



**Report
on
The One-Day
Workshop on the
Development of
Self-Learning
Materials for the
Four-Year
Undergraduate
Programme in
Political Science
under NEP-2020**

**Held on 23 July 2024
Netaji Subhas Open University
DD-26, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700064**

**ORGANISED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY**

Report

on

‘The One-Day Workshop on the Development of Self-Learning Materials for the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme in Political Science under NEP-2020’

Organised by the Department of Political Science, Netaji Subhas Open University,

Held on 23 July 2024 at Netaji Subhas Open University
DD-26, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700064.

=====

Introduction:

The one-day workshop on the development of self-learning materials for the four-year undergraduate programme in Political Science, in line with NEP 2020, was successfully held on July 23, 2024, at the headquarters of Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU). The event was organized by the Department of Political Science and saw the enthusiastic participation of over 50 attendees, including faculty members from various colleges and research scholars.



The workshop was designed to equip course writers, course editors, course designers, and academic professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to create effective Self-Learning Materials (SLM) tailored to the needs of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) learners in the

field of Political Science.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 heralds a transformative approach to education in India, emphasizing flexibility, inclusivity, and a learner-centric paradigm. A pivotal component of NEP 2020 is the advancement of Open and Distance Learning, which has become increasingly significant in ensuring that education is accessible to a broader and more diverse group of learners. Self-learning materials are at the heart of this initiative, enabling students to engage with course content independently, at their own pace, and in a manner that suits their individual learning styles.

Objectives of the Workshop

1. **Familiarizing Participants with NEP 2020:**

This workshop aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the key principles and guidelines outlined in the NEP 2020, with a specific focus on the development of **Self-Learning Materials (SLM)** for ODL. Participants will gain insights into how these guidelines are designed to revolutionize higher education and make it more accessible and effective.

2. **Exploring ODL in Political Science:**

We will delve into the specific objectives and requirements of ODL within the context of Political Science. By understanding the unique challenges and opportunities presented by this field, participants will be better equipped to create materials that are both relevant and impactful.

3. **Hands-on Training for SLM Design:**

The workshop will provide practical strategies and hands-on training for designing interactive and learner-centered self-study materials. Participants will learn how to structure content, incorporate interactive elements, and employ effective writing techniques to create engaging and educationally sound SLMs.

❖ **Workshop Highlights:**

- **Interactive Sessions:** Engage in interactive sessions led by experts in the field, offering a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical application.
- **Collaborative Activities:** Participate in collaborative activities that foster peer learning and collective problem-solving.
- **Resource Materials:** Access a range of resource materials, including templates, guidelines, and best practice examples, to support the development of your own SLMs.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with fellow educators and professionals, share experiences, and build a network of support and collaboration.

The workshop signifies a pivotal advancement in the implementation of NEP 2020's vision for higher education. It concentrates on creating high-quality Self-Learning Materials (SLM) to improve the educational experience for ODL learners, ensuring that learning is both engaging and accessible. The goal is to establish a comprehensive framework for self-learning in Political Science, aligned with NEP 2020's objectives, catering to the diverse needs of today's learners.

Targeted Audience

The targeted audience for the one-day workshop on “The Development of Self-Learning Materials for the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme in Political Science under NEP-2020” are:

1. **Faculty Members of Political Science:** Professors, and academic staff involved in teaching Political Science at NSOU and other higher institutions.
2. **Course Designers and Curriculum Developers:** Professionals responsible for creating and updating course content and curricula in line with NEP 2020.
3. **Educational Technologists:** Experts in educational technology who can contribute to the development of digital and interactive self-learning materials.
4. **Administrators and Policy Makers:** University administrators, policymakers, and education department officials involved in the implementation of NEP 2020.
5. **Researchers and Academicians:** Individuals conducting research in the field of education, particularly in self-learning methodologies and open distance learning (ODL).
6. **Postgraduate Students and Doctoral Candidates:** Advanced students in Political Science who are interested in curriculum development and educational innovation.

7. **Educational Publishers and Content Providers:** Representatives from educational publishing companies and organizations that provide learning materials and resources.
8. **Students of Political Science:** Particularly those enrolled in the four-year undergraduate programme, to provide feedback and insights on self-learning materials.

- The workshop commenced with the registration of participants from 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM. This was followed by the inaugural session, which began promptly at 11:15 AM.

Inaugural Session



Dr. Manoj Kumar Haldar, coordinator of the organising committee, delivered the Welcome Address. He warmly greeted the participants, expressing his gratitude for their attendance and participation in this important initiative. Dr. Haldar highlighted the workshop's significance in enhancing the quality of education in Political Science through the development of high-quality self-

learning materials.



Following Dr. Haldar's address, Dr. Barnana Guha Thakurata (Banerjee), Director, the School of Social Sciences and head of the department, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, took the stage to further introduce the workshop's objectives and relevance. She provided an insightful analysis of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasising the need for such workshops to align educational practices with the policy's innovative directives. Dr. Thakurata's speech underscored the critical role of self-learning materials in fostering independent and effective learning among students, thereby supporting the broader goals of NEP

2020.

Inauguration of a Manual:

The workshop was a momentous occasion marking the inauguration of the manual titled "Creating Effective Self-Learning Materials: A Manual for the Four-Year Undergraduate Program in Political Science under NEP-2020." The event was graced by the presence of Professor Indrajit Lahiri, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), who ceremoniously inaugurated the manual. The inauguration of the manual marked a significant step towards advancing educational practices in alignment with NEP-2020.



Inauguration of a Manual titled "Creating Effective Self-Learning Materials: A Manual for the Four-Year Undergraduate Program in Political Science under NEP-2020."

Presidential Address:



Following Prof. Barnana Guha Thakurata (Banerjee) the Honorable Vice Chancellor of Netaji Subhas Open University, Prof. Indrajit Lahiri, delivered an insightful presidential speech. His address underscored the critical importance of Self-Learning Materials (SLM) and the need for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in today's educational landscape. Prof. Lahiri began his speech by highlighting the transformative impact of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 on the Indian education system. He emphasized that NEP 2020's learner-centric paradigm mandates the creation of flexible and inclusive educational frameworks that cater to the diverse needs of students across the country. According

to Prof. Lahiri, SLM plays a pivotal role in this new educational approach by providing learners with the tools they need to engage with course content independently and effectively.

He elaborated on the unique benefits of SLM, noting that these materials are specifically designed to facilitate self-paced learning. Prof. Lahiri pointed out that SLMs are structured to be comprehensive and accessible, allowing students to grasp complex concepts without the constant need for direct instructor intervention. This approach not only empowers students to take charge of their own learning but also fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Prof. Lahiri also stressed the importance of ODL in making education more accessible to a wider audience. He highlighted that ODL systems break down traditional barriers to education, such as geographical constraints and time limitations, enabling learners from various backgrounds to pursue their academic goals. He noted that in the current era, where digital technology plays a significant role, ODL and SLM together create a robust framework for lifelong learning.

Furthermore, Prof. Lahiri extended his heartfelt thanks to the organizers of the workshop, acknowledging their dedication and hard work in making the event a success. He commended the Department of Political Science for their initiative in organizing such a crucial workshop, which aligns perfectly with the objectives of NEP 2020. Prof. Lahiri recognized the efforts of Dr. Manoj Kumar Haldar and Dr. Barnana Guha Thakurata (Banerjee) for their contributions in steering the workshop towards its goals.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Lahiri reiterated the university's commitment to advancing the principles of NEP 2020 through the continuous development of high-quality self-learning materials and the promotion of open and distance learning methodologies. He encouraged all participants to actively engage in the sessions and to collaborate in the creation of innovative educational resources that would benefit ODL learners in Political Science.

The Vice Chancellor's speech set a positive and inspiring tone for the workshop, motivating participants to strive for excellence in their efforts to develop self-learning materials and contribute to the broader educational mission of NEP 2020.



Distinguished Dignitaries at the Inaugural Session

Keynote Address:

Dr. Pratip Chaudhury, the former Director of Public Instruction (DPI), West Bengal and former Regional Director of Indira Gandhi National Open University (West Bengal and Sikkim) delivered keynote speech. Dr. Chaudhury's address provided invaluable insights into the methodology, philosophy, and structural components essential for developing effective Self-Learning Materials (SLMs).



Keynote Address Highlights

1. Method of Development of Self-Learning Materials:

Dr. Chaudhury began by explaining the meticulous process involved in developing Self-Learning Materials. He emphasized the importance of creating content that is learner-centric and accessible to Open and Distance Learning (ODL) students. The development process, according to Dr. Chaudhury, involves several critical stages:

- **Content Creation:** Crafting content that is informative, engaging, and aligned with the curriculum.
- **Format and Structure:** Organizing the material in a logical and coherent manner, making it easy for learners to follow.
- **Review and Feedback:** Incorporating feedback from experts and peers to ensure the material's quality and relevance.

2. Philosophy to Development of SLM:

Dr. Chaudhury elaborated on the underlying philosophy guiding the development of SLMs. He highlighted three core principles:

- **Learner-Centric Approach:** SLMs should be designed keeping the learner's needs, pace, and learning style in mind.
- **Inclusivity:** Materials should be accessible to all students, including those with different learning abilities and backgrounds.
- **Engagement:** The content should be interactive and engaging to keep the learners motivated and interested.

3. Structural Components of SLM:

Dr. Chaudhury provided a detailed explanation of the various features that constitute effective Self-Learning Materials:

- **Format:** Clear and consistent formatting to aid readability and comprehension.
- **Structure:** Logical organization of content into units and modules.

- **Organisation of Units:** Each unit should have a clear introduction, body, and conclusion.
- **Concluding Remarks and Summary:** Summarizing key points to reinforce learning.
- **Terminal Questions:** Providing questions at the end of each unit to assess understanding.
- **Answers and Suggested Reading:** Offering solutions and additional resources for further study.

4. Learning Outcomes:

Dr. Chaudhury emphasized the importance of aligning SLMs with three important domains of learning outcomes:

- **Cognitive:** Developing intellectual skills and knowledge.
- **Psychomotor:** Enhancing physical and motor skills.
- **Affective:** Fostering emotional growth and values.

5. Credit System in CBCS Programme:

Dr. Chaudhury also lucidly explained the credit system within the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) programme of study. He highlighted how the credit system facilitates flexibility and allows students to tailor their learning pathways according to their interests and career goals. This system, he noted, is integral to the effective implementation of SLMs as it supports a modular and flexible approach to education.

Dr. Pratip Chaudhury's keynote address was a comprehensive and insightful exposition on the development of Self-Learning Materials. His detailed explanation of the methodology, philosophy, and structural components provided the participants with a clear understanding of what constitutes effective SLMs. The emphasis on learner-centricity, inclusivity, and engagement, along with the alignment of SLMs with cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning outcomes, underscored the importance of a holistic approach to education.

The workshop participants left with a deeper appreciation of the complexities involved in developing high-quality SLMs and a renewed commitment to applying these principles in their educational endeavors. Dr. Chaudhury's address not only set the tone for the workshop but also

provided a solid foundation for the ongoing development of effective self-learning materials in the field of Political Science.

Special Address

The one-day workshop featured a special address by Smt. Ananya Mitra, Registrar (Additional Charge) of NSOU, who praised the organizers and provided an insightful analysis of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. She expressed gratitude to the participants and highlighted the significance of such workshops in advancing educational practices.



Smt. Mitra lauded the efforts of the Department of Political Science for their dedication in organizing the event, emphasizing its importance in maintaining the university's academic innovation. She provided a comprehensive overview of NEP 2020, focusing on its key aspects: flexibility in education, inclusivity, a learner-centric approach, and technological integration, particularly in the context of Open and Distance Learning (ODL).

She stressed the importance of developing effective Self-Learning Materials (SLMs) as central to NEP 2020's vision, noting that these materials are crucial for providing quality education to ODL learners. The workshop's focus on high-quality SLMs aligns perfectly with NEP 2020's goals.

In her closing remarks, Smt. Mitra expressed heartfelt gratitude to the faculty, course writers, editors, and academic professionals for their commitment to improving educational practices and their dedication to continuous learning and development. Her address underscored the collective effort needed to achieve the ambitious goals of NEP 2020.

The Technical Session-I

This session featured Professor Sobhanlal Dattagupta, former Surendranath Bandyopadhyay Chair Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta. Professor Dattagupta delivered an insightful talk on "Curriculum Design and Development for Self-Learning Materials (SLM) in Undergraduate Political Science."



Professor Dattagupta began by discussing the overall perspective on the development of Self-Learning Materials. He underscored the importance of creating high-quality study materials that meet the needs of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) students. He emphasized that the

content, style, and technique of SLMs should be compact and engaging to ensure effective learning.

He highlighted the necessity of using up-to-date reference books to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the content. Professor Dattagupta stressed that the materials should be not only informative but also appealing to learners, making the learning process more enjoyable and effective.

Suggestions for Improvement:

Professor Dattagupta provided several key suggestions for enhancing the quality of SLMs:

- **Avoid English-Bengali Version Incompatibility:** He pointed out the importance of ensuring consistency and compatibility between English and Bengali versions of the materials to avoid confusion among learners.
- **Attention to Correct Spelling:** He recommended adhering to the spellings provided in the Bangla Academy Dictionary to maintain accuracy and consistency.
- **Correct Terminology:** He suggested that authors of SLMs consult "Sansad Rashtrabighnan Parichay" by Ashok Kumar Sarkar to ensure the correct use of terminology in the materials.
- **Updated Syllabus:** He emphasized the need for an updated syllabus to keep pace with the latest developments in the field of Political Science and to ensure that the SLMs remain relevant and comprehensive.

Question-Answer Session:

The session concluded with a lively Question-Answer segment. Participants raised many pertinent questions regarding the development of SLMs, which were addressed by Professor Dattagupta to their satisfaction. This interactive session provided additional clarity and insights, further enriching the participants' understanding of the topic.

Technical Session-I, led by Professor Sobhanlal Dattagupta, was a significant part of the workshop, offering valuable insights into the curriculum design and development of Self-Learning Materials for undergraduate Political Science programs. His emphasis on quality content, proper terminology, and the importance of an updated syllabus provided clear guidance for the participants. The session concluded with a fruitful exchange of ideas during the Question-Answer segment.

Lunch break

The participants enjoyed a refreshing lunch break from 1.35 pm to 2.00 pm, providing them with a necessary respite and an opportunity to network and discuss various topics informally.

Technical Session: II

The session commenced at 2.00 pm, with Prof. Radharaman Chakrabarti, former Vice-Chancellor of Netaji Subhas Open University, as the distinguished speaker. Prof.. Chakrabarti's address focused on the pivotal role of Distance Education in the broader dissemination of education, especially in the context of the New Education Policy (NEP).



Key points from Prof.. Chakrabarti's speech:

- **Emphasis on Distance Education:**
- Prof. Chakrabarti underscored the importance of prioritizing Distance Education to
- He highlighted that the four-year courses proposed in the NEP offer numerous opportunities for students and educators alike.

- Prof. Chakrabarti pointed out the differences between the open education system and the conventional system, particularly in communication. He noted that the interactive communication present in conventional education is often absent in distance learning.
- **Language and Presentation in Self-Learning Materials (SLMs):**
- According to Prof. Chakrabarti, the language used in SLMs should be easily understandable to learners.
- He emphasized the inclusion of illustrations, diagrams, pie charts, and bars in the SLMs to capture and retain learners' attention.
- **Inter-University Collaboration:**
- Prof. Chakrabarti concluded his speech by advocating for increased collaboration and communication between open universities in the development of SLMs. This, he suggested, would enhance the quality and effectiveness of educational materials.

The session ended with a round of applause for Prof. Chakrabarti's insightful and thought-provoking presentation, which provided valuable perspectives on enhancing Distance Education through innovative approaches and collaboration.

Technical Session-III

The third technical session of the event was a highly interactive and engaging hands-on workshop held from 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm. The session was designed to foster collaborative learning and critical analysis among the participants.

Session Structure:

Group Division: Participants were divided into groups of six. This structure facilitated focused discussion and active participation from each member.

Participants actively engaged in focused discussions and collaborative exchanges during Technical Session III of the workshop



Task Assignment: Each group was given sample modules to analyse, evaluate, and provide constructive suggestions. The goal was to critically assess the modules' content, structure, and effectiveness in delivering educational material.

Active Participation and Enthusiastic Response: The response from the participants was fantastic. All groups engaged sincerely with the task, demonstrating a high level of commitment and enthusiasm. Participants shared their experiences and insights within their groups, promoting a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives.

Peer Review and Feedback: The workshop emphasised peer review, encouraging participants to give and receive feedback on their analyses and suggestions. This peer review process was invaluable, as it offered diverse viewpoints and highlighted areas for improvement in the sample modules.

Outcomes and Benefits: The feedback and suggestions generated during the workshop will significantly contribute to the enhancement of future Self-Learning Materials (SLMs). The collaborative environment and shared learning experiences not only improved the participants' analytical skills but also fostered a sense of community and mutual support among them.

The hands-on workshop was a resounding success, marked by active participation and valuable contributions from all attendees. The collaborative effort in analyzing and improving the sample modules will undoubtedly lead to better-quality educational materials in the future. The session underscored the importance of peer review and collective learning in the continuous improvement of educational resources.



The programme was expertly compared by Dr. Scabanti Choudhury, Assistant Professor of Sociology. Her adept handling of the event ensured a smooth flow and engaging atmosphere. Dr. Choudhury's eloquent introductions and insightful commentary added depth to the proceedings, reflecting her deep understanding of the subject matter. Her professionalism and poise contributed significantly to the programme's success, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

Closing Ceremony



The closing ceremony of the event, held from 4.00 pm to 4.30 pm, marked the conclusion of a productive and insightful day. The session provided a platform to reflect on the day's activities and acknowledge the contributions of all involved. A comprehensive summary of the day's sessions was presented, highlighting the key points and learnings from each session. The summary encapsulated the discussions, insights, and feedback received during the various technical sessions and the hands-on workshop.

- **Certificate Distribution and Acknowledgment:** Certificates of participation were distributed among all attendees. This gesture recognized the efforts and contributions of the participants and symbolized their successful engagement in the workshop activities.
- **Volte of thanks:** Delivered by Professor Debajit Goswami: Professor Debajit Goswami, Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration,

NSOU, delivered the Vote of Thanks. In his address, Professor Goswami expressed profound gratitude to: The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of NSOU for their leadership and support. The Registrar and other officials of NSOU for their organizational and administrative assistance. The respected Resource Persons who shared their expertise and insights, enriching the workshop. The organizers of the workshop for their meticulous planning and execution. The faculty members from various departments of NSOU and other institutions for their participation and contributions. The participants for their enthusiastic engagement and active participation, which significantly contributed to the workshop's success.

The closing ceremony brought the event to a fitting end, with expressions of gratitude and recognition for all contributors. The summary of the day's sessions and the distribution of certificates highlighted the achievements and learnings of the day. Professor Goswami's heartfelt Vote of Thanks emphasized the collective effort and collaboration that made the workshop a resounding success.

The workshop held at Netaji Subhas Open University was a resounding success, marked by insightful discussions, active participation, and valuable contributions from all attendees. The day's events were meticulously organized, beginning with informative technical sessions and culminating in a hands-on workshop and a reflective closing ceremony.

Outcome of the Workshop

The workshop organised by the Department of Political Science proved to be an immensely successful and transformative event. Over the course of the programme, participants achieved significant milestones aligned with the workshop's objectives:

1. **Enhanced Understanding of NEP 2020:** Participants gained a thorough understanding of the key principles and guidelines of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, particularly concerning the development of Self-Learning Materials (SLM) for Open and Distance Learning (ODL). This newfound knowledge has empowered them to contribute meaningfully to the revolutionizing of higher education, making it more accessible and effective.

2. **In-depth Exploration of ODL in Political Science:** The workshop provided a deep dive into the specific objectives and requirements of ODL within the context of Political Science. By addressing the unique challenges and opportunities in this field, participants are now better equipped to create materials that are relevant and impactful. This has set a strong foundation for the development of specialized content tailored to the needs of Political Science students in an ODL environment.
3. **Practical Skills in SLM Design:** One of the most notable outcomes was the acquisition of practical skills in designing interactive and learner-centered self-study materials. Through hands-on training, participants learned to structure content effectively, incorporate interactive elements, and employ writing techniques that enhance engagement and educational value. These skills are essential for creating high-quality SLMs that facilitate self-paced learning and improve student outcomes.
4. **Collaborative Exchange and Networking:** The workshop fostered a collaborative environment, allowing participants to share ideas, experiences, and best practices. This exchange has not only enhanced their individual skills but also built a network of professionals dedicated to improving ODL in Political Science. Such networking is expected to lead to ongoing collaboration and continuous improvement in the field.
5. **Commitment to Continuous Improvement:** With a clear understanding of the NEP 2020 guidelines and the specific needs of ODL in Political Science, participants are now committed to continuous improvement in their educational practices. They are equipped to innovate and refine their approach to SLM design, ensuring that their materials remain current, engaging, and effective.

The workshop successfully met its objectives, leaving participants with a comprehensive understanding of NEP 2020, specialised knowledge in ODL for Political Science, and practical skills in SLM design. The Department of Political Science is confident that these outcomes will significantly enhance the quality of education provided through ODL and contribute to the broader goals of the NEP 2020.

Report prepared by:

Dr. Manoj Kumar Haldar
Associate Professor of Political Science &
Coordinator of the Workshop