

THE NEWSLETTER

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CEMCA

COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

Editorial

COL-CEMCA, in the Strategic Plan 2021-2027, identified the needs and priorities of the Commonwealth countries. The plan is guided by the following strategic goals:

- Quality education and lifelong learning for all
- Skills development for sustainable livelihoods
- Gender equality and inclusion.

Based on these goals, CEMCA, in the next six years, will work in education and skills initiatives.

For the Education initiative, the target will be:

1. Adaptation of policies and practices to leverage ODL/online and OER in Higher Education and
2. Capacity building for better teaching and learning using ODL and OBL (Online and Blended Learning) Approach

Under the Skills initiative, the focus is on

1. Skill Development for Livelihood enhancement
2. Capacity Building program for vocational trainers
3. Listeners and/or viewers to learners

In the first quarter, i.e. July till September 2021, CEMCA managed to undertake several activities in both the initiatives. During these three months, there was Lockdown due to COVID-19 in Bangladesh, Malaysia and Sri Lanka; however, in India, few institutions were open.

CEMCA collaborated with UGC Bangladesh and conducted Capacity Building Programmes for 20 formal universities of Bangladesh on OER and “Online & Blended Learning in Higher Education”. It aimed to empower more than 1000 higher education

teachers to frame OER policy and implement Online and Blended Learning in higher education.

Prof. Dr Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman, UGC Bangladesh, said that “capacity building of higher education teachers is essential as there is a paradigm shift in the delivery of education. Challenge for UGC, Bangladesh is to adjust to the changes”. In another programme faculty members from Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, and Environmental Sciences of the University of Chittagong (Bangladesh) were trained on Virtual labs experiments.

CEMCA organised training on Virtual Reality (VR) content development using 360 degree VR Educator Platform for faculty members of HELP University, Malaysia, in August 2021.

Online workshops on “Electric Vehicle and Teaching Methodology” and “Air-conditioning and Refrigeration” for vocational trainers from Sri Lanka was organised by CEMCA in collaboration with the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission, Government of Sri Lanka and Wayamba Technical College, Sri Lanka.

In India, CEMCA collaborated with Ravenshaw University, Odisha and Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar, to build capacities of teacher educators on “Implementation of Blended Learning in Teacher Education”.

These are only a few activities. You will be able to read the details of other activities in this issue. Pandemic taught us the changes we must make in implementing the activities, and we adjusted in our planning.

We will examine our activities from time to time for continuous improvement. I look forward to your ideas so that we review our activities and change them in future.

Madhu Parhar
Director

EDUCATION

Capacity Building of Bangladesh Teachers

CEMCA has partnered with the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, to build the capacity of higher education institutions in teaching and learning with Open Educational Resources (OER).

During July – August 2021, two online workshops brought together 1,000 teachers from 20 private and public universities in Bangladesh.

The workshops were designed to raise participant awareness about different facets of OER - from searching to using to creating these resources. Many learners in Bangladesh have limited access to relevant, quality educational resources, and the new initiative aims to fill this void.



MOOC on Digital Forensics

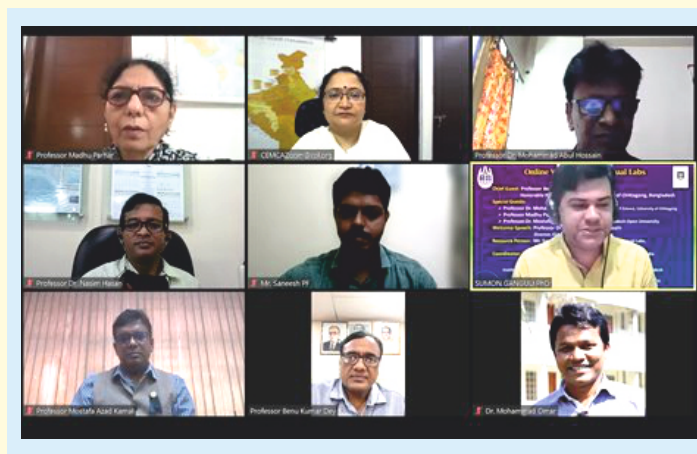
CEMCA and Uttarakhand Open University (UOU) offered first cycle of the four-week MOOC on Digital Forensics from 12 July to 09 August 2021.

In total, 3662 participants (2636 Male and 1026 Female) registered for this MOOC. Out of the total number, 90 participants were from 43 countries like UK, Singapore, Germany, France, Malaysia, USA, Italy, UAE, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Thailand, Bangladesh and others.

Course will be repeated for the benefit of larger number of teachers and professionals.

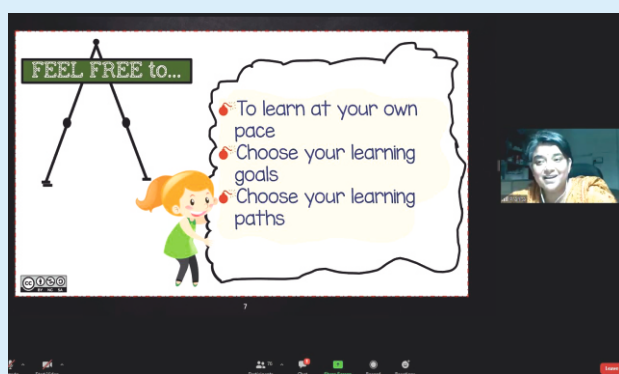
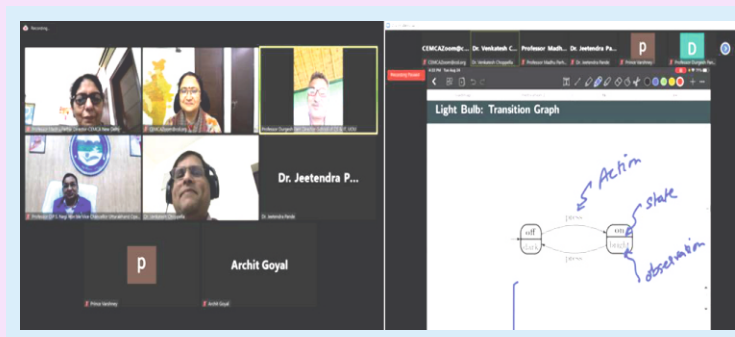
Virtual Labs workshop in Bangladesh

An online workshop on Virtual Labs was organised by CEMCA in collaboration with the University of Chittagong in Bangladesh. During the three-day workshop held from 23 to 25 August 2021, an overview of virtual labs was provided, Virtual lab experiments from Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, and Environmental Sciences were demonstrated. Ninety-nine faculty members from the Sciences, Biological Sciences, Marine Sciences, and other Applied Sciences departments of the University of Chittagong explored the experiments and participated in hands-on activities designed to enhance awareness on how to access, use, and integrate virtual labs in teaching and learning.



Algodynamics: Teaching and Learning Algorithms

An online workshop on “Algodynamics: Teaching and Learning Algorithms” through Interactive Virtual Experiments was organised by CEMCA in collaboration with the School of Computer Science & IT and Online Program Cell, Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani from 24 to 25 August 2021. Sixty-five faculty members, primarily from Computer Science and Information Technology participated in this workshop to raise awareness on how interactive virtual experiments can support teaching and learning of algorithms. Examples and interactive experiments were demonstrated during the workshop.



Integration of ICT tools in teaching learning

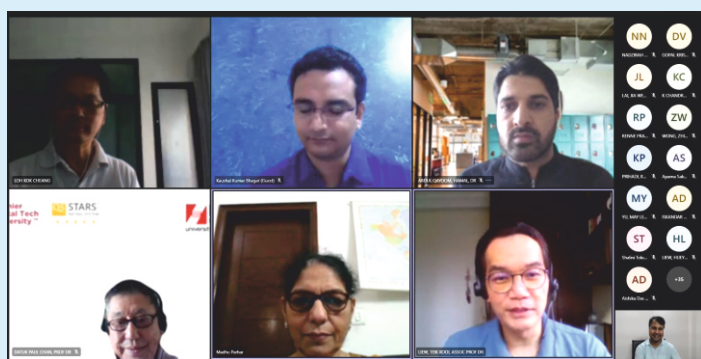
CEMCA in collaboration with Ravenshaw University, Odisha executed the project “Implementation of Blended Learning in Teacher Education”. The project activities were conducted in September 2021 and aims to empower teacher educators from Odisha to implement Blended Learning in teacher education institutions. The participants learnt the use of various google tools, creation of video contents using Screen Casto-o-Matic, use of Padlet, Flipgrid, Edpuzzles, launching own YouTube channel and so on. The participants included the faculty members from Universities, Teacher Education Colleges and DIETs of Odisha.

Adoption of Open Educational Resources in Legal Education

Capacity Building programme for the teachers of National Law University, Delhi was organised in August 2021 both in synchronous and asynchronous mode. Program was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor, NLU. In his opening remarks he stated that “NLU is known for innovations in the University and its Research work. OER in Legal Education can be adopted”. Prof. Shironica P. Karunanayaka from Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) was the facilitator for the training workshop. The workshop covered, background of OER, Creative Common Licence's, Searching and integrating OER, Quality Assurance of OER, etc. During the concluding session, faculty stated that, more practice is required to search OER content in legal education.



Content development using 360 degree Virtual Reality Educator Platform



CEMCA organized a 10 days online training on “Virtual Reality (VR) content development using 360-degree VR Educator Platform”. Around 50 faculty members of HELP University, Malaysia attended this programme from 20-29 August 2021. Expert for the workshop was Dr. Kaushal Kumar Bhagat from IIT Kharagpur. He explained the concept of 360° degree virtual reality and advantages of using 360 VR in the teaching and learning process. His team demonstrated different features of 360° degree VR Educator, and faculty members created the video content using this platform.

CEMCA joined hands with Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh



Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia and Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh signed MoU on 2 July, 2021. The collaboration between both the organisations is inspired by their common objectives i.e to accelerate Open Educational Resources (OER), promote MOOC access to education for marginalised youth of North-East States, professional development of higher education teachers and teacher educators, ICT integration in teaching-learning, and technology mediated education. The MoU was signed in the presence of Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice-Chancellor, RGU; and Heads of other Statutory Bodies, Director, CEMCA and other staff members.

Support to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University

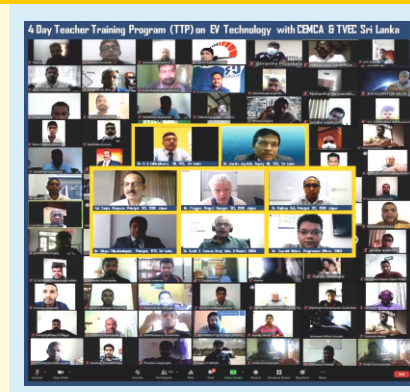
CEMCA is mentoring Dr. BRAOU Hyderabad for their NAAC assessment and accreditation. Two workshop have been conducted so far in which Vice Chancellor, Directors, Dean, Heads of Departments, other Academics, Head of regional centres have participated. The two workshops have covered five out of seven criteria laid by NAAC. The activity is mentored by Prof. V. Venkaiah former Vice Chancellor Krishana University, Andhra Pradesh.



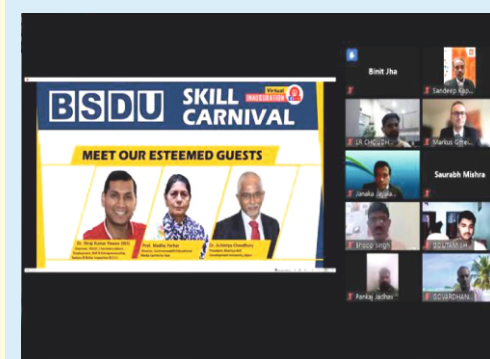
SKILLS

Online workshop for Vocational Trainers from Sri Lanka

CEMCA collaborated with Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC), Govt of Sri Lanka and Wayamba Technical College, Sri Lanka to organize two online workshops on Electric Vehicle (EV) and Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning (RAC) for vocational trainers from Sri Lanka in September 2021. 448 vocational trainers from various government and private technical colleges of Sri Lanka attended these workshops. CEMCA will continue the upskilling momentum in Sri Lanka with advanced EV technology workshop in the month of October 2021.



World Youth Skills Day 2021



World Youth Skills Day is celebrated every year on 15th July to highlight the opportunities and challenges that young people face in employment. CEMCA acknowledged essence of WYSD and supported Bhartiya Skill Development University, Jaipur in celebrating 4 weeks long Skill carnival 2021.

Under skill carnival a series of skill competitions, technical/skills workshops & talk shows were conducted. CEMCA facilitated and supported 5 technical/skill workshops namely: Design Thinking, 3D Printing & Modelling, creating a Pitch Deck Using the Business Model Canvas, Smart Manufacturing and How to Make a Video Resume. These workshops were conducted by experts from various domains. More than 1300 participants attended these workshops and 854 were certified.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Training & Certification program

Capital Goods is a unique sector with huge potential as it comprises of maximum MSME industries. Manpower employed in these industries are not formally qualified. To build capacities and upgrade skills of the employees serving in manufacturing and service-related Job Roles in Capital Goods sector, CEMCA supported Capital Goods Skill Council (CGSC) for conducting an orientation and upskilling and certification program for blue-collar employees. Training of employees were conducted in multiple batches in day and night shifts between 20 July to 30 July 2021 in premises of Jindal Steels Limited Gurugram and PR Components Ballabhgad, Haryana.



Under this project, total 252 participants from various job roles like Fitter Mechanical Assembly, Stainless Steel Fabricator, Polisher-Machine, Operator - Conventional Turning, CNC - Turning operator, Quality Inspector - Forged, casted or Machined Components, Conventional Surface Grinding Machines/CNC Operator Grinding Machine Centre were trained, and 250 participants cleared the final assessment exam and were certified.

Upskilling and Awareness of ASHA workers



Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers connect marginalized communities to the health care system and are the first line of defence in rural India. Since outbreak of pandemic, these workers have been tasked with the arduous work of combating the disease, from conducting COVID-19 tests, awareness program to checking patients in home isolation.

To upskill ASHA workers of Barabanki District in Uttar Pradesh, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia organised a training programme with help of an NGO; Anvarat Foundation. Under this program 800 ASHA workers; were trained in Community/Primary Health Centres at block level of Barabanki from 1st to 16th August 2021 in batches as per WHO guideline in consultation with Chief District Health Officer, Barabanki.

MOU with AARDO

To expand the horizon of outreach and effective utilization of educational media resources for Distance Education, CEMCA inked a formal collaborative agreement with African, Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO). This is an autonomous inter-governmental organization working for the benefit of rural communities, farmers, executives, functionaries and policy makers of 32-member country governments of Africa and Asia. This agreement will help both organizations to work collaboratively in field of skill development & livelihood, women empowerment, research and capacity building activities in Asian Commonwealth member countries.



Skill training in Andhra Pradesh

During COVID era, CEMCA supported GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF) in conducting 4 months long residential placement linked skill training in Telangana during April-September 2021 for 60 participants in their Nagaram district Skill centre, Andhra Pradesh. All youth participants belonged to marginalized community and were trained in batches in 3 job roles namely: Assistant Electricians, Home Health Aid and Solar Panel Installation Technician. Post training, 51 participants out of 60 were placed with decent salaries in different districts of Andhra Pradesh.



Skill training for women in Bhagalpur, Bihar



During COVID era, CEMCA trained hundred marginalized community females in sewing machine operator course. This training program was conducted for 90 days during January-September 2021 in a government affiliated skill training centre in Bhagalpur district of Bihar. Post completion of training program, 15 participants availed business loan from bank for setting up their production unit, 30 participants formed their self-help group (SHG) and started their business. Overall, 81 trainees started their tailoring and stitching business and earning their livelihood and supporting their families. Out of which 59 have registered their business on Udyam Registration portal.

Updates



It is a pleasure to welcome and sincerely congratulate **Professor Dr. Syed Humayun Akhter** for his appointment as Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University, Dhaka, Bangladesh in July, 2021. We look forward to collaborate with Bangladesh Open University.



Congratulations to **Dr. Ashok Ogra**, member CEMCA's Advisory Council for being conferred the **Life Time Award** for contribution to media industry and education. The award has been instituted by Global Media Education Council (GMEC) and its partners: Makhn Lal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism, Media & Entertainment Skill Council (FICCI) & International Association for Media & Communication Research.

SUCCESS STORIES

A testimonial from a trainee of Sewing Machine Course in Bhagalpur, Bihar

मेरा नाम शर्मिष्ठा परविन है। और मैंने अपना सिलाई का कोर्स
 समाप्त कर चुकी हूँ। कोर्स से पहले मैं एक साधारण सि
 लइकी खाँ और पर पर हि सारा समय देती थी। इधर से
 3 वर्ष काली थी। फिर मैंने विज्ञापन के जरूरे इस कोर्स
 के बारे में जाना कि हम महिलाओं के लिए इससे
 बेहतर कोर्स और काम हो सकता है। फिर मैं ट्रेनिंग
 सेंटर गईं। वहाँ पर मैंने अपना नामांकन कराया और फिर
 मैंने ट्रेनिंग सिलाई की ट्रेनिंग लेना शुरू कर दिया।
 मुझे ट्रेनिंग पाकर काफी खुशी हुई क्योंकि इस सिलाई
 कोर्स में मुझे बहुत कुछ सिखने को मिली। जिस कारण
 कि पहले से आगे बढ़े। आकर एक टूरर मौजूद हुई है।
 आज मुझे बहुत खुशी हो रही है। क्योंकि आज मैं अपने पेंट
 पर खड़ी हो पाई हूँ। खुद का डुकान खोल ली है।
 जिसमें महिलाओं को कपड़े सिलती हूँ और उससे खाँ
 आमदनी होती है। उससे मैं अपने घर का खर्च भी
 खर्च करती हूँ।

A testimonial from the trainees of Electrician course in Nagaram, Andhra Pradesh

I am Prashanth From Chamanpally Village in Karimnagar
 District Telangana State in India. I studied up to Intermediate
 and stopped my education because of family financial problems.
 Through my friend I received the information about
 GMR Vanalakshmi Foundation & CEMCA training centre and about
 Assistant Electrician course. I visited centre and took admission
 in Assistant Electrician course. After successful completion of the
 course I got a job in Devanaji Electrician works, Jitella, Jagananna
 Sircilla and earning Rs 10,000/- with food and accommodation per month.
 I am going to support my family financially every month. After getting
 some experience I wanted to start my own business in the same field.
 Thanks to GMRVF and CEMCA for providing excellent support to me
 for settle in my life.

Prashanth

(Signature)

Name: Alanka Prashanth

Address: Chamanpally VIII, Chamanpally mo: Karimnagar Dist: Telangana st:

cell No: 8897685016.

I am panja Ramya from Begampet village in Medak District
 of Telangana State in India. I studied up to Intermediate
 and stopped my education because of family financial
 problems. Through my friend I received information
 about GMR Vanalakshmi Foundation & CEMCA and about
 a home health aide course. I have seen the facility
 and took admission in home health aide 3-month
 course. After successful completion of the course
 I got a job in Indian Red Cross Society and earning
 Rs- 15000/- per month with food and accommodation
 I am going to support my family financially every
 month. Thanks to GMRVF and CEMCA for
 providing excellent opportunity for my life.

Signature :- Ramya

Name :- PANJA RAMYA

Address :- vi:- BEGAMPET m:- BHUOMPALLE B:- MEDAK

cell NO :- 9349491648



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 ICTs to serve the educational and training
 needs of Commonwealth Member States of
 Asia.

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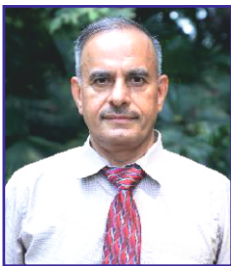
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CEMCA welcome **Mr. Sushil Kumar Tanwar**, as the new
 Head Administration and Finance who took up his
 appointment on 2nd August, 2021. He has vast experience in
 dealing issues related to Administration & Finance and
 worked in the Pay and Accounts Office under Controller
 General of Accounts , Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India,
 National Institute of Open Schooling, India and Guru
 Govind Singh Indraparastha University, Delhi, India as
 Controller of Finance.



We would like to place on record CEMCA's sincere
 appreciation for **Mr. Dalip Kumar Tetri** for his valuable
 contributions during his term (August 2018 till July, 2021)
 as Advisor, Administration and Finance. We wish him good
 health.

Dear Readers,

The Newsletter in your hand has useful information and ideas. We request you to
 contribute Articles, Research Studies, Book Reviews etc. in the area of Media, Open
 Learning, and Educational Technology. We look forward to your support.