



Capacity building on “Use of technology and OER for e-content development” for ODL professionals of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU)



Report
IT for Change
Bengaluru



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Background

IT for Change (ITfC) and Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi collaborated to design and conduct a five-day workshop on “**Use of technology and OER for e-content development**” for ODL professionals of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru. The workshop was organized by KSOU in their computer lab from March 22 to 26, 2021.

Workshop objectives

The following were the main objectives of the workshop:

1. Exploring OER repositories to access resources and understanding the role of OER in teaching-learning
2. Accessing and creating Open Educational Resources (OER) by using Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) applications
3. Introducing participants to different tools for self-learning, collaborative learning and resource creation
4. Introducing participants to FOSS webinar platform and Learning Management System (LMS) to conduct online courses

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 workshop covered different FOSS tools to access and create OER for their teaching-learning process.

A [workshop page](#) was created on the Karnataka Open Educational Resources (KOER) portal and the workshop agenda, session resources including additional reading materials were shared on this page, for participants to access. This workshop page, constituting the training manual, was shared with the KSOU faculty before the workshop to enable them to read and come prepared. A

WhatsApp group was created before the workshop for faculty to interact with the participants. Participants selected a topic from their subject area, to create OER using the tools taught in the workshop. During the workshop, participants accessed and downloaded OER from the web, and created concept maps, slide presentations, text documents, videos and interactive web-content on their topic.

Participants volunteered to present their resource library on the last day, so that all could get an idea of the possibilities of accessing and creating OER using FOSS tools.

Workshop content

The workshop agenda was as follows:

Day	Topic	Session details
Day 1	Introduction to ICT in Education Creating with ICT – Concept mapping	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is concept mapping? 2. Creating concept map using FOSS tool “Freeplane” 3. Creating a PDL on the selected topic 4. Importance of FOSS and OER.
Day 2	Connecting with the World Creating with ICT – Text resources (slide presentation)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding and accessing OER 2. Downloading OER resources – Text, Image, Video and Audio 3. Create presentation on the selected topic using FOSS tool “LibreOffice Impress”.
Day 3	Creating with ICT — Creation of graphic (Image and Video) resources Creating with ICT — Interactive content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create and edit images, on selected topic, with Image editing tool — “Tux Paint” 2. Create Interactive content using “H5P” FOSS online platform 3. Create video on the selected topic, using “Vokoscreen” FOSS screen-casting tool.
Day 4	Creating with ICT — Text documents Uploading PDL on Google Drive, and Google photos Interact with world through mobile applications Webinar platform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a master text document on the selected topic 2. Using Google applications to upload and share resources on the web 3. Use mobile features to interact with world, upload and create resources 4. Use “BigBlueButton” FOSS webinar platform to interact in virtual classroom.
Day 5	Connecting with the World – Use LMS platform PDL presentation Way Forward	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating an online workshop using “Moodle” FOSS Learning Management System) 2. Participant presentation of PDL (select participants) 3. Participant feedback on the workshop and their plans for taking the learning forward.

Workshop process

Around 55 faculty members attended the workshop. The cohort was heterogeneous, with varying age and subject specialization. Participants included experienced and novice members in technology. Though some faculty members initially struggled to use the computer, towards the end of the workshop, they were quite comfortable in browsing for OER from the web and in

creating resources. Each session was interactive, giving participants enough opportunities to understand and to practise OER creation.

Since the lab was well-equipped with computers and with good internet connectivity, participants were able to practise on individual systems. Participants were seated according to their disciplinary areas (Humanities, Languages, Mathematics and Science, Computer Science), to encourage peer feedback and collaborative learning during the sessions. Expert and novice participants were encouraged to sit next to one another for peer support. Participants from the computer department helped other participants in their resource creation activities.

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 workshop some participants presented their resources created during the workshop.

Workshop outcomes

The following were the outcomes from the workshop:

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.
 1. Concept mapping - Freeplane
 2. Slide presentation - LibreOffice Impress
 3. Text document - LibreOffice Writer
 4. Images - Tux Paint
 5. Interactive web content - H5P
 6. Videos - Vokoscreen
4. Participants became familiar with Moodle FOSS Learning Management System and BigBlueButton webinar platform to conduct online courses.
5. Participants learnt to store and share their created OER using Google drive
6. Participants learnt advanced use of basic mobile phone applications to support peer interactions and accessing resources.
7. Participants worked with Tux Typing and Tux Paint for keyboard and mouse familiarity.

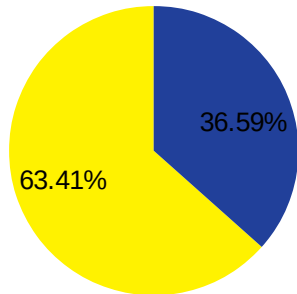
[Click here to see high resolution photos from the workshop](#)

Participants feedback

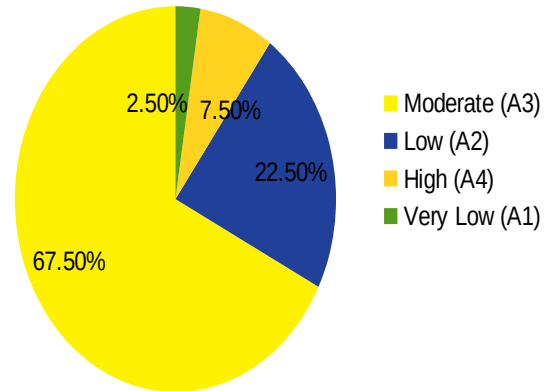
Feedback collected from participants is provided below in graphical format

Overall opinion about the workshop

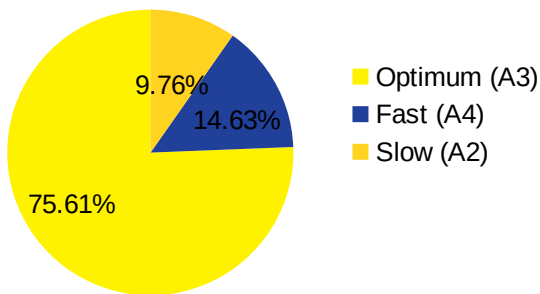
Very Good (A1) Good (A2)



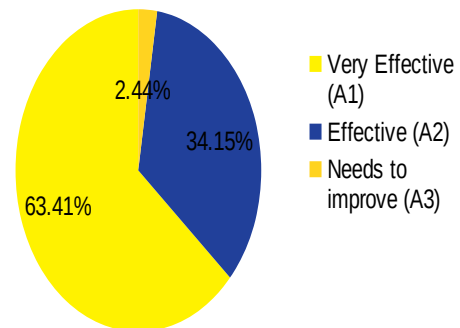
How would you grade level of difficulty of the workshop



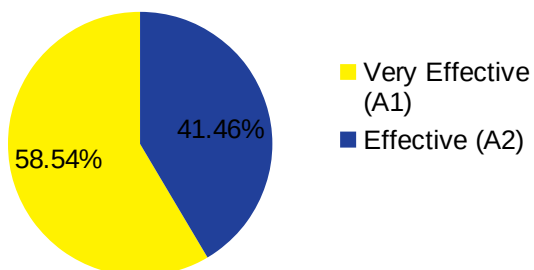
Pace of the workshop



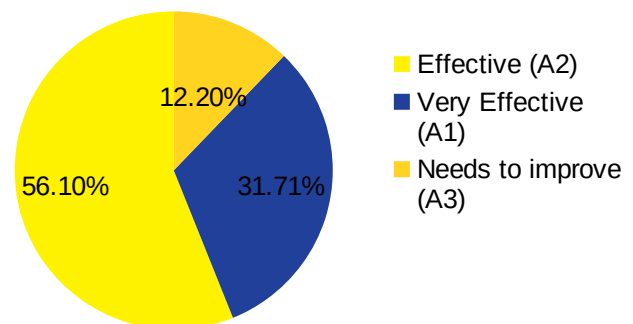
Effectiveness of faculty (responsiveness to participants)



Creating with ICT – Concept mapping



Learning about LMS platform



Select participant's feedback is provided below:

- ✓ Using Ubuntu software we were able to learn more applications which is very friendly for using. We could learn how to access open resources, and were able to know the difference between licensed and non-licensed and know more applications in Google. - **Dr Pavithra M (Department of Studies in Mathematics)**
- ✓ Hands-on session on each topic helped participants to get practical exposure to specific software discussed in the session. All the trainers were so friendly, they attended and resolved each participant's query - **Dr Nandini H M (Department of Information Technology)**
- ✓ Getting introduced to Ubuntu and other excellent software was a great experience. Surely all these will be of great use in my profession - **Dr Hemalatha R (Department of Journalism and Mass Communication)**
- ✓ Experience is good, but we need to learn more applications of the use of technology - **Dr Ramya S (Department of Studies and Research in Sociology)**
- ✓ Should have classified the groups into slow learners and fast learners. Should have given more importance to beginners (with respect to computer operations) - **Dr Janaki M (Department of Studies and Research in Education)**
- ✓ A heterogeneous group with varied knowledge levels is not suitable for a workshop. Preparation of participants before workshop is necessary - **Dr B PanduRanga Narasimharao**



- ✓ This workshop made us to utilise maximum benefits of online sources in a legal way. Learnt many new educational applications to make our teaching effective. Overall, effective and enlightening sessions which made us to learn and enjoy to the core – **Dr Madhura A.S. (Department of English)**
- ✓ More inputs and hands-on experiences are required for the beginners like me. Something concrete which can be used by KSOU can be produced by each participant. IT for Change whole team was highly helpful and effective in training – **Dr Shailaja P. Shanbhag (Department of Studies and Research in Education)**
- ✓ It was fabulous and had very effective classes and learned things which are new for me with all excitement and curiosity – **Dr Mani P. (Department of Kannada)**

IT for Change insights

The participant count was very high. An ICT workshop has a significant component of hands-on practice which requires high level of attention to be paid to individual participants. A number of 30 is ideal for enabling good participation. The total number of participants was 77, and around 55 participated on an average, this put enormous strain on keeping the workshop participatory and interactive. It was a challenging experience for ITfC team. In future participant count could be restricted to around 30 to allow for maximum benefit to participants.



The heterogeneity of participants was high, with some participants complete novices to ICT and some quite savvy in use of ICT. The ITfC faculty managed this heterogeneity by providing greater

one-on-one support to the novices and also encouraged the experts to support their colleagues. In his inaugural address, the Vice Chancellor stressed that participants should be capable of launching their own courses as online courses in the future. Developing courses and creating OER for supporting specific courses would be a relevant way forward for KSOU, to integrate digital technologies to support its objectives.