

Report of the
One day Workshop
On
Cognitive Skills, Design Thinking and Critical Thinking
(17th January, 2019)

Organised by
Under the aegis of Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)



National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education
Indira Gandhi National Open University



Background

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) is housed at the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE), IGNOU. As part of its activities, the IIC is holding a series of workshops for the students. In this series, this "One-day Workshop on Cognitive Skills, Design Thinking and Critical Thinking" was organised.

Objectives

The objectives of this workshop are to:

1. sensitize the participants about cognitive skills, design thinking process and critical thinking in general, and education in particular.
2. discuss how to improve cognitive skills, metacognitive skills and critical thinking.
3. explain cognitive skills, design thinking process and critical thinking through individual and group activities.

Methodology

The workshop was held on 17th January, 2019, Thursday, from 09.30 AM to 05.30 PM. The participants included the research scholars, who are pursuing MPhil and PhD Programmes. Professor Prabir Kumar Biswas, an eminent Psychologist and Educationist and Professor in Staff Training Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE) was invited as the expert resource person. He took all the sessions of the workshop.

In the session on cognitive thinking he defined the term 'cognition' and 'metacognition'; discussed with the participants the various cognitive and metacognitive skills needed for better performance; described various types of attention and explained how to increase attention skills; explained the different types of memory and how to improve memory skills; and administered tests to increase the participants' attention and memory capacity.

In the session on critical thinking he described the five different types of thinking and elaborated on critical thinking skills of analysing, applying standards, discriminating, logical reasoning etc. He encouraged to develop a questioning mind and practice active listening.

In the session on design thinking, he explained the five phases of the design thinking process. He elucidated the steps on how to ideate and explained the different processes of ideation, such as brainstorming, brainwriting, bodystorming etc. He administered group activities to the participants on how to generate ideas through brainwriting, evaluate and select the best ideas and enrich the ideas through the SCAMPER technique.

The sessions were highly interactive with the students asking many questions, discussing and taking part in the hands on activities.

1. Participants

The participants included the research scholars, who are pursuing MPhil and PhD Programmes. A total of 40 students participated. There were 22 female and 18 male students. The participants were from eight Schools of Studies, one Institute and one Centre at IGNOU. These are Staff Training and Research Institute in Distance Education, Inter University Consortium, School of Journalism and New Media Studies, School of Social Sciences, School of Sciences, School of Social Work, School of Management Studies, School of Education, School of Translation Studies and Training, and School of Performing and Visual Arts.

2. Feedback from the Participants

The participants were highly satisfied with the workshop, and they found all the useful. The following is the feedback about the workshop. All the participants had gone through the objectives of the workshop said the contents covered were sufficient. They thought that the strategies followed in the workshop were relevant keeping the objectives in mind. The participants said that the time was insufficient and the workshop needed to be organised of a duration of two to five days. The students said that the skill developed in the workshop will be helpful in not only in academic activities, but also to solve problems in life. They said that the skills developed in the workshop will help them to think out-of-the box, and think differently and systematically with increased concentration. They thought that the workshop was organised in a very well manner. Choosing audience, topic, organization of workshop, sharing slides, concentration on presentation and different activities have no comparison from others. The instructor was friendly and a good task master. The participants were thankful to the IIC for conducting this workshop.

Quotes from the students

-- “The workshop provided a direction in how cognitive skills and out-of-box thinking could be developed”—Rikisha Bhaumik, *PhD Scholar in Distance Education*.

-- “The concept of metacognition will help me in thinking [about] my research activities.”
Abhinav Alok, PhD Scholar in Distance Education.

--“This workshop will make me change myself. I am used to multitasking but after this, I will concentrate on only one task.”—*Rajni Yadav, PhD Scholar in Journalism and Mass Communication*





3. Resource Persons

1. Prof. Prabir Kr. Biswas, Profesor, STRIDE, IGNOU

4. Coordinator:

Dr. Moumita Das, Assistant Director, NCIDE and Convener IIC, IGNOU

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