



Online Training Programme on Use of OER in Teaching and Learning

June 14-20, 2018

A Brief Report

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

1. Background to the Online Training Programme

Open educational resources (OER) and open courseware (OCW) are some of the recent innovations in the field of education and are significant for providing equitable access to quality education. The Government of India has also stressed on the use of OER for the formation of knowledge societies and to facilitate lifelong learning process. Like many emerging economies and developed nations, Indian institutions also have recognised the importance and impact of OER to bridge the learning divide in the country. India has been experiencing the incremental growth of OER and MOOCs in the form of various initiatives being taken up at the national and institutional level. However, there is a need to promote awareness about open education resources.

In light of the recent UGC (Online Courses) Regulations, 2018 Higher Educational Institutions can now offer Certificate, Diploma and Degree Programmes in full-fledged online mode. Open Educational Resources (OER) provide opportunities for educators to support access to a higher quality education by enabling easy availability of open educational learning materials for teaching learning purposes. These resources may be harnessed in developing online courses.

NCIDE has been taking up activities to nurture and develop a culture of continued search for new and innovative solutions to issues and problems on the way of University's mission to offer seamless education across the various levels, achieve cost efficiency in its operations and provide borderless access to quality education and training. In this context, for the benefit of the IGNOU fraternity, NCIDE organised an online programme/ workshop on capacity building of IGNOU teachers and academics. The training workshop is an attempt towards promoting an awareness about the use of OER among educators in IGNOU.

The training initiative by NCIDE is novel and innovative as the training programme/ workshop was conducted in an online mode, and also as it is on OER, it involved the use of OER for instruction and training purposes. The training programme was conducted in an online mode and involved a number of tasks to make it more engaging, interesting, and thus more beneficial for the participants.

2. Objectives

The major objectives of the online training workshop were to:

- i). Create awareness among the faculty members about the use of OER in teaching learning; and
- ii). Enable the faculty members to use and integrate OER into their teaching practice.

3. Format of the Online Training Programme

The training programme aims to acquaint the faculty members with the basics of open education and open education resources with historical background.

- i). *Duration:* The training programme was of seven days to a maximum of ten days.
- ii). *Participants:* The training programme was open for all the teachers and academics of IGNOU. A total of 20-25 participants were invited on first come first serve basis. The participants were expected to have a reasonable expertise in using ICT tools as the workshop involved online tasks and activities.
- iii). *Mode:* The training programme was conducted in online mode and supported with online discussions. The learners' participation was encouraged in asynchronous/ synchronous discussions, assignment activity and Programme involvement. The progress from one module to another was sequentially.

A total of 48 registration requests were received. In the first batch only 25 participants were considered. Out of the 25 registered participants 13 completed the programme successfully. Two participants had to drop out because of personal reasons and 10 could not complete the programme because of exam related duties. The participants liked the learning experience, and appreciated the activities and engagement with OER.

- iv). *Date:* The training programme was held from 14-20th June, 2018.

4. Innovative Features of the Online Training Programme

The training material was enriched using the existing OER and comprised videos, web resources and pdf/ ppt content. Activities, quizzes, participation in discussion forums and short assignments were incorporated to help the participants form a better understanding of various concepts. Certificates of completion of the program were provided only after the participants covered all the training modules and completed the assigned activities and tasks.

5. Expected Outcomes

At the end of the training programme, the participants were expected to understand the basics of open education and open education resources. The emphasis was to enable them to consider various aspects of use of OER in teaching learning. The training programme aimed to make them understand different types of open licenses and issues related to copyright. The training programme was expected to empower the participants to identify different types of OER available to meet the varied learning requirements and use it in instructional material.

6. Training Programme Coordinator

The training programme was coordinated by Dr. Sujata Santosh, Assistant Director, NCIDE.

Expert Advisor for the Workshop: Prof. Santosh Panda, STRIDE, IGNOU.

Guidance: Prof. Manoj Kulshreshtha, Director, NCIDE.

7. The Workshop

The training programme was open for all teachers and academics of IGNOU. A total of 20-25 participants were invited on first come first serve basis. Out of the 25 registered participants 13 completed the programme successfully. 2 participants had to drop out because of personal reasons and 10 could not complete the programme because of exam related duties.

8. Feedback Received from the Participants

The following feedback was received from the participants:

- The awareness of the availability of OER should be given to all the faculty members.
- As the internet facilities are growing in the country, OERs have become more relevant and useful. The knowledge in multimedia form can reach to the masses and can be grasped more easily and understandably.
- Thank you for this learning opportunity. In today's classrooms, the teachers require good amount of advanced knowledge to give practical inputs to the learners, so OERs can be very useful.

9. Conclusion

The workshop was a unique effort by the NCIDE towards the capacity development of the teachers and academics of IGNOU with the objective to provide them training on open education resources through online mode thus enriching the ODL system. 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.

Dr. Sujata Santosh,
Workshop Coordinator &
Assistant Director, NCIDE