

# ***The Report: Technical Workshop for Virtual Open Schooling***

*Organized by National Institute of Open Schooling & CEMCA New Delhi*



**Venue : IUC Multimedia Lab, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110068  
February 11 - 13, 2013**



**National Institute of Open Schooling  
A-24/25, Institutional Area, Sector-62, NOIDA 201309  
Uttar Pradesh**

## Backdrop

*The first National Consultative Workshop on 'Virtual Open Schooling'* was organized jointly by NIOS and CEMCA at the India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The workshop was attended by the Chairperson of State Open Schools, Vice Chancellors of State Open Universities, Representatives of NCERT, CBSE, KVS, JNV, and officials of CEMCA & NIOS along with eminent educationists in the field of Information and Communication Technology and Education. In this workshop, an MoU was also signed by Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Director, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), and Mr. U.N. Khaware, Secretary, National Institute of open Schooling (NIOS) with objectives to collaborate and cooperate in undertaking activities for developing model for Virtual Open Schooling in India; development of technical and vocational skills; and to use the production of educational media in open schooling. In this National Consultative Workshop on Virtual Open Schooling, a decision was taken to organize a three-day Technical Workshop for Virtual Open Schooling by NIOS in collaboration with CEMCA.

Thus a three-day *Capacity Building Workshop for the staff of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and State Open Schools (SOSs)* was organized jointly by NIOS and CEMCA from 11 - 13 February 2013 at IUC Multimedia Computer Lab, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110068. The main motto of the workshop was '*Promotion of the Virtual Open Schooling in India*' to fulfill Objectives such as providing technical knowledge and skill to use online technologies, giving an overview of Learning Management System and providing technical experience of Media Wiki for development of open courses. The Workshop was attended by representatives of SOSs from Karnataka, Rajasthan, Assam, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and some faculty members of NIOS.

### **Inaugural Session**

The workshop began with presenting bouquets to the dignitaries and a welcome address by Dr. Sanyam Bhardwaj, Director (SSS), NIOS. Dr. Bhardwaj said that Open and Distance Learning System could be reached effectively to a large number of students through the Virtual Mode.

Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA, in his introductory remarks, mentioned that Virtual Open Schooling was a new concept in India. In countries like South Korea, Africa, South Africa and some developed countries, this concept is already in existence and in much use. Although in India, the Online Admission Process, OCR and MOODLE are already there yet there is further scope to plan and take this concept to the next level. In Virtual Open Schooling, the students are able to do everything online. In order to take this concept further Dr. Sanjay Mishra emphasized the need to provide skill training to the staff of NIOS and SOSs. In order to understand the potential of Open Educational Resources and Open Learning, the present technical workshop will cover two aspects viz., creation of MediaWiki and MOODLE for developing subject courses.



Dr. S.S.Jena, Chairman, NIOS stated that in Virtual Open Schooling, everything should be virtual. Technology is moving fast and new generation is moving time using online system more and more. The aim of this Virtual Open Schooling Workshop is to share our experience of OVS with State Open Universities.



In order to achieve the goal let us jointly experience and experiment. Dr. S.S. Jena, mentioned more than 100 million students of 13 – 18 years of age group are eligible for Secondary Education. For achieving the target of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) to reach 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio, the Planning Commission, CBSE and Government of India have visualized the potential of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system to develop technical skills among staff of SOSs and NIOS. NIOS proposed to start three courses particularly on vocational education system from July 2013 namely (i) ICT, (ii) Hospitality, Tour & Travels, and (iii) Rural Technology.

Ms. Madhu Parihar, Head of the Deptt., ICU, IGNOU highlighted the innovation in the form of Multimedia Lab of IGNOU.

Dr. S. S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS and Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA released the Feasibility Report.





Date : 11th February, 2013

Session – I

Dr. Ramesh Sharma, Deputy Director, IGNOU gave an overview of Virtual Open Schooling during the First Session after a group photograph. He emphasized the relevance of Virtual Open Schooling as it has the benefits of personalized tailored content, flexibility, lower costs and access to high quality education using I-Pad, smart phones, internet phones etc. Virtual Open Schooling is suitable for masses as well as for individuals. He illustrated practices of different technologies like Course Management System; Cloud Computing, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), Open Educational Resources (OER) in Virtual Open Schooling. Dr. Sharma mentioned about some major organizations, companies and industries

offering OERs. He explained structural model and management of virtual open schooling.

The discussion inter alia included managing virtual Open Schooling through state, college/university, consortium, public sector, local education body, NGO or private body.



The Indian model of Virtual Open Schooling, structural model of Virtual Open Schooling and funding mechanisms were also explained.

In this session, history and development of Open Educational Resources and meaning of “open” in Open Educational Resources was also discussed. Dr. Sharma presented briefly the benefits of Open Educational Resources.

- Promotes lifelong learning.
- Contributes to social inclusion, gender equity and education for the special needs.
- Improves cost efficiency and quality of teaching and learning.

Dr. Sanjaya Mishra cited three case studies for Open Educational Resources use. In his presentation, he focused on the role of Wiki in course development. Advantages of Wiki based Open Educational Resources were also discussed. These are :

- Fast course development, Revision and Updating of course content
- Blogging
- Learner participation and Engagement
- Print-on-demand facility
- Online Quiz

- Discussion Forum
- Practice based learning material and many more.

Dr. Mishra highlighted the myths about Wiki. While discussing about the licensing policies, he cited the license policy adopted by nptel hrd. Major issues about licensing policy were also discussed and debated thoroughly among participants on CC being country specific, moral licensing and on licensing an idea.

Date : 11th February, 2013	Session – II
----------------------------	--------------

The second session was started with the presentation by Dr. Pankaj Khare, Registrar (SRD), IGNOU on “Introduction to Wiki”. He described Wiki as a database which doesn’t accept HTML, supports hyperlinks. It has simple text syntax for creating new pages, cross links between internal pages and is a group communication mechanism which allows contribution to be edited in addition to the content itself.



An individualized hand on experience was also given to the participants using Open Educational Resources link on NIOS MediaWiki platform by creating account and user page.

He also reminded that Wiki uses PHP extension and codes are case sensitive. Basic text editing on Wiki platform of NIOS was practiced by each and every participant. It included editing like breaking spaces, Bold, Adding colors,

Modifying Font size, Aligning the text, Make Text move, Bullets text, Numbered list and Setting Indent.

Date : 12 February, 2013	Session – I
--------------------------	-------------

The experts during this technical session were Dr. Pankaj Khare and Ms. G. Mythili, in furtherance of the Day – 1 practice of Media Wiki platform of NIOS, Dr. Pankaj Khare conducted the technical session on designing Wiki content using Templates. He displayed the process of inserting Images, modifying Images and preparing Tables. Syntaxes which are used for Media Wiki were also given to the participants in printed form. WSProghead and WSAnnounce Templates were given to the participants for practice purpose.

Date : 12th February, 2013	Session – II
----------------------------	--------------

The second session started with the presentation by Dr. Ramesh Sharma on “Overview of Learning Management System: MOODLE site”. He spoke on “MOODLE” and described that MOODLE in its expanded form means Modular Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment. He explained the meanings of Modular, Object, Oriented, and Dynamic in context of MOODLE. Some theoretical explanation were also given on the installation of MOODLE which need a Server to run.

Date : 13th February, 2013	Session – I
----------------------------	-------------

This technical session consisted of presentations by Dr. Ramesh Sharma and Ms. G. Mythili about Creation of assessments, Discussion forum and Social media in Learning Management System (LMS), followed by practical hands on work by the participants. Participants were also provided with the practical knowledge on Creation of Quizzes on MOODLE, Inserting World Clock, Inserting Images and Video, Recent Activity Block, Choice, Creation of Assignments.

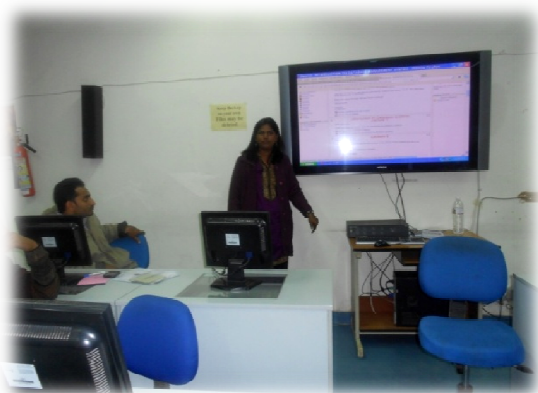
Knowledge relating to MOODLE and its use was also provided to the participants:-



- It is easy to integrate Google Docs on MOODLE.
- Blogging can also be done.
- Discussion can also be done both in single or multiple threads.
- Teacher can post Assignment, students can answer the same; then teacher can check, assess and give it back to the students using MOODLE platform.
- Website Shakshat.al.in can also be used which gives the power to a teacher to generate.
- Objective type questions.
- Hot Potato is a good plug in for MOODLE.



- Resolution can be checked, Window width can be reset while inserting a Video in MOODLE.
- Through website Clocklink.com, time zone online mode etc can be managed while inserting World Clock in MOODLE.
- Microsoft Education and Intel Education websites are also helpful in getting information about MOODLE.
- Website Wiz IQ,com has good integration with MOODLE for online teaching and provides a free premium account for teachers.
- One can also add MOODLE plug-ins from MOODLE site.



Besides the above, the participants were informed also about the forthcoming Free MOODLE Meet Online i.e. MMVC 13 to be held from 16 – 18 August, 2010.

Date : 13th February, 2013	Interactive & Presentation Session
----------------------------	------------------------------------

During interaction with participants, Dr. Sanjaya Mishra gave tips about Copy Paste from Wiki Educator; different Toolbars; and Icon driven things.

### **Media Wiki**

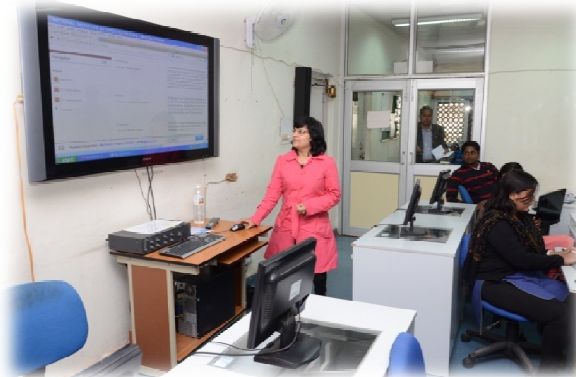
- ✓ Basic Editing
- ✓ Internal & external Links
- ✓ Image and Video Updating
- ✓ Quiz
- ✓ Table
- ✓ Template

### **Muktavidya MOODLE**

- ✓ User creation
- ✓ Course creation
- ✓ Week/Topic
- ✓ Image & Video updating
- ✓ Quiz
- ✓ Discussion forum
- ✓ Choice
- ✓ Clock, Calendar
- ✓ News forum

### **Feedback from participants:**

A Workshop Evaluation Questionnaire was given to the participants for further suggestions and comments.



Participants shared their views and experiences as:-

- "We got to know about the basic skills needed for MediaWiki & MOODLE".
- "We got to know about the Open Educational Resources which can be helpful in the courses like "Rural Technology".
- "Handy list for Wiki Educator syntaxes should be given in a more detailed manner."
- "In the beginning it seemed to be little difficult and little faster but later on it was realized that practicing is all that is required for better understanding".
- "Every participant's query was got responded. But it is suggestive that feedback and course training could also be given online".
- "This 3 – day workshop has been very effective as it gave us a very good explanation about MOODLE & MediaWiki. All our misconceptions have been clarified."

Participants agreed that there was a real value and excitement in this workshop and proposed that this type of workshops should be organized periodically to determine and demonstrate the progress.

In response, Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA mentioned that the next technical workshop would be on how to make a good online course content online.

Date : 13th February, 2013

Valedictory Session

In furtherance of the objectives of this workshop, Dr.Sanjaya Mishra anticipated next workshop about the Instructional Design of Learning Management System.



In his concluding address, Dr.Sanyam Bhardwaj thanked Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Ms. Madhu Parihar, Mr. R.Thyagarajan, Dr. Ramesh Sharma, Dr. Pankaj Khare, Ms. G. Mythili, and all the participants for successful completion of the workshop.



Mr. R. Thyagarajan, Head, Administration & Finance, CEMCA, in his valedictory speech thanked the organizers as well as participants for making the workshop a success and suggested that we should carry out our own part for the development of society and how it could be utilized. So it should be a beginning not the end.



At the end, the participants were given Certificates of Participation by Dr.Sanjaya Mishra.

## Annexure - I

**Technical Workshop for Virtual Open Schooling**

(A Capacity Building Workshop of the staff of National Institute of Open Schooling and State Open Schools in India to promote Virtual Open Schooling)

Venue: IUC Multimedia Lab, IGNOU, MaidanGarhi, New Delhi 110068

11-13 February 2013

Organized by NIOS & CEMCA

**Workshop Schedule**

<b>Day 1: Feb 11, 2013</b>		
10:00-10:45	Inauguration Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by Dr.SanyamBharadwaj</li> <li>• Introductory Remarks by Dr.Sanjaya Mishra</li> <li>• Inaugural Address by Dr.S.S.Jena</li> <li>• Release of the VOS Feasibility Report by Dr. S.S. Jena</li> <li>• Vote of Thanks</li> <li>• Group Photo</li> </ul>	
10:45-11:15	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:15-12:00	Virtual Open Schooling: An overview	Facilitator: Dr.Ramesh Sharma
12:00-13:00	Open Educational Resources	Facilitator: Dr.Sanjaya Mishra
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:30	Creating Account and user page on MediaWiki Platform of NIOS	Facilitator: Dr.PankajKhare
15:30-16:00	Tea/Coffee Break	
16:00-17:30	Basic Text Editing on Wiki Platform of NIOS (user page creation to continue)	Facilitator: Dr.PankajKhare
<b>Day 2: Feb 12, 2013</b>		
10:00-11:15	Designing Wiki Content using templates	Facilitator: Dr.PankajKhare
11:15-11:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:30-13:00	Designing Wiki Content using templates (continue)	Facilitator: Dr.PankajKhare&Ms. G. Mythili
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:30	Overview of Learning Management System: Installation and Management of Moodle site	Facilitator: Dr.Ramesh Sharma
15:30-16:00	Tea/Coffee Break	
16:00-17:30	Managing a Moodle Course	Facilitator: Dr.Ramesh Sharma
<b>Day 3: Feb 13, 2013</b>		
10:00-11:15	Assessments in Moodle	Facilitator: Ms. G. Mythili
11:15-11:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:30-13:00	Discussion Forum and social media in LMS	Facilitator: Dr.Ramesh Sharma
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:30	Moodle Practical Work and Presentation by participants	Facilitator: Dr.Ramesh Sharma&Ms. G. Mythili
15:30-16:00	Tea/Coffee Break	
16:00-17:30	Valedictory Session	

*Note: Each session consists of presentation by the lead facilitator, followed by practical hands on work by the participants.*

## Annexure - II

List of Participants		
S No	Name, Designation & Complete Address	Mob. No. & email ID
1	Dr. Rajesh S, Associate Professor Deptt. of Mechanical Engineering, JSS Academy of TecnicalEdn. C - 20/1, Sec. 62, Noida	+919971376187 rajeshashivanna@gmail.com
2	Sh. Ram Niwas Sharma, Asstt. Director Rajsthan State Open School, Jaipur (Raj.)	Mob. +91 9461618093 <a href="mailto:ramniwash.sharma@rediffmail.com">ramniwash.sharma@rediffmail.com</a>
3	Smt. Jyotismita Das Borah, Proj. Associate Assam Higher Secondary Education Council & ASOS BamuniMaidan, Guwahati 781021 (Assam)	<a href="mailto:Jyotismita_dasborah@yahoo.com">Jyotismita_dasborah@yahoo.com</a> Mob. +919844076593
4	Mr. Prashant Barot P M (IT) Gujarat State Open School C/o Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board. Sector-10 B, Near Old Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar - 382010	Mob. 09099057096 prashant@gseb.org
5	Dr Arif Jan, Academic Officer/Nodal Officer Jammu & Kashmir State Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina. Bye Pass, Sri Nagar-190018	Mob. 09797267266 <a href="mailto:jaanaarif@gmail.com">jaanaarif@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:janarif@rediffmail.com">janarif@rediffmail.com</a>
6	Mr. Asir Julius R., Asstt. Professor Tamilnadu State Open School Directorate of Teacher Education Research and Training, DPI Campus College Road, Chennai-600006	Mob. 9841381918 asirjulius@gmail.com

7	Mr.Manzooral. P.K. Joint State Co-ordinator Kerala State Open School Vidhya Bhawan, Poojapura, Thiruvananthapuram 6905012, Kerala	Mob. +919961441149 manzooremea@gmail.com
8	Ms.DeepaliTyagi Project Assistant (ICT-Education) CEMCA, SarvPriya Vihar New Delhi	+918743867613 deepalityagiedu@gmail.com
9	Ms.Rajeswari Gorana Programme Co-ordinator Child Media Unit Centre for Environment Education CEMCA, New Delhi	079-26858002 <a href="mailto:Rajeswari.namagiri@ceeindia.org">Rajeswari.namagiri@ceeindia.org</a> rajinmg@gmail.com
Resource Persons		
10	Dr .Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA, New Delhi	
11	Dr. Ramesh Sharma, Dy. Director IGNOU, MaidanGari, New Delhi-68	Mob. 9868000162 rcsharma@ignou.ac.in
12	Dr. PankajKhare Registrar (SRD) IGNOU, MaidanGari, New Delhi-68	
13	Ms. G. Mythili Analyst (SG) Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE) IGNOU, MaidanGari, New Delhi-68	+919868287636 gmythili@ignou.ac.in



<i>NIOS Staff</i>		
1.	Dr. Sitansu S. Jena	Chairman, NIOS
2.	Dr. Sanyam Bhardwaj	Director (SSS)
3.	Shri S.K. Prasad	System Analysis Programmer (SA/P)
4.	Smt. Anitha Nair	Assistant Director (Acad.)
5.	Shri Sukanta Mahapatra	Academic Officer (Sociology)
6.	Smt. Tarun	Academic Officer (Geography)
7.	Dr. Alok Kumar Gupta	Academic Officer ( Physics)
8.	Dr. Rajiv Prasad	Academic Officer (Chemistry)
9.	Dr. Manish Chugh	Academic Officer (Economics)
10.	Shri Chunnu Prasad	Academic Officer (Political Science)
11.	Dr. Saumya Rajan	Academic Officer (English)
12.	Ms. Sanghmitra Suryapani	Academic Officer (Biology)
13.	Dr. Praveen Chauhan	Academic Officer (Home Science)
14.	Shri Parthish Kumar Paul	Academic Officer (Technology)
15.	Ms. Shivali Chawla	Academic Officer ((Sec. Practice)
16.	Shri Sathish V.	Academic Officer (Para Medical)
17.	Dr. Neelima Pant	Academic Officer (Agriculture)
18.	Ms. Radhika B.	Academic Officer (ICT)
19.	Dr. P.K. Chauhan	S.E.O. (NCOS)
20.	Shri Pramod Tripathi	S.E.O.
21.	Mr. Sanjay	S.E.O.
22.	Dr. T.N. Giri	Deputy Director (Acad.) & Regional Director, Chandigarh
23.	Shri Aditi Ranjan Rout	Deputy Director (Acad.) & Regional Director, Kolkata