

“Foundation Program in ICT for Education”

(03 August to 07 September 2017)

COURSE JOURNAL

WEEK 2

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The **Week 2** of the Faculty Development Course focused on the Web Presence for teachers.

- 1) **Self-Exploration Resources:** This segment included videos on internet, how internet works, browser; online reading material webpages, websites, web servers, search engines. It also focused on developing web based digital portfolios in teacher education.

My reflection: The self-exploratory resources are interesting to read and informative in nature. The content is theoretical, easy to read and understand. The segment is well designed and it helps to understand the key concepts related to internet.

- 2) **Mentor’s Web presence:** This section introduces us to web profiles of the mentors.

My reflection: I learnt a lot while going through this section. It helped me to know the active learners of the last Year FDP course and their contribution on different assignments and tasks. I checked the links of their lab sessions. I liked the resources uploaded by a few mentors, for example, Alka Narula. Each mentor has a way to present his/her work in a certain manner and it is quite interesting to access such experiences. The mentor’s web presence is certainly an important component of the Week 2 activity and it is more of a self-learning activity.

- 3) **LED 2.1- Tools for Website Creation:** It deals with the need of creating content. The learning or consumption of content is not enough for teachers but it is equally important to create content online for the learners/students. This segment helps us understand the broad classification of websites namely simple and multifunctional websites. **A few examples of simple websites and complex websites are: Blogs and Department websites. It was recommended to use Wordpress for simple websites and Drupal for Multifunctional website.**

My Reflection: The first thing that comes to our mind is why a website for content sharing? The answer is that a website allows others to know about the research work that one has done or doing and the type of research activity one is engaged in. A faculty can use website for sharing reading materials and other resources based on the subject or other related field.

I learnt how to install Wordpress and create account for creating simple website for free. There are diverse ways of downloading and creating the website but it all comes with advantages and disadvantages. Being a learner, I chose to go for free domain under the Wordpress. I completed the given two Learning By doing Activities and it helped me in remembering the concept again. I

- 4) **LED 2.2 Basic customization in Wordpress:** The concept is to how to customize the appearance of Wordpress site that one has created using basic configuration.

My Reflection: It gave me hands on training on how to customize a page in Wordpress. One can learn to change the title, colour, theme and widget. With the help pf control panel you can customize the content and the way you want your site to look. The Wordpress allows simple drag and drop of webpage elements while designing the webpage. I successfully completed the two Learning dialogues activities here and it gave me more confidence in my work.

- 5) **LED 2.3 Adding contents in Wordpress, LED 2.4 Managing Content in Wordpress, LED 2.5 Advanced Customization in wordpress:**

My Reflection:

This entire segment gave me how to use Wordpress for creating my own website, design the website, add various features like slug, widget, tags, change theme, colour, font size and add pages, manage pages and post blog. The exercise was motivating and encourages to create website for content generation and sharing with others. I am still learning it and has not completely been able to make a proper website but it is under process. I have posted by blog on the page. The website is currently titled **fdp2017blog.wordpress.com** and it has been published with few updates. As I said I am still learning and discovering the different tools and features to make the website more interactive and user friendly. The assignments and videos are helpful to guide but unless one does at it sown it is difficult to follow the step. The mentors list was helpful to get ideas to present one's website. I feel creating a website for teaching learning is a must this days as it reflects on one's own work and constantly been monitored by others so it adds to the overall maintenance of the quality of the website and content. For me this session was helpful and useful.

Learning Interaction Experience 2:

I see a lot of advantages of "My Web Presence" for my students as it keeps them updated about current trends, developments, issues about a specific area of interest and field. I encourage students to collect and explore online media to gather information and also to develop the right approach to collect the authentic information. It is a platform for learning two-way.

According to me, not regular updates of information and same pattern of content with less diverse perspectives may limit the thinking and logical understanding of the students. My choices of work and interest may not be their choices. So these are a few possible limitations of "My Web Presence" for my students.

At last, I also would like to emphasize here about the importance of updating proper content with proper resources/references to avoid any plagiarism or copyright issues. The students must be made aware of these ethical issues.

The learning interaction experiences also gave me some solutions by peers on the issues that I shared on Learning Interaction Experience2.

A-View Interaction (19th August-20th August 2017)

As per the schedule of the FDP 2017, I was fortunate enough to attend the A-View interaction conducted by IITBombay on August 19-20, 2017 (Saturday and Sunday). I could access the interaction from our designated Remote Center- Tezpur University, Centre Code 1153.

My reflections:

Introduction session: The interactive session started at 9.30 am. The session was made live from our Remote Center and I could see different institutes logged into the Face To Face interaction. Dr Phatak initiated the discussion and gave opportunity to participatory institutes to share their views and experiences. A total of 170 remote centers were connected for this big interactive online platform. I was amazed to see so many active learners from various subject fields with wonderful solutions and pertinent questions regarding blended teaching methodology.

Prof. P. Sunthar interacted with participatory institutes online and gave a few practical assignments to do: Understand your audience and User Story.

Learning: We got an opportunity to work in pairs and think and work out for what are the needs of the audience and what kind of information they are looking for. As per the assignment me and my fellow participant wrote the following answers to the given questions:

Q. Who is the audience you want to target?

A: Our intended audience is primarily the students. The students group can be from our own educational institutes or other institutes from the within and outside. The second intended audience could be the faculty members/self-learners/resource persons/researcher etc from within the educational system or outside the system. Hence, the targeted audience is any **learner** from anywhere.

Q. What information do they seek?

A. The reading materials related to the concerned teacher or instructor.