



CEMCA

FDP-MOOC
on
Development of Online Course for Swayam
(Second and Third Cycle)

Duration: Two weeks

Organized by

Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)
in collaboration with
Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)



Report Prepared by

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A Comprehensive Report on Offering of FDP MOOC for Cycle 2 and 3

About Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)

Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) is the premier State Open University in India and only Open University in West Bengal established in the year 1997 [W.B. Act (XIX) 1997] and recognised by UGC-DEB and RCI (www.wbnsou.ac.in). At present NSOU is offering Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. programmes and also a good number of vocational courses. NSOU is the first Open University in India to apply for NAAC A & A process and the first State Open University in India to be accredited by NAAC with Grade- 'A' in its first cycle. NSOU operates through three Regional Centres (Kalyani, Durgapur, Jalpaiguri) and 162 Learner Support Centres across the state of West Bengal.

About Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) serves as the regional educational media centre of Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver (<https://www.col.org/>) for Commonwealth Asia, established at New Delhi in 1994. CEMCA promotes the meaningful, relevant, and appropriate use of media and technology to serve the educational and training needs leading to Sustainable Development through learning in Commonwealth member states of Asia. The Govt. of India by a Gazetted Notification, dated 10th February 2000, notified CEMCA as a diplomatic mission under provisions of the United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947.

FDP-MOOC: Background

There is no question that when it comes to the process of democratizing educational opportunities, the internet has delivered in spades, often through massive open on-line courses (MOOCs) offered by universities, organizations and individual instructors. These courses can offer work-at-your-own-pace flexibility, efficient information delivery, and broad reach to anyone with an internet connection. From the mysteries of quantum foam to making art in cappuccino foam, lectures, lessons, and indeed entire courses on virtually everything can be found online, often at low or minimal cost. It is a good thing, too, because we need educational opportunities as rapidly advancing technology across virtually all industries necessitates a constant refreshing of existing skills and the acquisition of new ones.

However, while the need and desire to leverage technology such as A.I. and Machine Learning is particularly acute in the academic industry too, most institutions see a large skills gap in terms of where they want to go with these technologies and what their workforce is ready to deliver.

Need of the Programme:

The Covid-19 Pandemic hit unprecedented crises has led Education sector to go for a push in its acquisition and process of knowledge and its application. At this juncture the MOOC is considered on the one hand as a panacea for education and on the other as a defilement of the

sanctity of the higher education tradition. The truth will probably lie somewhere in between, and we must explore the potential of MOOCs to create a model of simultaneously teaching on-site and off-site learners, using synchronous and asynchronous teacher learner interactions to deliver high quality learning to large numbers, maybe evolve a model for a classroom of thousands of learners.

Universities and Colleges are encouraged to make use of SWAYAM Online platform for learning. University Grant Commission, Govt. of India is also encouraging the faculty members to submit their expression of Interest for developing Under Graduate and Post Graduate courses for SWAYAM platform. For faculties of Universities and Colleges to develop Online Courses, they require training so that they can design and develop Quality Online courses based on the SWAYAM Guidelines. Hence, there is a necessary for development of an online training course on SWAYAM, which will be able to motivate and guide step by step procedure for development of courses for SWAYAM. This MOOC will build the capacities of the faculty members to develop and deliver Courses not only on SWAYAM platform but also through institutional LMS.

Overall objectives

- ✚ The technology and pedagogy supporting MOOCs
- ✚ New skill sets needed for effective participation in MOOCs
- ✚ Adoption of e-Resources for innovative Teaching & Learning practices
- ✚ Online Course Instructional Design & Best Practices
- ✚ Introduction to Creative Commons Licenses
- ✚ Open Educational Resources (OER) and MOOC
- ✚ Learning & Teaching an Online course using MOOC/Moodle/Institutional LMS

Objectives of the Programme

This FDP MOOC is for Teachers/Researchers of Higher Education and researchers with the aim that they will learn the SWAYAM framework for designing Online Courses for SWAYAM with the following objectives:

- ✚ Preparing proposals for Swayam
- ✚ Understanding OER
- ✚ Understanding 4 quadrant approach
- ✚ Developing modules for MOOCs

Course Developers

Prof. Anirban Ghosh, NSOU

Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, CEMCA

Dr. G. Mythili, IGNOU

Late Dr. Nisha Singh, IGNOU

Dr. Jeetendra Pande, UOU

Course Coordinators

Prof. Anirban Ghosh, NSOU
Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, CEMCA

Course Instructors and Facilitators

Prof. Anirban Ghosh, NSOU
Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, CEMCA
Dr. G. Mythili, IGNOU
Dr. Jeetendra Pande, UOU
Dr. Ashish Awadhya, IGNOU
Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, NSOU

Launching of the FDP MOOC-Excerpts

Netaji Subhas Open University and Commonwealth Educational Centre for Asia jointly launched this 2-week online course as “Faculty development programme for teachers of HEIs” on 19th May 2021 with the august presence of Professor Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, New Delhi; Dr. B K Bhadri, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India; Professor Om Prakash Singh Negi, Vice-Chancellor, Uttarakhand Open University; Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor, NSOU, Kolkata; Professor Madhu Parhar, Director, CEMCA, New Delhi; Esteemed Course developers: Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, CEMCA; Professor Anirban Ghosh, NSOU. Dr. G Mythili, IGNOU and Dr. Jeetendra Pande, UOU and all the enrolled participants were also present during the launch programme. Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor, NSOU, Kolkata extended his gratitude to CEMCA for giving opportunity to host this MOOC. Around 392 people from various higher education institutions participated in this online launching ceremony through ZOOM and YouTube. 219 faculties registered their name on the LMS to pursue this online FDP.

Rationale for subsequent cycles:

FDP MOOC as a joint venture of NSOU and CEMCA felt the need of offering subsequent cycles owing to-

- ✚ Relevant feedback from participants ushered willingness due to their need of professional development in the realm of digital education in the higher education sector.
- ✚ NEP 2020 envisions a paradigm shift in Higher Education Institution (HEIs) on a scaffold of online education. As a result of which, in order to cater to a voluminous and diverse learner base our HEI has to switch and handhold for Swayam platform for teaching-learning-evaluation milieu. For this to materialise, HEI Teachers have to be adept with necessary knowledge, skills and competencies to develop courses for Swayam. This evokes an emergent need to train the teachers to meet the target and quality of online education to a robust learning community.

Details of Second and Third Cycle of FDP MOOC

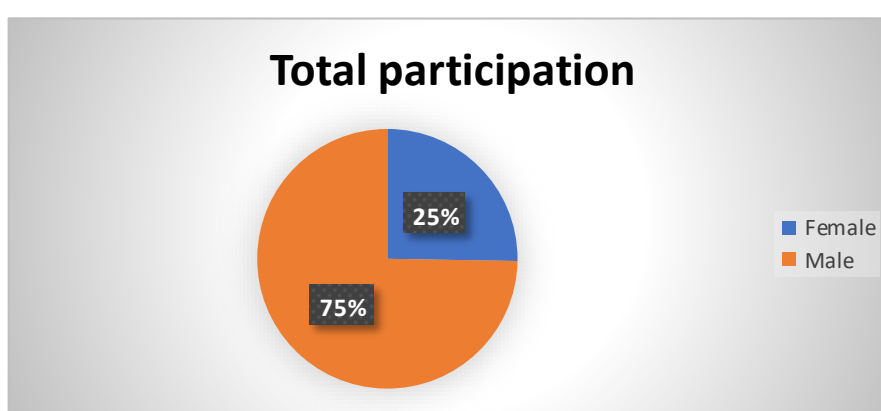
After the successful completion of its first cycle with a whooping participation, there was a demand noticed and a need felt among the aspirants for enrolling in the NSOU-CEMCA FDP MOOC on 'Development of Online Course for Swayam'. The registration details are-

- ✚ As a drive to nurture this essentiality, the registration for the **second cycle** of the MOOC was made open on from 19th July 2021 to 20th August 2021.
- ✚ Consequent to repeated demand among the stakeholders, the **third cycle** of the MOOC was floated on and from 20th October to 10th November 2021.

Participants:

2nd Cycle: Total candidate registered: 395; Male- 313 /Female-82

3rd Cycle: Total Candidate registered: 242: Male-163/Female-79



Nature of the participants: Not only faculties from various Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), but also teachers from different schools and Research Scholars from different HEIs enrolled for this MOOC.

Course Modalities:

The course was designed, developed, and delivered following four quadrant approach adopted in SWAYAM on Netaji Subhas Open University Learning Management System (LMS). Total five topics were distributed in the programme of two weeks followed by final assessment. Each topic contained video-tutorials with transcriptions, e-contents, and quizzes. Several additional web resources provided for the learners for enrichment. Technical and academic support has been provided through 24×7 phone call and addressed through two different emails. The participants had to post at least five relevant posts on the discussion forum as a requisite to complete the course.

Duration of the Course (Two-Week):

2nd Cycle: 16th August to 31st August 2021

3rd Cycle: 16th November 2021 to 1st December 2021

Proceedings of the Online Course for Second and Third Cycles:

The two-week course was coordinated by Dr. Manas R. Panigrahi, CEMCA and Professor Anirban Ghosh, NSOU. The study hours required for this course was four hours per week. The participants interacted through Discussion Forum on various relevant topics on asynchronous mode.

Live Sessions:

The Live sessions were convened through Zoom for synchronous interaction among participants and facilitators of this MOOC. One introductory live session on the day of the commencement of the course and two live sessions, on each weekend of the two weeks. All the course developers, facilitators/mentors played an augmentative role in the live interaction to clarify all relevant points of attention on academic and extra-curricular bearings of the course with the participants as well as questions, queries and doubts. During these sessions, all interactions and discussion were made through synchronous mode on Zoom.

The details of the live sessions for both the cycles are as follows:

Second Cycle:

- ✚ One Introductory Live session, 16th Aug 2021
- ✚ Two Live sessions on the two-weekend evening on 22nd and 29th August 2021 respectively

Third Cycle:

- ✚ Introductory session on 16th November 2021 at 7 PM was hosted to welcome the participants on the virtual platform and give an overview of the Course and its navigation details.
- ✚ Two live sessions at the weekends (21st and 28th November 2021 at 7 pm)

Access to the contents:

The participants were provided with login ID and password to access the LMS and navigate through the course materials arranged in Week-wise in modules. Each topic of the Module under each week contained video-tutorials with transcriptions, e-contents, and quizzes. Several additional web resources were also provided for the further enrichment and quest of knowledge.

Discussion Forum:



The poster is for an FDP on MOOCs, admission announcement for the 3rd cycle. It features logos for Netaji Subhas Open University, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, and CEMCA. The main title is 'FDP on MOOCs' with 'Admission announcement (3rd Cycle)' below it. The course is titled 'Development of online course for SWAYAM'. The objectives listed are: Preparing proposal for SWAYAM, Understanding OER, Understanding 4 quadrant approach, and Developing modules for MOOCs. The duration is 2 weeks. The target group is Teachers & Researchers. The admission starts on 20th October 2021 and ends on 10th November 2021. The course starts on 16th November 2021. Course coordinators are Dr. Anirban Ghosh (Professor & Director, CEMCA, Netaji Subhas Open University) and Dr. Manas R. Panigrahi (Sr. Programme Officer (Education), Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia). A yellow banner at the bottom says 'Please log on for details http://www.wbnsou.ac.in/'.

The opportunity to open up with academic transactions, discussion forum served the stakeholders with ample interaction and exchange of thoughts and ideas. There was a more or less good interaction in the discussion forum throughout the two weeks. The interaction comprised of questions, doubts, queries, etc. In reciprocation to these, Instructors and facilitators replied all the queries and relevant topics raised in discussion forum in asynchronous mode. Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, CEMCA, Dr. Jeetendra Pande, UoU, Prof. Anirban Ghosh, NSOU, Prof. G.Mythili, IGNOU and Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, NSOU expended their roles as mentors throughout the programme by guiding and responding all queries/questions and clarifying the doubts posted in discussion forum on a daily basis throughout the

duration of the course.

Evaluation:

There were quizzes after each topic. The criteria of the quizzes were:

- ✚ The Test was of 10 marks and all questions were compulsory.
- ✚ Pass marks of the Quiz was 60%
- ✚ Participants were advised to review their answers before clicking 'Finish Attempt' because after that there was no provision to edit or change answers.
- ✚ During the test, one can flag questions which appear not very sure of and may answer them later before finishing attempt.
- ✚ There were unlimited attempts for the Quiz Assessment.

At the end of the course, participants submitted their final assignment and feedback form. These were mandatory for receiving the course completion certificate.

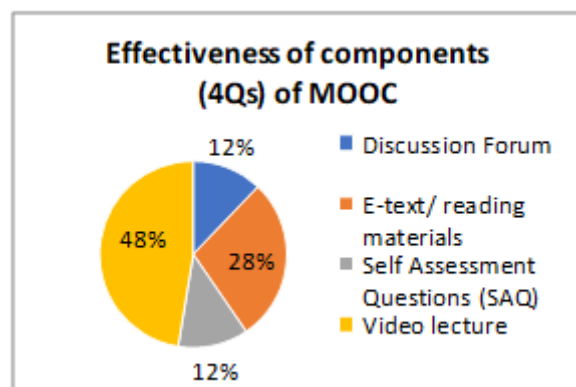
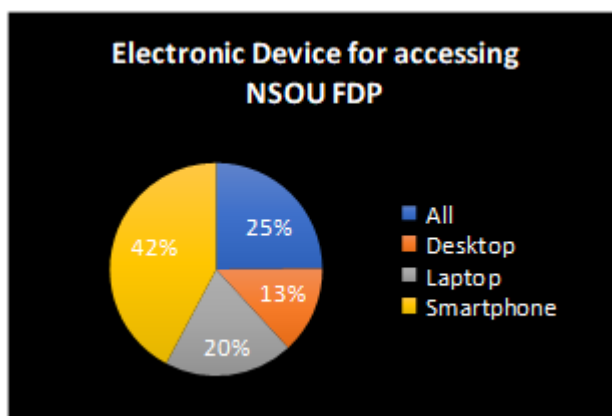
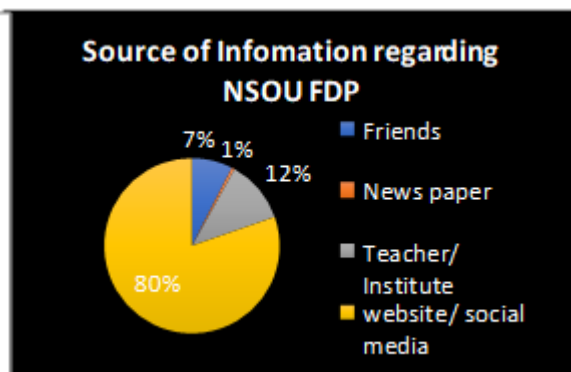
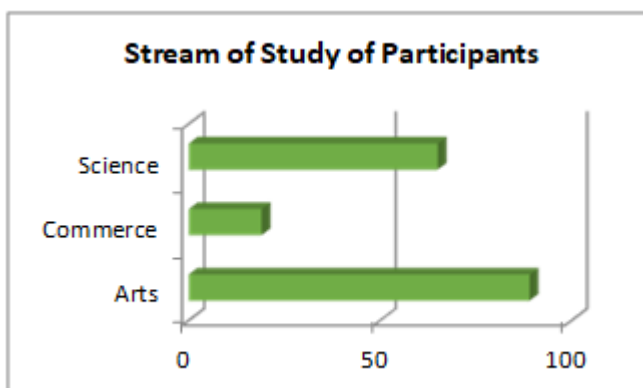
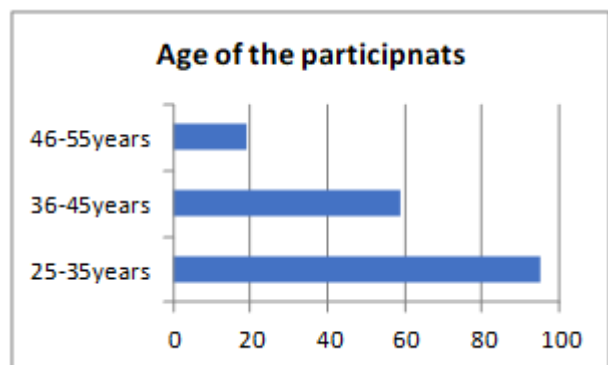
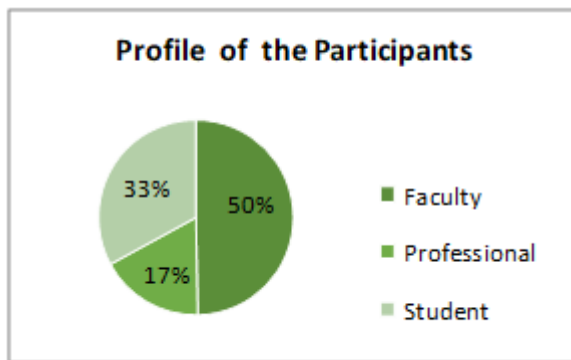
Completion and Certification:

The Completion certificates were issued to all successful participants who scored above 60% in the assessments and participated in at least five discussion forum posts. As the criteria were fulfilled completion certificates were awarded to the participants. The course witnessed a commendable participation from the enrolled participants. The Two-Week FDP MOOC also ensured that access to e-contents and adopting synchronous and asynchronous mode of course plotting resulted in effective learning experiences among participants.

Feedback from the participants:

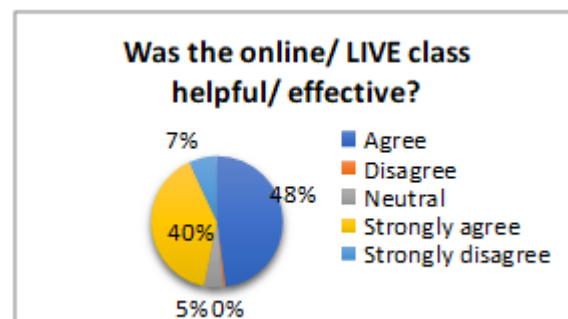
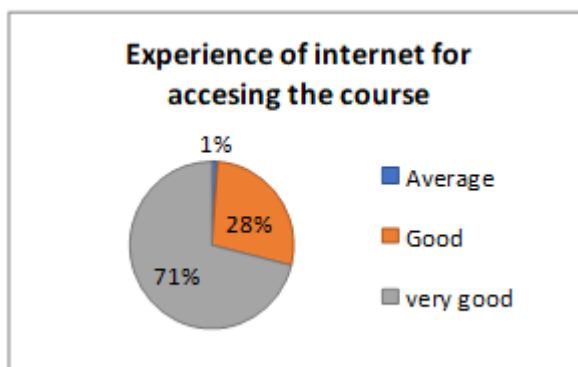
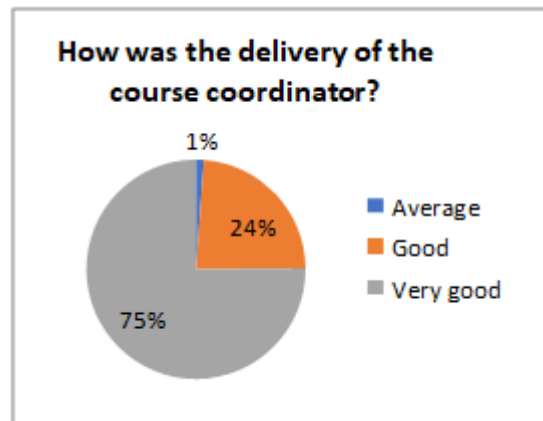
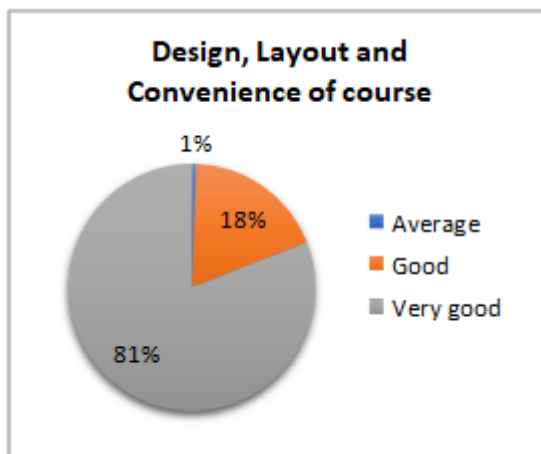
The participants' feedback on developing MOOCs or any online course is admirable. They purported that this course has a realistic picture of how to prepare, produce and launch a

MOOC after deciding what the MOOC is for why it is worth enrolling in. They also added that this MOOC really is using best practice based on sound knowledge and skill required for developing online Teaching-Learning-Evaluation experiences/environment. They would strongly recommend it to their fellow/colleague/acquaintances to pursue. Some of them complemented that this Course was very helpful for them to conduct Online classes for their students, especially in this restricted phase. They extended their acknowledgement to the Coordinators, Team of Instructors and facilitators who made this course wonderful and informative. The participants came out to consider it as a very well-designed course as the lectures are kept short and crisp that brings out a great essence of online teaching techniques. Overall, they put into record that it is worth learning this course as it was intensive and very professionally crafted. The quality was outstanding.

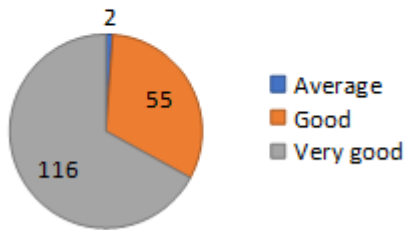


The participants also restored their views on how they got benefitted from this FDP MOOC. The following are the few excerpts:

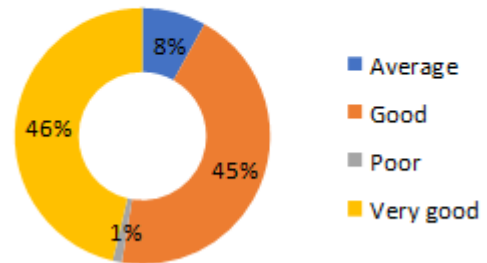
- ✚ It was a structured sensitization attempt and created awareness about the Digital Initiatives of GOI in Higher Education
- ✚ It also warranted steps of Instructional Design for MOOC Development & to understand the process of planning, designing and implementing online courses in line with SWAYAM-MOOC requirements
- ✚ It lent a hand towards E-Content Development (Script Writing/ Video Recording) with Generic Video Recording and Screen Capturing Tools to enable the participants to learn for implementation
- ✚ To a large extent, it satisfactorily helped them to use MOOC/ develop online courses as an adjunct to face-to-face teaching and to teach in a fully online or distance learning context and to get a feel for how their courses could be enhanced using web platform
- ✚ The inferred views exposed contentment towards creating better and active communication and collaboration with the students and to design and manage learning through Rubric assessment
- ✚ This online programme provided an opportunity for all participants to have a ready experience of exploring OER for Learning, teaching and Professional Development.



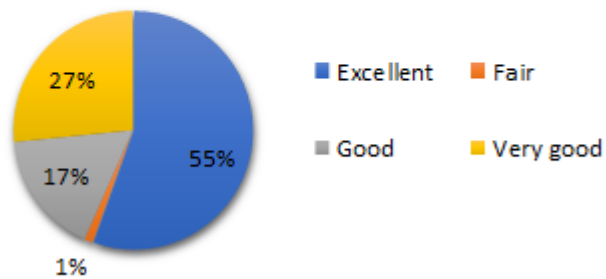
Were the elements provided in the course (video/ e-text, addl. resources etc.) enough for concept clarity?



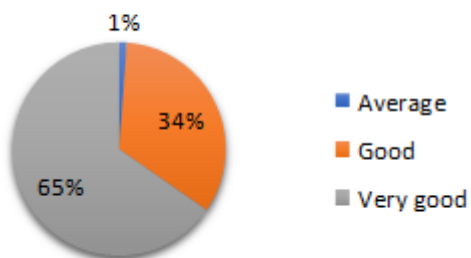
Rating of interactivity and participation in the discussion forum



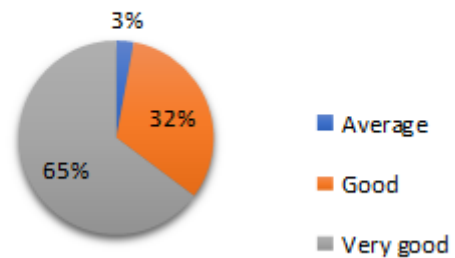
How active was course coordinator on Discussion Forum for resolving the doubts and queries?

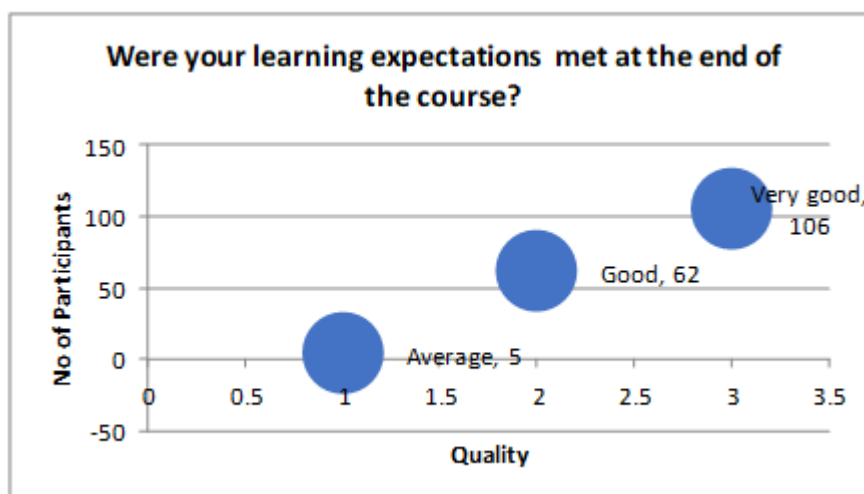


Rate your online learning experience



Rating for technical support and academic support experience





At the end it may be inferred that, the online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) has a positive impact on the participants as they are quite satisfied with the design, delivery and hand holding support of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on FDP.

Recommendations

As per NEP, the GER should be 50% by 2035 which can be achieved through extensive use of information and communication technology (ICT) in the education sector. Technology has transformed almost every aspect of our lives, and now it seems that education systems around the world would be ICT integrated. The educators are tapping into the digital revolution and adopting new technologies to reach their students more effectively without the restriction of time and pace. With the use of digital platform, the delivery of educational programme has witnessed a paradigm shift from traditional teaching-learning system to technology mediated learning or digital learning. As we move forward for online learning, NEP lays a special focus to develop digital infrastructure including strengthening the existing digital educational platform like SWAYAM, SWAYAMPABHA, DIKSHA, VYAS etc.

After successful completion of the three subsequent cycles of the FDP-MOOC, experiences from these three efficacious cycles, the Course Coordinators have drawn the following recommendations-

- ✚ This FDP has extended its scope to continuous professional development of teachers in various levels of education.
- ✚ This FDP has benefitted not only the faculties of HEIs who are aspired to develop MOOCs on SWAYAM platform, it also empowered the teachers, scholars from different HEIs and Schools to develop online courses and design instructions for their own institutional LMS or create any personalized instructional environment and/or any Teaching-Learning-Evaluation milieu.
- ✚ The researchers were also introduced to the scope of being content writer/developer and contribute to virtual learning environment.
- ✚ The programme helped a large number of faculties/Teachers/other academicians to gain an awareness in the ground level and enhance their capacity to design and develop innovative SWAYAM Courses and/or customized online courses in their own context and teaching-learning settings.