



## NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

*Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A'*

*Celebrating Silver Jubilee Year*

**Centre for Disability Studies & Educational Research  
(Under the aegis of School of Education)**

***Launch and Orientation of MOOCs-LMS***

***on***

**Understanding Neurodiversity  
(A collaborative initiative of NSOU & CEMCA)**

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**Event Details:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Monday; 11:30 AM; Blended Mode

**Participants:** Around 225

**Overture:** Centre for Disability Studies & Educational Research, under the aegis of School of Education, Netaji Subhas Open University Welcomed dignitaries, eminent academicians, mentors, participants, learners, guests present on & offscreen to the launch ceremony of 5-week MOOC on Understanding Neurodiversity, a collaborative initiative of Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata & Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, New Delhi, followed by an orientation on MOOCs-LMS.

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor of Education, SoE, NSOU was the emcee of the event. She expressed how everything came together as NSOU & CEMCA teamed up and have been working hard to design and develop the MOOC on Understanding Neurodiversity.

As a mark of appreciation, she introduced a few special persons in the blended assemblage: Prof. Madhu Parhar, Director, CEMCA, Dr. Aloka Guha, Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU, Registrar, NSOU, Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Dr. Shiffon Chatterjee, Dr. A. N Dey, Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Ms. Kavita Sharma, Ms. Manobina Chakraborty, among others.



**Welcome Address:** Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, NSOU & Course Coordinator, MOOC was invited for the formal welcome words to initiate the event. Prof. Ghosh ardently greeted and heartily welcomed all dignitaries, learners, guests and other participants on and off the screen. He reminisced how CEMCA and NSOU started the development of this MOOC from July 2021 and within a very short span of time, with collective efforts and scholarly contributions from all concerned, this day came into being. He lay emphasis on the recent ICT interventions in the teaching-learning context of NSOU in a husk.

**About the MOOC:** Dr. Shiffon Chatterjee, Sr. Programme Officer, CEMCA & Jt. Course Coordinator was requested to briefly enlighten the participants about the 5-week MOOC on Understanding Neurodiversity. She eloquently presented the course overview.

**Address by the Coordinator, CDSER:** Dr. A. N Dey, shared his valuable thoughts on the inclusion and equal participation of all children within the education system has been accorded the highest priority in the Government of India's National Education Policy 2020. He also urged that there is a critical need to provide increased awareness, knowledge and training regarding catering to children/youths with neurological differences. He extended his gratitude towards CEMCA and NSOU for jointly proposing the development of a MOOC on "Understanding Neurodiversity".

**Keynote Address:** It was prodigious to have **Dr. Aloka Guha**, Former Chairperson, National Trust, New Delhi & Senior Consultant, RCI, New Delhi, who was invited for the keynote address. Dr. Guha deliberated by stating that neurodiversity refers to variation in the human brain regarding sociability, learning, attention, mood and other mental functions in a non-pathological sense. She described the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one right way of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits.



**Address by the Director, CEMCA:** Another remarkable personality, Professor Madhu Parhar, was invited to inspire and motivate the academic congregation. In her brief speech she stressed upon the need of this course and a noble drive towards equal participation. Prof. Parhar requested the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor to move to the State Government to offer this MOOC to the School teachers of West Bengal as an imperative.



**Address by the Registrar, NSOU:** C.A. Kishore Sengupta expressed his contentment and congratulated the entire NSOU-CEMCA team for accomplishing this endeavour and wished good luck for this new beginning.

**LMS Demonstration and Orientation:** ICT team members presented a vivid and thorough details of accessing the NSOU-LMS to all the participants of the Course. The login ID, password, course modalities related issues were also clarified justifiably among all intenders. Prof. Ghosh also lent some technical know-hows in navigating the LMS and continue with self-paced learning. The relevance and significance of the four-Quadrant approach was inextricably explained by Prof. Ghosh to the participants.

**Q &A session:** Around 215 enthused partakers of the course participated in the event. Many of them came up with relevant queries and doubts. Their questions were categorically answered by the mentors and Course Coordinators.

**Presidential Address:** Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NSOU was invited to culminate the event addresses and deliberations. Prof. Sarkar delivered the Presidential address with brilliance.



**Vote of thanks:** To draw the launch ceremony Smt. Antara Choudhury, Asst. Professor of Special Education, SoE, NSOU was called upon to propose the Vote of Thanks.

*Report prepared by  
Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, SoE, NSOU*

## **Programme Highlights**

**7<sup>th</sup> February 2022; 11:30 AM; Blended Mode**

- 11.30 AM: Welcome Address by Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA & Course Coordinator
- 11:35 AM: About the MOOC by Dr. Shiffon Chatterjee, Sr. Programme Officer, CEMCA & Jt. Course Coordinator
- 11.40 AM: Address by Dr. A. N Dey, Director, SoE, NSOU & Coordinator, CDSER, NSOU
- 11:45 AM: Keynote Address by Dr. Aloka Guha, Former Chairperson, National Trust, New Delhi & Senior Consultant, RCI, New Delhi
- 12 Noon: Address by Professor Madhu Parhar, Director, CEMCA
- 12:05 PM: Presidential Address by Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NSOU
- 12:10 PM: Vote of Thanks by Smt. Antara Choudhury, Asst. Professor of Special Education, SoE, NSOU
- 12:15 PM: Demonstration of Course Portal (LMS) & Modalities by NSOU; Q & A with Learners

*Compere by Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst. Professor of Education, SoE, NSOU*