

eLearnit 2020 Virtual Conference

Navigating Through COVID-19 to Ensure Quality Learning

9-11 June 2020

Dear Sir / Madame,

We would like to express our thanks in your vital contribution to eLearnit 2020. It has brought robust value to the learning experience. We have received questions from our attendees that were not put forward during the live session. We hope you do not mind answering them so these may be uploaded onto the conference website as additional resource. You may choose not to answer any questions that were already tackled during the live session. Please insert your responses after each question below.

Name of Speaker: Dr. Harris Saseendran

Date and Time of Presentation: 10th June 2020

Title of Presentation: Developing Enhanced Pedagogies for 21st Century Virtual Learning

Questions:

- 1. Pre activities -- during -- and post activities? would they all fit in one lecture? or we have post activities as assignments or for the start of next lecture?***

It is totally upto the trainer of the subject to plan and design the daily session. The point to be highlighted here is that an 'activity' is not limited to one particular type of trainee involvement. The trainer will need to design within his/her daily lesson plan, how each concept and topic is to be covered; how the knowledge and skills relevant to the trainees development can be transferred. This would naturally include the topic lecture discussions, home-work activities along with other types mentioned during the webinar.

- 2. How do we manage activities with very large groups of students?***

There are many ways to stimulate participation and learning within bigger groups. Due to time constraints, an effective method would be to form teams of 3-5 with specific tasks for each team that they can present and discuss by the end of the activity (ex. selected case-problem). This kind of practical learning has the triple benefit of supporting trainees to express their views, learn how to work in teams as well as allow

them to listen to varied opinions and thoughts from other trainees. The trainer will be able to gather a rich amalgamation of ideas and information that would not have been possible with a simple lecture session.

A simpler method would be to select few trainees to conduct the activity (on a rotational basis every session), while the other trainees remain as spectators online.

A more well-planned activity would be designed in advance. For example trainees can be informed about their roles for a session after one week, where each team has a specific task to present and discuss based on their research from different online sources of information. Remember, the objective is not to make their lives difficult by conducting very challenging activities, but rather to engage them and involve their participation while learning.

It all depends on the objectives of the trainer, whether it is to clarify a concept or to engage trainees and develop their problem-solving skills etc.

3. *Please how you think the vocational or practical can be covered in this situation?*

Yes, ofcourse we are living through difficult times. But that should not be the reason to reduce the effectiveness of our training! The whole purpose of this webinar was to prove that trainers can still design vocational sessions that are practical and supportive of the students' skill development. Naturally there are increased challenges in training via an online medium. However as trainers we need to still design sessions that can be effective in trainee development. While an online training session would naturally not be comparable to a regular face-to-face training session, as trainers we still need to find practical solutions that provide more effective development of our trainees. And the solution is to refocus our online sessions to cater to the development of the 4C skills –our students' ability to communicate their thoughts clearly, critically think about the problems at hand, collaborate with each other and to bring out their creativity – all in relation to the program and subject that they are taking.

For more queries, contact teacherharris12@gmail.com