

# COL-CEMCA UPDATES

May 2026



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING  
Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

## **COL-CEMCA and UPRTOU organise a three-day workshop on Course Enhancement for Graduate Employability.**

A three-day workshop on “Course Enhancement for Graduate Employability” organised by COL-CEMCA in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU), Uttar Pradesh, concluded with the development of nine new employability-focused academic courses aimed at strengthening skill-based higher education and improving career readiness among graduates.

The workshop was organised from 4 to 6 May 2026 under the COL’s Graduate Employability Project. Faculty members from various Schools of Studies of the University actively participated in curriculum redesign, programme planning, and skill mapping exercises aligned with contemporary industry requirements.

The workshop focused on reimagining higher education curricula in line with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emerging labour market trends, and the growing need for flexible, skill-oriented learning pathways. Participants worked towards designing programmes that integrate employability, entrepreneurship, digital competency, and

industry relevance within the framework of open and distance learning.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, highlighted Uttar Pradesh’s transformation into a major economic and industrial hub and emphasised the strategic role of UPRTOU in preparing a future-ready workforce for the state. Referring to developments such as the Ganga Expressway, the Defence Industrial Corridor, and the expansion of manufacturing and technology sectors in Greater Noida, he stated that higher education institutions must respond proactively to evolving workforce demands.



*Glimpses from the workshop,*

Participants were engaged in practical and collaborative curriculum development activities during the workshop. These included identifying job roles through the National Career Service Portal, mapping Qualification Pack-National Occupational Standards (QP-NOS) with programme outcomes, and drafting short-duration micro-credentials in areas such as logistics, supply chain management, healthcare support, and digital marketing.

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### **Women STEM Faculty Convened at IIT Jodhpur to Shape AI in Higher Education Classrooms**

Women STEM faculty from colleges and universities across Rajasthan gathered at IIT Jodhpur for a one-day participatory workshop, “Women Shaping AI in STEM Classrooms (SHAPE-AI STEM): A Participatory Exploration of Practice and Possibility in Higher Education.” The workshop was jointly organised by the School of Liberal Arts (SoLA) and the School of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (SAIDE) at IIT Jodhpur, in collaboration with the COL-CEMCA.

The workshop was conducted as part of a larger COL-CEMCA-supported research project, “Empowering Women STEM Teachers through AI-Integrated Pedagogy: Exploring the Pedagogical Integration of AI amongst the Higher Education Teachers of Rajasthan, India.” The project addresses a clear gap in empirical research on how women STEM faculty in Indian higher education conceptualise and implement AI-integrated pedagogy, drawing on the TPACK (Technological, Pedagogical, and Content Knowledge) framework and sensemaking theory.



*Proceedings during the workshop,*

Delivering the keynote on “Women Shaping AI in STEM Classrooms in Indian Higher Education,” Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, argued that the discourse must move beyond “women in technology” to “women leading the governance of technology.” Situating the workshop within Rajasthan’s evolving AI policy landscape, he positioned women STEM faculty as ethical guardians who can audit algorithmic bias, designers of empathy-driven AI, and carriers of a sustainability lens. “AI is not a replacement for the Guru,” he observed, “it is a new instrument in the laboratory of learning.”

Workshop outputs, including, co-created lesson plans, mindset maps, and participant reflections, together with follow-up interviews will feed into the project’s comprehensive final report, comprising an empirical dataset on AI integration, an analytical report on women STEM teachers’ AI-integration practices, a needs assessment, and evidence-based recommendations for universities, colleges, and policy stakeholders on designing training and support structures for AI-integrated STEM pedagogy.

[Click here to read more](#)

## COL-CEMCA and AIOU Organise a Three-Day Workshop to develop Pakistan's First Eldercare Course

COL-CEMCA, in collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad, organised a three-day workshop on “Eldercare Courseware Adaptation” from 14 to 16 May 2026 at AIOU Islamabad.

The workshop brought together academics, medical professionals, nutrition experts, curriculum designers, development practitioners, and representatives from relevant academic departments to jointly develop the framework and course outline for Pakistan's first Elderly Caregivers Certificate Course.

During the workshop, experts emphasised that the rising number of elderly people in Pakistan and across the world has created an urgent demand for professional caregiving services. They described the proposed program as a timely and much-needed initiative that would not only address an important social challenge but also create new educational and employment opportunities for young people. They also proposed the inclusion of a wide range of subjects in the programme, including elderly health care, medication support, psychology, human behaviour, nutrition, communication skills, emotional support, mental and physical health, social care, psychosocial support, and professional ethics.

The participants emphasised the need for a balanced blend of practical and theoretical training to equip learners with the skills required to provide quality elderly care services.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, highlighted the growing regional and global demand for trained caregivers. Referring to successful caregiving models developed in



*Workshop glimpses at AIOU, Pakistan.*

Sri Lanka, he noted that such experiences could provide valuable insights for Pakistan's programme development in elderly care.

The course is expected to be developed within six months and will be offered both as an independent certificate programme and as part of selected BS degree programmes at AIOU.

[Click here to read more](#)



*Workshop in progress at AIOU, Pakistan.*

### **COL-CEMCA and VMOU Organise Three-Day Workshop on RBM and Course Enhancement for Graduate Employability**

COL-CEMCA in collaboration with Vardhman Mahaveer Open University (VMOU), Kota organised a three-day capacity-building workshop focused on strengthening graduate employability and institutional planning through skill-based curriculum reforms and Results-Based Management (RBM) practices, on 25-27 May 2026 at VMOU Campus.



*Photographs from the workshop.*

In his address, Dr. B. Shadrach, Director COL-CEMCA, positioned VMOU's transformation as essential to bridging Rajasthan's critical skills gap, emphasising that the university must strategically align with the state's industrial needs while focusing on rural entrepreneurship and outcome-based education to ensure graduates possess workplace-ready competencies before graduation.

The workshop on Day 1 focused on integrating Results Based Management (RBM) into VMOU's Employability Framework and included sessions on results chains, work plans, activity trackers, and Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) frameworks. Participants also undertook practical exercises on curriculum integration, job readiness, entrepreneur readiness, employer relations, alumni

engagement, and work experience components of the employability framework.

It was followed by sessions on Day 2 and Day 3 on "Course Enhancement for Graduate Employability". The discussions focused on integrating employability skills and attributes into existing university courses, competency mapping, curriculum redesign, employability-focused learning activities, and the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and digital resources for instructional enhancement.

The workshop aimed to equip faculty members with skills to revamp their programmes, focusing on employability and competency based learning. In order to create blended learning courses that incorporate openly licensed resources and gender responsive principles, participants will map competencies, match courses with graduate attributes, and create draft course outputs for submission and refinement.

[Click here to read more](#)

### **COL-CEMCA and VBU Organise Three-Day Workshop on Mainstreaming Learners with Specific Learning Disabilities**

COL-CEMCA in collaboration with Vinoba Bhave University (VBU), Hazaribagh, organised a three-day Faculty Capacity Building Workshop on "Mainstreaming Learners with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) in Higher Education" from 25-27 May 2026 at the VBU campus.

The workshop brought together faculty members from VBU and affiliated colleges to build awareness and strengthen inclusive teaching practices for learners with Specific Learning Disabilities such as Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, and Dyspraxia.

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, New Delhi, delivered the keynote address virtually and called attention to what he termed the "support cliff" — the sudden withdrawal of all academic support the moment an SLD student crosses from school into higher education — arguing that inclusion cannot have an expiration date at Grade 12.

"When we fail to support students with SLD in higher education, we are not just failing them legally under the RPWD Act — we are robbing society of unique problem-solvers, out-of-the-box thinkers, and creative leaders," he said.

Over three days, faculty members were taken through the full arc of SLD awareness, classroom practice, and institutional action. Day 1 focused on understanding the four key disability types — Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, and Dyspraxia — through conceptual sessions and a hands-on 'Empathy Lab' where participants simulated the daily challenges faced by SLD learners.

Day 2 equipped faculty with practical strategies, covering Universal Design for Learning, inclusive assessment adaptations, and live demonstrations of freely available assistive technology tools.

Day 3 brought the workshop to a close with institutional gap-mapping exercises and the drafting of individual Faculty Action Plans, ensuring participants left with concrete commitments for their own classrooms and departments.

The workshop marked a significant milestone in VBU's journey towards becoming a model for inclusive higher education in Jharkhand and beyond.

Read More: [COL-CEMCA and VBU Organise Three-Day Workshop on Mainstreaming Learners with Specific Learning Disabilities - Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia](#)



*Photographs from the workshop.*

## COL-CEMCA and OUSL Convene Expert Consultation on Professional Elderly Caregiving Courseware

COL-CEMCA and the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) convened an Expert Consultation Session on Professional Elderly Caregiving on 25 May 2026, conducted in hybrid mode at OUSL. The session brought together nursing faculty, curriculum specialists, and vocational qualifications experts to align COL-CEMCA's existing elderly caregiving courseware with Sri Lanka's National Vocational Qualifications Framework (NVQF) and lay the groundwork for a university-level Certificate Course in Professional Elderly Caregiving.



*Photographs from the workshop.*

The consultation was inaugurated by Senior Professor P.M.C. Thilakarathne, Vice Chancellor of OUSL, and opened with a keynote address by Professor B. Shadrach, Director of COL-CEMCA. Session proceedings were coordinated by Dr. K.A. Sriyani, Head of the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, OUSL.

The need for this initiative is rooted in a demographic shift that Sri Lanka can no longer defer. With over 12 per cent of the population already aged 60 or older — a figure projected to exceed 27 per cent by 2050 — the traditional family-based care model is under mounting strain from urbanisation, migration, and

changing household structures. The consultation directly addresses the resulting shortage of trained, certified caregivers capable of managing the complex needs of an ageing population.

The substantive session, led by Prof. Karunesh Saxena of Sangam University, examined core competency domains for professional elderly caregiving, international and regional standards, and appropriate learning outcomes and assessment approaches for a university-level certification aligned to NVQF Level 3. This was followed by a focused session on mapping caregiving competencies to specific NVQF qualification levels, co-facilitated by Dr. A.V.P. Madhavi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing at OUSL.

The curriculum to emerge from this process will lead to a competency-based certificate course structured across four modules — covering foundational care environments, activities of daily living, holistic well-being, and critical interventions — with a pedagogical approach that prioritises practical application, including problem-based learning and clinical simulation, over rote instruction.

The expert consultation forms part of a broader collaboration between COL-CEMCA and OUSL to professionalise elderly care as a recognised vocational and academic discipline in Sri Lanka.

[Click here to read more](#)

## NAAC and COL-CEMCA Organise a Workshop on Quality Assurance in Online Learning at BRAOU

COL-CEMCA in collaboration with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU), organised a two-day "Consultative Workshop for Directors of Online

Education and CIQA/IQAC" at the BRAOU campus on May 27-28, 2026.

The workshop brought together experts, administrators, and academic leaders from across the country to deliberate on strengthening quality assurance mechanisms in online education. Discussions focused on curriculum design and development, digital content creation, teaching-learning processes, student support services, assessment methods, faculty development, technology platforms, continuous improvement strategies, leadership, and the evolving regulatory landscape in higher education.



*Photographs from the workshop.*

Dr. B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA, in his address, highlighted the core focus areas of COL and CEMCA, which include policy advocacy, institutional capacity strengthening, promotion of learner engagement, and the advancement of technology-enabled education systems. He stressed that institutions must strive to maintain an effective balance between quantity, quality, and relevance in the emerging era of digital transformation and AI-driven education systems.

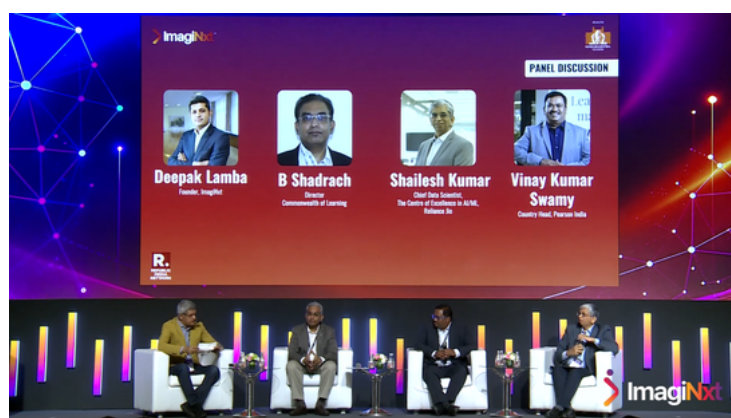
Delegates also reviewed the primary components and parameters for institutional assessment and accreditation in online education systems. Around 56 delegates from different parts of the country participated in the workshop and shared best practices, challenges, and innovative approaches for improving the quality of higher education.

Read More: [Strengthening Quality in Online Learning: NAAC and COL-CEMCA Conduct Workshop at BRAOU - Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia](#)

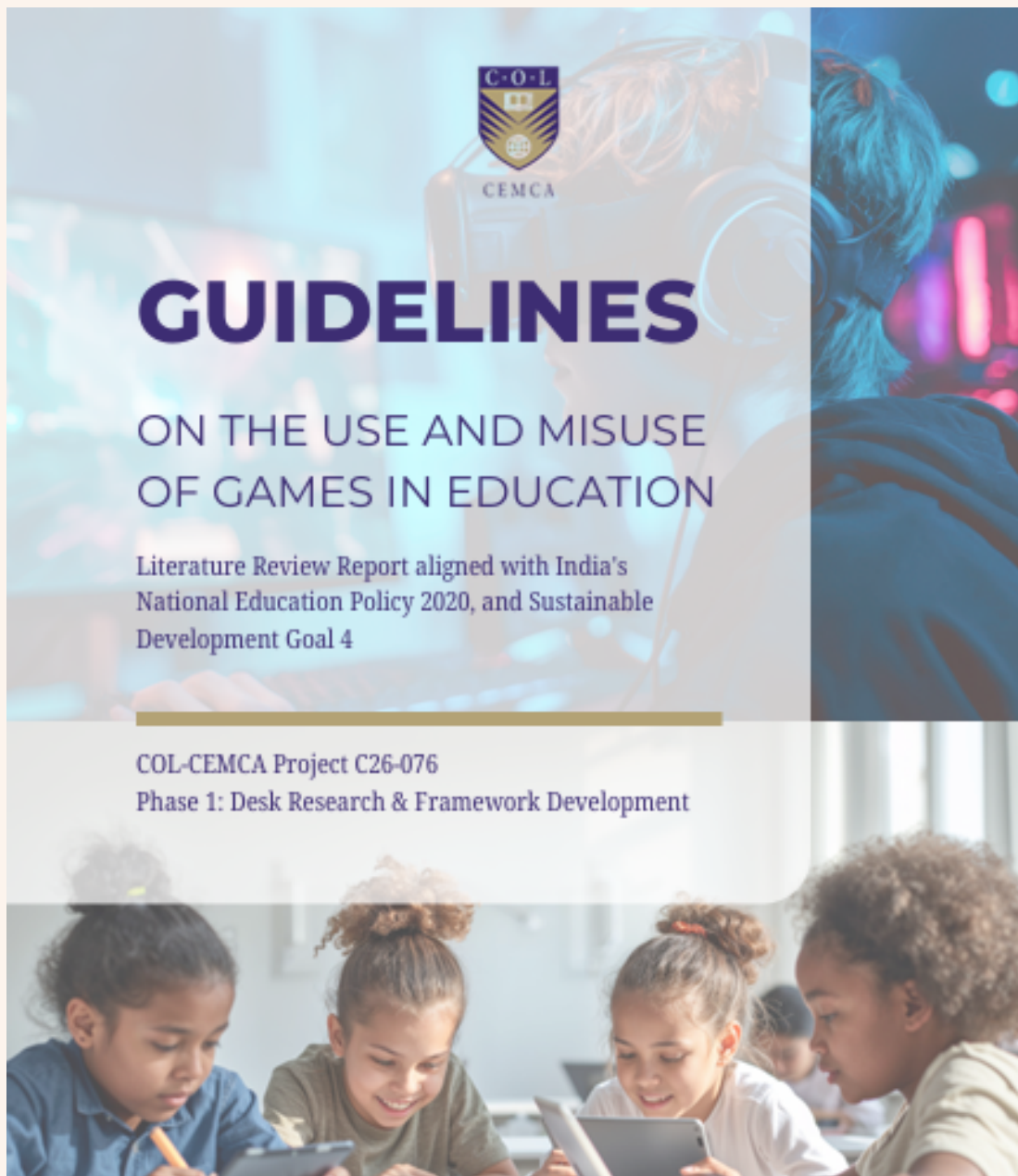
## COL-CEMCA Participation in Regional Events

**ImagiNxt 2026, Jio World Centre, Mumbai, 22-23 May 2026**

Dr B. Shadrach, Director, COL-CEMCA joined as a Speaker at ImagiNxt 2026, on 22-23 May 2026 at the Jio World Centre, Mumbai.



*Snapshot from the session.*



This literature review synthesises global evidence on game-based learning (GBL) and gamification in education, drawing from 30+ systematic reviews and meta-analyses published between 2012 and 2025. The review directly supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) – ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education while addressing India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 objectives for experiential, play-based, and technology-integrated learning.

**Access the full resource here:**

<https://cemca.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Guidelines-on-the-Use-and-Misuse-of-Games-in-Education-Edited.pdf>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**2 June 2026**

**Consultative Workshop on “Strengthening Vocational Education through Community of Practice (CoP) in India”, CBSE Headquarters, New Delhi**

**4-6 June 2026**

**Three-Day Regional Workshop on Strengthening Graduate Employability and Career Readiness in Higher Education, KKHSOU, Guwahati**

**8-10 June 2026**

**National Consultative Meeting on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Pathways, New Delhi**

**20-21 June 2026**

**Expert Conclave on Validation of Screening Parameters and Inclusive Framework for the SLD Screening App, Department of Inclusive Education (DoIE), Maldives**

**3-5 June 2026**

**Three-day Workshop on Graduate Employability and RBM, IGNOU, New Delhi**

**7-11 June 2026**

**Five-day Hybrid TVET Framework Development Workshop, Male, Maldives**

**11-12 June 2026**

**Two-day Conference on Mainstreaming Children with SLD, NCERT, New Delhi**

COL-CEMCA, a Regional Office of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Vancouver, Canada, is an international agency.

COL-CEMCA's mission is to promote meaningful, relevant and appropriate use of ICTs to serve the educational and training needs of Commonwealth Member States of Asia.

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