

THE NEWSLETTER

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CEMCA

COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

From Director's Desk

Commonwealth of Learning's (COL) Strategic Plan 2021-27 re-emphasises the organisational goal of promoting 'learning for sustainable development' in its fourth decade of existence, in which it seeks to ensure that learning acts as a conduit to economic growth, social inclusion and environmental conservation.

As an enabler, COL's role is to help ministries, institutions, and organisations to expand their scale, efficiency, and quality of learning by using open, distance and technology-based approaches. As a capacity builder, COL's role is to harness the potential of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and technologies to build the capacity and capabilities of institutions and individuals in formal, non-formal and informal environments with learning opportunities. And, as a catalyst, COL's role is to develop innovative models that bring about transformation in education and training systems.

As the new Director of COL's regional centre in Asia, the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), when I start as a debutant in this gigantic world of Open and Distance Learning (ODL), I am pushed to think hard on the most important priorities for the years ahead.

What is obvious to my mind are three factors:



a

Cost-saving measures in education and skilling;

b

Innovative and flexible methods of teaching and learning; and

c

Harnessing and mastering technology in education delivery.

One of the proven methods of saving costs in education is the use of Open Educational Resources (OER), which also enhance the quality of material while widening their access. During the year, CEMCA shall strive to enhance the capacity of not only ODL institutions, but also all higher education institutions in Commonwealth Asia through a variety of activities, and help these institutions be a part of the global OER movement.

It has been stated for long that hybrid or blended learning opens opportunities for many learners and workers to access education and skills. The Pandemic has once again proven that distance education has always been hybrid and blended, and it is time for the world of education and skilling to explore various innovative methodologies in teaching and learning, especially amongst the groups that the formal systems are unable to reach, be it informal workers, artisans, semi-literate populations, persons with disabilities, women in various occupations and fishing and farming families. CEMCA shall strive to focus on teaching and learning methodologies in a variety of learning contexts in both education and skilling sectors.

The use of technologies ranging from the very latest in the form of Artificial Intelligence, Metaverse, Extended Realities to the very traditional techniques, such as Community Radio and narrowcasting methods continue to stare in the face of the education and skilling sector that requires to not only harness, but master techniques and their use in delivery methods and systems. CEMCA shall work with the education and skilling ecosystem to unleash the potentials of technology, mainly to develop scalable models that can help enhance the quality and access to learning opportunities.

Dr. B. Shadrach

Education



1. Teachers Oriented on Content and Proposal Development for SWAYAM
2. Enhancing Teachers' Capability to Implement Blended Learning
3. KSOU Supported to Adopt OER Policy and Implementation Strategy
4. Developing Implementation Plan for Blended Learning in Higher Education
5. OER Policy Developed by City University, Bangladesh
6. City University Faculty Members trained on LMS (Moodle)
7. Regional Workshop on OER Recommendation Implementation
8. ODL Teachers Trained on OER Development and Use
9. National Consultation on Blended Learning in Higher Education
10. UPRTOU Teachers Trained on Content Development Using OER
11. CEMCA's 360 VR Platform Brings VR Experience to Learners
12. Webinar on 'Leveraging OERs to Enhance Higher Learning'



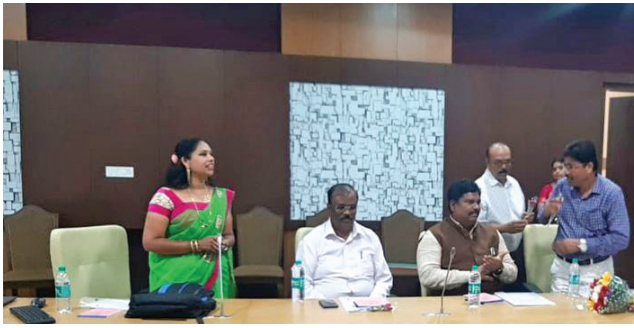
Teachers Oriented on Content and Proposal Development for SWAYAM

CEMCA facilitated the orientation and training of 55 teachers from 22 Departments of Ravenshaw University, Odisha, India, on content and proposal development for SWAYAM (<https://swayam.gov.in/>) in April 2022. SWAYAM is a Government of India initiative that facilitates the hosting of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) pertaining to various disciplines for school and higher education. The participants were briefed on the current status and guidelines of SWAYAM. They were provided hands-on-training by resource persons on developing MOOC proposals, and creating and designing introductory videos.



Enhancing Teachers' Capability to Implement Blended Learning

CEMCA organised a workshop on 'Enhancing the Capacity of Higher Education Teachers to Implement Blended Learning' in April 2022 at the Jalpaiguri Regional Centre of Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), Kolkata, West Bengal, India. In the workshop, higher education teachers were briefed on the modalities of face-to-face, online and blended learning, and their unique implementation attributes in any educational context. The workshop, attended by 40 teachers, adopted a combination of training techniques, such as role play, group work and hands-on training to enable the teachers to create infographics, presentations, and courses on blended learning.



KSOU Supported to Adopt OER Policy and Implementation Strategy

CEMCA is supporting Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), India, in adopting Open Educational Resources (OER) policy and implementation strategy at the institutional level. KSOU has constituted a policy taskforce to draft the OER policy using the COL-CEMCA template. In this regard, a workshop was organised in April 2022 on OER policy, and implementation plan development. The KSOU taskforce committee held discussions during the workshop, and drafted the policy, including a three-year strategic plan for OER implementation. CEMCA extended expert support in the finalisation of the policy and, currently, it is going through the approval process at KSOU.



Developing Implementation Plan for Blended Learning in Higher Education

CEMCA, in collaboration with NSOU, initiated a project (December 2021-April 2022) on the implementation of blended learning in higher education institutions through enhancing the capacity of their teachers. Under this project, five workshops (both face-to-face and blended) were conducted in different zones across the state, attended by 267 teachers.

Another workshop in this series was organised at the NSOU in May 2022. It engaged 43 academic and administrative staff from higher Education institutions and representatives from the Directorates of Distance Education (DDE) in the state to develop a trajectory on the present needs of higher education and devise an implementation plan for blended learning practices. On this occasion, the e-content of the four-week Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the 'Foundations of Heutagogy' was released by the Vice-Chancellor of NSOU.



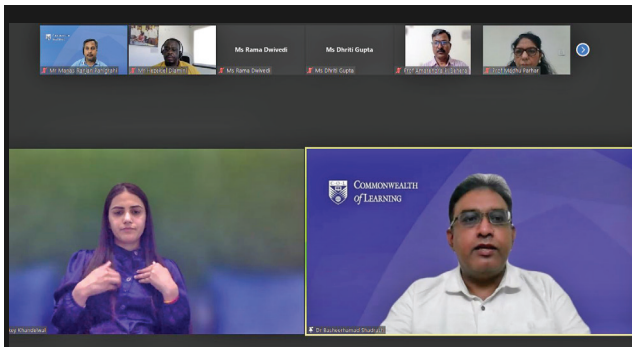
OER Policy Developed by City University, Bangladesh

There is a vast pool of educational resources on the web, but institutions need a policy for defining their OER goals, and providing guidelines on achieving those. CEMCA is supporting the City University, Bangladesh, in developing and adopting institutional OER policy. To initiate the process, it organised a workshop in May 2022 that engaged twenty policy-level university staff in drafting it. On the last day of the workshop, the draft OER policy for the University was discussed and finalised, which will be placed before the Academic Council for approval. The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Dr. Md. Shah-E-Alam applauded CEMCA for its support on Open Educational Resources, and Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) for the University.



City University Faculty Members Trained on LMS (Moodle)

CEMCA facilitated a 'Training on Learning Management System (Moodle)' in May 2022 for 50 faculty members of the City University in Bangladesh. These members are responsible for developing courses of study, and ensuring their delivery in a digital format through the University's Learning Management System (LMS) in the post-COVID period. The workshop focused on teaching the practical skills of using the Moodle platform, and the use of eLearning, its benefits and application. In the course of the workshop, faculty members discussed the practical application of eLearning in the University, including opportunities for specific input on individual course materials and activities.



Regional Workshop on OER Recommendation Implementation

UNESCO and CEMCA organised a regional workshop on OER recommendation implementation in New Delhi in June 2022. The workshop aimed to bring together governmental stakeholders, in particular, National Commissions for UNESCO, Ministries responsible for Education and/or Ministries responsible for Communication and Information Technology, educational institutions, education specialists, NGOs working in the field of teaching and learning development, educational policy makers, etc. The participants shared their valuable inputs to create a pathway for OER recommendation implementation with adequate support to member countries.

In her keynote address, Dr. (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Government of India, highlighted the contribution of OERs in fulfilling the learning needs during COVID-19. Ms. Zeynep Varoglu, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Headquarters, opined that a clear strategic roadmap as well as digital cooperation is required for a dynamic OER coalition. She added that OER recommendation is more relevant in the post COVID-19 situation. In his closing remarks, Dr. B Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, New Delhi, emphasised on the need of inclusive and equitable OER material development in the South Asian region by enhancing the capacity of all stakeholders.



ODL Teachers Trained on OER Development and Use

To encourage the ODL teaching faculty to create, use, and share OERs, CEMCA organised a national level two-day workshop on 'Developing Open Educational Resources for Open and Distance Learning' in June 2022 at New Delhi,

India. The participants included 23 faculty members from 20 DDEs, and Open Universities, who are responsible for developing courses. In addition to orienting the participants on OERs, the two-day event offered hands-on training in using the necessary tools for sourcing, remixing, and contextualising learning material as per their requirements. The participants were also exposed to open-source tools for sharing their institutional OERs, and attaching appropriate Creative Commons (CC) licenses to the newly created OERs. As a way forward, the Commonwealth of Learning shall set up a helpdesk to handhold and support the OER stakeholders. It shall also consider organising follow-up workshops in the Commonwealth regions in collaboration with host institutions.



National Consultation on Blended Learning in Higher Education

Considering the importance accorded to online and blended learning to provide quality education, COL's regional office, CEMCA, has been facilitating the formulation of national and institutional policies as well as capacity-building programmes in blended learning. COL-CEMCA's policy guide entitled, 'Blended Learning Policy: Templates for Higher Education Institutions in Commonwealth Asia', authored by Professor Marmar Mukhopadhyay, was released recently. As a follow-up to the above efforts, COL-CEMCA organised a brainstorming session to discuss various aspects of blended learning for enhancing the quality of education and skill development on 15 July 2022. The session was attended by academics, policymakers, educational leaders, and experts from various reputed educational institutions, corporates, and government bodies.



In his opening remarks, Dr B Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, explained how CEMCA can support the formulation of national and institutional policies in blended learning in Commonwealth Asia. The organisation will scale up from its current outreach of 23 Open Universities to 10,000 institutions in the region. He added that as a catalyst, enabler and capacity-building organisation, CEMCA shall develop strategies to equip regional institutions to have their own policies and enhance their institutional capacity. Professor N.V. Varghese, Vice Chancellor, NIEPA, opined that the need for a blended learning policy should be institution-specific, not generic. He noted that the consultation was very timely and expressed pleasure in being associated with CEMCA in this mission.



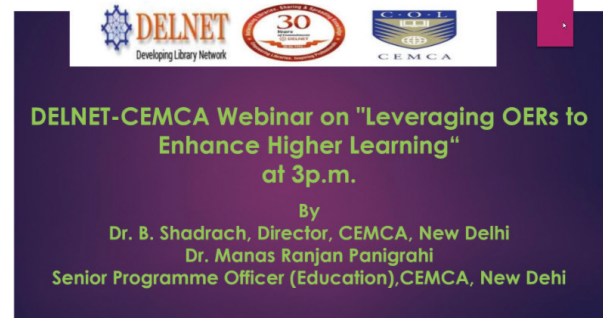
UPRTOU Teachers Trained on Content Development Using OER

As part of capacitating ODL faculty members to create, source, and adapt OERs for ODL, CEMCA organised a workshop for the teachers and staff of the Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU), Prayagraj, in July 2022. It was attended by 44 faculty members from different Schools/Departments, who are responsible for developing various courses offered by the University.

CEMCA's 360 VR Platform Brings VR Experience to Learners

CEMCA is developing a learner friendly 360 Virtual Reality (VR) Educator platform that allows learners to immerse in content beyond the real world, and develop their critical thinking and creativity. CEMCA organised a workshop in September 2022 at the Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar, NCERT, to train teacher educators from 25 institutions in Odisha in using this platform. Dr. Kaushal Kumar Bhagat from IIT Kharagpur was the lead resource person, who demonstrated VR content creation using the platform to the participants. Dr. B Shadrach, Director,

CEMCA, informed the participants that the innovative '360 VR Educator' platform will be shared with the global delegates during the Tenth Pan Commonwealth Forum (PCF10) for its further improvisation.



Webinar on 'Leveraging OERs to Enhance Higher Learning'

CEMCA, in collaboration with the Developing Library Network (DELNET), India, organised a Webinar on 'Leveraging OERs to Enhance Higher Learning' on September 30, 2022. The Session was attended by 701 educationists and librarians across the globe. Setting the context, Dr. Sangeeta Kaul, Director, DELNET, stated that OERs contribute to the building of open and inclusive knowledge societies, and the achievement of SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities within and across countries), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals). In his introductory remarks, Dr B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, focused on Learning for Sustainable Development through OERs and quality learning opportunities for various stakeholders. He also emphasised on the benefits of OERs stating that they reduce cost, while increasing access and innovation in education.

Dr Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Senior Programme Officer (Education), CEMCA, facilitated the webinar that covered topics, such as the basics of OER, and its genesis and growth in teaching and learning. The participants were also exposed to open-source tools for sharing their institutional OERs and attaching appropriate Creative Commons (CC) licenses to the newly created OERs. The webinar significantly contributed to creating awareness among LIS professionals, teachers, educators, learners, education support personnel, teacher trainers, and educational policymakers.

Community Media



CRVC 2022 Winners Felicitated at Award Ceremony

In April 2022, an Award Ceremony was held at the India International Centre, New Delhi, to felicitate the winners of the 9th edition of the Community Radio Video Challenge 2022 (CRVC 2022). The theme for CRVC 2022 was 'Climate Action: Climate Change for Sustainable Development, and its key objectives were engaging Indian youth, and creating awareness and fostering an understanding of CR's importance for self-expression, learning and development of local communities.

The dignitaries present at the award function included the Chief Guest, Shri Sanjiv Shankar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India; Prof. K. G. Suresh, Vice Chancellor, MCNUJC, Bhopal; Mr. Hezekiel Dlamini, Advisor, Information and Communications, UNESCO, New Delhi; and Prof. Ashok Ogra from Apeejay Institute of Mass Communication.



Workshop on 'Documentary and Film-making'

CEMCA organised a workshop on 'Documentary and Film-making' for students from various Indian institutions and Universities in April 2022 at New Delhi, India. Dr. Madhu Parhar, Former Director, CEMCA, recognised it as a good opportunity for students to learn new techniques to develop a good documentary or short film. She noted that the students have shown their creativity, and produced short films for Community Radio Video Challenge (CRVC) 2022.

During the workshop, 26 students got an opportunity to understand, and gain ideas about creating various elements of film and documentary production, ranging from conceptualisation to scripting, producing, shooting and editing. As part of the training, the students, together, shot and edited a short film, which was screened at the Community Radio Video Challenge 2022 (CRVC 2022) Award function. The participants described the training as a unique and exciting experience.



Transforming Listeners into Learners

CEMCA organised a brainstorming consultation on, 'A Journey from Listeners to Learners' in August 2022 at the India International Centre, New Delhi, with the aim to discuss strategies to engage audio programme listeners as lifelong learners. The day-long consultation was attended by stakeholders representing the academia, ed-tech sector, civil society organisations, and community radio practitioners.

In addition to exploring newer and novel methods of using audio content as learning material for skill development, livelihood generation, and behavioural change, the consultation also looked at the role of traditional, emerging and web2.0 technologies in transforming listeners into learners. In his opening remarks, Dr B Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, stressed upon the need to integrate appropriate instructional design in audio content development and their use in learning programmes. The session was moderated and led by Dr K Balasubramanian, Former Vice President, Commonwealth of Learning, Canada. Dr. R. Sreedher, Former Director, CEMCA, was one of the speakers at the consultation. He shared his experience in Internet radio, and podcasting with the participants.

SKILLS



1. Sri Lankan Entrepreneurs Oriented on Bamboo Industry Development
2. CEMCA and INBAR Collaborate to Create Multimedia Content on Bamboo Furniture Making
3. Scaling-up and Diversifying Bamboo Products through Training
4. Enhancing the Capability of Technical Faculty Members in Teaching Future IT Skills
5. APITA Employees Trained in Results-based Project Management and M&E
6. CEMCA Supports WMPSC in Converting General Plumber Course into Multimedia Content
7. Technical Multimedia Content for PSSC
8. Strengthening the Capacity Needs of Vocational Teachers and Trainers
9. Consultation with NITTR on Teachers' Training Course Development

Sri Lankan Entrepreneurs Oriented on Bamboo Industry Development

Bamboo covers around 5,000 hectares of Sri Lankan territory with over 12 different species, but only a small portion of this resource is used for crafts and industrial products by the artisans. Therefore, to scale-up and diversify its use, CEMCA collaborated with the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) and Industrial Development Board (IDB), Sri Lanka, to organise a virtual training programme on Bamboo Furniture making for 64 artisans, master artisans and potential entrepreneurs of Sri Lanka in May 2022.



The workshop emphasised on how bamboo and related products can play a major role in achieving sustainable employment opportunities. In this context, Dr. Madhu Parhar, Former Director, CEMCA, informed the participants about CEMCA's collaboration with the European Commission on a project, 'Bamboo for Sustainable Development, and how multimedia content developed under that project may be reused for skilling Sri Lankan participants.

The course is available at: <https://www.cemca.org/resources/bamboo-4sd#.Yz6ne3ZBzrc>

CEMCA and INBAR Collaborate to Create Multimedia Content on Bamboo Furniture Making

In Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, only a small portion of their bamboo production is used for creating crafts and industrial products by the artisans. Since it is a sustainable/renewable alternative to hardwood, its use for furniture and allied products making needs to be promoted among artisans and entrepreneurs through capacity building, which was identified as a major gap.

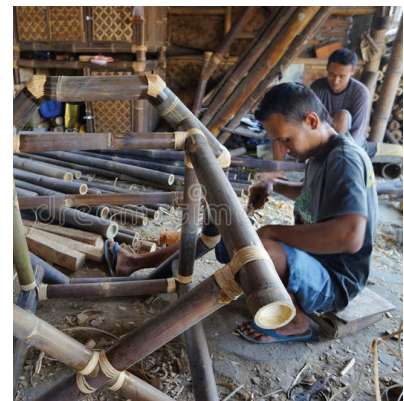


Photo credit: Dreamstime.com/Suryo

Against this background, CEMCA collaborated with INBAR to create a 12-hour technical training programme on bamboo furniture course in English, Bangla, and Sinhala languages. This endeavour was supported by INBAR through their technical knowledge and expertise in developing the modules, and CEMCA supported in converting them into multimedia content. The first online training using this multimedia content was organised by CEMCA and INBAR for artisans and potential entrepreneurs of Sri Lanka in May 2022.

The course is available at: <https://www.cemca.org/resources/bamboo-furniture-making-multimedia-course#.Y1oyt3ZByM->

Scaling-up and Diversifying Bamboo Products through Training

Like most Asian countries, Malaysia and Brunei have the required bamboo base for green enterprises; however, they lack the skills and technology to harness these opportunities. To address this, CEMCA, in association with INBAR, organised an online training programme on bamboo scrimber and laminated composites for 276 entrepreneurs, service providers, researchers, facilitators, and policymakers from Bamboo and allied product sectors in May 2022.



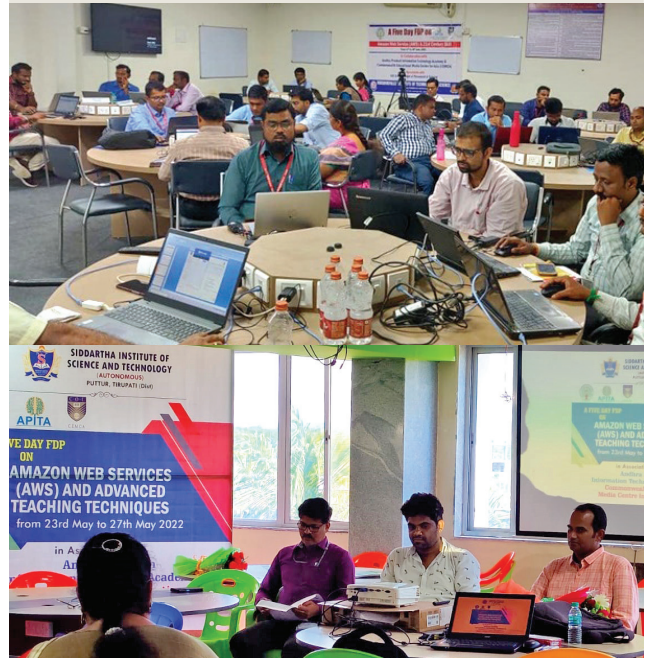
This training is designed mainly for participants from Commonwealth countries – Brunei and Malaysia; however, it is open to interested people across the world. During the workshop, Audio-Visual (AV) modules on strand wood and laminated bamboo and their value-added products, developed by CEMCA and INBAR, were also displayed.

The course is available at: <https://www.cemca.org/resources/bamboo-scrimber-laminated-composites-and-value-added-product#.Yz6nSHZBzrd>

Enhancing the Capability of Technical Faculty Members in Teaching Future IT Skills

Digital disruption is transforming every industry, and the demand for futuristic skill courses like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Azure/Amazon Web Services (AWS), Data Analytics,

and Python is gaining momentum. Recognising this, CEMCA, in association with the Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Academy (APITA), a state government institution, organised ten workshops on various future skills and advanced teaching methodologies in different districts of Andhra Pradesh between March and June 2022. These were attended by 481 technical faculty members from various engineering colleges.



The training was conducted in a blended mode using various ICT tools like Google Classroom, Google Forms, etc. The colleges and teaching community of Andhra Pradesh commended CEMCA for organising the workshops that helped them in sharpening their teaching skills through hands-on training in future technologies.

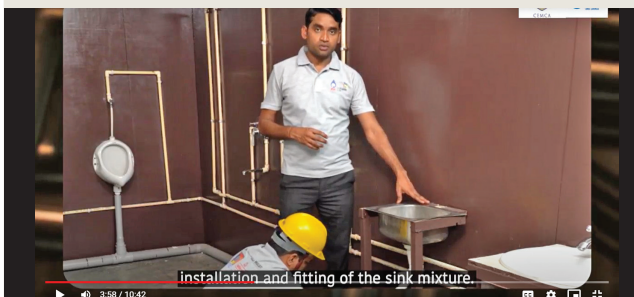
APITA Employees Trained in Results-based Project Management and M&E

In the recent past, results-based project management has received much attention, and its advantages in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of projects are well known. In this context, CEMCA supported APITA in conducting an online capacity-building programme for their officials on 'Results-based Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework'.

The workshop was held in June 2022, and covered various aspects of results-based project management, such as project organisation and resource pooling, crafting financial statements and cost estimates, and using M&E for performance tracking. During the workshop, the participants were given case studies and assignments to solve, and they participated in various group activities to understand the concepts and processes.

CEMCA Supports WMPSC in Converting General Plumber Course into Multimedia Content

In order to address the need of scaling up skill upgradation of the workforce in the plumbing sector to make them at par with the world standards and employability requirements, CEMCA supported the Water Management & Plumbing Skill Council (WMPSC) in designing and transforming 'Plumber General' course's textual content into multimedia one.



This online course consists of 18 video modules scripted and conceptualised by domain experts and master trainers from WMPSC. It will be launching this course on its newly developed LMS and mobile app. It will help to train aspirants registered under various government schemes with WMPSC.

The course is available at: <https://www.cemca.org/resources/general-plumber-ipsc-multimedia-course#.YxN8mHZBzrd>

Technical Multimedia Content for PSSC

In order to scale-up skill upgradation of the workforce in the power sector to make them at par with world standards and employability requirements, CEMCA supported the Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) in designing and transforming their four job roles, namely, Electrician Domestic Solutions, Industrial Electrician, Assistant Technician (Street Light), and Supervisor (Street Light) courses' textual content into multimedia one.



These online courses consist of 36 video modules that were scripted and conceptualised by domain experts and master trainers from PSSC. It will be launching this course on its newly developed LMS and mobile app. This course will help to train aspirants registered under various government schemes with PSSC.

The course is available at: <https://www.cemca.org/resources/skill-development-courses#.YsLEXl1ByUk>

Strengthening the Capacity Needs of Vocational Teachers and Trainers

CEMCA organized a 'Brain Storming Session to Strengthen the Capacity Needs of Vocational Teachers and Trainers' on 06 September 2022 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The participatory and outcome oriented Session aimed to produce a draft outline of a new course with clearly spelt out outcome for various target groups, embedded with blended approaches for its delivery.



Dr. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, (IAS, Retd.), Chairperson, National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) as the Chief Guest; Dr. B Shadrach, Director, CEMCA; and a host of other eminent stakeholders from Government Institutions, Skill Universities, Schools (Vocational Education), Skill Centres, and TVET experts participated in the Session. It was facilitated by Mr. Saurabh Mishra, Programme Officer (Skills), CEMCA, and Mr. Purandar Sengupta, CEMCA consultant.

Consultation with NITTTR on Teachers' Training Course Development

COL-CEMCA is collaborating with the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR) to up-skill the teachers of Polytechnics across India to make them at par with the global standards of teaching and facilitation. In this context, in September 2022, COL-CEMCA organized a consultation at the NITTTR Campus, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, to discuss the outline of their capacity-building programme.



CEMCA Publications



BOOKS

BOOKS

1. Blended Learning Policy: Templates for Higher Education Institutions in Commonwealth Asia
2. Students' Learning Experience during COVID 19: A Study of Open Universities in India

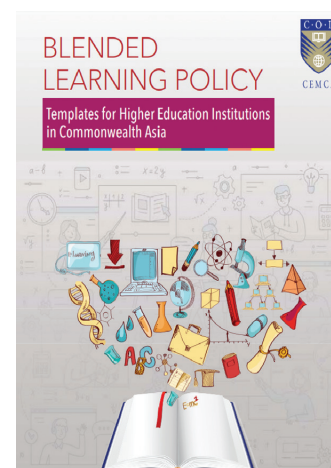
REPORTS

1. Evaluation Report of the Capacity Building Workshops on Virtual Labs
2. Implementation of Blended Learning in Higher Education Institutions in West Bengal: Enhancing Capacity of Higher Education Teachers

Blended Learning Policy: Templates for Higher Education Institutions in Commonwealth Asia

COL-CEMCA's policy guide entitled, 'Blended Learning Policy: Templates for Higher Education Institutions in Commonwealth Asia', authored by Professor Marmar Mukhopadhyay, was released recently. This book outlines five independent, self-contained templates for blended learning policy formulation in the light of current emphasis on the adoption of blended learning techniques in higher education institutions. Research indicates that while blended learning is more joyful and engaging for students, the teachers also find larger space for creativity in it. But, its effective implementation requires a set of policies and guidelines.

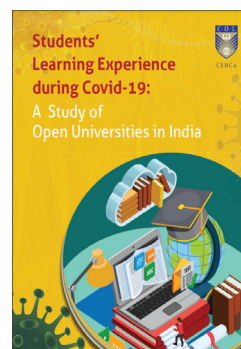
The book suggests national and institutional policy templates and blended programme, course, and unit learning design templates for better integration of blended learning in higher education. Countries and higher education institutions in the Asian Commonwealth can use the templates to create national and institutional blended learning policies, and initiate the transformation of higher education in the region.



The book is available at: <https://www.cemca.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Blended%20Learning%20Policy%20Templates%20for%20HEIs%20in%20Commonwealth%20Asia.pdf>

Students' Learning Experience during COVID 19: A Study of Open Universities in India

This research study, edited by Prof. B. Phalachandra, aimed at understanding the experiences of distance learners during the pandemic, specifically the impact of COVID-19 on the learners from Open Universities. In addition, the study tried to understand and document the lessons learnt by distance learning universities in delivering their programmes during the disruption caused by the pandemic. CEMCA collaborated with four Open Universities (Dr. B R Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh; Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata, West Bengal; Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani, Uttarakhand; and Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Guwahati, Assam) for this study.



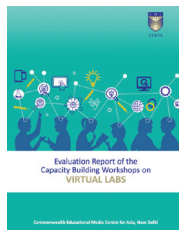
The book is available at: <https://www.cemca.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/learning%20experience%20report.pdf>



REPORTS

Evaluation Report of the Capacity Building Workshops on Virtual Labs

This report evaluates the capacity building workshops organised by CEMCA on Virtual Labs for 468 teachers from open and formal universities and schools across India, Malaysia, Maldives, and Bangladesh. It presents an overview of virtual labs and CEMCA's capacity building initiatives on their use.



The study analysed participants' feedback through end-of-workshop and follow-up evaluation perspectives. Along with presenting various dimensions of the study, the report also includes respondents' suggestions for promoting the use of virtual labs. The study used a mixed methods approach combining quantitative methods with qualitative analysis of respondents' feedback. The findings show that the participants were positively inclined towards the use, adoption, and implementation of virtual labs.

The course is available at: https://www.cemca.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Virtual%20Lab%20Report_12_07_2022_LR.pdf

Implementation of Blended Learning in Higher Education Institutions in West Bengal: Enhancing Capacity of Higher Education Teachers

This is a consolidated report on the workshops conducted by CEMCA and Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) to enhance the capacity of higher education teachers on blended learning. These were planned in the light of the paradigm shift in teaching and learning approach during and after COVID-19. It has placed renewed emphasis and focus on online/blended learning. The workshops sought to improve the knowledge and skills of teachers/academics in higher education to plan, design, develop, and deliver online courses.



The Report also delineates the recommendations generated through these workshops for implementing blended learning in higher education. The participants indicated interest in conducting a facilitation training programme and a design thinking workshop at their individual institutions to better understand and appreciate deep-seated difficulties and issues in implementing blended learning.

The course is available at: <https://www.cemca.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Implementation-of-Blended-Learning-in-HEI-in-West-Bengal-through-Capacity-Building-Report.pdf>

CEMCA Updates



CEMCA welcomes Dr. B Shadrach as the new Director, who joined the organisation in June 2022. Until recently, Dr. Shadrach served the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada, as Skills Advisor. He possesses vast experience in managing ICT4D and skill development programmes in over forty nations around the world, working for organisations, such as the International Development Research Centre, Canada; OneWorld International, UK; Transparency International, Germany; and the British Council in India.



We would like to place on record CEMCA's sincere appreciation of Prof. Madhu Parhar for her valuable contributions during her term as Director from June 2019 to May 2022. We wish her good luck in her future endeavours.



CEMCA welcomes Prof. Saroj Sharma, Chairperson, National Institute for Open Schooling, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, and Prof. K Seetharama Rao, Vice Chancellor, Dr. BR Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, India, as the new CEMCA Advisory Council members.



We would like to place on record CEMCA's sincere appreciation of Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, New Delhi, and Prof. Ashok Ogra, Apeejay Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, India, for their valuable contributions during their term as CEMCA Advisory Council members.

PCF10 and CEMCA

Participation in the Forum



Innovations for Educational Resilience



14–16 SEPTEMBER 2022

Commonwealth of Learning's (COL) Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF) is a triennial event, co-hosted with different partners in different regions of the Commonwealth. It is one of the world's leading international conferences on open, distance and technology-enabled learning. The Asa Briggs Lecture, COL's Honorary Fellows and Excellence in Distance Education Awards (EDEA) are the key highlights of the Forum along with Ministerial Round Tables, keynote addresses, panel discussions, plenary and parallel sessions to deliberate on key issues in the area of open, distance and technology enabled learning.

The tenth edition of this Forum (PCF10) was hosted jointly by COL and Athabasca University (AU) in Calgary, Canada, from 14 to 16 September 2022, at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre. This year, the theme of the Forum was 'Innovations for Educational Resilience', which was divided into four sub-themes – Building Resilience, Fostering Lifelong Learning, Inspiring Innovations, and Promoting Equity and Inclusion. It also included two special focus areas: Education for Girls and Emerging Technologies for Education and Training.

To enable the participation of as many delegates as possible, PCF10 was conceived as a hybrid event, with the provision of virtual participation, and live streaming of most of the sessions. The Forum was attended in person by hundreds of participants representing 40 countries from four Commonwealth regions.

PCF10 Day 1: PCF10 was inaugurated by highlighting the contributions of the Indigenous Peoples who have been living in the region for ages. The blessing from Tsuu'tina Elder, Bruce Starlight was followed by a welcome address by Dr. Peter Scott, President, Athabasca University, who outlined the importance of the deliberations taking place in the course of the Event. Introducing the first panel discussion of the Forum, Prof. Asha Kanwar, COL President and CEO, stated that innovations are important, but they are not sufficient in themselves, especially in the context of a world that was so deeply affected by a global pandemic.



This year, the Asa Briggs lecture was delivered virtually by Prof. Tim Blackman, Vice Chancellor of The Open University, United Kingdom. According to him, open learning is the most inclusive and least discriminatory method of education. Another highlight of Day 1 at the Forum was the presentation of Commonwealth of Learning Honorary Fellowship and the Excellence in Distance Education Awards, presented by Prof. Asha Kanwar. Dr. Kaushal Kumar Bhagat from India received the COL Award of Excellence in Innovations in Distance and Online Learning, while several others became Commonwealth of Learning Honorary Fellows.

PCF10 Day 2: The day began with the greetings of Honourable Justin Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, who addressed the participants virtually. Another eminent speaker was Honourable Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, the Prime Minister of Samoa, who spoke about the significance of climate change in the context of open and distance education. Several thought provoking discussions, presentations, and addresses were the hallmark of the day.



PCF10 Day 3: The spotlight of Day 3 was the Calgary Communique, and an acknowledgement of all the work required to make this event possible. The Communique

represented a summary of the great discussions and deliberations that took place over the last three days in Calgary, Canada. It states that Forum partners from over 40 countries from all four regions of the Commonwealth, representing a total of about 2.5 billion people – believe that it is possible to significantly accelerate progress towards the aim and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general, and (SDG4) in particular, to innovate for more resilient education systems and to address at least some of the challenges of climate change by prioritising collective actions around the theme, sub-themes, and focus areas of PCF10.



COL's Regional Centre, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) Participation in PCF10: CEMCA was represented by its Director, Dr. B. Shadrach; Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Senior Programme Officer (Education), and Ms. Monica Sharma, Programme Coordinator.

During the event, Dr. Shadrach chaired two sessions, and announced the winners of the Excellence in Distance Education Awards (EDEA). On the sidelines of the event, he held several one-to-one meetings with the Ministers, and government officials on skilling and capacity building. He also launched the book, 'Sustainable Development and Education in the Forth Industrial Revolution' at the Forum. Dr. Panigrahi, launched the book, 'National ODL Policy and Practice in the Commonwealth'. He moderated a session on Resilience through Educational Tools at PCF10. Ms. Maria Rowena Raymundo from University of Philippines Open University was the Rapporteur of the session. Dr. Panigrahi also served as the lead for the sub-theme – 'Building Resilience' at PCF10.



CEMCA Participation in Regional Events



1. High-level Round Table for Vice-Chancellors and Senior Officials of ODL Institutions, 29-30 July 2022
2. Developing Open Educational Resources for Open and Distance Learning
3. International Conference on Sustainable Development in Hill and Coastal Ecosystems, 7-9 August 2022
4. 6th CII School Summit 2022: Education for All Through Innovative Teaching and Learning, 22 July 2022
5. Leading from the Front: A Workshop for Lead Community Radio Stations, 26 July 2022
6. International Literacy Day, 8 September 2022
7. World Tourism Day 2022: Rethinking Tourism, 27 September 2022
8. Sustainability and Digitalisation: Business, Economic and Societal Perspective, 28-29 September 2022



High-level Round Table for Vice-Chancellors and Senior Officials of ODL Institutions, 29-30 July 2022

The third edition of Commonwealth of Learning's (COL) Vice Chancellor's Roundtables was held on 29-30 July 2022 at Penang in Malaysia. It was co-organised by the Asia eUniversity (AeU), Malaysia. With 'Quality Higher Education for Sustainable Development' being the overarching theme of the Roundtable, it focused on six sub-themes, namely, Innovations during COVID-19; Role of Universities in Promoting SDG 4; Equity and Inclusion; Technology for Quality Education; and Employability – Focusing on Reskilling; and Building Resilient Institutions.

At the Roundtable meeting, COL was represented by its President and CEO, Prof. Asha Kanwar, and Ms. Frances J Ferreira, Acting Director, Skills, and CEMCA by its Director, Dr. B. Shadrach. It was attended by participants from 17 countries. They represented campus institutions, virtual universities, open schools, TVET institutions and qualifications authorities. The meeting provided an opportunity to share and learn from peers around the identified sub-themes, and develop collaborative action plans to materialise these.

Developing Open Educational Resources for Open and Distance Learning

Dr. B Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, gave the Presidential Address at the national workshop on Developing Open Educational Resources for Open and Distance Learning, held on 15-16 June 2022 at Hotel Lemon Tree, New Delhi.

International Conference on Sustainable Development in Hill and Coastal Ecosystems, 7-9 August 2022

CEMCA Director, Dr. B Shadrach, delivered a talk in Session 3: 'Role of Science and Technologies in Bridging Knowledge Gaps and Sustaining Ecosystems' during the International Conference on Sustainable Development in Hill and Coastal Ecosystems organised by the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai, India.

6th CII School Summit 2022: Education for All Through Innovative Teaching and Learning, 22 July 2022

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, chaired a session entitled, "Leveraging Pedagogy, Relationship, and Technology for Education in a Pandemic" at the 6th CII School Summit 2022, held on 22 July 2022 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The theme of the Summit was Education for All Through Innovative Teaching and Learning.



Leading from the Front: A Workshop for Lead Community Radio Stations, 26 July 2022

This workshop, held on 26 July 2022, at the India International Centre, New Delhi, was organised jointly by UNESCO and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. CEMCA was represented by Ms. Monica Sharma, Programme Coordinator, who made a presentation on the CEMCA-UNESCO Handbook (2021) on "Best Practices of Community Radio and Sustainable Development Goals" during the workshop. The handbook documents 98 success stories across India, Nepal and Bangladesh highlighting the work done by the Community Radio Stations as per the Sustainable Development Goals that they covered.

International Literacy Day, 8 September 2022

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), National Council of Educational Research and Training, and the Ministry of Education jointly organised the International Literacy Day celebrations on 8 September 2022. Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, represented the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) during the release of COL's 'Gender Green Teacher Certificate Course by Honourable Smt Annpurna Devi, Minister of State for Education, Government of India. The Hon'ble Minister appreciated the Gender Green Teacher Programme as a good example of how institutions can work together to realise the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

World Tourism Day 2022: Rethinking Tourism, 27 September 2022

On 27 September 2022, CEMCA Director, Dr. B. Shadrach participated in the panel discussion on "The Ecosystem of Skill Development in the Tourism Sector" during the symposium on 'Rethinking Tourism'. The symposium was organised by the School of Vocational Studies, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi, on the occasion of World Tourism Day 2022.

Sustainability and Digitalisation: Business, Economic and Societal Perspective, 28-29 September 2022

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, was the 'Guest of Honour' during the Inaugural Session of the international conference on 'Sustainability and Digitalisation: Business, Economic and Societal Perspective', organised by the Department of Management, SMBS, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, in collaboration with ICSSR and Suslence Research.

Upcoming Events



Training on Project Development Framework



11 Oct 2022



New Delhi

Institutional OER Policy Development and OER Capacity Building of Teachers in Vidyasagar University



9-12 Nov 2022



Vidyasagar University, India

MOMENTS



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