



Report on the Workshop on

“Universal Design for Learning (UDL): Concepts and Classroom Application”

Date: 03-08-2025

Time: 11:00am-04:00pm

Zoom Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88517145726>

Preview: As part of an ongoing minor research project titled “Understanding Teachers’ Perception of Universal Design for Learning (UDL)”, undertaken by the Department of Special Education, Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), it has been proposed by Smt. Antara Choudhury, Principal Investigator of the project, to organize a one-day workshop virtually on “*Universal Design for Learning (UDL): Concepts and Classroom Applications*”. The workshop has been conceptualized as an essential component of the research intervention, aimed at enhancing and documenting the progression of teachers' understanding of UDL. The workshop has also been designed to conduct the post-test data collection for the project.

The School of Education, Netaji Subhas Open University, successfully organized a one-day virtual workshop titled “*Universal Design for Learning (UDL): Concepts and Classroom Application*” on 3rd August 2025. The workshop was designed to familiarize teacher educators and trainees with the foundational principles and real-world applicability of UDL in inclusive classrooms.

No. of Participants: 345

Objectives of the workshop:

- 1) To enhance pre-service teachers’ understanding of Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- 2) To assess the impact of UDL training on teachers’ knowledge and instructional practices.
- 3) To collect the post-test data for the minor research project.

Resource Speakers:

- ❖ Professor Preeti Verma, Professor and Associate Dean (Rtd.), Dept. of Special Education, SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai & The Founder, Adira: Centre for Disability Studies, Inclusion & Empowerment.
- ❖ Dr. Apoorva Panshikar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Special Education, SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai.

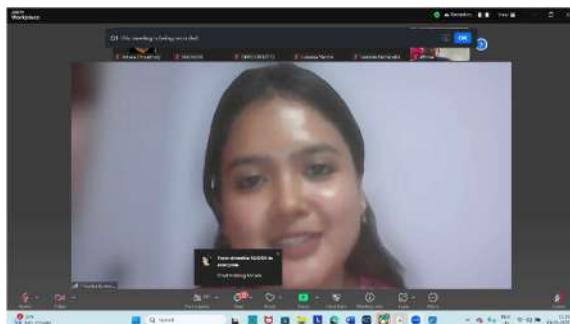


Img.1: Banner of the Workshop



Session arrangements:

Opening Session: The workshop was initiated by Ms. Priyanka Banerjee, Project Assistant and Coordinator of the Workshop Organizing Committee, who opened the session with a welcome note and invited the speakers one by one to address the session. She also served as the compere for the entire programme, ensuring seamless transitions between sessions and maintaining active engagement throughout the event.



Img.2: Ms. Priyanka Banerjee, Coordinator of the Workshop Organizing Committee, hosting the workshop.

Welcome Address:

The program commenced at 11:00 AM with a warm welcome address by Prof. Debi Prosad Nag Chowdhury, Director of the School of Education, NSOU. He appreciated the initiative of organizing the workshop, emphasizing that equipping teachers with the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is not only timely but essential in today's diverse and inclusive classrooms. He highlighted how such capacity-building efforts are crucial to ensuring that education is accessible to all learners. He also extended his best wishes to the organizing team for taking up this much-needed and meaningful initiative.

Speech by the B.Ed. Coordinator

This segment was led by Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi, B.Ed. Coordinator, School SoE, NSOU. He began by welcoming all the participants and esteemed resource speakers. He emphasized the relevance of the workshop in the context of contemporary teacher education, where the ability to address learner diversity is becoming increasingly important. He briefly introduced the concept of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), highlighting its potential to transform teaching practices and promote inclusive learning environments. He concluded by extending his best wishes for the success of the workshop.



Img.3: Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi, B.Ed. Coordinator, addressing the session.



Introducing the Theme

Prof. Antara Choudhury, Assistant Professor, M.Ed. Coordinator, and Convener of the Workshop Organizing Committee, took the stage to introduce the central theme and vision behind the workshop. She presented the foundational ideas of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), effectively setting the tone for the sessions that followed. Her insightful overview not only contextualized the need for inclusive and accessible teaching practices but also provided participants with a meaningful framework through which to engage with the day's discussions. By highlighting the purpose and relevance of UDL in today's educational landscape, she helped establish a clear and thoughtful direction for the workshop.

Technical Session I:

The first technical session began with Ms. Priyanka Banerjee, Project Assistant, SoE, NSOU, introducing Professor Preeti Verma, the esteemed speaker of the session.

Speech by Prof. Preeti Verma on “Application of UDL in Inclusive Classrooms”

The first technical session was conducted by **Prof. Preeti Verma**, Professor and Associate Dean (Rtd.), Dept. of Special Education, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai and Founder of *Adira: Center for Disability Studies, Inclusion and Empowerment*. Her presentation, titled “**Concepts of Universal Design for Learning (UDL)**”, offered a comprehensive exploration of the theoretical foundations of UDL, its guiding principles, and its transformative potential in creating inclusive educational spaces for diverse learners.

Prof. Verma emphasized that the core aim of UDL is “*transforming education through inclusive decision-making.*” She elaborated on how UDL helps remove barriers to learning while supporting **cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and academic** diversity. She also traced the historical development of UDL, explaining how advancements in understanding brain networks have contributed to its evolution. The session also covered practical aspects for educators, including the benefits of applying UDL in classrooms and the ways it can empower teachers to address varied learner needs. Prof. Verma provided a set of practical guidelines for teachers on how to begin integrating UDL into their practice. She outlined steps for planning lessons using UDL principles, offering concrete strategies that could be applied in real classroom settings.

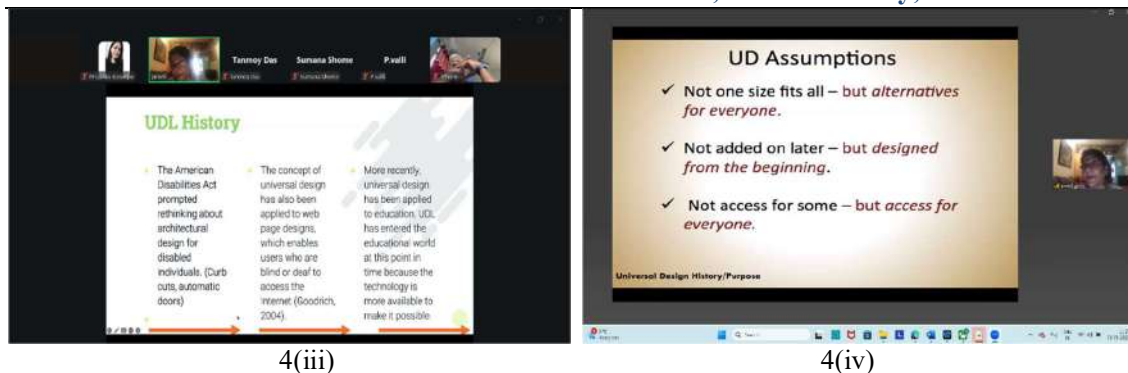
Her session was rich with examples and reflective insights. Concluding on an impactful note, she reminded teachers that “*UDL is a practice, not a destination*”—emphasizing the continuous and evolving nature of inclusive teaching.



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Img.4(i,ii,iii,iv): Prof. Preeti Verma conducting the first session

Interactive Session-I

An interactive session followed after the first technical session, allowing participants to raise questions and reflect on the concepts discussed.

Technical Session II:

After the recess of one-hour, the second session commenced at 2:00 PM with an introduction of the speaker by **Ms. Swapna Deb**, Assistant Professor, SoE, NSOU.



Img.5: Ms. Swapna Deb, Assistant Professor, Introducing the second speaker.

Speech by Dr.Apoorva Panshikar on “Application of UDL in Inclusive Classrooms”

The second technical session was led by **Dr. Apoorva Panshikar**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Special Education, SNTD Women’s University, Mumbai. Her presentation, titled **“Application of UDL in Inclusive Classrooms,”** was dynamic, interactive, and highly practice-oriented, equipping participants with actionable strategies and tools that educators can readily implement in their own teaching.

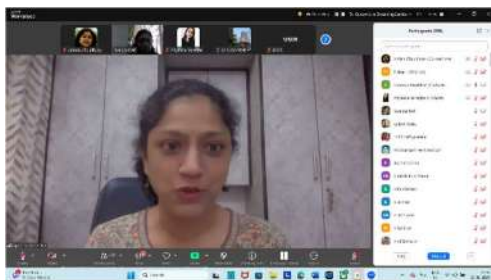
Dr. Panshikar began the session by assessing the participants’ confidence levels in applying UDL principles, which helped set the stage for a more personalized and engaging discussion. She then delved into the **31 checkpoints of Universal Design for Learning (UDL)**, explaining each with clarity and relevance. To bridge theory with practice, she shared real-life examples of UDL implementation through curated YouTube videos, enabling participants to visualize and better understand the practical aspects of applying UDL in diverse classroom settings.

A significant portion of her talk focused on the **three core principles of UDL**—providing multiple options for **Engagement, Representation, and Action & Expression**. She discussed how these principles can be strategically applied to nurture learners who are **resourceful, self-directed, and capable of becoming expert learners**.

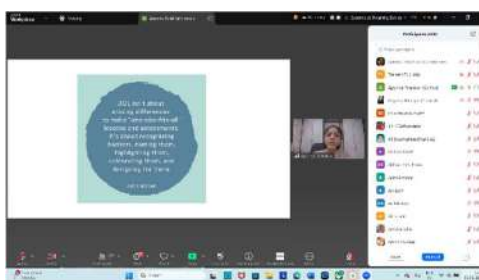


NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A'
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
1st Floor, K2, Bidhannagar Fire Station
Sector- V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 700091

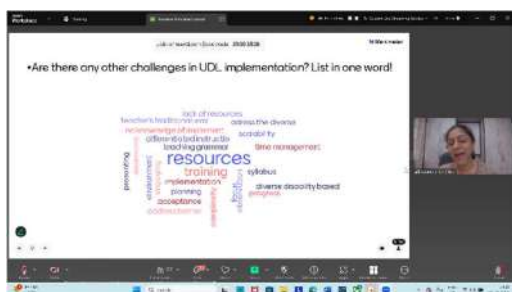
The session also addressed the process of lesson planning through a UDL lens. Dr. Panshikar explained step-by-step how educators can design lessons that cater to varied learner needs while fostering inclusivity. To consolidate learning, she facilitated **breakout room activities**, where participants worked collaboratively to design lesson plans incorporating UDL strategies. This hands-on exercise encouraged active participation and allowed attendees to apply the concepts discussed in real time. Her session was both insightful and empowering, leaving participants with not only the theoretical understanding but also the practical skills necessary to start integrating UDL effectively in their teaching practice.



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Img.6(i,ii,iii,iv): Dr. Apoorva Panshikar conducting the second session

Interactive Session-II

Another interactive session followed after the second technical session, allowing participants to raise questions and reflect on the concepts discussed.

Vote of Thanks

The event concluded with a **Vote of Thanks** delivered by **Mr. Prabir Naskar**, Assistant Professor, SoE, NSOU, acknowledging the contributions of the resource persons, organizing committee, and participants.