

Press Note

Two-Week Refresher course on SAWAYAM MOOCs Inaugurated at Central University of Jammu

A Two-Week Refresher Course on Online Teaching, Learning and Evaluation was conducted by Central University of Jammu, which concluded today. The course was being organized by Faculty Induction Development Cell in collaboration with UGC-SWAYAM Cell, Central University of Jammu. The main objectives of the Refresher Course were to enable the participants to learn various domains of Online Teaching-Learning and Assessment through hands-on- experience, to train the participants to use Moodle-MOOC as an adjunct to face-to-face teaching and to teach in a fully online or distance learning mode and to get a feel for how different academic courses could be enhanced using Moodle-MOOC platform, to understand the process of planning, designing and implementing online courses in line with SWAYAM MOOC requirements, to create better and active communication and collaboration with the students and to design and manage learning assessments using Moodle MOOC Platform, to orient the faculty about OER based e-learning and related issues, to develop the skills of video and audio recording, editing and analytical skills among the participants. About 40 faculty members from the Central University of Jammu participated to hone and harness their skill in domains of online education.

On the occasion of valedictory session of the Refresher Course, the Chief Guest Dr (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal , Additional Secretary UGC, New Delhi congratulated the participants and had a detailed interaction with the participants about the queries confusions related to MOOCs development, adoption and promotion. She called upon the faculty of the University to popularize the concept of MOOCs through the social media platforms and routine interactions with their students. Dr Mittal also appreciated the efforts of the Vice Chancellor and the faculty of CUJ for taking lead in the directions of online education.

Prof Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu in his presidential address called upon the participants of the Refresher course to exhibit their commitment and professionalism while also accepting the challenges of online education. He appreciated the role of UGC SWAYAM cell of the University for planning and organizing the Refresher Course on SWAYAM MOOCs Programme which will address the upcoming challenges of the new era of e-learning which is based on access, equity and excellence. He informed the participants that Central University of Jammu has to take the lead in the domain of adoption and development of online courses as it has become

need of the present system of teaching and learning from primary to higher education level. He further wished that this Refresher Course will enrich the knowledge skills and attitude of faculty of the University and pave the path of equal access to quality Higher Education resource in the state Jammu and Kashmir. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the enthusiasm of the participants and their attitude of hard work and expressed hope that Central University of Jammu will play a pioneering role as for the digitalization of pedagogy is concerned.

The participants of this 14 days Refresher course were exposed to various domains of SWAYAM MOOCs initiatives of MHRD/UGC with varied Hands-on experience-oriented technical sessions led by experts drawn from across the country. The resource persons of the course including Prof K Srinivas, NIEPA, NEW DELHI, Dr V.P. Joshith, Central University of Kerala, Dr Thayagu, Central University of Kerala, Dr Nisha Singh, IGNOU, New Delhi, Dr Deepak Bishla, Ambedkar University, New Delhi, Dr Gourav Singh, IGNOU, New Delhi, Dr Yashpaul Sharma, CIET, New Delhi, Dr Ashok Sharma, SPOC, NPTEL (Jammu Chapter) and Dr. Shaligram Prajapati, IIPS, DAU, Indore.

Professor K. Srinivas talked about digital initiatives and pedagogical issues such as blended learning, flipped classroom and further discussed about the way MOOCs have revolutionized the way education is imparted. To facilitate the development and storage of content, he introduced to the participants the practice and advantage of cloud storage and also did some hands-on practice with them. Professor Srinivas taught about the conceptual designs of MOOCs while also sharing useful information with the participants about how to develop, offer MOOCs through MOODLE platform. This also included Free Open Source Software for Sciences and Social Sciences. Another resource person, Dr V.P. Joshith and Dr Thyagu gave detailed practical instructional information about cyber etiquettes and cyber crime as for the development of MOOCs and the use of OERs is concerned. They further talked about instructional design for development of e-content for MOOCs. They imparted the instructions about online/offline script writing with the help of web tools for online assessment and evaluation through MOODLE or SWAYAM platform. They also exposed the participants to various web tools, mobile apps and software tools for creation of e-content and its dissemination. The participants also had some rigorous sessions about video, audio and image script developing, editing and recording. Dr Gourav Singh delivered lecture on the concept of SWAYAM Prabha and SWAYAM followed by panel discussions. Another resource

person, Dr Yashpal Sharma had a detailed discussion about various pros and cons of e-content development and he specifically conducted useful session how video editing is done through various web tools especially Open Shot Editor. He gave multiple software tools for editing and developing video and audio lectures. Dr Prajapat had Hands on session on development of e-profile of faculty and strategies for integrating web resources for meaningful integration in classroom teaching.

The UGC SWAYAM coordinator of the University Dr. J. N. Baliya gave detailed description of the all the 58 sessions of the course on various dimensions of online teaching learning and assessment. He shared his deep satisfaction over the conduct of the course and expressed his hope that the faculty shall take the lead in adopting and developing the online courses in varied disciplines. Dr Jaya Bhasin welcomed the Chief guest and other dignitaries Towards the end of the last session of the day, Dr. Vandana Sharma Associate Professor , Department of English presented the vote of thanks. The programme was effectively compeered by Dr Ritu Bakshi.