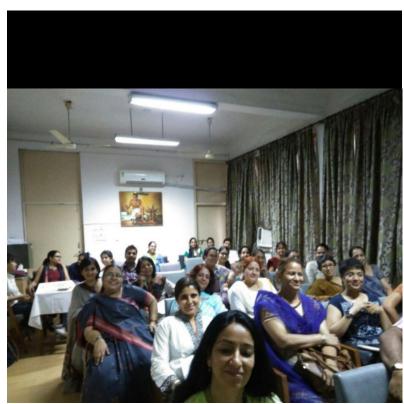




Faculty Development Program Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi

eCognitio: An Innovative E-learning Workshop Promoting Student
Participation and Collaborative Learning





Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, organised a Faculty Development Program on elearning and technology integration in teaching on 23rd May 2016. Titled "eCognitio: An Innovative E-learning Workshop Promoting Student Participation and Collaborative Learning", the rigorous day long, hands-on workshop saw participation by about 40 faculty members from 15 colleges.

Motivation of the workshop:

The 21st century with its revolutionary changes in information and communication technology has put new pressures on the higher education system for the development of special skills and competencies among students.

Developing countries like India are yet to make significant efforts towards adoption of online instruction to supplement traditional classroom teaching. A significant proportion of faculty members continue to believe that traditional lecture and individual assignments are the most effective means to achieve student learning outcomes. Research however shows that collaborative learning can enhance active participation by the students, enrich students' engagement with the course content and make the learning process more enriching.

Collaborative learning involves more than one person who contributes to the creation of a text or a project. Students assist each other in understanding content and this helps students

broaden their perspectives on issues or problems. It also provides opportunities for higher order thinking as opposed to passive listening and promotes greater student-faculty and student-student interaction.

There are many opportunities for collaboration, learner participation and new types of interactive learning activities by the use of Web 2.0 tools. The use of web-based collaborative tools like Google Docs and Wikis supports both faculty and student needs in terms of greater flexibility, convenience and increased efficiency.

With the development and advancement of computer networks, online collaborative learning becomes possible when students can work even after school hours. Collaborative work can be research based with the use of the World Wide Web. Google docs, for example, enable faculty and students to collaborate more efficiently and effectively on papers, spreadsheets, and presentations.

Feedback to the workshop:

The participation in the workshop was extremely enthusiastic. Both the sessions were highly interactive. The first session was taken by Dr. Vishal Gupta, Department of Management, University of Mississippi. He spoke on ways of motivating the present generation of students using the new-age teaching methods. In the second session Ms. Sheetal Kale, an e-learning and digital marketing expert, discussed the concept of flipped classroom and how we can incorporate it in our classrooms to optimise class time and to make the learning process more enriching for the students as well as make the task of imparting knowledge more exciting for the teachers. The revolutionary concept of Open Education Resources and MOOCs were also discussed.

The feedback obtained from the participants at the end of the workshop in the form of discussions reinforced the perceived need for faculty training and development programs on a continuous basis.



Workshop Coordinator:

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