



Faculty Development Programme-MOOC
on
‘Development of Online Course for Swayam’
Third Cycle

Duration: 2 weeks (16/11/2021 to 01/12/2021)

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

Background:

While some believe that the unplanned and rapid move to online learning – with no training, insufficient bandwidth, and little preparation – will result in a poor user experience that is un conducive to sustained growth, others believe that a new hybrid model of education will emerge, with significant benefits. The teachers and learners are facing several challenges due to sudden shifting of teaching learning processes into online mode. Several impediments are posing to successfully implement the online strategies in the educational institutions. Blended mode is going to be popular and effective mode of teaching and learning. 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, 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. In the purpose of training and capacity building to develop online courses by the faculties of different higher educational institutions, Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) and Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) jointly launched a Faculty Development Programme on MOOC on 18th May 2021. 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 this NSOU-CEMCA FDP MOOC on ‘Development of Online Course for Swayam’. As a drive to nurture this essentiality, the registration for the third cycle of the MOOC was made open on from 20th October to 10th November 2021.

Objectives:

This FDP MOOC is for Teachers 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 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. Ashis Awadhiya, IGNOU
Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, NSOU

Participants:

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 to this MOOC.

Course Modalities:

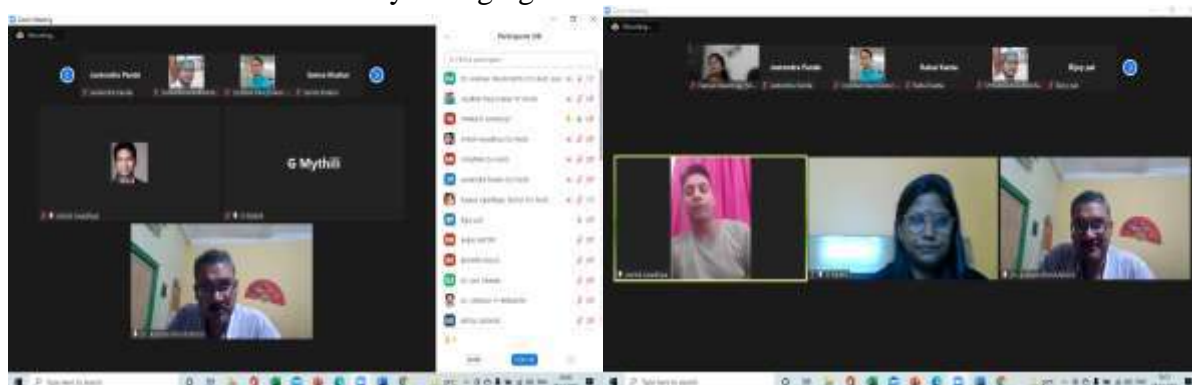
The course was designed, developed, and delivered following four quadrant approach adopted in SWAYAM on Netaji Subhas Open University Learning Management System (LMS). Total five topics were distributed in the programme of two weeks followed by final assessment. Each topic contained video-tutorials with 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.

Proceedings of the Online Course:

The two-week course (16/11/2021 to 01/12/2021) 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, i.e., 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) were also organized to interact and discuss academic and extra-curricular bearings of the course with the participants. All the course developers, facilitators/mentors played an augmentative role in the live interaction to clarify emerging concerns and doubts.



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 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 disbursed 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. At the end of the course participants submitted their final assignment and feedback form.

Completion and Certification:

The Completion certificates were issued to successful participants who scored above 60% in the assessment and participated in at least five discussion forum posts.

Learners/Participants Feedback:

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 T-L-E. 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:

- ✚ Sensitized and create awareness about the Digital Initiatives of GOI in Higher Education
- ✚ Instructional Design for MOOC Development & to understand the process of planning, designing and implementing online courses in line with SWAYAM
- ✚ MOOC requirements
- ✚ E-Content Development (Script Writing/ Video Recording) with Generic Video Recording and Screen Capturing Tools to enable the participants to learn for implementation
- ✚ Satisfied to adept themselves 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
- ✚ They were content to create better and active communication and collaboration with the students and to design and manage learning through Rubric assessment
- ✚ Had a ready experience of exploring OER for Learning, teaching and Professional Development.

Recommendations:

This FDP has extended its scope to continuous professional development of teachers in various levels of education. This FDP benefitted not only the faculties of HEIs who are aspired to develop MOOCs on SWAYAM platform, it also empowered the teachers from different HIEs and Schools to develop online courses and design instructions for their own institutional LMS or create any personalized instructional environment and/or any T-L-E 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 to aware in the ground level and enhance their capacity to design and develop innovative SWAYAM Courses and/or customized online courses.

----Report prepared by Dr. Papiya Upadhyay