WORKSHOP REPORT

Title:

"One Day Workshop on Implementation of NEP-2020 in UG Zoology at NSOU"

Date: *9th September, 2024*

Venue: *Subhaschandra Sabhaghar, 7th Floor, HQ, Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 064.*

By Department of Zoology, NSOU

1. Introduction

The primary aim of the workshop was to explore strategies for the integration of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 into the undergraduate Zoology curriculum and to sensitize the self-learning material (SLM) writers and editors to follow a uniform structure. The SLMs are an integral part of conducting the programme in ODL mode and the perspective from esteemed academicians from different Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) including different regular mode Universities to design and write the good quality SLMs become imperative. Also, NSOU and the department of Zoology invited the faculties of different HEIs who already introduced NEP2020 curriculum in Zoology to gather experiences of the new system. In this context, with the hope of insightful discussions, the workshop was conducted and attended by SLM writers and editors, faculty members from NSOU and different other institutions of West Bengal, curriculum developers, and PhD scholars of the department. The event emphasized the key reforms introduced by NEP 2020 and how they can be effectively applied to enhance teaching, learning, and research in the field of Zoology.

2. The Organizing Committee

To materialize the plan, an organizing committee was formed with the chief patronage of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and under the guidance of the Director, School of Sciences, NSOU.

Chief Patron: *Prof. Indraji Lahiri. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU*
Chairperson: *Prof. Bibhas Guha, Director, School of Sciences, NSOU and Professor of Zoology, NSOU*
Convener: *Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, NSOU*
Treasurer: *Mr. Ashif Ahamed, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, NSOU*
Members: *Dr. Sanjay Mondal, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, NSOU*
Dr. Sudipta Das, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, NSOU

3. Guests and Participants

The chief guest of this programme was Prof. Asish Kumr Panigrahi, Professor, Kalyani University and Ex Pro-VC of the University of Burdwan. Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, NSOU was present as a special invitee in this workshop. Prof. Bibhas Guha, Director, School of Sciences, NSOU presided over the inaugural session. A total of 41 participants (19 from NSOU and 22 participants from other HEIs) attended the workshop. The participants include the following.

- Members of the Board of Studies in UG and PG Zoology, NSOU
- Writers & Editors of UG Zoology SLMs for NEP2020 curriculum of NSOU
- Faculties and invitee members of Department of Zoology of other HEIs
- Faculty members from the Department of Zoology and other science disciplines of NSOU
- PhD scholars of the department.

4. Objective

The core objective of the workshop was to familiarize educators and SLM contributors with the framework and philosophy of NEP 2020, and to discuss specific reforms and approaches that could be implemented in the undergraduate Zoology curriculum at NSOU. Key goals included:

- Understanding the structure and guidelines of NEP 2020.
- Exploring interdisciplinary approaches in Zoology education.
- Sensitizing SLM contributors to prepare the SLMs in uniform structure, complying with the NEP-2020 mandate

5. Programme Schedule

Registration:	11:00 AM
Inauguration Session:	11:30 AM – 12:15 PM
Welcome Address	Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Head, Department of Zoology, NSOU (11:30 AM)
Theme Address	Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director CIQA, NSOU (11:40 AM)
Key-Note Address	Prof. A.K. Panigrahi, Dept. Zoology, KU and Ex-ProVC, BU (Chief Guest) (11:50 AM – 12:15 PM)
Presidential Address	Prof. Bibhas Guha, Director, Schoolof Sciences, NSOU (12:15 AM)
Technical Session – 1:	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Theme: "*Implementation of 4 Yr UG Zoology Curriculum in central NEP2020 format of NSOU*"

Chairperson: Prof. Anilava Kabiraj, Retd. Professor of Zoology, KU
Presentation by Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Dept Zoology, NSOU

Panellist: Prof. Bibhas Guha, NSOU; Prof. Narayan Ghorai, WBSU, Dr. Deba Prasad Mondal, WBSU; Dr. Mehboob Haque, AU and Discussion/Q-A with participants
Conducted by: Dr. Sudipta Das, Assoc. Prof of Zoology, NSOU

Lunch Break: 2:00 PM – 2:45 PM

Technical Session – 2: 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM

Theme: "*Challenges and opportunities of SLM writing and delivery of Zoology programme in NSOU* "
Chairperson: Prof. Jayanta K Kundu, Professor of Zoology, VU
Presentation/Discssion by Prof. Bibhas Guha, Dept Zoology, NSOU
Panellist: Prof. CR Sahu, KU; Prof. Samir Saha, WBSU, Dr. Shamee Bhattacharjee, WBSU; Dr. Santanu Chakrabarti, GGDC; Dr. Dipanwita Paria, Chandernagar College and Discussion/Q-A with participants
Conducted by: Dr. Sanjay Mondal, Assoc. Prof of Zoology, NSOU

Validictory Session: 4:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Programme Summary and Vote of Thanks – Ashif Ahamed, Dept. Zoology, NSOU

6. Inaugural Session

The Chief Guest and other dignitaries were invited on the podium by Ashif Ahamed, Assistant Professor of Zoology, NSOU, which was followed by a felicitation ceremony by the research scholars of the department of zoology, NSOU.

The workshop commenced with the welcome address by Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Head, Department of Zoology, NSOU & Convenor of the workshop. Prof. Ghosh emphasized the importance of NEP 2020 in transforming higher education and making it more inclusive, flexible, and multidisciplinary. He also highlighted the role of open and distance learning institutions in successfully implementing NEP 2020's core recommendations and pointed out the importance and potency of NSOU in achieving the goal of the policy. Welcoming the learned gathering, Prof. Ghosh disclosed the roadmap of the day's workshop and emphasized on the interactive sharing of experiences and views to reach the goal of the workshop.

After that, Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, NSOU explained the uniform course structure adopted by NSOU to the august gathering. Prof. Ghosh, as the Director, CIQA of NSOU emphasized on the planning details of the centralized framework of NEP2020 compliant curriculum in this HEI and compared it with other ODL Universities. He also highlighted upon the achievements of NSOU in recent past and the challenges to overcome in future for the betterment of the University.

This was followed by the address of the chief guest Prof. Panigrahi. The talk and presentation by Prof. Panigrahi detailed the vision of NEP2020 and how it can be implemented in the HEI of the state of West Bengal. His lecture enriched the participants with the ultimate motto of NEP-2020 and provide the platform for detailed discussion in the technical sessions of the workshop. He also

emphasized the possible challenges of implementing and conducting the curriculum by the present infrastructure of the higher education institutions (HEIs).

The session ended with the presidential address by Prof. Bibhas Guha, Director, School of Sciences. In his speech, Prof. Guha thanked all the esteemed participants for joining the programme. He enlightened the participant about the current structure of teaching learning process of the science disciplines in NSOU. Prof Guha. also highlighted the challenges of conducting laboratory-based science programme in ODL mode in NSOU and prompted the gathering to think over the teaching of Zoology and applying the methods to fulfil the goal of NEP2020 in this mode.

This session was pertinently compered by Ashif Ahamed in an organized and time bound fashion and helped the inaugural session to transit into the technical session smoothly.



Comparing the Inaugural Session by Ashif ahamed



Felicitating the Chief Guest Prof. Ashis K Panigrahi, KU



Felicitating Prof. Bibhas Guha, Director, School of Sciences, NSOU



Welcome address by Prof. Anirban Ghosh, HOD, Zoology Dept. NSOU



Delegates on the Podium – Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, NSOU; Chief Guest Prof. Ashis K Panigrahi, KU; Prof. Bibhas Guha, Director, SoSci, NSOU

5. Technical Sessions

(i) Session 1: ***"Implementation of 4 Yr UG Zoology Curriculum in central NEP2020 format of NSOU"***

This session was chaired by Prof. Anilava Kabiraj, Retd. Professor of Zoology, KU. The panelists for this session were:

(i) Prof. Bibhas Guha, NSOU
(ii) Prof. Narayan Ghorai, West Bengal State University
(iii) Dr. Deba Prasad Mondal, West Bengal State University
(iv) Dr. Mehboob Haque, Aliah University

The session started with a short presentation on the idea of NEP-2020 by the chairperson of the session. Prof. Kaviraj discussed the various reforms proposed in NEP 2020, including a multidisciplinary and holistic approach, flexible curriculum structures, and the introduction of skill-based courses.

This was followed by the presentation of Prof. Anirban Ghosh on the UG Zoology Programme which is framed based on NEP-2020 recommendations. Prof. Ghosh discussed the papers offered by the Zoology department of NSOU and how they are fitted into the centralized framework of NEP2020 curriculum of NSOU. Then Prof. Ghosh and the Chairperson invited the opinions of the panelists and participants to discuss on the matter.

Panel Discussion: The panelists and other participants raised several issues regarding the appropriate timing and place of internship for the learners in the programme structure. The panelists also shared their opinion on adopting subjects other than Bengali as the Ability Enhancement Course-1 (AEC-1). Other than these, the importance of introducing research and project-based learning at the undergraduate level was highlighted in this session. The session was conducted by Dr. Sudipta Das, Associate Professor of Zoology. NSOU.

(ii) Session 2: ***"Challenges and opportunities of SLM writing and delivery of Zoology programme in NSOU"***

Prof. Jayanta Kumar Kundu, Professor of Zoology, Vidyasagar University chaired this session and the panelists for this session were:

(i) Prof. CR Sahu, Ex Professor, Kalyani University
(ii) Prof. Samir Saha, West Bengal State University
(iii) Dr. Shamee Bhattacharjee, West Bengal State University
(iv) Dr. Santanu Chakrabarti, Government General Degree Collge, Singur

At onset, the chairperson of the session started this session with his short speech. Then, Prof. Guha focused on the important criteria and challenges of writing the SLMs, specially, in Bengali language. He mentioned the importance of completing the SLMs within stipulated time frame, so that the programme can be launched in the next academic session at NSOU.

Panel Discussion: The panelists and participants discussed the different aspects of SLM writing and their recommendations were recorded. Prof. Anirban Ghosh of department of zoology displayed the paper-wise list of authors and editors to the assembly and showed the detailed syllabus components. The panelists and other participants discussed on the area and sought clarifications regarding SLM writing and pedagogical issues which were addressed by Prof. Guha and Prof. Ghosh. Panelists had a discussion on plagiarism issues and ISBN allotment for the SLM volumes. Specific clarifications of the time frame of submission of SLM manuscripts for different semester had been made to the writers and editors. Panelists and participants also shared their views to supplement the discussion

This session was conducted by Dr. Sanjay Mandal, Associate Professor of Zoology, NSOU.



Felicitating Prof. Anilava Kaviraj, Chairperson – Technical Session 1



During workshop



Prof. Anilava Kaviraj During Discussion



During Panel Discussion





Prof. Jayanta K Kundu, Vidyasagar Univ – Chairperson of Technical Session 2



Prof. CR Sahu, Prof. Jayanta K Kundu, Prof. Bibhas Guha During Panel Discussion

6. Conclusion

The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Ashif Ahamed, NSOU who appreciated the active participation of all the participants. The workshop successfully outlined the roadmap for implementing NEP 2020 in the UG Zoology program at NSOU and emphasized the importance of collaboration between different HEIs, NGOs, educators, students, and administrative bodies to ensure the successful adoption of the new policy.

7. Recommendations

The following recommendations have been made by the members present in the workshop.

- The 4-credit internship/seminar presentation course may be incorporated in the programme at the 2nd, 4th, and 6th Semester, i.e, in various exit points as per the NEP2020 regulation. Learners may be given options in this regard, so that they can complete the course at different exit levels (Exit 1, 2, and 3) according to their preferences. Currently the course is only offered at the 6th semester.
- Different NGOs and academic institutions may be approached and enlisted by the University to conduct the internship courses. University and the department may fix the criteria on which areas and from where the learners can achieve their internship training and certificates.
- University may take initiatives to sign the MoU with other HEIs, NGOs and other competent institutions to facilitate the internship for the large learner base of zoology department to reach the NEP2020 exit criteria properly.
- The University should reconsider and review the UGC notification regarding the UG degree without research in ODL universities. NSOU should advocate for the UG Hons degree with research to the UGC citing the example of IGNOU and present high standard of academics in NSOU. Otherwise, –
    a) the UG honours degree of NSOU will be a compromised and incomplete degree which does not fit with the spirit of highlighting open and hybrid learning system in higher education in NEP2020.
    b) This will further create problems to the learners passing out from NSOU under NEP2020 curriculum to get entry into the 1 year PG course without the research component.
- The Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC) should be a multidisciplinary approach. The Zoology learners should get the opportunity to study the SEC papers of other relevant departments.



All the participants at the end of the Workshop

[**Front row – standing from left to right:** Dr. Rupa Mukherjee, Bangabasi College; Dr. Sarmistha Banik, Chandernagor College; Dr. Indrani Chakraborty, Jogomaya Devi College; Prof. Anirban Ghosh, NSOU; Dr. Biswatosh Ghosh, Bidhannagar College; Dr. Tanmay Sanyal, Krishnagar Govt. College; Dr. Subharthi Pal, Bhairab Ganguly College;
Front row – sitting from left to right: Dr. Santanu Chakrabarti, GGDC, Singur, Prof CR Sahu, Kalyani Univ; Prof. Jayanta K Kundu, Vidyasagar Univ; Prof. Ashis Panigrahi, Kalyani Univ; Prof. Anilava Kaviraj, Kalyani Univ; Prof. Narayan Ghorai, WBSU;
Back row – left to right: Nabajit Mondal, Sangita Hazra Balia, Sujal Dutta, Bakul Biswas, Research Scholars of Zoology Dept, NSOU; Dr. Anirban Sinha, Narasinha Dutt College; Dr. Subhajit Saha, Burdwan Univ; Dr. Mehboob Haque, Aliah Univ; Dr. Indraneel Saha, Sarsuna College; Dr. Syamdas Bandyopadhyay, Bardhaman Raj College; Dr. Shamee Bhattacharyya, WBSU, Prof. Samir Saha, WBSU; Dr. Shantanabha Das, DHWU; Dr. Debaprasad Mondal, WBSU; Dr. Ashit Sarkar, NSOU; Prof. Bibhas Guha, NSOU; Dr. Sandip Das, NSOU; Dr. Sanjay Mondal, NSOU; Dr. Ramkrishna Pandit, Mahadevananda College]

Prof. Anirban Ghosh
Head, Department of Zoology
Netaji Subhas Open University

Prof. Bibhas Guha
Director, School of Sciences
Netaji Subhas Open University

Report Prepared by: Ashif Ahamed, Assistant Professor of Zoology, NSOU