



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **ASIA**



India

Helping Commonwealth Member States and institutions use distance learning and technologies for expanding access to education and training.

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is focused on adding value to member states' efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4. It's supporting the governments and institutions of the Commonwealth in the use of appropriate, affordable technologies to improve and expand learning for sustainable development.

During its current plan (2021-2027), COL will:

- i) build on its expertise in ODL, OER and TEL to play a more influential role in national policy development and implementation;
- ii) invest in innovations and research;
- iii) support the digital transformation of institutions and organisations;
- iv) promote gender equality; and
- v) implement a rigorous monitoring and evaluation plan.

COL's work is organised into two sectors — Education and Skills — with Gender Equality and Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) as cross-cutting initiatives.

The Education sector supports formal education from secondary to tertiary levels across the Commonwealth, particularly in the small states (Brunei Darussalam and Maldives) and has four initiatives: Open Schooling; Teacher Education; Higher Education and the Virtual University for Small States of The Commonwealth (VUSSC).

The Skills sector supports formal, non-formal and informal education and training to equip learners for livelihoods and has three initiatives: Skills for Work (SfW); Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) and GIRLS Inspire.

The work in these sectors complements the three pathways of change COL is focusing on in achieving impact for each member state in the Commonwealth. These are:

1. Building National Resilience
2. Strengthening Institutions
3. Improving Lives and Livelihoods

INTRODUCTION

India is the largest Commonwealth country, with a population of over 1.4 billion ([World Bank](#), 2022).

COL works in many programme areas in India — girls' and women's education and training, lifelong learning for farmers, open schooling, higher education, technology-enabled learning and skills for work – with its regional centre, the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), based in New Delhi. Learners from India are also participating in COL's free, open online courses and benefitting from other available resources.

PARTNERS

COL's partners in India include:

- Ministry of Education
- 21CC Education
- Amity University
- Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Academy (APITA)
- Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (APCOB)
- Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE)
- Anvarat Foundation
- Arrupe Centre for Policy Research (ACPR)
- Association of Indian Universities (AIU)
- Automotive Skills Development Council
- Bhartiya Skill Development University (BSDU)
- Capital Goods Skill Council (CGSC)
- Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET)
- Central University of Himachal Pradesh
- Centre for Media and Information Literacy (CMIL)
- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
- Community Radio Stations
- CSC e-Governance Services India Limited
- Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
- Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)
- Domestic Worker Sector Skill Council (DWSSC)
- Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU)
- Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU)
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Furniture and Fitting Skill Council
- GMR Varalakshmi Foundation
- IIT-BHU
- IIT Kanpur

KEY CONTACTS

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Professor Sudhir K. Jain
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FOCAL POINT

Mr Mrutyunjay Behera
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Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education

- IIT Kharagpur
- IIT Tirupati
- Indian Plumbing Skills Council (IPSC)
- Insphere Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
- ISAP India Foundation (Formerly Known as Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals)
- IT for Change
- Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) University
- Karnataka State Open University (KSOU)
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of MSME, GoI
- Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU)
- M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)
- Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University (MPBOU)
- Mahatma Gandhi Central University (MGCU)
- MAK IT Solution
- Manav Rachna University
- Mann Deshi Foundation
- Ministry of Ayush, GoI
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- Model Institute of Education and Research
- National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM)
- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
- National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR)
- National Law University Delhi (NLUD)
- National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR)
- Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)
- Odisha State Open University (OSOU)
- India Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC)
- Puchalapalli Chinnamma Arogya Sadanam Trust
- Ravenshaw University
- Sasilu Tec Experts Private Limited
- SCORE Foundation
- Search for Truth and Return to Science
- Seeking Modern Applications for Real Transformation (SMART)
- Sofocle Innovation Labs Pvt. Ltd.
- SWAYAM
- Tamil Nadu Open University
- Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC)
- The Energy and Resources Institute
- The Real Image Company
- Together with Youth, Sri Lanka
- UNESCO
- U. P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU)

- Uttarakhand Open University
- VIDYAL
- Vidyasagar University
- West Bengal State University (WBSU)
- Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU)

REGIONAL CENTRE

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), located in New Delhi, was established by COL in 1994 to respond to the needs expressed by the Commonwealth countries of the Asian region for more effective utilisation of educational media resources for Distance Education. The COL and the Government of India (GoI) signed the Host Country Agreement on 31 August 1998. CEMCA was notified as a diplomatic mission under the United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947, by the GoI. Its current activities revolve around COL's Strategic Plan 2021-27, but at the same time, CEMCA retains its regional focus, keeping in view the challenges and requirements of Asian Commonwealth countries.

CEMCA's Advisory Council meets annually and functions as an advisory body on CEMCA's affairs and is responsible for broad policy formulation in the programme areas. The Council meets once a year, and membership is rotated among the members in Commonwealth Asia.

During the 2021-2027 plan, CEMCA will

1. Build the capacity of institutions to transition to online and blended learning;
2. Support gender-responsive skills development for livelihoods; and
3. Develop innovations in a range of technologies, from Community Radio to AI-based solutions for reaching the last mile.

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2,400 rural weavers and artisans trained in digital and financial literacy, digital marketing, and data management throughout India.
- CEMCA collaborated with various Sector Skill Councils in India to enhance their courses and transform textual content into multi-media formats.
- 66,673 learners from India have enrolled with 16,985 certificates being issued through the Skills Online programme.

BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

COL is working with governments to use gender-responsive ODL policies and strategies for increasing equitable access to quality learning.

A study report on the “Status of Distance Learning in India” was produced by COL with the support of Professor Santosh Panda.

India is one of ten countries highlighted in the COL/UNESCO publication “Smart Education Strategies for Teaching and Learning: Critical Analytical Framework and Case Studies”, published in September 2022.

CEMCA is supporting the Association of Indian Universities and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research towards developing blended learning frameworks in India for higher education systems.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

COL is supporting partner institutions to strengthen its ODL systems and capacities for providing quality education and training.

COL supported the Model Institute of Education and Research (MIER) to undertake a systematic approach to institutionalising technology-enabled learning (TEL) through research, consultation, capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation. This included the development of 20 blended and online courses. COL published a report on the “Impact of TEL at MIER” in February 2023. In addition, the Commonwealth Digital Education Leadership Training in Action (C-DELTA) programme which promotes digital education skills among students and teachers was also implemented.

A seminar on “Teaching and Learning Algorithms through Interactive Virtual Experiments” was organised by CEMCA in collaboration with Uttarakhand Open University in August 2021. Sixty-five faculty members, primarily from the School of Computer Science and Information Technology, participated in this workshop to learn how interactive virtual experiments can support the teaching and learning of algorithms. Examples and interactive experiments were demonstrated.

CEMCA designed a two-week MOOC on “Development of Online Courses” for Swayam which consists of ten cycles. Partners who implemented these courses in 2021-2022 were Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU); Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS University); Netaji Subhas Open University and Uttarakhand Open University. In total, 5,388 people enrolled in this course with 1,515 completions.

CEMCA mentored BRAOU for the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) through virtual workshops which was attended by the Director of the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) and the core team members of the university responsible for NAAC assessment. 47 senior teachers and staff participated.

During 2021-2022, CEMCA provided capacity-building workshops on blended learning for several higher learning institutions. To date, over 3,000 university teachers and teacher educators were

trained in integrating ICT tools, OER, techno-pedagogy and blended learning delivery systems, including the development of action plans. They included:

1. Ravenshaw University (RU)
2. Dr BR Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU)
3. Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP)
4. Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)
5. Mahatma Gandhi Central University (MGCU)

CEMCA and Ravenshaw University collaborated on training teacher educators of Odisha on the components of blended learning. Following the “Readiness of Teacher Educators for Blended Learning in Odisha (A Baseline Survey)”, a five-day workshop using blended learning pedagogy was organized on designing and developing lessons for Blended Learning in October 2021. 100 (43 Male and 57 Female) teacher educators were trained.

Additionally, CEMCA supported IIT Tirupati in the development of a multi-level digital game to enable novice programmers from diverse backgrounds to build skills in debugging, a fundamental and industry-relevant concept in computing curriculum. The game was deployed and evaluated through experiential and interactive sessions conducted with 108 undergraduate computer science students (60 male, 48 female) in Andhra Pradesh from October-December 2021.

A month-long online workshop on ‘Design Thinking and Innovation in Teaching and Training’ was organised by CEMCA to assist higher education and vocational training institutions in the capacity building of their faculty members/trainers. This workshop was conducted in November 2021. The workshop was attended by 114 participants from five countries (Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Maldives, and Sri Lanka) whom were educators from technical and engineering streams, business schools, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) network.

Several online training workshops on ICT for Teachers was organised by the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation in collaboration with CEMCA. Held in December 2021 and January 2022, 148 (103 male, 45 female) teachers and para-teachers from Government schools located in villages in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana participated in the training to build foundational ICT skills. The training was conducted in Telegu to facilitate engagement.

On 28 January 2022, CEMCA organised a webinar on “Instructional Design for Online Courses”, where experts spoke about improving the quality of online courses and emphasised on the role of creating engaging content and adhering to instructional design’s best practices. More than 100 participants from Asian Commonwealth countries attended the webinar.

CEMCA developed a MOOC/Blended Learning Self-Paced Course on the “Introduction to Augmented Reality” with a four-quadrant approach (simulations, animations, PPTs, conversions of Learning Materials into eContent format (as Text), question banks for learners’ assessment) available as the non-credit course with 25 video materials (maximum 10/15 minutes each) for the 04 modules.

CEMCA supported several educational institutions to develop and adopt their institutional Open Educational Resources (OER) policy through hands-on training of staff to use the necessary tools for sourcing, creating, remixing, and contextualising OER. They include:

- OER workshop for 19 staff at National Law University in August 2021
- OER workshop and draft of OER policy was developed with faculty members of Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University (MPBOU) in October 2021.
- Workshop for teachers and leaders of U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU) held in January 2022 both in synchronous and asynchronous mode where existing OER policy was reviewed. Revised draft to be submitted for approval by university administration.
- Online 5-day training programme on “OER and Licenses” for teachers and teacher educators at Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) held in April 2022. More than 5,000 participants viewed the training programme through: PM eVIDYA Channel number 6-12 meant for Classes VI to XII; DD Free Dish Channel #28-34; DISH TV Channel #2027-2033; JIO TV Mobile App; TATA SKY Channel #756; AIRTEL Channel #437-440 and Den channel #517-527
- Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) developed and adopted OER policy following a two-day workshop with 37 (25M/12F) staff members of KSOU in April 2022. Policy submitted for formal approval and implementation at the University.
- National-level two-day workshop organised on “Developing OER for ODL” in June 2022. Participants included 23 faculty members (12M/11F) from 20 Directorates of Distance Education (DDEs), and Open Universities, who are responsible for developing courses. Moving forward, COL shall set up a helpdesk to handhold and support the OER stakeholders.
- Workshop on “adopting OER” held for 38 (20M/18F) faculty members of Vidyasagar University in November 2022. 14 (11M/3F) staff members developed the institutional OER policy through an interactive process.
- A three-day workshop on “Course development for ODL” was conducted at the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Vidyasagar University (VU) in December 2022. This workshop undertaken by CDOE under the project ‘Development of Open Educational Resources (OER)’ for selected courses at VU and was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Professor Shibaji Pratim Basu, with 20 faculty members participating.
- A three-day workshop for academics and staff of U P Rajarshi Tandon Open University on "Content development using OER" in July 2022 with 44 participants from different schools/departments.
- Sixty-seven institutional staff and faculty (34F, 33M) participated in a three-day workshop on “Implementation of OER” at West Bengal State University (WBSU) in February 2023.
- B R Ambedkar Open University held a two-day workshop for 20 (10M/10F) technical staff on OER repository (Dspace) in February 2023 plus a three-day workshop for 20 (10M/10F) university teachers on online course development using OER in April 2023. A list of 14 courses have been identified for development.
- West Bengal State University organised a one-day workshop on "Development of OER Policy" on 17 May 2023 with 26 senior officials and faculty members (10F/12M) participating. [May 2023]

Uttarakhand Open University, with CEMCA support, developed a 4-week MOOC on “Digital Forensics”, which was offered three times (July, November and December 2021).

KISS University, in collaboration with CEMCA, offered the 2nd offering of the MOOC on “Introduction to Statistical Analysis” in November 2021, which attracted 1,926 registrations (1,165M / 761F) from 42 countries. 235 participants received a completion certificate. This course helps learners use the correct methods for the analysis and interpretation of collected data to present the findings of their research.

CEMCA and Odisha State Open University (OSOU) offered the MOOC on “Academic Counselling for ODL Learners (AC4ODL) in December 2021. 916 learners (559 Male and 357 Female) from 59 countries registered and participated in the course. It was found that 539 learners were from India, and the remaining 377 participants were from 58 countries. 444 participants received the course completion certificate.

CEMCA supported the development of 14 interactive virtual lab experiments in computer science to advance the teaching and learning of algorithms. The experiments are grouped into three labs, corresponding to three families of well-known algorithmic problems widely covered in standard textbooks: Graph Traversal, Minimum Spanning Tree and Shortest Path.

NSOU, with CEMCA support, developed a five-week MOOC on “Understanding Neurodiversity” to build capacity in addressing the needs of neurodiverse learners. The course was offered in February 2022 with 715 registrations (431M/284F/2Trans). 222 participants completed the course.

From November 2021 to January 2022, CEMCA supported Teacher Educators of Himachal Pradesh through online training. In total, 115 (44 male and 71 female) educators participated in the training, which covered various ICT skills, e-content development, use of OER, blended learning models, etc.

CEMCA supported the capacity building of 85 (Male 39 and Female 46) Teacher Educators of Karnataka state in April-June 2022 through its partner, IT for Change. The training covers various ICT skills, e-content development, use of OER and Blended Learning models.

CEMCA supported the Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Academy (APITA) in conducting an online capacity-building programme for their officials on ‘Results-based Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework’ in June 2022, which covered various aspects of results-based project management, such as project organisation and resource pooling, crafting financial statements and cost estimates, and using M&E for performance tracking.

Along with Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Academy (APITA), CEMCA, conducted a capacity-building programme for 437 higher education faculty members from various engineering colleges of Andhra Pradesh in the industry-linked course “Advanced technologies and Teaching Methodologies”. [Jul 2022]

CEMCA supported the Indian Plumbing Skills Council (IPSC) in developing technical video content for the General Plumber Course. [Jul 2022]

CEMCA supported the Water Management and Plumbing Skill Council (WMPSC) in designing and transforming the ‘Plumber General’ course’s textual content into a multimedia one. (July 2022)

CEMCA organised a 'Brain Storming Session to Strengthen the Capacity Needs of Vocational Teachers and Trainers' on 06 September 2022 in New Delhi to produce a draft outline of a new course with clearly spelt out outcome for various target groups, embedded with blended approaches for its delivery.

COL and the Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) offered two, six-week AgMOOCs on "Fluid Therapy and Management of Clinical Syndrome In Cattle and Small Ruminants and Management of Metabolic Diseases" and "Production Disorders in Cattle". 6,064 (4,102M/1,962F) learners enrolled between the two courses. [Nov 2022]

CEMCA was engaged by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India (MOA-Gol) to organise and coordinate activities related to the Yoga Campaign with Community Radio Broadcasters. This is the third collaboration between the Ministry of Ayush and CEMCA after the Immunity Enhancement Campaign of 2020-2021 and the promotion of International Yoga Day 2022, which reached around 20,000 active listeners through the community radio station. The partnership has been extended in 2023, also.

Fifty teachers participated in the National Consultation on Course Development for 'Improving Teaching Techniques of TVET School Teachers' organised by CEMCA in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education, India. [Jan 2023]

CEMCA organised workshops on Virtual Labs, virtual reality and OER in Sri Lanka and India. 102 teachers attended the faculty development training on '21st Century Skills and Teaching Methodologies' organised by CEMCA with the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education. [Jan 2023]

Ninety-five (50M/45F) faculty members from various engineering colleges of Andhra Pradesh were trained in 21st Century Skills and Teaching Methodologies at a four-day workshop organised by CEMCA in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) in Kakinada and Anantapur districts in January 2023.

In association with Tamil Nadu State Development Corporation, CEMCA organised two Faculty Development Programmes (FDP) at Madurai Kamraj University in February 2023 on "Social Digital Marketing". These 3-day workshops were attended by a total of 60 (17m, 43f) faculty members from various Arts and Science Colleges in Tamil Nadu. [Feb 2023]

In collaboration with CEMCA, the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF) is offering training in blended mode for farmers in two regions on the topic "system of wheat intensification." In the pilot stage, 30 farmers are involved and resources are adapted in local languages, making it easily accessible through basic mobile phones for skill-building among farmers. [Mar 2023]

Vidyasagar University, with CEMCA support developed 4 modules on Political Science, English, Botany, Nutritional Management of Health & Fitness, which will be published as OER for the use of learners/ academics. [May 2023]

Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra, with CEMCA support developed two course modules/training curriculums on "Aquaculture Worker" and "Organic Grower." [May 2023]

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

COL continues to provide learners, especially from disadvantaged groups, access to learning and resources for improved livelihoods.

COL's GIRLS Inspire initiative organised a pre-conference workshop at PCF10 with which was attended by COL's partners from India. The workshop's objective was to develop a Strategy for Digitization of Learning Resources focusing on Climate and Environmentally Responsive Sustainable Livelihoods and Food Security, through a collective discussion on: 1) Improving learning resources using COL's quality standards and aligning it to climate change and environmental protection; 2) Digitisation of the improved learning resources.; 3) Scaling up the use of digitised learning resources for sustainable livelihood and food security. [Sep 2022]

Further refinements were carried out on MookIT, a MOOC Management System developed by IIT Kanpur with COL support, which has supported nine MOOCs to-date for about 23,000 learners while the MobiMOOC services supported about 14,000 farmers in India.

Use of innovative MobiMOOC to reach farmers: COL's Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) through its collaboration with local NGO partners continues in improving livelihood security and environmental sustainability. The linkages between farmers and banks in India involving Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (APCOB), Tamil Nadu Grama Bank and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development were strengthened leading to an increase in yield and income for farmers in India. A development which has the potential to achieve scale, sustainability and impact is COL's partnership with the National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), under which rural banking agents are being trained through mobile learning. These intermediaries located across the country assist banks to market their products and services in rural areas. With COL's help, NIBM, a leading capacity-building institution for nationalised banks, is training these agents in digital literacy and financial inclusion to facilitate access to financial services, especially for rural women. Other L3F activities include:

- Orientation meetings on the L3F model held in districts of India involving NGOs, FPOs, bank officials and Joint Directors of the Agriculture and Horticulture departments. [Oct2021]
- 120 farmers have gained access to the KCC loans this month. [Nov 2021]
- Arrupe Centre for Policy Research (ACPR) conducted 5 Focus Group Discussions among the unemployed youth and final year undergraduate students to understand the challenges of youth getting employment in rural markets (40 youth, 28M, 12F). [Apr 2022]
- A total of 1,510 farmers enrolled in the first offering of the mobiMOOC "Promotion of Livestock Farmers Activities as Profitable Self-Employment". A second offering later in 2022 saw 1,507 farmers enrolled.
- 381 voice messages were developed covering the topics of agriculture, animal husbandry, post management of tree planning etc. [Nov 2021]
- Print-based ODL materials on Vegetable Cultivation Techniques, two videos on effective use of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) and 38 content resources for the upcoming MobiMOOC were developed.

- A second MobiMOOC on 'Promotion of Livestock Farmers Activities as Profitable Self-employment' was improved and offered in Sep 2022 covering a total of 228 lessons as audio-clips.
- There were 445 voice messages prepared and disseminated based on the learners' needs for Goat: 144, Milch: 34, Agriculture: 26, Health: 22, General: 18, Farmer Producers Company (FPC): 197, Others: 4. [Sep 2022]

M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)

- MSSRF continues to strengthen the existing four mobile-learning networks by adding new learners regularly, a total of 2,325 as of November 2021.
- Awareness raising programs conducted on agriculture and animal husbandry, Kissan Credit Card (KCC) loan, water harvesting structures, water saving irrigation methods and state government scheme details. In total, 188 small and marginal farmers participated in the meetings. [Feb2022]
- Farmers received credit worth of CAD19,244. In addition, 512 farmers from VIDIYAL received a total amount of loan CAD62,442 as Kissan Credit Card (KCC) loan. [Feb 2022]
- 282 farmers received credit support for the crops of Sugarcane, Banana, Maize and Cotton from four different Banks.
- MSSRF developed 198 voice mails (Agriculture-105, Animal Husbandry-53, General information-15 and FPO Announcements-25) and disseminated through mobile network service. [May 2022]
- Three awareness programs were conducted on agriculture and animal husbandry KCC loan - 112 (62m, 50f) farmers participated. [May 2022]
- 1,185 (353M/808F/24PWD) farmers received/accessed credit for the amount of 532.96 Lakhs equivalent to CAD895,906. [Oct 2022]
- Forty people from NGOs and Farmers Producer organisations (FPOs) participated in a bankers' review meeting held by MSSRF to sensitise them on the credit-based learning programme in Dindigul and Karur Districts. [May 2023]

VIDIYAL

- VIDIYAL identified 174 farmers (12m/162f) to apply for the KCC and also facilitated the credit flow from commercial banks to 1,059 women farmers who have since enrolled as mobile learners and received loans. [Oct 2021-O3.2]
- 3,532 (F) farmers received credit support from the bank [Feb 2022]
- 1,521 applications submitted to banks, out of which 994 received the KCC, worth Rs. 50.24 million (approx. CAD846,042). [Sep 2022]
- 339 female farmers working with VIDIYAL received credit support for mobile-based learning from the banks. [Sep 2022]
- Second offering of the MobiMOOC on "Promotion of Livestock Farmers Activities as Profitable Self-employment" with 40 contents prepared and voice recorded. 1,504 farmers participated in the course.
- VIDIYAL entered into four new partnerships: Association of Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA) an NGO in Sivagangai Dt, Tamil Nadu; Rural Education Development Society (REDS), Namakkal

linked mobile learning to their NABFINS borrowers; Sarvodaya Foundation, Ramnad linked Mobile learning to their Tamil Nadu Gramin Bank (TNGB) farmers; WORD NGO in Pallipalaym, Erode linked Mobile learning to their farmers. [Sep 2022]

- 1,046 NABFINS borrowers are linked through the L3F NGO partner REDS in Namakkal and 1,028 TNGB borrowers through Sarvodaya Foundation, Sayalkudi Ramnad. A total of 2,071 borrowers have participated in the mobile learning for enterprise management through two separate mobile networks.
- VIDYAL continues to share information related to rules and regulations for receiving KCC with the farmers groups on how to efficiently use the card with maximum benefits. [Jan 2022]
- VIDYAL developed a MobiMOOC on “Livestock management in Winter”; VIDYAL offered a MobiMOOC on ‘livestock management in winter’ and prepared and disseminated 378 voice lessons based on learners’ needs: 50 on post care of the tree Fodder, 97 in Goat management, 27 in Milch animal management, 18 in Agriculture, 17 in Health, 14 in General information, and 155 on operating and managing the Farmers Producers Company (FPC) incorporated by Vidiyal. [Feb 2022]
- VIDYAL organised four meetings where 161 participants (59m, 82f, 20 unreported) attended. The meetings, which were held in Namakkal, Madurai and Ramnad districts, focussed on L3F and the need for scaling up activities with the support of NGOs, CBOs and FPOs, MobiMOOC Courses and the results of the previous MobiMOOCs conducted in the district. [Feb 2023]
- 118 voice note contents between October 2022 and 10 January 2023 were developed by VIDYAL. [Feb 2023]
- VIDYAL enrolled 698 (f) farmers for mobile learning in India. [Feb 2023]
- VIDYAL entered partnerships with three banks, namely: Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), Canara Bank, and NABFINS Limited – a subsidiary of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). [Feb 2023]

Mann Deshi Foundation

- Through the digital literacy training program, the Mann Deshi Foundation targeted to reach 510 beneficiaries between April-June 2022 and successfully reached 513 women.
- using the Digital Borrowing System to ensure smooth and efficient financial support to aspiring women entrepreneurs. To date, about 5,363 women entrepreneurs have been supported through the revolving grant initiative. [Sep 2022]
- The Mann Deshi Foundation entered into four partnerships with Godrej Consumers PVT. Ltd (1) for a period of eight months. Under the partnership Godrej will provide beauty and wellness entrepreneurship skill training. Plus CII, Swadesh Foundation and Genpact United Way (3), who will provide training in Financial and Digital literacy Program, Deshi MBA Program & Training on revolving grant program.

Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (APCOB)

- APCOB developed 40 video clips/voice messages, based on farmer's learning needs/priorities. [May 2023]

- In a collaborative effort between COL, as part of its Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) initiative, and Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (APCOB), the new Micro-Learning Centre (MLC) in the Cooperative Training Centre of Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (APCOB) in Hyderabad that recently opened is designed to support tens of thousands of farmers on a daily basis from Andhra Pradesh state. This includes conducting highly focused and structured micro-courses using COL's innovative MOOC and mobiMOOC platforms to assist farmers with information about pest and disease management in crop production and animal husbandry, among others. [May 2023]
- A total of 28 networks have been set up in 13 districts with 12,056 farmers mobilised. [Mar 2023]
- APCOB reported: a total of 14 mobile networks have been established to link 6,699 District Primary Agriculture Cooperatives Societies (PAC) staff to address the farmer's needs and to develop their skills and capacities. [May 2023]

CEMCA supported Capital Goods Skill Council (CGSC) in conducting an orientation and upskilling and certification program for blue-collar employees. The training was conducted in multiple batches in day and night shifts from 20 to 30 July 2021 in the premises of Jindal Steels Limited Gurugram and PR Components, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana. Under this project, 252 participants from various job roles were trained, and 250 participants cleared the final assessment exam and were certified.

To upskill Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers of Barabanki District in Uttar Pradesh, CEMCA organised a training programme with the help of Anvarat Foundation to train 800 ASHA workers in batches at Block level Community/Primary Health Centres in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, from 1 to 16 August 2021 as per WHO guidelines.

CEMCA supported GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF) in conducting four-month long residential placement linked skill training from April to September 2021 for 60 participants from marginalised communities in their Nagaram district Skill Centre, Andhra Pradesh. Post training, 51 participants out of 60 were placed with decent salaries in different districts of Andhra Pradesh.

CEMCA supported Puchalapalli Chinnamma Arogya Sadanam Trust (PCAST) for conducting Life & Employment Skills Training to empower 600 marginalized community women/girls. [Nov 2021]

CEMCA extended its support to CSC E-Governance Services India Limited (CSC SPV) to provide online skill development training and certification in Optical Fiber Splicer course to 2500 women and 2500 Persons with Disabilities (PwD) through CSC's skill training centres. The training was conducted between December 2021 and February 2022.

CEMCA, in association with Federation for MSME Clusters (FMC), developed audio podcasts in four Indian languages on the use of bamboo products for sustainable development. These podcasts were broadcast in seven states of India with the help of 20 community radio stations in February-March 2022. These motivated and educated rural entrepreneurs and agripreneurs to opt for bamboo farming and manufacturing/selling bamboo-related products.

CEMCA, in association with Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Academy (APITA), the Government of Andhra Pradesh, and with technical support from the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, launched the Blockchain Introduction for Developers course. This MOOC, offered from 3

January to 6 February 2022, attracted 5949 participants (male-3165, female-2739, not specified-44) from 44 countries. The course was also offered by Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, India, from September to November, 2022 and attracted 2438 learners.

CEMCA supported Domestic Workers Sector Skill Council (DWSSC) to design and transform their 'Baby Care Giver (Non-Clinical)' course text content into informative video content. This online course consists of 22 video modules scripted and conceptualized by domain experts and master trainers from DWSSC. This video tutorial course will help to train aspirants registered under various government schemes with DWSSC.

Uttarakhand Open University has offered three cycles to-date of the four-week MOOC on "Digital Forensics" with over 5,000 learners enrolling in this course globally.

Twenty learners from India completed the **Capacity Building for NGOs in the Disability Sector course** which ran from January to April 2022.

CEMCA organised a workshop on Documentary and Filmmaking for students from various Indian institutions and Universities in April 2022 at New Delhi, India. During the workshop, 26 students got an opportunity to understand, and gain ideas about creating various elements of film and documentary production, ranging from conceptualisation to scripting, producing, shooting and editing.

COL's partner, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) trained rural weavers and artisans on digital and financial literacy, digital marketing, citizen services and data management in 12 States in India where 2,400 learners completed the training in April 2022.

COL's Gender Equality initiative partnered with Point of View (POV) in 2022 to develop a gender justice curriculum for women and girls. Six advocacy sessions were conducted with 275 young women sensitised on themes around digital gender justice.

COL's partnership with Coursera, Udemy and Grow with Google continues to offer nominated learners this vast range of courses – a pathway for lifelong learning and growth and enhancing skills for employment and entrepreneurship. Since July 2021, 66,673 learners from India have enrolled with 16,985 certificates being issued.

CEMCA's MOOC on "Development of Online courses for SWAYAM" was offered in May 2022 through KISS University's online platform – 757 learners enrolled with 286 (150f/136m) completing the course.

In collaboration with Developing Library Network (DELNET), CEMCA organised a webinar on the topic, "Leveraging OERs to Enhance Higher Learning" in September 2022. The online seminar attracted 701 participants (418M/283F) from educational institutions across the globe.

CEMCA and Bhartiya Skill Development University (BSDU) organised a Stakeholders' Consultative Meeting for Validation of Skill Pedagogy Curriculum for Vocational Educators of Indian Universities in November 2022 at Jaipur, Rajasthan where 33 experts (26m/7f) participated.

CEMCA has collaborated with the Centre for Research and Development Policy (CRDP), Jammu and Kashmir, India, to develop a micro-course on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Schools.

CEMCA in collaboration with the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR) organised a national consultation to validate the modules in the programme curriculum 'Building Excellence in Teaching' for 26 (19m;7f) Diploma faculty members in January 2023 in New Delhi, India.

CEMCA, in association with UNESCO and Seeking Modern Applications for Real Transformation (SMART), organised an orientation workshop on two unique initiatives – SDG Fellowship and Curriculum on Content Development for Community Radio (CR) broadcasters in February 2023. The workshop was attended by 16 (7m/9f) participants including 11 Fellows.

626 learners (286F/332M/8undisclosed) completed the MOOC on "Essential Life Skills" offered by CEMCA in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) Varanasi. [Mar 2023]

CEMCA collaborated with Pro Sport Development (PSD) and organised the second and third consultations to discuss the draft outline of a MOOC on Developing 21st Century Skills through Sports in March 2023.

Forty-nine learners (27m, 22f) were trained by Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra on the course modules "Agriculture and Aquaculture" in April 2023.

The GMR Varalakshmi Foundation, with CEMCA support organised two, five-day online workshops for farmers of Warora district on System of wheat intensification (SWI) Cultivation and Floriculture. 123 farmers participated in this training. [May 2023]

CEMCA organised a consultative workshop on Enhancing the Efficacy of Cosmetology ITI Courses in India at New Delhi on 24 May 2023. The consultation helped in analysing the blended learning potential in the Basic Cosmetology [National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) Level 3] course, while exploring the scope of implementation of blended learning approach in the proposed curricula.

CEMCA partnered with SCORE Foundation to conduct a study to understand ODL practices among visually impaired people in India. In this regard, a meeting was organised in New Delhi, India, on 5 June 2023 to discuss the major findings of the study and its dissemination plan. SCORE Foundation surveyed 5008 visually impaired people for this study and found that ODL seems ideal for them, but only a small percentage of them had knowledge about it and had enrolled in these courses.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

COL participated as a knowledge partner in the Great Indian Learning Festival held in Varanasi in December 2021. The activity, which attracted 200 school leaders and 116 teachers, involved plenary and multi-track sessions that addressed the professional development needs of teachers as well as latest initiatives and ideas in school leadership development and online learning, among others.

In July 2021, CEMCA supported Bhartiya Skill Development University, Jaipur, in organising four-week long Skill Carnival 2021 to celebrate World Youth Skills Day. CEMCA facilitated and supported five technical/skill workshops, namely, Design Thinking, 3D Printing and Modelling, creating a Pitch Deck

Using the Business Model Canvas, Smart Manufacturing and How to Make a Video Resume. More than 1300 participants attended these workshops and 854 were certified.

In April 2022, an Award Ceremony was held at the India International Centre, New Delhi, to felicitate the winners of the Ninth Community Radio Video Challenge 2022 (CRVC 2022). CEMCA has been organizing CRVC in partnership with UNESCO since 2014. The theme for CRVC 2022 was 'Climate Action: Climate Change for Sustainable Development.

The 21st CEMCA Advisory Council meeting was held online in December 2021 with members from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Maldives and Sri Lanka present. It was recommended by members that CEMCA should build networks to perform a catalytic role and build new partnerships in the region.

[Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow](#) was presented virtually by Professor Asha Kanwar, COL President & CEO at the National Institute of Open Schooling International Women's Day and Inauguration of e-Library Digital Education and E-Resources Platform (DEEP), India on 8 March 2022.

To encourage women's participation in graduate/postgraduate courses in media and ICT through ODL, CEMCA awards the best performers in media and ICT related academic programmes. The 2021-22 CEMCA Award for best female student in ICT was awarded to Ms Aishwarya Lakshmi, a Master's in Computer Application student at IGNOU during its 35th Convocation held on 26 April, 2022 and to Ms M. Nivetha, a Bachelor's in Computer Application student at Tamil Nadu Open University during its 13th Convocation held on 30 May 2022. In 2023, Ms Savita Kumari, a student of Master of Computer Application, received the CEMCA award for best female student in any ICT discipline during the 36th Convocation of IGNOU held on 3 April 2023.

COL's Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning is held triennially and is co-hosted with different partners in different regions of the Commonwealth. 36 delegates from India registered for the **Tenth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10)**, the first-ever hybrid Forum held in Calgary, Canada from 14-16 September 2022. **Professor Dr Ami Upadhyay, Vice Chancellor of BAOU was conferred a COL Honorary Fellowship. Dr Kaushal Kumar Bhagat, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur was given the Award of Excellence for Innovations in Distance and Online Learning. National Institute of Open Schooling was a forum sponsor.** 21 of these delegates were sponsored by COL where several were also invited to participate in COL pre-conference meetings. Participants included: Kumari Archana, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration; Jyoti Bawane, Indian Institute of Education; Ritimoni Bordoloi, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University; Kuntal De, Narendra Deshmukh, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, TIFR; Niradhar Dey, IGNOU; Anirban Ghosh, Netaji Subhas Open University; Adit Gupta, Model Institute of Education and Research; Dayanand Hattiangbire, Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University; Basavaprabhu Jirli, Banaras Hindu University; Naveen Kumar Kaipala, National Institute of Bank Management; Seetharama Rao Kusumba, Dr B R Ambedkar Open University; Laxmi Laxmi, IGNOU; Osama Manzar, DEF; Sudarshan Mishra, Ravenshaw University; Pradeep Kumar Misra, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA); Madhan Muthukumarasamy, Jindal Global University; Anitha Nair, NIOS; Azmat Noori, NIOS; Anil Prasad P, Govt. of Kerala; Santosh Panda, IGNOU; Jayshree Pande, Chinmaya University; Thamizoli Perumal, Independent Researcher; Dheerendra Pratap Singh, IGNOU; Kavita Salunke, Y.C.M. Open

University; Nripendra Narayan Sarma, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University; Chayanika Senapati, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University; Gaurav Singh, Central University of Haryana; Rajiv Kumar Singh, NIOS; Siddharth Srivastava, IIT Kanpur; K.R. Srivathsan, IIT Kanpur; Sanghmitra Suryapani, NIOS; Papiya Upadhyay, Netaji Subhas Open University; Aditya Vadlamani, IIT Kanpur.

CEMCA held their **22nd Advisory Council Meeting** in New Delhi on 26 December 2022, with members from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Maldives and Sri Lanka in attendance. A major concern expressed was that despite the fact that distance learning had been embraced globally during the pandemic, the negative perceptions relating to the quality of this mode of delivery continue to persist. CEMCA Director mentioned that despite the challenges confronted during the pandemic, CEMCA was able to reach out to a significant number of learners. Ongoing activities included supporting higher educational institutions to implement Open Educational Resources (OER) policies and help enhance pedagogical skills among teachers/trainers of Technical and Vocational Education institutions in Commonwealth Asia. Council members noted CEMCA's contribution to ODL in the region and outlined the priorities for the future. Mr Mrutyunjay Behera, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Education, Government of India, encouraged CEMCA to develop awareness programmes to conserve the environment and to promote climate literacy in Commonwealth countries. Also in invited, Professor K Seetharama Rao, Vice Chancellor, Dr B R Ambedkar Open University, India, highlighted the need for a consortium of universities to build virtual labs.

The **Regional Focal Points meeting for Asia** was held in New Delhi in late December 2022. COL Focal Point Mr. Mrutyunjay Behera from the Ministry of Education participated in the two-day meeting.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Reaching the Unreached: Scale-Up Empowerment Study <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4006>

Best Practices of Community Radio and Sustainable Development Goals: A Handbook (CEMCA) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5260>

Yoga for Well-being Through Community Radio Stations (CEMCA) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5350>

Students' Learning Experience during Covid-19: A Study of Open Universities in India (CEMCA) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5338>

Blended Learning Policy: Templates for Higher Education Institutions in Commonwealth Asia (CEMCA) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5319>

Handbook on Online Education in Commonwealth Asia (CEMCA) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5259>

Smart Education Strategies for Teaching and Learning: Critical Analytical Framework and Case Studies (CEMCA) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4464>

Status of Distance Learning in India presents a survey of a situation analysis of distance learning in India. It is based on both archival and field data. <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4479>

Impact of Technology-Enabled Learning at MIER evaluates blended learning implementation at the Model Institute of Education and Research (MIER), J&K, India. <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5227>



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