ Very meaningful. Helpful to collecting the resources regarding the teaching. We are all technically updated. Very effective.

Veerabhadraswamy (Assistant Professor, Shusruthi College of Education)

✔ Apps other than windows. Other information about different apps. Teaching resources. Hospitality, resourceful persons, patience of the speakers, interactiveness.

Padmaja B (MES, Bengaluru)

✔ I learnt to download vedios for teaching, use of big blue button software, adding link to our doc and was introduced free software ubuntu. Learning outcomes were good and training is very much useful.

Rizwana Banu (CRP, Gangodanahalli Cluster, Bengaluru)

✔ Effective use of technology, Mobile features, Conducting Virtual meetings, Good demonstration, Good follow-up activity, Good resource persons

Divyashree R (CRP, Hosahalli, Bengaluru)

IT for Change insights

The workshops were more effective because they were conducted offline. Also, every participant got to practice on the system which was appreciated by all. The feedback has been very positive and it encourages us to conduct more such workshops.

The heterogeneity was high among the participants, with some participants complete novices to ICT and some quite savvy in use of ICT. The ITfC team managed this heterogeneity by providing greater one-on-one support to the novices. However, this impacted the overall flow of the workshop at times. Also, some prior preparation by the participants would have helped them learn even more effectively. Due to the paucity of time, the participants could not practice hands-on as much as they would have liked. Some participants also called it out in their feedback and suggested that the workshop could be of longer duration – maybe 3 or 4 days. (however, the workshop was kept at 2 days, as it was felt that longer duration would reduce enrolment and it would be preferable to have several programs – basic, advanced etc for a cohort over a period of time.

Overall, it was a good experience for all involved. The participants really liked the sessions and keenly learnt the topics covered and created some rich OER content.

Way forward

It was felt by many of the participants that the workshop could be of longer duration and should cover subject specific applications also. We could definitely consider conducting detailed workshop with focus on subject teaching (language, mathematics).