

Report of the short training programme conducted by SoSS on the use of the Smart Class Room in the School of Social Sciences, Kalyani on 11.02.21.

The School of Social Sciences organized a short training programme on the use of the Smart Class Room in the School of Social Sciences, Kalyani, Nadia. The Programme was held on 11.02.2021 at 12 pm using both Offline and Online Mode through Zoom platform. Members across the campuses at Salt Lake, Durgapur and Jalpaiguru participated in the day long programme. The programme initiated with the Director's welcome address and continued with demonstration given to the faculties on the use of interactive white boards installed in Kalyani regional campus of NSOU. The demonstration was given by Siddhartha Chatterjee, an expert in the field of Smart Classrooms.

Introduction

On a Global level, educational institutions are on a digital drive to connect their classrooms with smart devices and modify their classical classrooms into a smart classroom. Netaji Subhas University had embarked on this project long before and installation of smart class rooms in Kalyani is just a step towards this novel adaptation. Today's workshop was an induction training for its faculties in social sciences to help understand the basic steps, such as the use of interactive whiteboards / interactive flat panels / interactive projectors in their classrooms. This was done to inculcate in students an interesting way of learning through audios and videos, multimedia, annotations with lucid explanation, images, online web conferences, PPT presentations, animated learning with 2D & 3D animation etc.

The key aspects of interactive classrooms:

The demonstration illustrated the core points of the interactive classroom environments and their application for facilitating the teaching learning processes. The demonstration showed how digital learning technology can be equipped with a specialised software, assistive listening devices and audio/visual capabilities to open up a spring bed of infinite methods of teaching, learning and interactions in the classroom.

The main interactive elements of the smart classroom

The major elements in the smart classroom are interactive whiteboards, interactive flat panel displays and interactive projectors that act as the vehicle of communication between the teacher and their students. Whiteboards offer a buffet of tools to create and deliver interactive lessons. They have a dashboard and vast pellet of lesson creation tools that are purposefully designed for teachers to engage students with compelling content. Teachers can import their booty of resources, such as powerpoint slides and PDFs, and embed them with multimedia files.

Intellispac: The core idea

The current demonstration was given by Intellispac from Cybernetyx. Intellispac is a multi-touch software suite that supports 255 touch-point simultaneously. It supports gesture

recognition, native handwriting recognition, and shape recognition up to six-sided figures. This software comes with interactive tools for Geometry. Intellispace supports multiple formats of presentations, documents, images and videos so that users can import, and annotate on them to explain complex concepts. It supports the MS Office files like handwriting recognition in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The software also supports multiple languages including Bengali, English, Mandarin, Chinese, Japanese, German, Spanish, French, etc.

Take away from the workshop

The workshop was a huge success in the sense that the faculties were trained thoroughly on the extensive use of the software. The following aspects of the interactive whiteboard was detailed upon:

- User-Interface
- Toolbar
- Menu bar
- Objects
- Trash Bin
- Media library
- My Cloud
- Desktop mode

The Results of the Workshop

The workshop delivered rigorous training on the Interactive smart classroom devices and accelerated the adoption of technology by the faculties. Handouts were provided to the teachers for future use of the software and continuous learning. The workshop can be taken as one giant step towards blended learning for the school with a diverse composition of a huge population of learners stretching across the state.

Conclusion

The workshop came to an end with a short feedback session among the faculties and the demonstrator. More such sessions were purportedly to be followed in the times to come. It was a rich learning experience for one and all.

(The report is prepared by Dr. Srabanti Choudhuri, Assistant Professor of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, NSOU)