Online Workshop on "Technology to Reach and Teach the Learners"

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UTTARAKHAND OPEN UNIVERSITY Haldwani(INDIA)

Online Workshop Report on

"Technology to Reach and Teach the Learners"

Organized by

Schools of Computer Science & IT and Vocational Studies
Uttarakhand Open University (UOU), Haldwani

Supported by

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi
21-25, May 2020

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed multifarious challenges before the conventional and ODL educational organizations across the globe. The learners face difficulty to access the learning materials, reach their instructors and various stakeholders. The situation is more prominent for ODL institutions where large number of learners belonging to different socio-cultural background are enrolled. The present scenario compels the educational institutions to search and adopt innovative ways to reach to their learners.

Technology is a solution to address many of those challenges. There are various user-friendly technologies that could be adopted to teach and reach the learners. Considering this a workshop on "Technology to Reach and Teach the Learners" is organized by the Uttarakhand Open University (UOU), Haldwani.

Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop was organized with the following objectives:

1. Use various google applications to reach and teach the leaners;
2. Create virtual classroom using Google Classroom;
3. Develop eResources using various FOSS tools;
4. Identify OER for teaching and learning purposes; and
5. Use social media to communicate educational content.

Participants

Higher Education teachers from India, Bangladesh and Srilanka participated in the workshop. The details are given below:

1. Bangladesh: 34
2. Sri Lanka: 25
3. Uttarakhand Open University (UOU): 91

Workshop Modality

- UOU Moodle LMS was used for Resource Sharing and learner engagement. The certificate of participation was issued after the assessment on the MOODLE platform.
- Synchronous Sessions: 1hrs 30 mints every day 10:30am to 12:00pm through ZOOM by the Resource Person.
- Asynchronous Session: every day 2.00pm onwards through whatsapp Mentoring by the Resource Person.

Workshop Schedule

SNo	Day	Topic	Key points to be covered	Resource Person
1.	21 May 2020	Getting started with Google Apps	• Introduction to drive, Docs, Sharing of documents. • Google Groups and • Google Form/Quiz	Mr. Ashish Kumar Awadhiya, Asst. Director, COE, IGNOU
2.	22 May 2020	Google Classroom: An online LMS	• Steps of creating google classroom • Sharing materials and conducting online classes.	Mr. Ajith Kumar C, Asst. Prof. SOE, IGNOU
3.	23 May 2020	FOSS tools for development of eResources	• Mind map/Concept map • Creation of Video • Creation of Quiz	Dr. Nisha Singh Dy. Director, COE, IGNOU
4.	24 May 2020	OER for teaching and learning	• Introduction to OER • How to search OER	Prof. Mostafa Azad Kamal, BOU, Bangladesh
5.	25 May 2020	Communicating content through social media	• Introduction to social media tools for teaching • sharing educational content through social media	Mr. Ajith Kumar C, Asst. Prof. SOE, IGNOU

Registration Link: http://elearning.uou.ac.in/course/view.php?id=134

Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Sr. Program Officer, CEMCA, New Delhi was the host of the event and open the session with the introduction of the panelist.

He invited Dr. Madhu Parhar, Director- CEMCA for the opening remarks. Online teaching and learning is not a new phenomenon for open and distance learning Universities, she said. Suddenly, due to Covid-19 situation the acceptance of online learning has increased in the face-to-face Universities also.

It was followed by the address of Prof. Durgesh Pant, Convenor of the workshop where he stressed upon the finding the new model of teaching- learning in this pandemic situation and eventually shift

from top-down lecturing to more interactive and collaborative approach in which students and teacher will co-create.

Prof. D.P. Singh, Chairmen- University Grants Commission, India was the chief guest for the workshop. His pre-recorded inaugural address was shared with the participants.

He pointed out that the UGC has taken extremely important measures to meet out challenges in the wake of COVID-19. Amid this pandemic it is providing best of measures to our entire education system. It has launched several IT initiatives and technological initiatives during this COVID-19 pandemic. He informed the traffic in the SWAYAM portal have increased multi-fold during this time round with its SAKSHAM, Digital Library and other initiatives like national digital repository, it has reached out to very-very large number of learners, students all around, all across.

Prof. OPS Negi, Vice Chancellor- Uttarakhand Open University and the chairmen of the session addressed the participants and highlighted the importance of online learning, especially in the post-covid era. He said that we are currently facing a lockdown situation due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic is set to change the world. The way our governments, institutions, organizations, and people think and function, will change drastically. Now, it's a high time for all the teachers to adopt innovative teaching-learning practices using technology.
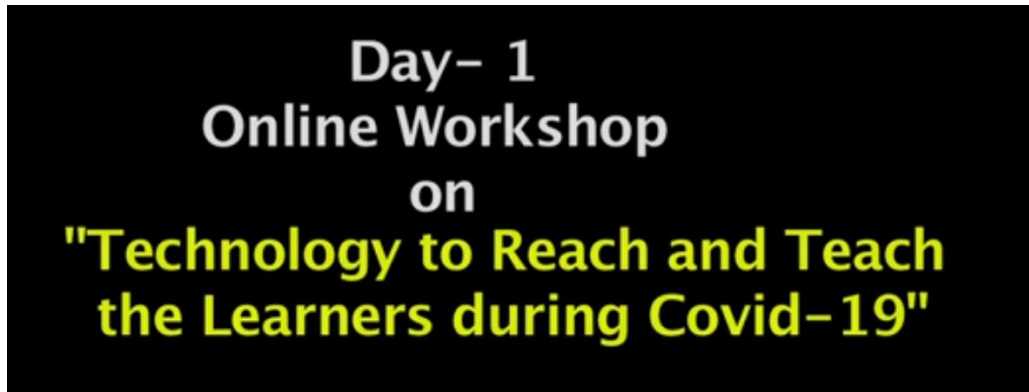

The vote of thank was delivered by Dr. Jeetendra Pande, Assistant Professor and the organizing secretary of the workshop.

Day I : 21 May 2020
Technical Session
Reaching and Teaching using Google Educational Apps
11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Mr. Ashish Kumar Awadhiya, Assistant Director- Center for Online Education, IGNOU was the expert for the first session.

The following hands-on sessions were conducted:
- How to Reach to the learners using simple and free tools
- How to Teach to the learner using technology
- How to Disseminate the e-content to the learners
- How to Assess the learners

Click here for PPT of the Day 1
Please refer to the introductory video

Click here for Google Doc tutorial


Google Forms Tutorial

Activity
1. Please create a google doc and share among around 10 members and create a collaborative document titled as "Step wise use of creating Google Doc and Sharing".
2. Please create a "Google Quiz" with 5 MCQ and share among 10 members to complete the quiz.

Assessment for the Day 1: Click here

Day II : 22 May 2020
Technical Session
Google Classroom: An online LMS
11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Dr. Ajit Kumar, Assistant Professor- School of Education, IGNOU was the resource person the second day and he discussed Google Classroom: An online LMS
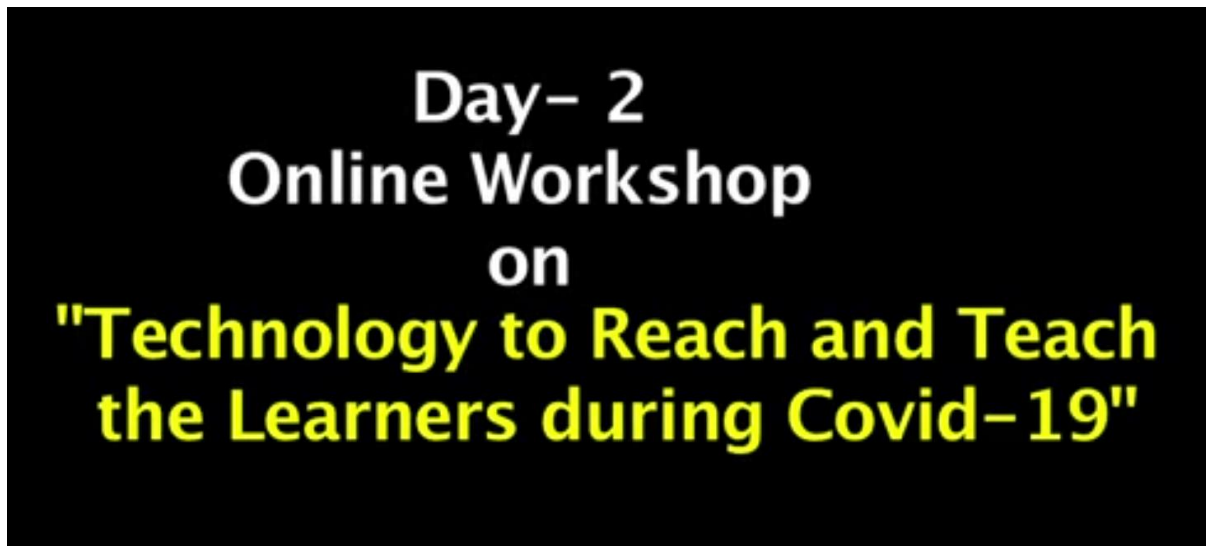

The learners were advised to collect the following digital contents (e-contents) for the course/topic/programme that they were going to organise in your virtual classroom.

- Course and Details (Class name, Section, Subject)
- Short Video useful for teaching the selected topic (2-3 minutes)
- Text/PDF/Word/Book (Any one among the following)
- PPT useful for teaching the selected topic (2-3 slides)
- One Assignment question useful for teaching the selected topic
- One Discussion Forum Question useful for teaching the selected topic
- One Assessment question (Objective/Short/Essay)
- Images useful for teaching the selected topic (2)
- Web Links useful for teaching the selected topic (2)
- 5 e-mail IDs of your students
- Those who don't have gmail account, create one gmail account.
- Download Google classroom software from Google play store and install in mobile.
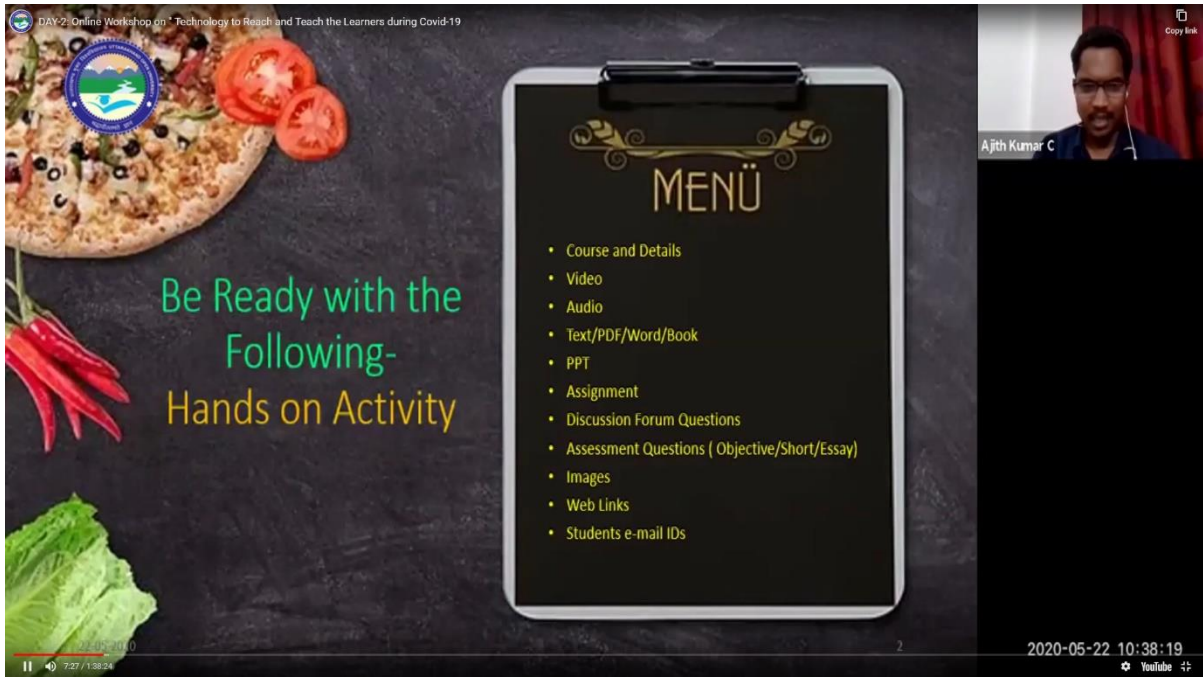
Based on the instruction by the expert, the participants created a virtual class using Google Classroom and added the introductory video, course contents, assessment, etc, in the course.
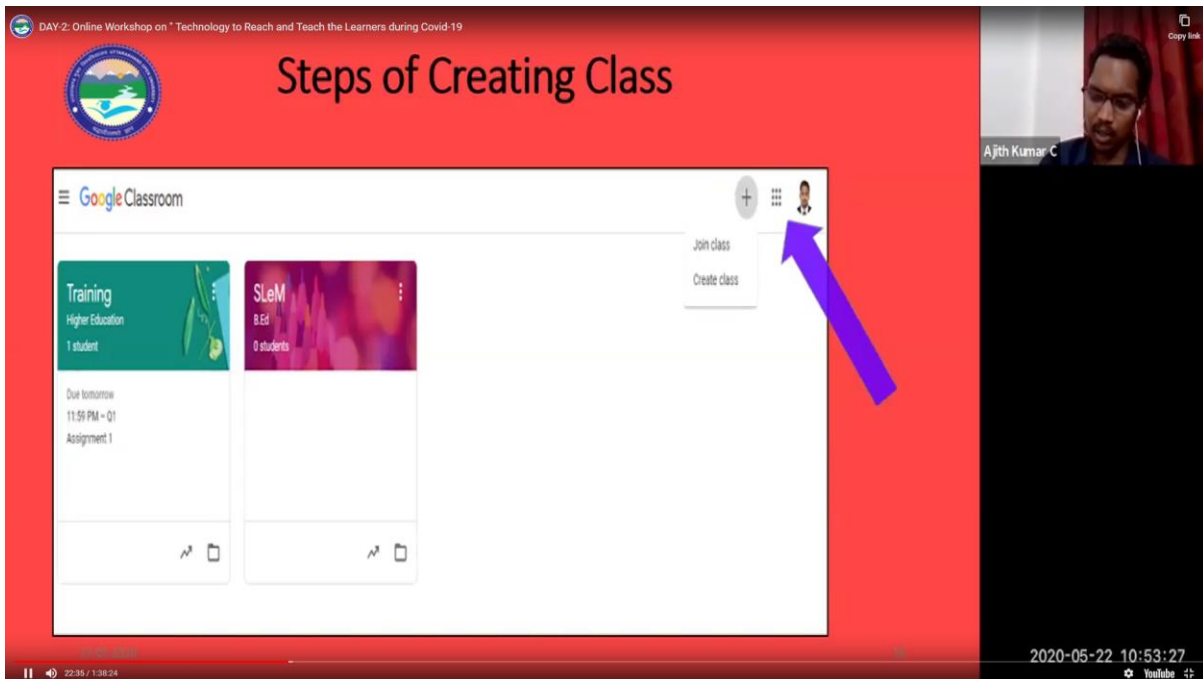
Day III: 23 May 2020
Technical Session
Tools for Development of e-Resources
11:00 am to 12:30 pm

On the third day of the workshop, Dr. Nisha Singh, Deputy Director- Centre for Online Education, IGNOU delivered a session of Tools for Development of e-Resources.


The learners explored various tools for the development of e-resources, like

- Concept map- CMap tools to make a concept map.
- Creation of Video-FreeCAM, screencast-o-matic to record a video
- Creation of Quiz-HotPotatoes to make a quiz

Day IV : 24 May 2020
Technical Session
Understanding OER and its Use in Teaching and Learning
11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Prof. Professor Mostafa Azad Kamal, Dean- School of Business, Bangladesh Open University (BOU) took an interactive session on Understanding OER and its Use in Teaching and Learning.
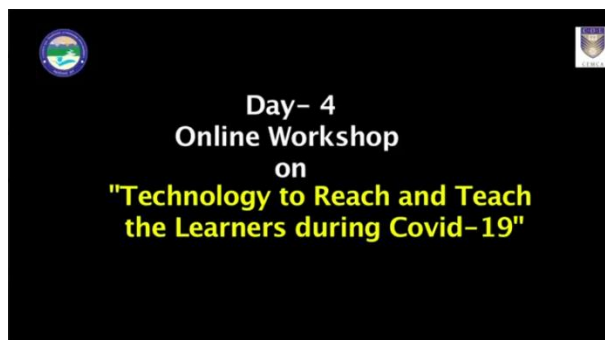
The expert delivered to following topics:

- explained the key rationales of copyright;
- elaborate on the disadvantages of copyrighted educational resource in terms of sharing online;
- explain the concept of Openness and Open Licenses;
- dig deeper into the core features of open educational resources;
- explain the methods of searching for open educational resources;
- understand the techniques of creating the contents by using OER; and
- explain the steps for mainstreaming OER at your institution and beyond.

Day V: 25 May 2020
Technical Session
Communicating Content through Social Media
11:00 am to 12:30 pm

On the fifth day of the workshop, expert Dr. Ajit Kumar, Assistant Professor - School of Education, IGNOU discussed various strategies and tools for Communicating Content through Social Media. The learners were advised to collect the following digital contents (e-contents) related to course/topic/programme that you are coordinating and like to disseminate through social media.

- Short video of 1 minute duration (Use any tools discussed in Day 3 to develop video)
- Text/PDF/Word/Book (Any one among the following)
- One PPT related to any topic (2-3 slides)
- One Image related to any topic
- Web Links related to any topic
- 5 e-mail IDs of your students
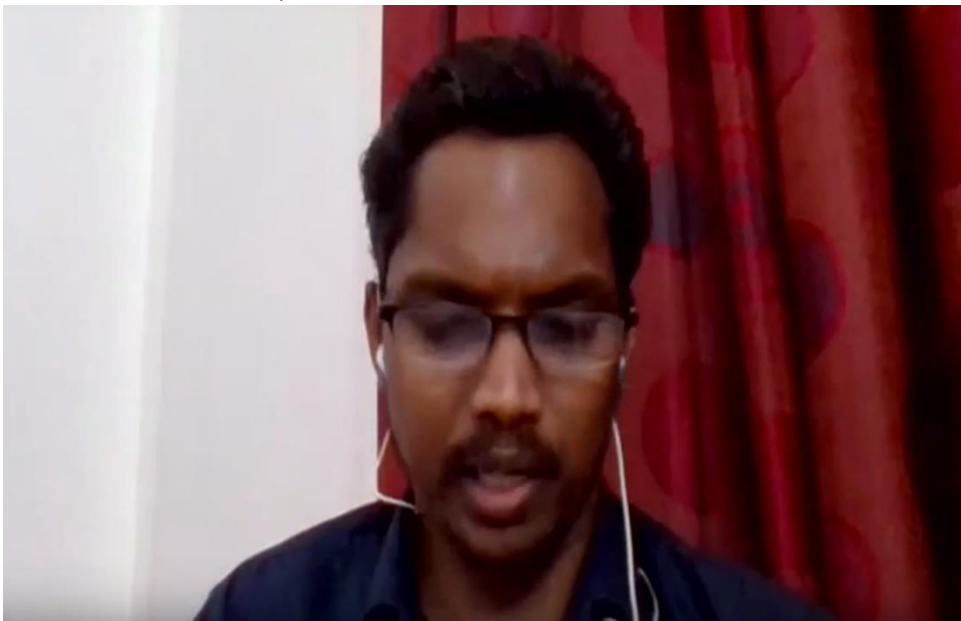
The learners were introduced with many social media tools to dissemination the educational contents.

Day V : 25 May 2020
Valedictory Session
12:00 pm to 12:30 pm

Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi hosted the valedictory session. Prof. Madhu Parihar congratulated all the participants on completion of the workshop and advised the participants to practice the tools in their day-to-day teaching so that the learner could be benefited. Prof. Durgesh Pant explained how the online tools can be useful for providing better learner support services. The vote of tanks was delivered by Dr. Jeetendra Pande.

The e-certificate of participation was issued to the participants through Moodle platform after the completion of the online assessments.
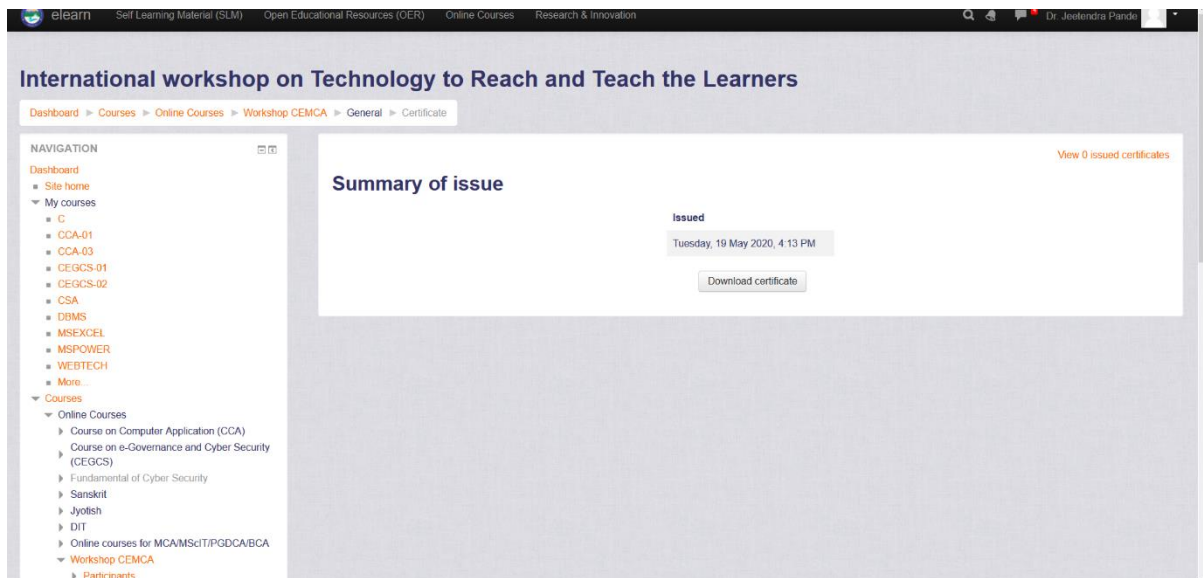
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- Prof. Madhu Parhar: Director, CEMCA

Convener
- Prof. Durgesh Pant: Convener, Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani

Training Design and Coordination
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Organizing Team
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- Dr. Gopal Datt Joshi, Consultant, School of Vocational Studies, UOU, Haldwani

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