

TWO-DAY NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE INTEGRATION OF SWAYAM AND CREDIT TRANSFER IN ALIGNMENT WITH NEP 2020 AND CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Date: 22nd and 23rd July 2024

The Two-Day National Workshop on the **Use and Integration of SWAYAM and Credit Transfer in the context of NEP 2020** organized by IQAC, Shillong College, as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Teaching Science in Shillong College, was inaugurated on the 22nd July, 2024 at 10:30 AM. The Inaugural program of the workshop was graced by the Hon'ble Education Minister, Shri Rakkam A. Sangma, as the Chief Guest. The dais also included Dr. E. Kharkongor, Principal of Shillong College; Smti E.N. Dkhar, Vice Principal of Self-Financing Courses and Convener of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Teaching Science; Dr. S. Sarma, Coordinator of IQAC; and Dr. B.M. Laloo, Convener of the National Workshop. The Inaugural Programme was also attended by Shri Himalayan Shangpliang, Advisor to the Government of Meghalaya, and Shri Kharshandy, Secretary of Education, Government of Meghalaya. Participants from various districts of Meghalaya attended the workshop, with renowned educationists from within and outside the state serving as resource persons.

Smti E.N. Dkhar, Vice Principal of Self-Financing Courses and Convener of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Teaching Science, welcomed attendees by stating that the workshop signifies a significant milestone in promoting excellence in science education. She emphasized that Shillong College has always nurtured and fostered innovation in science education and highlighted that the NEP 2020 envisages a shift in the educational landscape, emphasizing flexibility and the integration of technology. The incorporation of SWAYAM, the national platform for online courses, and the concept of credit transfer are crucial for providing students with unprecedented access to quality educational resources and empowering them for interdisciplinary studies to fulfill their career aspirations. The workshop aims to provide a platform for educators, administrators, and policymakers to exchange ideas, share best practices, and chart a path forward to ensure that students derive maximum benefit from these initiatives.

Dr. S. Sarma, Coordinator of IQAC, Shillong College, introduced the theme of the workshop. He stated that NEP 2020 is a visionary reform aimed at creating a flexible, multidisciplinary education system for the 21st century. Central to this is the emphasis on digital learning and digital integration. SWAYAM and credit transfer platforms leverages the power of Massive Open Online

Courses to provide high-quality education accessible to everyone, regardless of geographical or socio-economic background. One significant advancement is the recognition and facilitation of credit transfer for online courses taken through platforms like SWAYAM.

Dr. (Mrs.) E. Kharkongor, Principal of Shillong College, addressed the gathering, noting that the workshop celebrates 50 years of teaching science at Shillong College, marking qualitative enhancement in higher education. She highlighted the progress of Shillong College since its inception in 1956 and the establishment of the Science Department in 1963. She emphasized that the broader objective of NEP 2020 is to create a human resource for India that can compete globally, aiming for the country to be developed by 2030. The workshop contributes to the progress of Shillong College by promoting both quantitative expansion and qualitative advancement in higher education. She concluded by expressing her hope that the workshop would train teachers and bring about changes in mindsets to take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

The Chief Guest, Shri Rakkam A. Sangma, Hon'ble Education Minister of Meghalaya, began his inaugural address by stating that NEP 2020 is designed to meet the challenges of today's world from a global perspective. He emphasized the importance of technology in making the world smaller and enabling understanding of global developments. Through SWAYAM, students from all backgrounds will be connected. He highlighted the need for innovation in environmental sustainability, noting that while India is ahead in scientific advancements, Meghalaya still needs improvements in educational quality, particularly in primary, secondary, and higher education, and in addressing infrastructural challenges in rural sectors.

In the **Two-day National Workshop there were three Business Sessions** in which Resource Persons, experts in the field, highlighted on the significance of the theme mentioned above. The outcome of the workshop was highly interesting and encouraging. It is difficult to make a review of all the sessions. Briefly some salient features are elucidated in this report.

Session I

Day 1 (22.07.2024)

Timing: 12:00 Noon- 2:00 PM

Session 1 (Part 1):

Theme: Digital Initiatives: Opportunities for Enhancing Students' Learning

Resource Person: Dr. Quendarisa Kharbuli,
Associate Professor at UGC Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Center,
North Eastern Hill University

Dr. Quendarisa Kharbuli, introduced SWAYAM, launched by the Government of India in 2017, and pointed out the lack of awareness and implementation of these courses in the state. She informed that SWAYAM courses are supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) and managed by the Ministry of Education. She stressed the importance of awareness of these digital initiatives in higher education to fulfill NEP 2020's aims and objectives.

She highlighted several initiatives and resources available for students and teachers, including:

- **SWAYAM Prabha:** Offers well-organized, systematic courses with quality videos accessible via the internet and Direct To Home (DTH) services, covering topics like banking and civil services.
- **SWAYAM MOOCs:** A web-based platform where faculty across the country have prepared e-content. It is highly flexible, allowing anyone to join and study any course at any time.
- **Benefits of Credit Transfer:** Students can use these courses for credit transfer, and teachers can use them for their Career Advancement Scheme. Students can transfer up to 40% of credits by joining these online courses.
- **Course Offering and Examination Details:** Courses are activated twice a year, with specific enrollment and examination periods. Examinations are proctored and monitored by AI and teachers at designated centers.
- **SWAYAM Plus:** Offers industry-taught courses to improve skills, with companies like Infosys and Wipro involved.
- **E-Patshala:** Provides a number of open educational courses and resources.

Session 1(Part 2):

Theme: Online Education: Past, Present, and Future:

Resource Person: Dr S. Khatua, Associate Professor,
Department of Chemistry, North-eastern Hill University.

Dr. S. Khatua provided an insightful overview of the evolution of online education, its current state, and its future prospects. He emphasized the importance of adapting to an ever-changing

world and seizing opportunities. He discussed the transformation from limited sources of knowledge to the vast accessibility provided by the internet, stressing the need for authenticating information sources. He encouraged the use of online education platforms like SWAYAM for further knowledge and future preparedness. The session emphasized the importance of knowledge in adapting to an ever-changing world and seizing opportunities.

Dr. Khatua highlighted the importance of keeping oneself up to date with the changing times and that tech- knowledge is crucial. Educating one-self on the importance of technology helps the individual to adapt to a rapidly changing world and seize various opportunities. Dr Khatua gave a summary of the past and present digital *landscape* of India, how relatively sparse it used to be and not as resource-rich as it is today. He spoke about Digital India Initiative launched in July 2015 by the Prime Minister of India. This initiative greatly enriched online content and accessibility. One major landmark was the 4G Network Expansion where in the rollout of the 4G network in major cities began in 2012, but it was not until 2015 that Shillong and similar regions gained access to it. The Resource person elucidated on the development of Online Education Platforms such

- NPTEL Launch: The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) was launched in 2003 by premier institutions including IIT Kharagpur, Madras, Bombay, Kanpur, Delhi, Guwahati, Roorkee, and IISc.
 - SWAYAM and NPTEL (2016): In 2016, SWAYAM and an enhanced NPTEL were proposed, with IIT Madras becoming the first national coordinator.
- He stressed on the advantages of Online education, some of which were:
- Accessibility: Online education enables students to learn from anywhere, at any time, thus overcoming geographical and temporal barriers.
 - Skill Acquisition: Online platforms offer opportunities to gain diverse skills, from purchasing technology (like computers, projectors, cameras) with suitable configurations to financial planning and investment.
 - Telemedicine: Leveraging telemedicine for consultations is another benefit of online education.
 - Practical Skills: Learning practical skills such as cooking and gardening is easily facilitated through online courses.

- Offering online courses can significantly improve a college's NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) and NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) rankings.

Session II:

Timing: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Theme Spoken Tutorial IIT Bombay: Credit Transfer through SWAYAM
Resource Person: Shri Partha Goswami, Training Manager,
Spoken Tutorial Software Training Program, IIT, Bombay,

The Resource Person introduced the theme of Spoken Tutorials, focusing on the SWAYAM portal and the Credit Transfer facility. He highlighted the significance of Spoken Tutorials in achieving the goals of NEP 2020, citing practical applications in various fields such as web development, animation, e-governance, and SMEs. He detailed the steps involved in starting a Spoken Tutorials course and showcased the growth of the course in Meghalaya, encouraging new learners to participate in this innovative learning model.

Day 2 (23.7.2024)

Session III

Timing: 10:00 AM- 12:00 Noon
Theme: Student Mobility and Credit Transfer
Resource Person: Prof K.N. Dewangan, Professor and Head,
Department of Agricultural and Engineering,
NERIST Arunachal Pradesh

The resource person gave a detailed presentation on student mobility where he said that student mobility does not only mean movement of students from one programme to another but also the movement of students from one learning institution to another, whether domestically or internationally. He also explained that International equivalence and transfer of credits shall be enabled through various multilateral/bilateral agreements between respective regulators of the countries concerned.

The resource person enlightened the participants on the types of Students Mobility which includes Internships, Elective modules, Research, Study visits and Formal student exchange program. The resource person elaborated on the benefits of student mobility which comprises - gaining a different perspective, enhancing personal and intellectual maturity, better intercultural communication, adaptability, better problem-solving skills, widening of academic horizons and providing clarity to future career and goals. He also talked about challenges that may be encountered like- Credibility and authenticity, transparent sets of professional competencies (skills and knowledge propelled), variations in terms of course contents, levels of the courses, the assessments and grading systems, and titles of qualifications.

The resource person further presented on the National Credit Framework (NCrF) which allows integration of the general (academic) education and vocational education & training/skilling programmes into mainstream education at all levels. It has provision for seamless horizontal and vertical mobility, emphasis on empowering students through flexibility in course choices so that the learners could choose their learning trajectories and programmes, and thereby choose their paths in life according to their talents and interests.

He also talked about the establishment of an 'Academic Bank of Credit' (ABC) which could digitally store the academic credits earned from recognized institutions so that the degrees can be awarded considering credits earned.

The Two-Day National Workshop on National Workshop on the Use and Integration of SWAYAM and Credit Transfer in the context of NEP 2020 organised by IQAC, Shillong College as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Teaching Science in Shillong College concluded with a valedictory function on the 23rd July, 2024 of the closing ceremony of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Teaching Science in Shillong College.

The function was graced by Shri Sniawbhalang Dhar, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Meghalaya as the Chief Guest and Dr Mayel Ampareen Lyngdoh, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Department, Health and Family Welfare, Department, Information & Public Relations Department, Law Department as the Guest of Honour. The programme was attended by participants from all the colleges of Meghalaya besides other prominent dignitaries, invitees, experts, resource persons and a host of others besides faculty and students of Shillong College.

The function commenced at 1.00 PM. The programme began with the felicitation of the dignitaries by Dr (Mrs.) E.Kharkongor, Principal, Shillong College. The welcome address was delivered by Smti D. Kharshandy, Joint Convener, Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Teaching Science in Shillong College. While warmly welcoming the gathering she highlighted on the significance and importance of Teaching Science and stated that Shillong College have progress steadily.

The Rapporteur's report was compiled by Dr. (Mrs.) B.M Laloo, Convener, National Workshop gave a brief outline on the different technical sessions of the workshop. The topics related to the Use and Integration of SWAYAM and Credit Transfer in the context of NEP 2020 were elaborately discussed. She noted that the sessions were highly interactive and thought provoking and assured that participants has benefitted from the workshop and are now ready to prepare, equipped and empower the young minds to further the search in their respective fields of interest so as to face the challenging realities of the competitive world and so changing education scenario to new outlook in the education system and calls for visualizing new aims and objectives, new goals to achieve and new missions to accomplished.

The Report of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Teaching Science was then presented by Smti E.N Dkhar Convener, Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Teaching Science in Shillong College. The report highlighted that the inaugural function to celebrate 60 years of the College began on 20th July, 2023. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Shri Conrad K Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Meghalaya as Chief Guest and Shri Rakkam. A.Sangma, Hon'ble Education Minister as Guest of Honour, and Prof P.S Shukla, Vice Chancellor, North Eastern Hill University. A number of activities and events including both academic and extra-curricular was organized throughout the year. Seminars, Workshops, Lecture Series, Short Film Competition, Quiz, Competitions were then organized and conducted by various Science departments, committees, and cells, and others to culminate with the grand finale of the closing ceremony.

The main objective of these programmes and events is to foster curiosity among students and apply the knowledge in their daily life. To make the milestones more momentous event of the celebration is that the College acknowledged the contributions of its founders and emphasized that the college would continue to strive for excellence and serve the society with a focus on the underprivileged. To add meaning to the celebration, the Convener pointed out the College proposes to the Government to fund for the setting up of an Instrumentation Centre so as to contribute in the

field of Research and hence bring transformations and changes to impart quality education and mould students into responsible future citizens of this great country.

Dr (Mrs.). E. Kharkongor, Principal Shillong College delivered the Principal address. In her address she highlighted the journey of Shillong College and place on records the contributions and dedications of all involved in this progress. She pointed out that the National Workshop is a befitting way of concluding the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the college and reflected that in these 60 years, the college has seen many transformations and changes which have opened up new challenges. The National Workshop has seen meaningful deliberations on significant themes. The theme of the Workshop has benefitted the students. With the implementation of NEP 2020 SWAYAM courses and credit transfer are crucial for providing students with unprecedented access to quality educational resources and empowering them for interdisciplinary studies to fulfill their career aspirations.

Dr Mayzell Ampareen Lyngdoh, the Guest of Honour, and Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Department, Health and Family Welfare, Department, Information & Public Relations Department, Law Department, while delivering her address highlighted the budget for the year 2024 and that the Government of India has stressed and focused on improving employability capacities to students youth. She strongly pointed that Research is the need of the hour and policies and decision making can happen sans research. She lauded the efforts of the College more so for reaching out to the students in the rural areas and for spreading value education in the State.

This was followed by the Valedictory address by the Chief Guest Shri Sniawbhalang Dhar, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Meghalaya. In his address the Chief Guest congratulated Shillong College in all its endeavour to provide quality education and express his warm wishes to the college. He reminisced on his experiences as a student and reminded the audience that nothing is impossible and call upon the student to work hard and strive to take up any challenges in life. He encouraged the students by giving anecdotes from his own experience. In his address he briefed on the implementation of NEP 2020 in Meghalaya and its various facets and aspect.

A short cultural programme performed by Sieng Riti Institute Wakhken on the vibrant musical traditions of the Khasi tribes of Meghalaya. Finally, the programme concluded with the

vote of thanks delivered by Dr S. Khongsti, Joint Convener, Diamond Jubilee Celebration, followed by refreshments.

NEP 2020 aims to create a more inclusive and comprehensive education system, addressing critical issues of equitable access to quality education. The Principal and organizers have meticulously planned this Two-Day Workshop to discuss and delve into the various concerns related to the use and integration of SWAYAM and Credit Transfer in the context of NEP 2020. We are confident that our participants have benefitted from the workshop and are now prepared, equipped, and empowered to further their search in their respective fields of interest, facing the challenging realities of the competitive world and the changing education scenario with new outlooks, aims, objectives, and missions to accomplish.

Photo gallery:

