

Faculty Development Program on Advanced Pedagogies: Introduction to Blended Learning with LMS

A twenty-four-day National Workshop on ‘Advanced Pedagogies: Introduction to Blended Learning with LMS’ was organized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU)—Academic and Administrative Development Centre (AADC), and Academic Staff College, Amity University Haryana (AUH) from October 30- November 22, 2023. The event focused on the innovative use of Learning Management Systems (LMS) to enhance pedagogical practices, all while providing hands-on experiences and insights from experts in the field.

During the Inaugural Session, Guest of Honor, Dr Pankaj Mittal, in her address, shared her perspectives on the evolving landscape of higher education and the pivotal role played by technology and advanced pedagogies. Dr Mittal emphasized the importance of harnessing the potential of technology to provide a richer and more engaging educational experience. Dr. Mittal highlighted the need for educators to adapt to the demands of the digital age and to equip students with skills that will serve them well in a technology-driven world. Dr. Mittal’s address served as a source of inspiration and motivation for the workshop’s participants, reinforcing the significance of their work in reshaping education for the better.

Prof P B Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Amity University Haryana focused on the pivotal role that technology plays in reshaping education, particularly in the context of advanced pedagogies and blended learning. Prof Sharma emphasized that modern education is undergoing a remarkable transformation with the integration of Learning Management Systems (LMS) and innovative pedagogical approaches. Prof Sharma discussed the profound impact of technology on education, stating, ‘The advent of technology has revolutionized the way we learn and teach. Blended learning, when harnessed effectively with LMS, allows educators to create dynamic, interactive, and personalized learning experiences for students.

Prof Madhukar's address centered on the transformative role of technology in the realm of education and its significance in the context of advanced pedagogies and blended learning. He underscored the critical role technology plays in modern education and its potential to revolutionize the teaching and learning process. He emphasized the power of digital tools and Learning Management Systems (LMS) in creating a more interactive and engaging educational environment. He spoke about the need for educators to adapt and innovate their pedagogical approaches to leverage the benefits of blended learning and LMS effectively.

Dr. Amarendra Pani, Joint Director and Director (I/c), Research Division, AIU during his address, encouraged educators to embrace a research-driven approach to pedagogy, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based teaching methods. He acknowledged the ever-evolving nature of education and the need for educators to adapt and grow through continuous research and learning. His address resonated with the attendees, highlighting the critical role research plays in reshaping the educational landscape.

Dr Sanjna Vij, Deputy Director, Amity Academic Staff College, Amity University Haryana, emphasized in her opening remarks the dynamic nature of higher education and the imperative for faculty members to continually evolve. In this ever-changing landscape, she underscored the significance of training, skill development, reskilling, upskilling, continuous learning, and adaptation as integral elements of every faculty member's professional journey. Dr. Vij stressed the importance of cultivating skills, exploring creative and innovative teaching approaches, and staying abreast of evolving educational models and technologies. She emphasized that these proactive measures are essential in the present context to ensure alignment with global standards in education.

During the technical session, Dr. Karamjit Kaur, Associate Professor, Electronics and Communication Engineering, AUH conducted a comprehensive session introducing participants to Learning Management Systems (LMS). The session covered fundamental aspects of LMS, including a detailed overview of LMS. Participants gained insights into creating and navigating courses, utilizing the Dashboard, editing course settings and layout, and displaying information on course pages. Practical skills were honed as participants learned to add diverse content types such as images, presentations, worksheets, PDFs, embed media, and shared web links. The engaging session facilitated a foundational understanding of LMS and its practical applications in educational settings, setting the stage for effective blended learning experiences.

During the technical session, Dr. Nisha Charaya, Assistant Professor, Electronics and Communication Engineering, AUH led a dynamic session focusing on 'Practical Aspects of Learning Management Systems'. The session delved into discussions on engaging activities and provided hands-on guidance on how to add various activities within the LMS framework. Participants gained insights into incorporating essential features like assignments, chat functionalities, and forum discussions, equipping them with the skills to create interactive and collaborative learning experiences. Dr. Nisha Charaya's session fostered a practical understanding of LMS applications, ensuring participants could confidently implement these activities in their educational endeavors.

Dr. Anil Kumar, Deputy Dean, Academics, AUH focused on enriching Learning Management Systems (LMS) experiences. The session featured discussions on engaging activities and allowed participants to showcase their understanding through presentations. Dr. Kumar guided participants on the practical aspects of adding diverse activities within the LMS, including quizzes, URLs, and more. The session not only encouraged collaborative learning but also equipped participants with the skills to enhance their courses with interactive and diverse content, fostering a dynamic and engaging educational environment.

Dr. Dheeraj Upadhayay, Director of Education Data Analytics, Amity University during the technical session, conducted an insightful session focusing on the intersection of educational technology and data analytics. The session included discussions on engaging activities and provided participants with a comprehensive introduction to course metalinks, repositories, and various plugins within the Learning Management System landscape. Dr. Upadhayay's expertise offered valuable insights into leveraging data analytics for educational enhancement, emphasizing the importance of integrating innovative tools to create dynamic and data-informed learning environments. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the technological elements that can augment their teaching practices and improve the overall learning experience for students.

Mr. Akshat Aggrawal, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, ASET, AUH facilitated a comprehensive session dedicated to empowering educators with advanced skills in utilizing Learning Management Systems. The session involved creating dynamic activities to engage learners, managing discussions and collaboration, monitoring student activity through course reports, and providing insights into the crucial aspects of backing up and reusing course content. Participants were encouraged to actively contribute through presentations, fostering a collaborative and participatory learning environment. The session culminated in a valedictory segment, creating a platform for reflection, acknowledgment, and celebration of the collective achievements throughout the workshop.

The concluding session of the event featured impactful presentations by participants, showcasing their understanding and implementation of advanced pedagogies and blended learning with LMS. The session culminated in a valedictory segment, acknowledging the collective efforts and achievements throughout the event. The final session served as a platform for reflection, recognizing the commitment of participants, and fostering a sense of accomplishment in advancing pedagogical practices within the academic community. The event successfully covered essential aspects of Blended Learning with LMS, offering participants a comprehensive understanding of LMS functionalities and advanced pedagogical

strategies. The active participation of attendees and presentations demonstrated a commitment to implementing learned techniques in their respective academic environments.