

### CLOSING REMARKS

## GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT WAY FORWARD

By

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## GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY IN OPEN UNIVERSITIES: A STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

Organised by

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia  
(CEMCA) in collaboration with Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University (MPBOU),

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*Dr. B. Shadrach delivering the closing remarks at the workshop valedictory session.*

As we draw this workshop on the launch of graduate employability framework in India to a close, let me emphasise that this has been the first but the foundational meeting for Graduate Employability for State Open Universities in India. I am taking this opportunity to thank you for your valuable participation in the meeting, and many thanks to the Vice Chancellors for nominating the best representative from their respective universities to set the stage for this truly impactful initiative. This foundational meeting calls for continuity and commitment to ensure that the building blocks of this project are firmly placed; so, remain committed to the project for three years.

### **The four phases of Graduate Employability framework**

1. **Assessment and Sensitization:** This entails understanding the current landscape and preparing stakeholders.
2. **Planning:** Designing strategies tailored to regional and institutional needs.
3. **Implementation:** Executing well-structured interventions to foster employability.
4. **Evaluation, reflection and planning:** This entails assessing outcomes, learning from experiences, and preparing for future improvements, and course corrections.

### **The model involves five stages of interventions over a span of three years**

**Stage 1:** Sensitisation and career awareness (year 1)

**Stage 2:** Career counselling, intensified career awareness, career fostering (year 2)

**Stage 3:** Evaluation drills (year 3)

**Stage 4 and 5:** Career support pre/post-graduation (year 3)

### **Encouraging feedback and evolution of the model**

We understand that any model, especially one of this scale, must be adaptable to local needs. Hence, we are open to evolving the model for India, and your critical insights and constructive feedback is key to the evolution process. We encourage you to:

- Identify any activities that may be missing in the current model
- Highlight any activities that may be challenging or impractical to implement in your context.

### **Next steps and project timeline**

1. **Status review:** A comprehensive report will be shared with you shortly
2. **Employment readiness scorecard:** Please complete the survey to help us assess the baseline employability landscape.
3. **Stakeholders' buy-in:** Please ensure that the partnership agreements are signed and returned to CEMCA
4. **Stakeholder consultative workshop:** As we conclude this workshop, we mark a significant step toward collaborative and participatory planning
5. **Capacity Building Workshop:** This will be the next immediate step for developing the Graduate Employability Framework

### **By 2025, the Capacity Building efforts across 16 state open universities should lead to:**

1. Identification of emerging skills relevant to the unique demands in your respective state
2. Development of courses that embed employability skills within the existing curricula, and offer skill enhancement opportunities
3. Systematic course review and refinement
4. Regular review of the score card to track progress



Once again, thank you for your active participation, thoughtful insights, and commitment to this project. Together, we have laid the foundation for a transformative journey that will empower graduates, align their skills with industry needs, and ultimately contribute to the socio-economic development of our nation.

Let us remain steadfast in our collaborative efforts, and I look forward to seeing the collective impact that we can achieve.

### Sharing courses as OER

<b>East India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Guwahati, Assam</li> <li>• Nalanda Open University, Nalanda, Bihar</li> <li>• Jharkhand State Open University, Ranchi, Jharkhand</li> <li>• Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata, West Bengal</li> </ul>
<b>Central India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M. P. Bhoj Open University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh</li> <li>• Pandit Sundarlal Sharma Open University, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh</li> <li>• Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat</li> <li>• Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik, Maharashtra</li> </ul>
<b>South India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sreenarayanaguru Open University, Kollam, Kerala</li> <li>• Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru, Karnataka</li> <li>• Tamil Nadu Open University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu</li> <li>• Dr B. R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, Telangana</li> </ul>
<b>North India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala, Punjab</li> <li>• Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, Kota, Rajasthan</li> <li>• Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani, Uttarakhand</li> <li>• U. P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh</li> </ul>