

Report of the Training Workshop on “Creative Use of ICT Tools: Towards Innovative Learning Solutions” Organised by NCIDE, IGNOU (April 09 & April 10, 2019)

Background

The National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) is mandated to nurture an environment of innovation and creativity among the stakeholders, namely the teachers, academics, staff and the learners of the ODL system. One of the objectives of NCIDE is to provide intellectual and technological support to stakeholders for the growth and development of the ODL system. A wide range of technological tools and resources are now available which can be of immense benefit to the faculty and distance learners in communication, interaction, course design, course delivery and providing enhanced web support through the programme or course. Keeping in view the above, the NCIDE, organized a two-day training workshop for the faculty members of IGNOU on “Creative Use of ICT Tools: Towards Innovative Learning Solutions” on April 09 & April 10, 2019, at the Conference Room, NCIDE, IGNOU. The main focus of the workshop was on providing exposure and hands on training on various ICT tools which the faculty members can then use in their teaching-learning and academic support for the benefit of the learners.

Objectives

Keeping in view the above, the NCIDE, the main objectives of the workshops were:

- i) to provide exposure to the IGNOU faculty on various freely available ICT tools which they may use in teaching-learning and web based academic support; and
- ii) to provide hands on training to the faculty about creative use of such technological tools for providing innovative learning solutions.

Methodology

The methodology of the workshop is as follows:

1. *Duration of the workshop:* The workshop was of short duration of two-days. This is in keeping with the time constraints of the faculty members.
2. *Participants:* The participants included the faculty of IGNOU. In order to give full focus on hands on practice, a limited number of participants were selected based on first come first served basis. The emphasis will be on retaining the same group of participants throughout the year.
3. *Resource Persons:* The workshop was more hands-on practice oriented. The resource persons for the workshops were from IGNOU. Prof. P. V. Sasidhar, Director, SOEDS and the NCIDE faculty, Dr. Sujata Santosh, Assistant Director, NCIDE and Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Deputy Director, NCIDE were the resource persons for the workshop.
4. *Mode:* The workshop was conducted in face to face mode and with follow up discussions held in Gmail group.

5. *Programme Schedule:* The programme schedule of the workshop is provided at *Annexure I*.
6. *Date:* The workshop was held on April 09 & April 10, 2019.
7. *Venue:* The workshop was organized in the Conference Room, NCIDE, IGNOU.

Workshop Coordinators

The workshop was coordinated by

- Dr. Sujata Santosh, Assistant Director, NCIDE and
- Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Deputy Director, NCIDE.

Expected Outcomes

The workshop was expected to provide to the participants a platform for providing hands on training on various available latest ICT tools for innovative learning and support solutions. It was expected to empower the faculty to use these tools in their teaching and learning practices. The emphasis was to enable exploring the possible use of the available ICT tools innovatively, which will further facilitate in overcoming key challenges when designing and implementing change in the ODL system.

The Workshop Sessions

Dr. Oum Prakash Sharma, Director, NCIDE said that a large number of tools are available which can be used by the faculty members to provide support to the distance learners. He mentioned that the NCIDE is aiming to conduct such activities and facilitate the faculty members in utilising these tools innovatively. Dr. Sujata Santosh, coordinator of the workshop mentioned that the wide range of available technological tools and resources can be of immense benefit to the faculty and distance learners through enhanced web support through the programme or course. Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, co-coordinator of the workshop highlighted how these tools could be used to provide support to the distance learners easily.



Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar taking Workshop Session

A total of 15 participants from various schools of IGNOU participated in the training workshop.



Workshop Participants

The participants ideated on providing creative and innovative solutions to the learners of their programme. They learnt about the freely available apps and how these apps can be used for providing Academic support to the distance learners.



Workshop Session on Ideation

The main focus of the workshop was on providing hands on training to the faculty members about the creative use of freely available tools for providing innovative learning solutions. These tools can be used to supplement the Academic Counselling by the faculty, particularly in low enrolment programmes. The workshop was a huge success among the faculty members and they enjoyed the hands-on sessions and gave the feedback that more such workshops are required to facilitate the faculty members in the University.



Workshop Session

Feedback Received from the Participants

The response from the participants was positive. A questionnaire was circulated among the participants to obtain their feedback on the conduct of the workshop and the relevance of the topics covered in the workshop Sessions. Feedback was received from 15 participants which is compiled and presented below:

- a. **How useful this training workshop will be to you in your teaching-learning and research work.**

Very Useful	Useful	Of limited use	Not useful at all
12	2	0	0

- b. **How far have you benefited from participation in this workshop?**

Substantially	Considerably	Fairly	Not at all
5	7	2	0

- c. **The workshop content:** All the participants agreed that the workshop content was relevant, comprehensive, and easy to understand.

Relevant	Comprehensive	Easy to understand
14	14	14

- d. **The workshop:** The participants agreed that the workshop was well paced and had a good mix between listening and interactivity. However, some of the participants were not fully satisfied with the breaks provided in the workshop.

Well-paced		Breaks were sufficient		A good mix between listening and interactivity	
SA	A	SA	A	SA	A
14	0	5	9	13	0

- e. **The sessions and presentations were useful learning experiences.**

All the participants reported that the sessions and presentations were useful learning experiences for them.

- f. **The facilitators:** All the participants agreed that the workshop facilitators were knowledgeable, well-prepared, and responsive to participants' questions.

Knowledgeable	Well-prepared	Responsive to participants' questions
14	14	14

- g. **What sessions you liked most in this workshop?**

- Almost all the sessions.
- All the sessions were interesting and useful.
- Web page Design
- Presentation by Prof. P.V.K. Sasidhar

- h. **What session you like least in this workshop?**

All the participants reported that nothing in particular was liked least in the workshop.

- i. **Any other suggestion for this workshop.**

- I will be waiting to attend the next workshop which would be on same line of content for using ICT in teaching learning process.
- More tools and apps should be discussed in the next workshop.
- Will need support from time to time after the workshop.
- May schedule the workshop in a lab where internet connectivity is not disturbed, otherwise it was good.
- Mobile App development should be taken up in future workshop.
- Need many more such workshops with feedback and support from NCIDE from time to time.
- We need more inputs to cater to our learners in case of practical counselling as most of our learners are scattered and their number is limited in some of the programmes and courses.
- More coverage of ICT tools both horizontal and vertical should be there in future workshops.
- More time may be given for hands-on practice.

Conclusion

This workshop was a unique effort by the NCIDE towards the capacity development of the teachers and academics of IGNOU with the objective to provide intellectual and technological support to them thus enriching the ODL system. The workshop in a duration of two days was focused on providing training on a technological tool with hands on training. As indicated by the feedback of the participants the workshop was well received and appreciated by the participants, who also requested for more such workshops in future also. The participants learned about the technological tools available which can be used in teaching learning. The hands-on training about creative use of such technological tools for providing innovative learning solutions was helpful in making them gain knowledge about

using the tools. This was most crucial towards achieving the objectives of the workshop. As an outcome of the workshop NCIDE initiated the proposal for providing Web Enabled Academic Support (WEAS) to the students of programmes with limited or low enrolment. Initially, NCIDE is engaged in developing WEAS for five programmes of various schools.

Dr. Sujata Santosh, Workshop Coordinator, Assistant Director, NCIDE & Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Workshop Co-Coordinator, Deputy Director, NCIDE

**Schedule of the Workshop on “Creative Use of ICT Tools: Towards Innovative Learning Solutions”
organised by NCIDE on 9-10 April, 2019 at Conference Room, NCIDE, IGNOU**

	SESSION – 1 10.30 – 11.15	11.15 – 11.30	SESSION – 2 11.30 – 13.15	13.15 – 14.00	SESSION – 3 14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 15.15	SESSION – 4 15.15 – 16-45
Day – 1	Registration and Inauguration - Introduction about the workshop (Need and Overview)	Tea Break	- Innovative ICT Tools (Google Apps for Education) at a Glance and - Ideation for Creative use of ICT Tools	Lunch Break	Google Groups and Google Calendar and Hands on Practice	Tea Break	- Interactive Radio Counseling Google Groups and Google Calendar and Hands on Practice
Day – 2	Google Form and Hands on Practice	Tea Break	Google Site and Hands on Practice	Lunch Break	Google Site and Hands on Practice	Tea Break	Presentation by the Participants and Discussions

Resource Persons: Prof. P. V. Sasidhar, Director, SOEDS (Session - 4), Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, NCIDE and Dr. Sujata Santosh, NCIDE