



Capacity Building of Teacher Educators to Implement Blended Learning in Teacher Education

Introduction

Quality of teacher development has been acknowledged widely as the critical driver of educational outcomes. While traditionally, public education systems in different states have been planning and implementing in-service teacher training programs, in a large, geographically spread out country like India, these have not been adequate to address the need for ongoing professional support and mentoring felt by practising teachers. The National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education 2010, (NCFTE), further emphasizes the need to structure continuous professional development (CPD) that builds on the professional identities and lived experiences of teachers. A “Communities of Practice” (COP) approach to teacher education can meet this need for continuous teacher professional development.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the need in schools and educational institutions, for digital technologies has dramatically increased. Due to the pandemic-induced schools closures, online education is gaining prominence and teachers want to increasingly acquire skills for conducting online classes as well as to use digital resources in these online classes. Hence, it becomes all the more important that, as part of teacher education, adequate focus is given on enabling the teachers in adopting and adapting digital technologies in their classrooms. This will include equipping the teachers with the skills needed for accessing digital content as well as for creating digital resources and use them in their teaching.

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As suggested by the National Curricular Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE), there is need for Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to become ‘need based’ and ‘demand driven’. One such model of CPD can be through the design and delivery of e-learning courses based on Open Educational Resources (OER), where teachers can participate, share and learn in a COP, mentored by experts.

This is also in line with the recommendations of the NCERT, National ICT curriculum for teachers, which envisages teachers taking up structured courses for technology learning as well as technology integrated teaching learning through a COP approach supported by course material in the form of OER.

To build and sustain meaningful technology integration, the use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) is essential. Research on the STF program in Karnataka suggests that teachers’ digital capabilities for creation of OER is significantly enhanced from the use of FOSS.

This online training course for teacher educators is to build their capacity to implement blended learning in teacher education programs.

Objectives

The objectives of the proposed course are as follows:

1. To introduce Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) to teachers & teacher educators.
2. To support teachers and teacher educators in the creation of context-specific resources (Open Educational Resources) for their classrooms.
3. To create a community of teachers and teacher educators experienced in ICT integration in teaching learning

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Participants

100 Teacher Educators of Himachal Pradesh will be trained through two online training programmes.

Duration

Two batches of training programmes will be organised with 7 weeks each with online sessions twice a week.

Dates

1. First Batch: starts on 15-Nov-2021
2. Second Batch: starts on 2-Dec-2021

Training Modality

The training course is envisaged as a 7-week offering for practising Teachers and Teacher Educators. The course will be offered in a blended model and will include both synchronous and asynchronous activities. The online sessions will be conducted using the Big Blue Button webinar platform – which is a free and open source software application. Moodle Learning Management System will be used for hosting the course content as well as for all the asynchronous activities. The course will be conducted for two cohorts for Himachal Pradesh and each cohort is expected to consist of about 50 Teachers / Teacher Educators. The participants from the 2 cohorts from the state are expected to function as Master Resource Persons (MRPs) and can conduct the course further to ensure the coverage at scale.

Contents

The training will be organized into 5 modules with along the following units:

- Unit 1 – An Orientation course on ICT Integration in Teaching-Learning (3 sessions)
- Unit 2 – Teaching Thinking with Concept Mapping (3 sessions)
- Unit 3 – Creating Text Documents and Presentations (4 sessions)
- Unit 4 - Creating Simple Videos (2 sessions)
- Unit 5 – Conducting Online Classes (2 sessions)

Each unit will have both synchronous and asynchronous components. They will also have resources for self-learning as well as exemplars for supporting practice.

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Training Facilitator

IT for Change (ITfC) : This is an NGO located in Bengaluru, India, that works for an innovative and effective use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to promote socio-economic change. ITfC works at global, national and local levels in programs relating to research, advocacy and field projects in the substantive areas of education, digital society and economy, governance, gender, community informatics and social policy.

FOR REGISTRATION CLICK ON FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://forms.gle/czpHDL9MqYcssddm7>

Last Date for Registration is 8 November 2021

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