

A Seven-Day Workshop on “Creativity and Innovation in ODL”

3rd March, 9-14 March 2016

organised by NCIDE, IGNOU

One of the activities of the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) is to nurture creativity and innovation among the various functionaries of the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system. The NCIDE carries this out through various capacity-building measures from time to time, and organizing training workshop on creativity and innovation is one of them. Towards this aim of nurturing creativity and innovation in the ODL system, the NCIDE successfully conducted a seven-day workshop on “Creativity and Innovation in ODL” on 3rd March, 9-14 March 2016 at the Conference Room of the Radhakrishnan Block, IGNOU and the NCIDE Conference Room in Block G, Academic Complex IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.

The objectives of this workshop were to sensitize the Faculty of IGNOU to perceive and understand creativity and innovation in the ODL system, and to generate creative ideas and implement those ideas in the ODL system.

This workshop was conceived and designed by NCIDE under the vision and mentorship of Prof. Prabir Kr. Biswas, Professor of Distance Education, Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE), IGNOU and NCIDE. This seven day-workshop is essentially a One-Credit workshop of 30 hours, which was conducted both in face to face and virtual mode in the Virtual Training Lounge, an online platform developed by NCIDE for online training (<http://vtl.ignouonline.ac.in/vtl/>).



The participants in the pre-workshop session on 3rd March 2016.



The participants in the workshop session on 9th March 2016.

The face to face interaction and group activities were for two full days (9th and 10th March, 2016) and two half days (3rd and 14th March, 2016) comprising a total of about 14 hours. The participants had been working online in the Virtual Training Lounge for the remaining 16 hours. This was essentially a workshop by the participants and for the participants.

In this workshop, 14 teachers from 8 Schools of Studies, IGNOU, participated. Professor Prabir Kr. Biswas from STRIDE was the expert for both the face to face sessions and in the Virtual Training Lounge, and Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit (in virtual mode), NCIDE and Dr. Moumita Das, NCIDE facilitated the participants in the Virtual Training Lounge.

The first session was conducted on 3rd March by Prof Biswas in which the participants were asked to talk about their creative contributions in the ODL system. Thereafter a few tasks were assigned to them and they were asked to think about those tasks and discuss with other participants and mentors in the Virtual Training Lounge between the 3rd March and 14th March.

The first task that was assigned was to think and generate ideas on how to bring in creativity and innovation in the teaching-learning process in the Self-learning material (SLM). They were asked to keep their learners in view. The distance teachers should know the learners background (demographic, psychological etc.) and their learning styles as well. They were asked to make a note on these components. The participants were asked to list the activities and functions of the efficient classroom teacher and to think how to incorporate all those functions into SLM. It was noted that most of the SLM give emphasis on cognitive domain of learning. Prof. Biswas suggested the participants to give emphasis on psychomotor/skill domain and affective domain also. Keeping this direction in view the SLM may also be transformed into Self-working material (SWM).

Prof Biswas suggested creation of an “ODL theme park” in IGNOU and suggested idea generation among the participants. The participants had been active in the Virtual Training Lounge and formed an e-mail group and WhatsApp group also and had generated many ideas on this topic.



Prof. P. K. Biswas interacting with the participants.

The Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, Prof. Nageshwar Rao was welcomed for the inaugural session on 9th March by the Director (i/c) NCIDE, Dr. O. P. Sharma. Prof. Rao, while inaugurating the workshop, said this workshop on creativity was timely. He said that there is tremendous scope for creativity in ODL. He talked about his own experiences on creativity with examples and said that although there were initial obstacles, eventually his efforts were appreciated. He inspired the participants to be imaginative and creative. He said that creativity should go hand in hand with logic, which would contribute to the quality of services of an organization. He said that the NCIDE should be entrusted with the conduction of more such workshops on creativity and wished the success of this workshop.



The Vice Chancellor Prof. Nageshwar Rao addressing the participants at the Inaugural Session of the workshop on 9th March 2016 at the Conference Room, NCIDE, IGNOU.

On 9th and 10th March, the participants learnt about various creative strategies and have discussed, generated, analysed and evaluated many ideas on developing a creative self working material and the ODL theme park. They used various techniques



The participants generating ideas at the workshop on 9th March 2016.

such as brain storming, brain writing, cluster analysis, morphological synthesis, headstand, Dot-mocracy, SCAMPER etc. and generated hundreds of ideas, selected, edited and evaluated ideas and had even written poems, which reflect the highest level of their creativity.

Prof Biswas also discussed how the access devices can be used effectively in SLM, how to integrate latest and simple technology, and how the ODL theme park of IGNOU can be used for promotion of ODL,

teaching and training purposes, video recording and so on. Thereafter, the participants had been using the Virtual Training Lounge. They have been using it extensively to post their ideas and discuss them. It is a continuous proces

Virtual Training Lounge

Logged In User + K

Online Users + K

Welcome to VTL

We at NCIDE strive to provide innovative solutions to the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system. One such novel solution developed at NCIDE is the Virtual Training Lounge (VTL) to provide training and capacity building of The ODL functionaries through a web-based platform. This system is designed to provide not only synchronous training, but also to sustain the learning experience of the trainees online. The ease of access to the VTL anytime from anywhere makes it an ideal platform for training and its sustainability. Some of its key features are:

- Access anytime, anywhere through a web based platform.
- Asynchronous and synchronous collaborative tools, such as discussion board, chat, wikis, blogs etc.
- Flexible content uploading.
- WYSIWYG editor for interactive content generation

[VTL Discussion Forum](#)

My courses

7-day Workshop on Creativity and Innovation in OD

Facilitator: Prof. P.K Biswas
Facilitator: Dr. Moumita Das
Facilitator: Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit

3rd March, 9-14 March, 2016
Coordinator - Dr. Moumita Das

Calendar: March 2016

Navigation
Administration

Re: General Discussion
by Prof. P.K Biswas - Monday, 7 March 2016, 4:34 PM

Nice to see your efforts. Please carry on. Sure, you can supplement, complement, use independently or integrate. We shall discuss all four approaches on 9th.

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Re: General Discussion
by Dr. Kamalika Banerjee - Monday, 7 March 2016, 3:48 PM

The ideas are coming up really well regarding ODL theme park, now I think we should start posting specifically for ODL theme park and for the creative unit?

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Re: General Discussion
by Dr. Sushmitha Baskar - Monday, 7 March 2016, 3:33 PM

Some eco-friendly/ environment friendly materials that can be used for the ODL Theme park include: solar panel lights for illumination, materials that require less energy during construction, Bamboo; recycled industrial/ agricultural waste like Bagasse Boards; materials that have less VOCs volatile organic carbons, flyash bricks, aerated cement blocks, etc..

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Re: General Discussion
by Dr. Sushmitha Baskar - Monday, 7 March 2016, 3:25 PM

Thanks to Prof Biswas and Dr Moumita for organizing this workshop. The theme park should start from the early years to the present day ODL education by incorporating elements of technology like 3D's, animation, touch screens where we can touch the topic and learn more (as is seen in science museum, Kolkata), pictorial representations, floors that are digitalized..we stand on one square and the LCD monitor tells us something for example learning styles, we step on to another and it tells us about instructional design..this way learning through play (similar science museum exists in Bergen, Norway). In addition we can have amphitheatres/ theatres where short movies can be screened including success stories of ODL students, for audio headphone stations can be made..press a button and learn more..etc. This way anyone entering the park will understand the concepts through audio, video or print mode.

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The Virtual training Lounge and the discussion forums in it were extensively used by the participants.

The workshop concluded with the Valedictory session on 14th March in which the Director (i/c), NCIDE Dr. O. P. Sharma welcomed the Chief Guest, Prof. Manjulika Srivastava, Director Academic Coordination Division (ACD), IGNOU.

Prof. Srivastava, while delivering the Valedictory Address shared her experiences and motivated the participants to be creative. The participants interacted freely with her on the academic related matters, such as research projects, and API scores. Prof. Srivastava said that she has taken proactive action on several matters, such

as simplifying the processes related to the research proposals, and the attending of international conferences. She said that she is taking steps while considering the interest of each and every individual teacher and academic of IGNOU.

The NCIDE, taking forward the spirit of the workshop, now plans to carry these creative activities of the workshop participants forward, and also plans to develop their ideas into proposals for further action.



Prof. Manjulika Srivastava delivering the Valedictory Address of the workshop on 14th

A report by NCIDE