Programme Report

One Day Workshop on 'MOOCs and Online Courses: Development and Delivery'

Date & Time: 24th February 2023, Friday at 11 am

Venue: Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar

Organized by: Centre for Internal Quality Assurance & Centre for Online Education

Presided over by: Honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ranjan Chakrabarti

Keynote Address delivered by: Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Pro Vice Chancellor, IGNOU and National Coordinator, SWAYAM

Attendees: Faculty members, Directors of all School of Studies, Some Officers and staff members. (No. of participnats-55)

Background and Objectives:

In view of the ensuing revalidation of all the existing programme of NSOU (which is due on 2023-24) from UGC_DEB, the exercise of development and delivery of online teaching-learning modules/courses has become imperative to meet the requirements of the UGC (ODL and Online Programme) Regulations 2020.

Proper strategizing and planning are required to successfully integrate the online programmes in the educational institutions-be it through blended mode or full-fledged online mode. In this present context, digital platforms like SWAYAM play an important role to cater education among the learners who are in a remote place maintaining three cardinal principles of educational policy-access, equity, and quality. However, University Grant Commission is also encouraging the faculty members to submit their expression of Interest for developing Under Graduate and Post Graduate courses for SWAYAM platform. Against this backdrop, the centre for Internal Quality Assurances & Centre for Online Education came together to organize a One-Day Workshop titled 'MOOCs and Online Courses: Development and Delivery'.

The one-day workshop was designed to provide an opportunity for discussion on quality of design and pedagogical issues.

All the faculty members of NSOU were urged to register for this workshop to take full advantage of the deliberations and technical sessions that have specially been designed for them under the guidance of experts.

Proceedings of the Inaugural session

The workshop started with a brief inaugural in the presence of dignitaries, faculty members, and officers of NSOU. The two special dignitaries of the Inaugural Session included Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University, and

Professor Uma Kanjilal, Hon'ble Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU and National Coordinator, SWAYAM. The others who graced the inauguration were Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, and Prof. Someswar Bhowmik, Officer-In-Charge, Centre for Online Education.

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst Prof. of Education, SoE, NSOU and the Master of the Ceremony (MC) extended warm welcome to all eminent dignitaries, distinguished persons and academicians and initiated the propitious occasion. She went on to enlist the background of the workshop as millions of people around the world use MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) to learn for a variety of reasons.

Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director-CIQA, in his Welcome Address pointed out that this workshop was a follow-up of the Brainstorming Session held on 4th November, 2022, to deliberate on the status of Online Modules/Courses at NSOU. He emphasized the ever-increasing role of implementing technology in the pedagogy. He introduced the background of the event and also focused on the objectives behind organising this event. He also captured NSOU's digital and ICT-based endeavours towards a sustainable education. The university's vision and mission are ratified through adopting and adapting pedagogies with the changing faces of education and the society in general.

"We have made significant changes in the recent academic activities under the leadership of our Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. Now any faculty may conduct short-term course. We have also launched One Faculty, One Project," he declared. He traced down the introduction and ensuing of the Faculty Lecture Series since December 2022.

Prof. Ranjan Chakrabarty, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University, formally inaugurated the workshop. He stressed that the future of Indian education is distance education, with an emphasis on online teaching-learning. He spoke on qualitative transformation which online teaching-learning has already brought about within the Open University system. He vividly exemplified in his speech the intertwining of online teaching-learning and the higher education system with a view to boosting the GER and quality. He envisioned a synergy of ODL and online learning.

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor asked young faculty members to start preparing short term Value-added/Add-on online courses.

He also proposed marketing of online courses. He emphasized upon creating a brand value for NSOU Online programmes.

Prof. Someswar Bhowmik, Officer-In-Charge, Centre for Online Education, in introducing the theme and foci of the workshop emphasized on 'Reskilling and Upskilling' through MOOCs. He envisioned that simply designing MOOCs without regard to pedagogical and quality aspects won't help in long run.

He also suggested that credit mobility is all set to be introduced in the examination system in compliance with the UGC (Credit framework for Online Courses through SWAYAM) Regulations, 2021.

He also highlighted that cognizance and participation in Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) would increase visibility of NSOU in the global academia.

Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU and National Coordinator, SWAYAM (IGNOU), in her keynote address hailed the National Education Policy (NEP 2020). She harped upon the global standards in MOOC and also addressed on issues like curricular planning and credit mapping in UG/PG courses with that of MOOC. Prof. Kanjilal congratulated NSOU for taking up such an initiative at the right juncture. She appreciated the title of the workshop as being very aptly chosen which evokes the task ahead of NSOU.

She touched upon all aspects of MOOC and its prospects. She reiterated the prospects of open universities in higher education. She also stressed upon the importance of developing content in regional languages with a view to reaching the maximum number within the target group.

She spoke at length about the various operational aspects and advantages of ABC system. UGC has made it mandatory for all the HEIs having NAAC Grade-A and students enrolled in those HEIs from academic session 2022-23 to register in the ABC portal.

"A Digital University will start its operations in the next academic session with certificate and diploma programmes and offer degree courses subsequently through SWAYAM (Version-2). The digital content would be hosted on the Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform," she announced.

Designed with a "hub and spoke" model, the digital university will have HEIs that will provide online courses as the spokes, with SWAYAM and SWAYAMPRABHA serving as the hub. Together with a few select colleges that already offer similar online programmes, the courses that are already offered on the SWAYAM platform will initially make up the university's core curriculum.

Professor Kanjilal also highlighted the need to organise capacity building workshop on how to make engaging contents, how to include latest pedagogical frameworks. She also stressed on developing virtual labs, and simulation labs for practical oriented programmes.

The details of the technical sessions are as under:

Technical Session-I

Action Taken Reports from all School of Studies:

Prof. Chandan Basu, Director, School of Social Sciences, highlighted the progress of the school in MOOCs development and delivery. Further to this, he reported on the online value-added course on Prospects of Travel and Tourism, taken up by the School of Social Sciences.

Prof. Sarmistha Chatterjee, Professor of English Language Teaching, representing the Director, School of Humanities meticulously deliberated on the status of MOOCs in the SoH. She elaborated on the several short-term online courses developed and delivered by the CLTCS, under the aegis of SoH.

Prof. Kajal De, Director, School of Sciences, highlighted that students of SoS have been given an option to earn credit from approved SWAYAM-MOOCs for their Degree programme. She also made out a list of online courses under School of Sciences which have been developed or are in the pipeline.

Prof. Atindra Nath Dey, Director, School of Education described the School of Education has interdisciplinarity among its two departments (Education and Special Education) offering

UG, PG and 2nd degree programme. He also showcased a list of online courses under School of Education which have either been developed or are in the pipeline.

Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, School of Professional Studies & School of Vocational Studies gave a presentation on the implementation of MOOCs in the SPS. He also highlighted the success of his MOOCs courses on SWAYAM platform. Under SVS and SPS, a total of 9 (nine) MOOCs have been developed out of which 4 (four) MOOCs (3 credit and one non-credit) are being conducted through SWAYAM. The other MOOCs are conducted through institutional LMS. The enrolment is very encouraging. Some more MOOCs (4 in number) are also being developed by the School.

All the deliberations were supplemented with explicit PPT slides.

Technical Session-II

Presentation by OIC-COEdn: Prof. Someswar Bhowmick delivered a short presentation on the credit transfer policy in progress at NSOU. Through PPT, he made it clear how the university is striving to accommodate the quality imperatives in handling the best suited options in its programme/course delivery. The reflections from his deliberation reinforced the idea of credit mobility which is going to be operational soon in the University academic strand. The various resolutions and further deliberations on the NSOU credit policy will bring out more clarity for both internal inbound credit mobility**.** This would definitely invoke holistic and multidisciplinary education as envisaged in the NEP 2020 and also help comply with UGC (ODL & Online programmes) Regulations, 2020.

Interaction: A vibrant interaction with enthusiastic participation from the members of faculty followed. The faculty members and other participants came up with several queries, and asked for clarification on many others. The main issues that came up included (a) the integration of Virtual Labs in online science modules, (b) challenges and prospects of offering online courses in regional languages, (c) challenge of avoiding duplication in course content in designing for SWAYAM-MOOCs, (d) live sessions on SWAYAMPRABHA channel and (e) adoption of SWAYAM-MOOC credits. Those were duly addressed and explicated by Prof. Kanjilal. The crux of her suggestions is as follows:

The faculties of NSOU may now develop the audio-video lectures following the AVCG model (Animation, Visual, Cartoon, Gamification) incorporating both virtual and augmented

reality tools for an attractive e-module in the regional language. The National Coordinator like IGNOU is encouraging faculties of different open universities to develop the e-content in their regional languages which may be hosted by SWAYAM and also be used for streaming in SWAYAMPRABHA DTH channel. The faculty members of NSOU may also take advantage of this facility. Adoption of SWAYAM credits in the NSOU system is an internal matter that can be implemented through appropriate guidelines incorporating SOP, Equivalence and Conversion exercise.

Vote of Thanks: The day long workshop ended with the formal Vote of thanks offered by Priyanti Bagchi, Assistant Professor of Economics, who commended everyone for joining, participating and adding value to the workshop.

Report Prepared with input from Arijit Ghosh, Asst. Prof. of Journalism & Mass Communication, and Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst. Prof. of Education.