

Development of MOOCS on Inclusive Education



**Netaji Subhash Open University,
Kolkata, West Bengal**



**with support of
COL-CEMCA, New Delhi**

A BRIEF REPORT

by

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Introduction

Thousands of children around the world are deprived from access to education because they belong to diverse groups and their learning is not supported. Thus their exclusion robs them of their potential and diminishes our society. Inclusive education is about addressing barriers to learning and participation, and transforming school communities to allow them to really benefit from inclusion. Inclusive Education has drawn global attention as a means to special intervention to existing educational system. Making education inclusive is not only an innovative initiative but a challenge. It requires systematic understanding of equalization of educational opportunities, equity, and accessibility as indicators of inclusiveness. Besides that, it needs to focus on assessment and instructions in inclusive classrooms as well as reorganizing classrooms/schools as inclusive.

How can the teachers be helped to reorganize the classroom/schools as inclusive? The pre-service teacher training programs in most of the developing countries do not provide adequate input to the teachers to equip themselves for handling the needs of diverse students in classrooms which supposed to be inclusive. The provision for in-service training for the teachers is also limited. It is also very important to consider the teaching learning environments of the teachers in most of the over-crowded classrooms with inadequate resources to support learners from diverse backgrounds. When a large number of teachers need such an important orientation and training inclusive education, then open and distance modality is a practical answer to resolve that issue.

It urges for development of blended materials including print material, A/V lecture (videos), PPTs and scripts suitable for MOOC platform for transforming professional development programmes into an Inclusive Education setting.

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) has been supporting the development of skill based open and distance learning courses using OER. In this regard CEMCA has initiated developing a modular programme entitled professional Development Programme into an inclusive education system in collaboration with Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), Kolkata. The purpose of the course is to help teachers, other professionals, and parents to tackle inclusion – in a practical way – in their own environment.

Training to the Content Developers

A three day Workshop on Curriculum and SLM developments as OER for professional enhancement of Teacher Educators into inclusive setting was organized by the School of Education, Netaji Subhas Open University & Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) at Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), Kolkata from 17th -19th August, 2016. The schedule of the Workshop is placed in the appendix of this Report.

This was the first phase activity of the project “Transforming professional Development Programme into an inclusive education system”. The experts and course developers reviewed the draft curriculum and syllabus, and also discussed the issues related to organization of practical, course duration and availability of the support materials for practical and internship. The workshop was graced by Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon’ble V.C, NSOU, Prof. Amitav Mishra, IGNOU, New Delhi Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Programme Officer, CEMCA, New Delhi. As Resource Persons; whereas Dr. A. N Dey, Director, School of Education (SoE), NSOU, delivered the welcome address. In his presidential address, Prof. Sarkar emphasized on the importance of inclusive education and the role of the higher learning institutions especially the Universities. He further added that this is a unique approach adopted by the University.

Prof. Amitav Mishra, School of Education, IGNOU presided the 3 day workshop as the key resource person. Each session of the workshop proved to be serving the objective of the workshop, i.e, the content and SLM development. Eighteen Professors and Associate Professors from various Universities of West Bengal and Odisha and faculty members of SoE, NSOU participated in the Workshop.

The activities carried out during three days of the Workshop were characterized by serious discourse on content and SLM writing and its modalities for professional enhancement of Teacher Educators into Inclusive Setting.

Development of Content Outline

The Workshop also aimed in developing content outline on Inclusive education in a modular manner for the content writers/developers. For the purpose of MOOCS, it was decided to have a basic course on Inclusive Education to help teachers, other professionals, and parents to tackle inclusion – in a practical way – in their own environment. This would help them in handling most of the issues of inclusive classroom.

If any teacher would be interested for advanced courses which are more specialized in nature such as: Sign Language, Use of Braille and Low Vision Aids, etc. ; the University would plan such courses in near future.

The targeted learners for the proposed Course were decided to be (i) In-service /Pre-service Teachers, Teacher Educators from both elementary and secondary schools across the country from urban as well as rural areas as main target group; whereas (ii) parents, volunteers, social workers, rehabilitation professionals were considered to be supplementary group.

The outlines of the contents were developed based on the modules as presented in the next pages.

Module 1

Diversity & Inclusion

Unit 1
Diversity in Learner

Unit 2
Learners with Disabilities

Unit 3
Inclusive practice in Education /Inclusive Education

Unit 4
Barriers in Learning

Module 2

Diverse Students & Their Special Needs

Unit 1
Learners from Diverse Background

Unit 2
Learners with Sensory Disabilities

Unit 3
Learners with Intellectual & Learning Disabilities

Unit 4
Learners with other Disabilities

Module/3

Inclusive Teaching Learning Process

**Unit 1
Universal Design
for Learning**

**Unit 2
Accommodation &
Adaptation**

**Unit 3
Teaching Strategies
in Inclusive
Classroom**

**Unit 4
Learner Support in
School***

IEP, Counselling, Health- Hygiene, Sports etc also included

Module 4

Building Inclusive School & Community

**Unit 1
Developing
Inclusive Practices
in School**

**Unit 2
Assistive Devices &
Technology**

**Unit 3
Building Inclusive
Community**

**Unit 4
Managing Support for
Inclusion:
Collaborating Action
& Research**

Development of Contents

Under the guidance of Expert-consultant, four teams were prepared to undertake development of contents. The teams were mentored by Prof. Sumanta Chattaraj and Prof. A.N. Dey; led by senior professors for each modules along with faculty members from School of Education, NSOU, Kolkata. Each team submitted detailed structures for each units to the expert-consultant for further editing and guidance.

Based on feedback from the Expert-consultant, each team developed contents. For finalization of draft course materials as OER for professional enhancement of teacher educators in Inclusive settings Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) again supported the development of skill based open and distance in collaboration with Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), Kolkata. A two-day Workshop on Finalization of Draft course materials as OER for professional enhancement of teacher educators in Inclusive settings was organized by the School of Education, Netaji Subhas Open University & Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) at Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), Kolkata from 13th -14th February, 2017. The workshop deliberated on following issues to resolve the progress and review of the ongoing project: (i) Finalization of Draft course materials, PPTs & A-V lectures; (ii) Mode of delivery of the course; (iii) Target learners & expected size of the learners; (iv) Announcement for course registration. The workshop was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU and was graced by Prof. Amitav Mishra, SoE, IGNOU & Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Programme Officer (Education), CEMCA. All the course editors & content writers were present. Dr. A. N. Dey, Director, SoE, NSOU delivered the welcome address. Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi & Dr. Sumanta Chattaraj, Project Director, SoE, NSOU reported the status and progress of the project. Expert-consultant Prof. Amitav Mishra discussed on the concerning issues of the project. All the respective editors presented draft course contents from their respective units before the house for validation. Suggestions and recommendations were well appreciated and accepted for further finalization of the draft contents. At the end of the 2-day workshop, a course of action and timelines were agreed upon: (i) the final content material of the SLM after vetting will be prepared by 25th Mar, 2017; (ii) the supplementary A-V materials, appropriate PPTs etc. will be prepared by 15th April, 2017; (iii) the course will be

delivered using a blended approach; (iv) expected users may be wide, ranging from researchers, teacher educators, teachers and pupil teachers; (v) the MOOC registration may launch from July 2017. The Workshop was ended with a note that through such platform, the users will develop a better and comprehensive understanding about the concept of inclusive education, its magnitudes and the social responsibilities.

Conclusion

The magnitude of the task was so huge, it has forced to extend the time line. The vetting of the final contents are underway; whereas the development of AV materials are in process. It is expected to take some more time to be ready as MOOCS. The Expert-consultant acknowledges the supports he received from COL-CEMCA and NSOU in this task were enormous and has been enjoying the task; however urges for a prompt action from NSOU in finalization of the Course for delivery.

Appendix (Schedule of Workshop :1)

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR	Expected Output/ Outcome
DAY 1 : 17thAugust 2016			
9.30 – 10.00 a.m.	Registration		List of participants
10.00 – 11.00 a.m.	Inauguration: Introductions & Welcome Remarks		Getting to know each other
11.00 – 11.15a.m.	BREAK		BREAK
11.15 – 11.30a.m.	Programme & workshop objectives	Prof. A N Day, NSOU	Agreed upon workshop objectives
11.30 - 12.30 p.m.	Instructional Design	Prof.Amitav Mishra, IGNOU	Presentation & Discussion
12.30 – 1.30 p.m.	Instructional Design	Prof.Amitav Mishra, IGNOU	Presentation & Discussion
1.30 – 2.30 p.m.	LUNCH		LUNCH
2.30 – 2.45 p.m.	Presentation of Draft curriculum and content outline	Prof.SumantaChattaraj, NSOU	Presentation
2.45 – 3.30 p.m.	Understanding OER	Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, CEMCA, New Delhi	Presentation & Discussion
3.30-3.45p.m.	BREAK		BREAK
3.45-5.00 p.m.	Open License (creative commons)	Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, CEMCA, New Delhi	Presentation & Discussion

DAY 2 : 19th September 2015			
9.30 – 10.00 a.m.	Recap of Day 1	Prof.SumantaChattaraj, NSOU	Summary of Day 1
10.00 – 11.00 a.m.	Structure and writing of SLM	Prof.Amitav Mishra, IGNOU	Presentation & Discussion
11.00 – 11.15 a.m.	BREAK		BREAK
11.15 – 12.15 p.m.	Structure and writing of SLM	Prof.Amitav Mishra, IGNOU	Presentation & Discussion
12.15 – 1.30 p.m.	GROUP WORK on Draft content outline	Experts, content writers, editors	Finalisation of draft content outline
1.30 – 2.30 p.m.	LUNCH		LUNCH
2.30 – 3.30 p.m.	GROUP WORK on Draft content outline	Experts, content writers, editors	Agreed upon Course content outline
3.30-3.45p.m.	BREAK		BREAK
3.45 – 4.15p.m.	GROUP WORK on writing of learning objectives	Experts, content writers, editors	Learning Objectives prepared
4.15 – 5.00 p.m.	GROUP WORK on writing of learning objectives	Experts, content writers, editors	Learning Objectives prepared
DAY 3 : 19th August 2016			
9.30 – 10.00 a.m.	Recap of Day 2	Prof.SumantaChattaraj, NSOU	Summary of Day 2
10.00 – 11.00 a.m.	GROUP WORK on agreed content outline and Prepared learning objectives: Presentation by Groups	Prof.Amitav Mishra, IGNOU Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, CEMCA Prof. A N Day, NSOU	Agreed upon Course content outline and learning objectives
11.00 – 11.15 a.m.	BREAK		BREAK
11.15 – 12.15 p.m.	Instruction to course writers and Prepare time line	Prof. A N Day, NSOU; Prof.SumantaChattaraj, NSOU and Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi	Agreed upon the time line and instructions on writings of courses
12.15 – 1.30 p.m.	Valediction		
1.30 – 2.30 p.m.	LUNCH		LUNCH



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