



Netaji Subhas Open University

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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**

19th November 2022, Saturday

NSOU HQs

DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 064

Report prepared by

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, SoE, NSOU & P.I.

Santanu Patra, Research Scholar, SoE, NSOU

REPORT

Event Details:

Date: 19th November 2022, Saturday

Venue: NSOU HQs, DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700064

Mode: F2F

Participants: 19 (Female – 10; Male – 09)

Nature of participants: Selected faculties from colleges engaged in HEIs

Rationale of the 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 focus group discussion was organised at Regional Centre, Durgapur, NSOU and **the second one was organised in the Boardroom of the NSOU HQs, Salt Lake City, Kolkata.**

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 status of the teachers in the Context of Blended Learning (BL) at Higher Education Level which has been depicted through quantitative analysis. This event layered at the following objectives -

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 various methods which are - 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, Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, SoE, NSOU & Principal Investigator of the NSOU funded Research Project welcomed the resource speakers/facilitators and field experts/discussants and laid down the intents of the FGD. She briefly narrated about the project and articulated the modalities of the FGD. Thematic address on ‘Blended Learning Environment: Strategies & Skills’ was

deliberated by Professor (Dr.) Someswar Bhowmik, OIC, Centre for Online Education, NSOU. His presentation was encircled on the different sorts of blend and their evolution since ages. Special Address on ‘Blended Learning - From Concept to Practice’ was delivered by Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance, NSOU. He highlighted how the interactions among the stakeholders or components in the blended learning ecosystem plays most important role to create a BL ecosystem.



Pic-1: Welcome address by the P.I



Pic-2: Facilitators of the FGD

Thematic address by the OIC, COEdn, NSOU



Pic-3: Special Address by the Director, CIQA, NSOU

Technical Sessions:

Prof. Anirban Ghosh & Dr. Papiya Upadhyay facilitated the session. Dr. Upadhyay and Santanu Patra introduced three FGD tools to the discussants who were divided into four groups to discuss and provide suggestions/views aligned to the tools after a tea break. The session was distinctly divided into two 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 these two group activities and lunch, four representatives from four groups presented their findings. Santanu Patra moderated the sessions.

The Focus Groups (Discussants List)

Group -1	
1.	Mr. Prabir Naskar, Assistant Professor, Netaji Subhas Open University
2.	Mr. Suman Atta, Faculty, Midnapore College (Autonomous)
3.	Mrs. Lovely Ray Mondal, Assistant Teacher, School Education Department, West Bengal
Group -2	
1.	Dr. Rakesh Manna, Academic Counselor, Netaji Subhash Open University
2.	Mr. Pranay Pandey, Assistant Professor, School of Education, Adamas University
3.	Dr. Biswajit Patra, Assistant Professor, Vivekananda College
4.	Ms. Piyali Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, Adyapeath Annada B. Ed College,
Group -3	
1.	Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi, Coordinator, B.Ed, Netaji Subhas open University
2.	Ms. Swapna Deb, Consultant , Netaji Subhash Open University
3.	Dr. Neetu Dutta, Assistant Professor, Seva Bharati Mahavidyalaya
4.	Ms. Rupa Chakrabarti, SACT, PCMM
Group -4	
1.	Dr. Parimal Sarkar, Assistant Professor, NSOU
2.	Ms. Antara Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Netaji Subhas Open University
3.	Dr. Prarthita Biswas, Professor, School of Education, Adamas University
4.	Dr. Shyamasree Sur, Assistant Professor, Siddhinath Mahavidyalaya



Pic-4: Discussants with the Principal Investigator, organising team members and resource persons

Closure and Way Forward:

Followed by the technical sessions, Prof. Anirban Ghosh was invited to summarize the discussion and reflect upon the recommendations. Mr. Santanu Patra, Ph. D Scholar, SoE, NSOU proposed the vote of thanks. 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 released to all participants through e-mail. The FGD was coordinated by Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor of Education, School of Education, NSOU.

Analysis and interpretation on feedback:

Feedback from 15 discussants through google form was received. Among the discussants, 94.4% rated the event as excellent and 5.6% rated as very good as a need- based academic initiative (Fig.-1). 72.2% of the discussants rated as excellent and 27.8% as very good for the fulfilment of the objectives of the FGD through deliberation and presentation session (Fig.-2). 94.4% of the discussants rated as excellent and 5.6% 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 for extension of duration of the FGD and time management in the future FGDs.

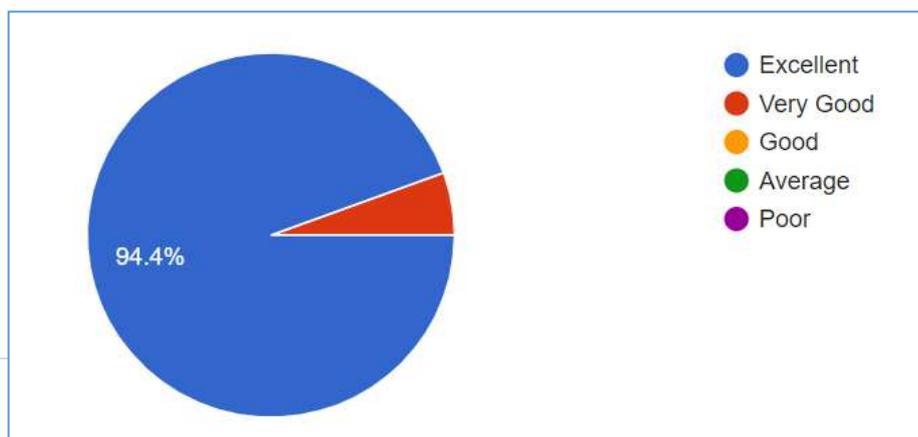


Fig.-1: How would you rate the event as a need- based academic initiative?

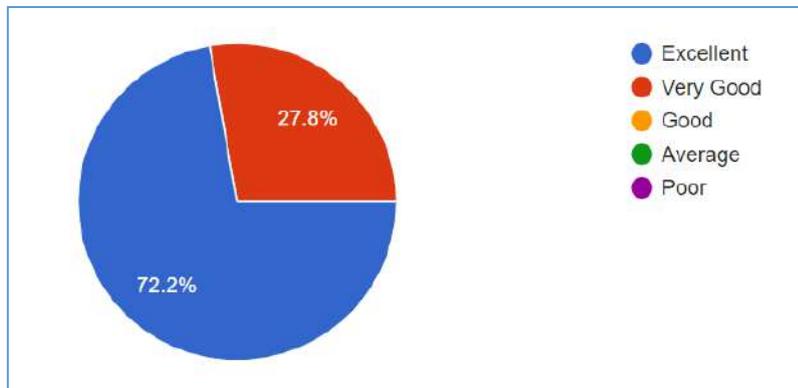


Fig.-2: Were the objectives of the FGD fulfilled through deliberation and presentation session? Rate your view.

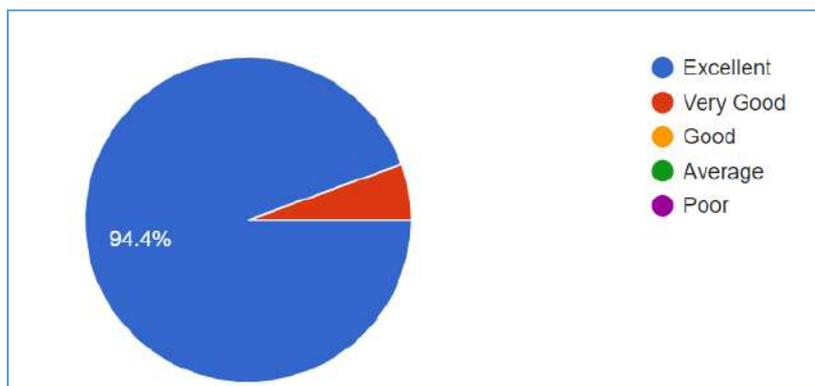


Fig. – 3: Rate the overall management of the event.

Recommendations:

1. Organizing motivational programs and incentivizing their efforts to change the teachers' mindset.
2. Providing the access to handle various types of electronic gadgets for BL to the teachers.
3. Special attention should be given to the institutions from rural areas.
4. Need for Institutional Learning Management Systems (LMS).
5. Arranging ICT enabled classroom.
6. Providing ICT support team and capacity building.
7. Providing grant for Blended Learning implementation in the Higher Education Institutions.
8. Developing Blended Learning policy for a structured curricular transaction.