



Netaji Subhas Open University

(Established by WB Act (XIX) of 1997, Recognized by UGC)

Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA)

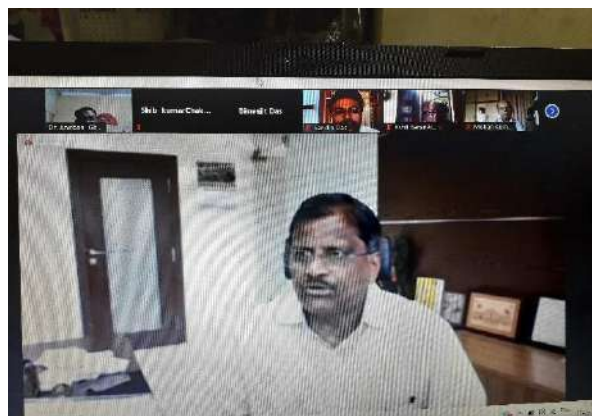
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Report on One-Day Virtual National Workshop, Organized by CIQA, NSOU

on 27th May 2020

A One-day Virtual National Workshop on “Competency Development of Teachers in Digital Milieu” was organized by the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA), Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) on 27th May 2020. Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, NSOU, introduced the main motto of the workshop during Covid 19 to the participants, who are mostly the faculty members and different Administrative Staff of NSOU. Respected and experienced dignitaries from different parts and renowned institutions of the country delivered their enlightening lectures in several sessions to help the process, in presence of Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of NSOU, Prof. E. Vayunadan, Vice-Chancellor, YCMOU as chief guest, guest of honor, Prof. V.S. Prasad, Former Director, NAAC & former Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU & Dr. BRAOU & all the other dignitaries.

The workshop was technically supported by Ms/- School Guru team of NSOU. A number of 85 participants were expected to attend the workshop, and on that day, almost 70 participants actively participated in the different sessions. The session wise reporting was done in the following section:



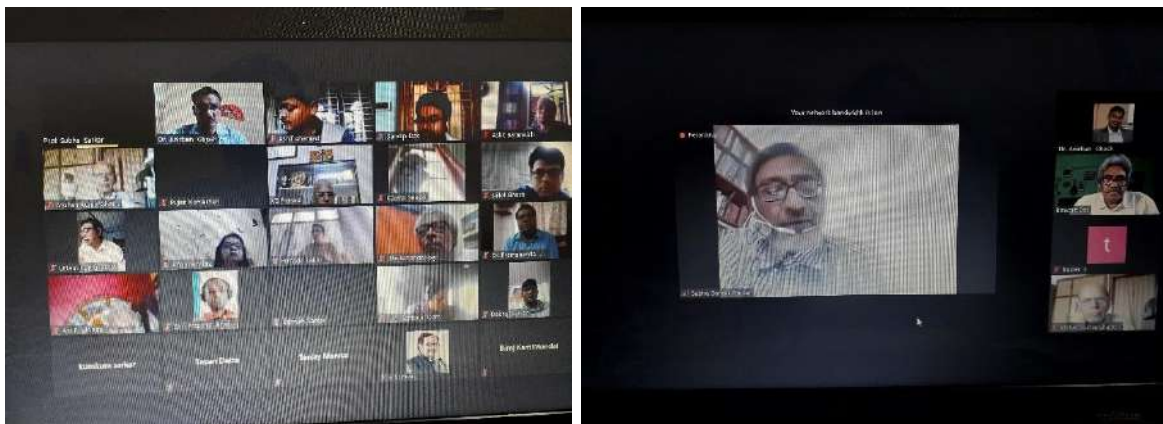
Inaugural Session:

The proceedings of the program began with the welcome address by Prof. Anirban Ghosh. He thanked all the participants for joining and briefly described the importance and relevance of the workshop.

Prof. Ghosh referred to how our university is excessively trying to reach out to its students who are located in various parts of our state and are spending time in locked down situations. He noted the importance of LMS and how it has played a significant role in the delivery of the course curriculum to our students in ODL Praxis. Then he requested Prof. Nageswar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU to deliver his inaugural address and share his vast knowledge in the field of open learning education system in India and beyond. Prof. Rao, in his speech, had addressed the issue of using the digital platform to help the teaching-learning process, especially in an unprecedented situation like the pandemic condition of Coronavirus throughout the world. He

emphasized on the digital platforms being used by Indira Gandhi National Open University, as a leading institution of ODL in India and its success stories. He referred the digital platforms like SWAYAM, ePGPathshala, NPTEL launched by MHRD, Govt. of India, which we can introduce to the curriculum. Through this information, Prof. Rao encouraged the participants to accommodate unusual situations and use digital platforms in institutions.

Then Chief Guest of the workshop, Professor E. Vayunandan, Vice-Chancellor, YCMOU addressed the participants and delivered his thoughts of using the ICT and innovative digital platforms to help the needs. He emphasized on the fact of challenges faced by the ODL institutions to conduct online examinations and suggested a few ways out. He encouraged the participants to engage in the new courses that are available online to build their competencies. Prof. Vayunandan also opined for the fact that given this pandemic scenario where institutions are trying to find out several ways to mitigate the gap between teaching and learning, OUs are in a comfortable position as compared to other universities while taking this online and live classes.



Next, Prof. V.S. Prasad started his enlightening speech on the importance of building competency among faculties to help the cause of enriching the education system. He focused on the fact that teachers need to work on their potential to build competency within to accommodate changing circumstances and the challenges that we are facing currently. He addressed the issue of active support and optimistic approach from different Universities and institutions as well. Prof. Prasad discussed and suggested several ways to develop an individual's competency to teach and contribute. He also said that our passion for technologies could only help us to use the digital platform in academic activities and also warned about the negative impact of jumping into an online mode of classes without prior knowledge and skill.

Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, NSOU addressed the participants and greeted all the speakers for their knowledgeable and encouraging speeches and thanked them all. Prof. S.S. Sarkar then delivered his presidential address which included the importance of this workshop organized by CIQA, NSOU. In his speech, he addressed the unprecedented situation faced by the country, especially West Bengal, after the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating effect of cyclone Amphan. He mentioned the importance of ICT in the ODL system and discussed the ICT initiatives included in the Teaching-learning process in NSOU. He highlighted on a few achievements and online activities by the faculty members of the University in the lockdown period. Then Prof. Sarkar finished his presidential address with greetings to all the members of the organizing committee of this workshop.

The inaugural session ended by the vote of thanks presented by Dr. Md Intaj Ali, Assistant Professor of English, NSOU. Dr. Ali on behalf of CIQA, NSOU thanked Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA and all the members of the organizing committee of the workshop. He also thanked all the guests and participants for their incredible cooperation.

Technical Session 1:

This session was conducted by Prof. K. Srinivas, Head, ICT & Project Management Unit, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA). In this technical session, Prof. Srinivas gave an illustrative outlook to all the online tools available online to conduct academic activities. He emphasized on adapting every change that happens in our system with time. He rightly mentioned that we could be extinct if we do not change ourselves with time.

This technical session helped the participants to know all the online platforms available online like the Google Meet, Zoom, Google Classroom etc. to conduct online classes and to prepare the e-contents for the students. Participants could enrich themselves by knowing the different tools to conduct open-book examinations and their relevance in current situations. Prof. Srinivas also focused on creating an Individual's website or pages by using G-Suites and the other platforms. In between all these, he mentioned the initiatives from Government like the MOOCs, SWAYAM, SWAYAMPURABHA, ePGPathshala etc. and encouraged participants to use these courses for their personal competency building as well. Prof. Srinivas explained why these online platforms will still be useful in post-pandemic time of COVID-19. In this session, the use of OER and preparing E-contents and its uses were discussed in detail.

Technical Session 2:

The second technical session started after the lunch break. Resource person for this session was Prof. Biswajit Das, Centre for Culture Media & Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia. Prof. Das was introduced to the participants by Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Moderator of the workshop. Prof. Das shared his vast experience of teaching for years with all the participants and enriched them with the stories of changing scenarios with time. In his speech, he mainly focused on the importance of media education and ICT in the current scenario. He also focused on how difficult it is for a teacher with Social Science to conduct a class or any examination via online mode. However, he also gave some suggestions to fight against these odds. He encouraged the faculties to focus on preparing modern pedagogical models to use in this type of interaction with students, and he also reminded the differences and other challenges faced by the ODL institutions than the conventional setup.

Technical Session 3:

The last technical session was conducted by Mr. Shantanu Rooj, CEO, M/S School Guru. This was a fascinating session and drew everyone's attention as Mr. Rooj gave an exciting presentation on the new features that have been added in the LMS platform of NSOU and has opened a new window for ICT programs by the faculties. He started the session explaining how the online platform has become essential and relevant, considering the present scenario. Mr.

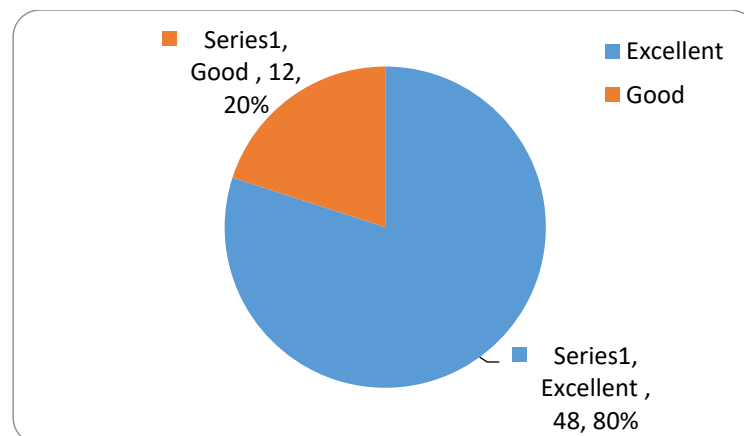
Rooj shared all the details and minutes of new tools included in the NSOU app for the benefit of teachers and the students as well. As this was a completely new experience for the teachers and administration of NSOU, obviously Mr. Rooj had to answer many questions from different participants, and he also agreed to deliver hands-on training for the faculties separately later with agreement from the institution.

Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar appreciated Mr. Rooj’s effort to launch this new feature, and this session ended with the concluding remark by him. The Honorable Vice-Chancellor summarized the whole proceedings of the day and thanked all the honorable dignitaries from different parts of the country to deliver such enjoyable and enlightening sessions. He also thanked all the participants for their active participation and encouraged the members of the organizing Committee and School Guru team for conducting this workshop smoothly.

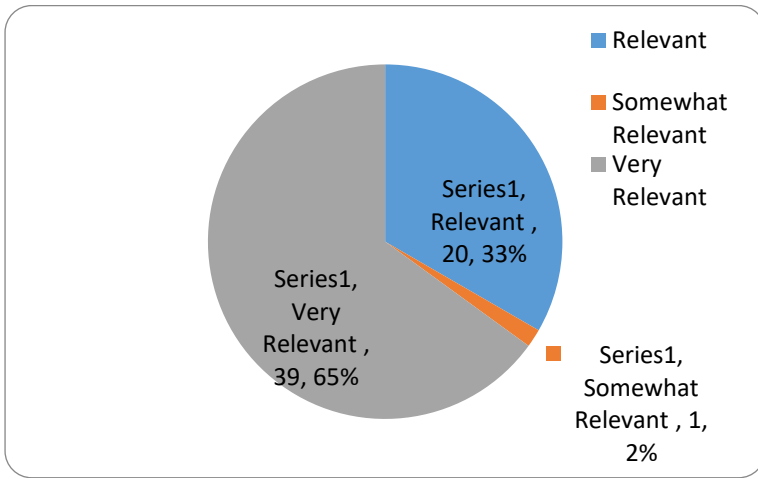
The workshop ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Md Intaj Ali.

The feedback have been made compulsory for the participants and feedback form is designed keeping in view to properly analyse the responses of the participants. The following responses are analysed as follows.

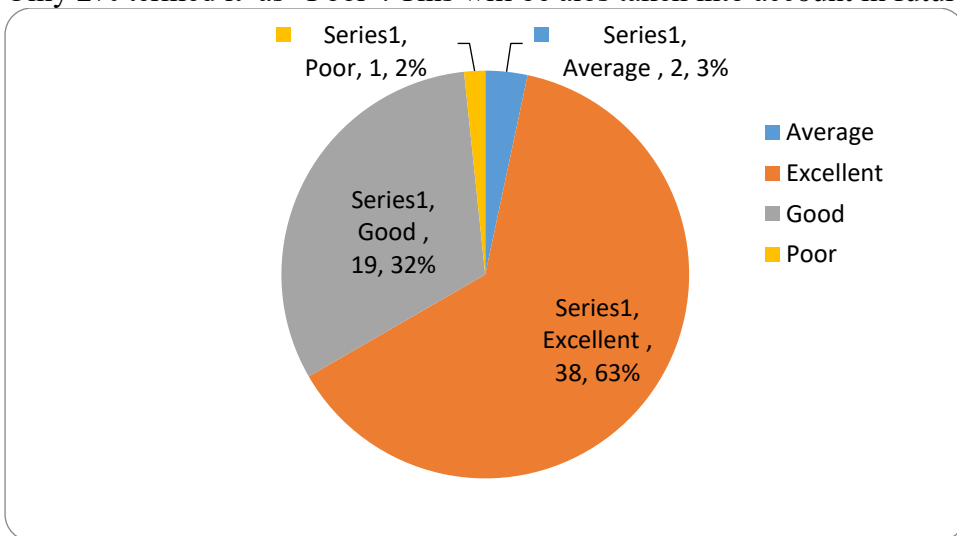
Overall Arrangement : Regarding overall arrangement , 80% participants rated as excellent. And remaining 20% rated as Good. None rated it as average or expressed dissatisfaction regarding the arrangement.



Coverage of the Topics of discussion: Feedback has been taken in respect of coverage of the topics on discussion. Among all participants, 65% have rated the discussions as “Very Relevant” . Only 2% rated it as “Somewhat Relevant”. The feedback has been kept in record and will be carefully taken into account while organising such workshops in future.

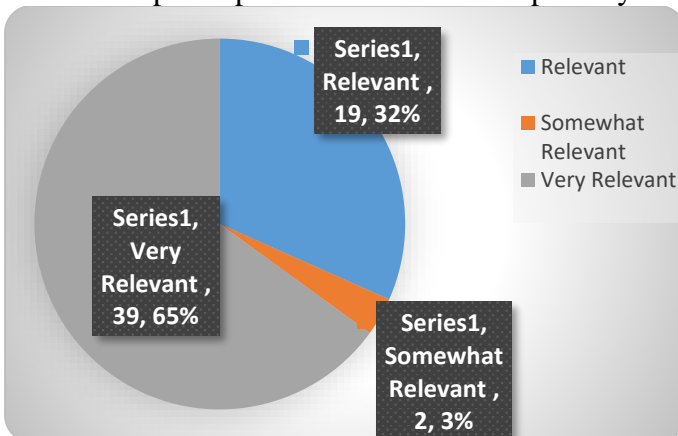


Online Platform and Technological Support : Regarding online Platform and Technological Support provided in the workshop, 63% participants rated the workshop it as “Excellent”. Only 2% termed it as “Poor”. This will be also taken into account in future endeavours.



Relevance of the workshop for self improvement in Online Environment : This attribute is perhaps one of the most important to be considered. As the main motto of the workshop is to make the participants more comfortable and effective in online and digital environment to deliver their learning services, the feedback on this attribute plays a significant role regarding the success of conduction such workshops.

65% of the participants rated the Workosop “Very Relevant” regarding their self improvement.





**Virtual National Workshop on
“Competency Development of Teachers in Digital Milieu”
27May 2020
Programme**

Inaugural Session: 11am to 12.00noon

Professor Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU

Professor E. Vayunandan Vice-Chancellor, YCMOU

Professor V.S. Prasad, Former Director, NAAC & Former Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU & Dr. BRAOU

Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor, NSOU

Technical Session-1 (12-1.30pm)

Topic: Role of Technology in Education & Development of E-content

Resource Person: Professor K. Srinivas, Head, ICT & Project Management Unit, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi

Lunch break (1.30pm to 2.30pm)

Technical Session: 2 (2.30pm -3.15pm)

Topic: Pedagogical Innovation and Challenges in Open and Distance Learning in Commonwealth Asia

Resource Person: Professor Biswajit Das, Director, Centre for Culture Media & Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia.

Technical Session: 3 (3.15pm to 4.00pm)

Training on LMS (How to use the LMS platform)-Mr. Shantanu Rooj, CEO, M/s Schoolguru

Concluding Remark: Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor, NSOU

Moderator: Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA and SWAYAM Coordinator, NSOU

Organizing Committee

Dr. Md. Intaj Ali, Asst. Professor of English (SoH)

Mr. Ashif Ahamed, Asst. Professor of Zoology (SoSci)

Mr. Debajit Goswami, Asst. Professor of Public Administration (SoSS)

Smt. Priyanthi Bagchi, Asst. Professor of Economics (SPS)

Ms. Swapna Deb, Faculty Consultant, Spl. Education (SoE)

Sri Hillol Ghosh, ITO

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