

# Workshop Report

## Design and Development of Online Courses Capacity Building Workshop for IGNOU Faculty

Government of India has made several initiatives such as SWAYAM, E-Basta, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Skill India and Digital India. These initiatives will enable the infrastructure needed by students to study online. Thus online higher education will witness a considerable growth and continue to aid in distance learning programs.

University Grants Commission in July 2018 came out with the Regulations called the University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018. According to the regulations (pp. 13), "A Higher Educational Institution may offer Certificate, Diploma and Degree Courses or Programmes in full-fledged online mode subject to the condition that all such Courses or Programmes are duly approved by the statutory authorities or bodies of the Higher Educational Institution and the delivery mechanism conforms to the quality standards of the Online Education as specified under these regulations".

IGNOU, the largest Open and Distance Education University offer programmes through distance mode. For SWAYAM, IGNOU is responsible for designing and developing the certificate and diploma programmes. Keeping the technological development in view, the teachers of the university should be prepared to meet the challenges of the future. In this connection, Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE) organized three day workshop on Design and Development of Online Courses Capacity Building Workshop for IGNOU Faculty from 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Dr. Radhakrishnan Block, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.

### Objectives of the Workshop

The objectives of this workshop were to:

- Describe the Instructional Design to Design and Develop Online Courses;
- Identify the Technology Deployment for Online Courses;
- Describe the Online Counseling; and
- Convert a Course into an Online Course.

### **Participants to the Workshop**

There were 22 faculty members of various schools of IGNOU who participated in the workshop.

### **Resource Persons**

Resource persons were the internal faculty who are expert in the area. Experts were invited from outside the university who had experience in the field.

### **Workshop Methodology**

The methodology used for the workshop was to make full use of experiential learning methodologies. Accordingly, the workshop used structured presentations on various concepts. After the presentations, the faculty interacted with the experts and they experienced hand on practice on MOODLE and created online course on this platform.

### **Workshop Proceedings**

The workshop was started with welcome note by Prof. Madhu Parhar, Director, STRIDE. She outlined the objectives of the workshop and added that each participant of this workshop has to design and develop an online course in their discipline. The first session of the workshop started by explaining the future trends in online courses and highlighted MOOC and development of online courses by other universities in India and abroad. Later the UGC regulations on online courses were discussed. In the second session, the participants were asked to work on instructional design template to design an online course in their discipline with course objectives, course outline, and assessment strategies etc. for online course. The next session began with the introduction of learning management system. STRIDE training platform on MOODLE (<http://strideworkshop.ignouonline.ac.in/strideworkshop>) was used for this workshop to develop online courses. Authentication was created for each participant and demonstrations were made to explain how to create course on MOODLE and each participant created a new course on MOODLE. Day one of the workshop ended with session on virtual labs. The experts explained the development of virtual labs in various fields.

Day two started with session on chatbot for education. The importance of the artificial intelligence in the field of education was discussed. The creation of chatbot was demonstrated. In the next session, overview of online courses and technology for online course in IGNOU were discussed. The MOOCs on SWAYAM offered by IGNOU were highlighted. In the post lunch session, more components of MOODLE

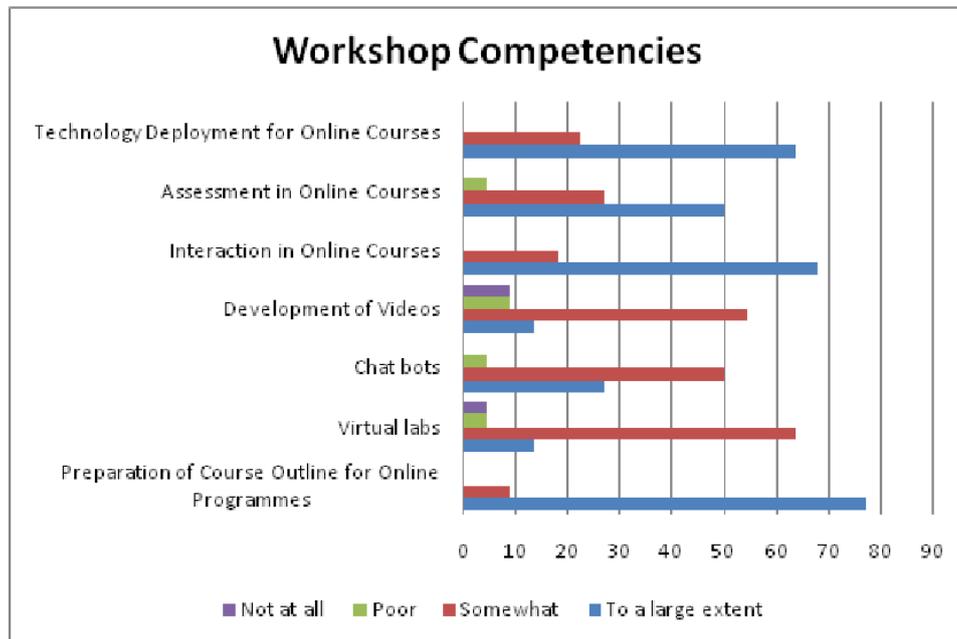
were explained. Participants uploaded the relevant materials of their course in the form of File, Folder, Page, URL, label, IMS packages etc. Also creation of e-book in MOODLE was explained. Last session of the day was spend on identification of audios/videos in the programmes.

The third day started with the web conferencing session by the expert from Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver on interaction in Online Learning. The importance of synchronous and asynchronous interactivity were emphasized and how to incorporate the interaction in the online courses were discussed. The same were practiced in the next sessions. Further the participants worked on activities in MOODLE. In the last session, participants were engaged with discussion forums on MOODLE and how to report activities were demonstrated. The resource persons helped the participants to incorporate all the necessary components. At the end of the workshop, each participant created a course.

The Valedictory Session of the workshop was chaired by the Vice Chancellor, IGNOU. Report of the workshop was presented. Participants gave their feedback. Prof. Nageshwar Rao complimented STRIDE on capacity building and asked to conduct such types of training programme more in future. He highlighted the necessity of online programmes and requested the faculty to work on this area. Workshop participation certificates were distributed and vote of thanks was presented by Dr. G Mythili.

### **Participants Feedback**

A feedback form was distributed to the participants to collect their views, feedback and recommendation about the workshop. Majority participants expressed that workshop was very well organized in all the aspect. All the participants said that this type of workshop should be conducted frequently. Few participants felt that duration of the workshop may increase to focus more on hand-on practice. Further the participants expressed that they enjoyed to develop online course on MOODLE and requested for more sessions on virtual labs and chatbots which are first time introduced to them.



### Workshop Coordinators

The capacity building workshop was coordinated by Prof. Madhu Parhar and Dr. G. Mythili from STRIDE.

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