



Netaji Subhas Open University

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Kolkata, India

One-Day Focus Group Discussion

On

'Blended Learning Ecosystem'

[Under the NSOU funded Research Project, 'The Mind Space of Teachers
in the Context of Blended Learning (BL) at Higher Education Level']

Organized by

Department of Education
School of Education

29th October 2022, Saturday

Regional Centre, Durgapur, NSOU

Report prepared by

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Santanu Patra, Research Scholar, SoE, NSOU

PROGRAMME REPORT

Programme File:

Date: 29th October 2022, Saturday

Venue: Regional Centre, Durgapur, NSOU

Mode: F2F

Participants: 20 Faculties (Female – 06; Male – 14)

Nature of participants: 20 invited faculties from colleges engaged in Higher Education Institutions

Rationale of the Focus Group discussion (FGD):

To execute the NSOU funded Research Project, 'The Mind Space of Teachers in the Context of Blended Learning (BL) at Higher Education Level' sanctioned to Dr. Papiya Upadhyay as Principal Investigator (P.I), the study demands triangulation method. The quantitative data through three self-made standardised tools have been already collected. However, in order to collect the qualitative data, two focus group discussions have been planned with the faculties engaged in HEIs in West Bengal. The first one-day FGD was organised at Regional Centre, Durgapur, NSOU.

Objective of the FGD:

The FGD focussed on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the faculties of HEIs as well as institutions and the causes behind mind space (attitude) status of the teachers in the Context of Blended Learning (BL) at Higher Education Level which has been depicted through quantitative analysis. In order to gauge the knowledge and skills required for readiness in implementing/adopting BL, the following objectives were formulated-

1. To prepare a roadmap & identify blended curricular components in higher education level.
2. Spotify the areas to be focused/ considered during faculty development programmes.

Methodology:

The FGD used different methods which were - Deliberation, Group Discussion, Presentation and Interaction. The discussants followed the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) principles as articulated.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FGD

Inaugural session:

In the Inaugural Session, Shri. Prosenjit Bhattacharya, Deputy Director, Durgapur RC, NSOU welcomed the discussants and set the tenor of the day. Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, SoE, NSOU & Principal Investigator of the NSOU funded Research Project crisply articulated about the project and the reasons behind conducting the FGD.

Special Address on ‘Blended Learning Ecosystem- From Concept to Practice’ was deliberated by Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance, NSOU. He highlighted how the interactions among the stakeholders and components in the blended learning ecosystem plays most important role. Dr. Upadhyay conveyed the message and best wishes of Professor (Dr.) Atindranath Dey, Director, SoE, NSOU before the house. Dr. Khagendranath Chattopadhyay, Professor, Department of Education, the University of Burdwan appreciated the initiatives and depicted the present status of the ground reality in the context of blended learning. Mr. Santanu Patra, Ph. D Scholar, SoE, NSOU proposed the vote of thanks.



Technical Session:

Prof. Anirban Ghosh & Dr. Papiya Upadhyay facilitated the session and introduced three FGD tools to the discussants who were divided into four groups to discuss and note issues aligned to the tools. The session was distinctly divided into three group activities:

Group Activity – I was conducted with Check List on Skills & Infrastructure for BL.

Group Activity-II performed with discussion & interaction through Open-ended BL tool.

After completion of the above two sessional activities, four representatives from four groups presented their findings and perceptions –

DISCUSSANTS LIST

Group -1	
1.	Dr. Sk Alamgir Badsha, Assistant Professor, Sambhu Nath College
2.	Mosharaf Hossain Mondal, Research Scholar, The University of Burdwan
3.	Ms. Najmatunnessa Khatun, Research Scholar, Kalyani University
4.	Ms. Beauty Sarkar, Assistant Professor, Rajendra Academy for Teachers

Education
Group -2
1. Mr. Subrata Kumar Samanta, Assistant Professor, Galsi Rabindra Nazrul College of Education
2. Mr. Anirban Ghosh, Research Scholar, The University of Burdwan
3. Mr. Ramkrishna Mohanta, Research Scholar, Sidho Kanho Birsha University
4. Mr. Jagabandhu Das, SACT, Memari College
Group -3
1. Arpita Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Mankar Institute of Education and Research
2. Mr. Kashinath Nandi, Assistant Professor, Galsi Rabindra Nazrul College of Education
3. Md Sajjad Hossain Ansari, Research Scholar, Jadavpur University
4. Mrs. Saswati Bandyopadhyay, Assistant Professor, Debnarayan Siksha Sansthan
Group -4
1. Dr. Chandan Adhikary, Associate Professor, The University of Burdwan
2. Dr. Khagendranath Chattopadhyay, Professor, The University of Burdwan
3. Dr. Sunil Kumar Baskey, Assistant Professor, Rabindra Bharati University
4. Mrs. Soma Neogy, Assistant Professor, Uluberia College



Closure and Way Forward:

The one day FGD was summarized by Prof. Anirban Ghosh. A feedback form was released in the dedicated FGD WhatsApp group. The participants were requested to fill-out the google form and submit their responses. At the end electronic appreciation certificates were distributed to all participants through e-mail. The FGD was skilfully compered by Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor of Education, School of Education, NSOU.

Analysis and interpretation on feedback:

Feedback from 16 discussants through google form were received. Among the discussants, 85% rated the event as excellent and 15% rated as very good as a need- based academic initiative (Fig. - 1). 60% of the discussants rated as excellent and 40% as very good for the fulfilment of the objectives of the FGD through deliberation and presentation session (Fig. – 2). 70% of the discussants rated as excellent and 30% as very good overall management of the event (Fig. – 3). All the participants are willing to participate if such FGDs are conducted in future. They heartily appreciated the event. Few of them suggested about technology use and time management in the future FGDs.

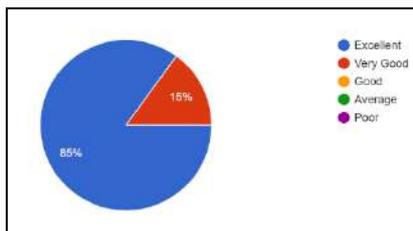


Fig. – 1: How would you rate the event as a need-based academic initiative?

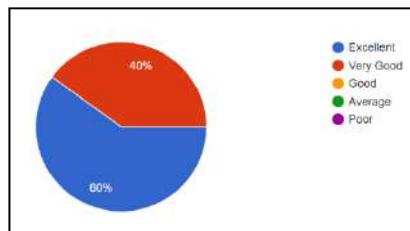


Fig. – 2: Were the objectives of the FGD fulfilled through deliberation and presentation session? Rate your view.

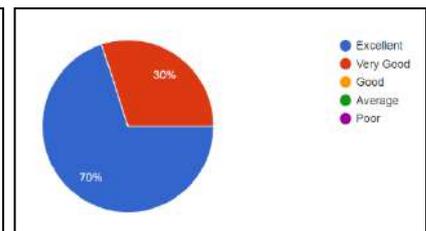


Fig. – 3: Rate the overall management of the event.

Recommendations:

1. Organizing training programme on blended learning for the faculties and enhancing digital literacy.
 2. Establishing effective well connected relationship among students, teachers, parents, policy makers and institutions.
 3. Allocation of funds and resources to develop appropriate infrastructure.
 4. Incorporating VEDA model, development of innovative blended learning pedagogy and assessment tools.
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