



# BRIDGES SYMPOSIUM

**Adapting Constructivist Approach to Online Learning  
Exploring Emerging Needs and the Way Forward**

**Dr. Sneh Bansal, Dr. Savita Sharma and Prof. J.A.K. Oli**

# Education during the Pandemic: An unprecedented time to sail through

- Massive impact on the teaching learning scenario across countries
- Impact on over 1.5 billion students and 63 million educators in 165 countries
- Challenging experience with sudden shift from offline to online
- Makeshift approach to meet the emergency response



## Concerns and Issues for learners: What do researchers r

- Infrastructural constraints
- Lack of systematic guidelines
- Lack of organizational support
- Rising Physical Health problems due to excessive dependency on technology
- Absence of interest and active engagement of learners
- Rising mental health concerns due to missing social interaction



# Challenge as reported by teachers

- Lack of preparedness due to the instant switching over to online teaching without any handy material or a workable set up
- This lack of readiness was also reflected in the area of devising of suitable instructional strategies
- Lack of experience in the online teaching became a very time consuming process
- Lots of efforts being invested in ensuring students' active participation and engagement
- Lack of orientation of the educators to adapt constructivist approach
- Lack of emphasis on global practices for online learning.

# Key Reflections

A make shift approach with reference to online teaching

- is very different from a systematic integration of the technology into the instructional process

-requires area to be mastered including unique skill sets and capabilities



**Making sense of  
Personal Experiences**

**Locating the Gaps**

**Bringing the Change**

# Research Objectives

- To explore the personal journey of the authors on managing online teaching learning environment during the pandemic
- To propose a four week MOOC on Constructivist online instructional learning incorporating broad learning outcomes and methodology of delivery

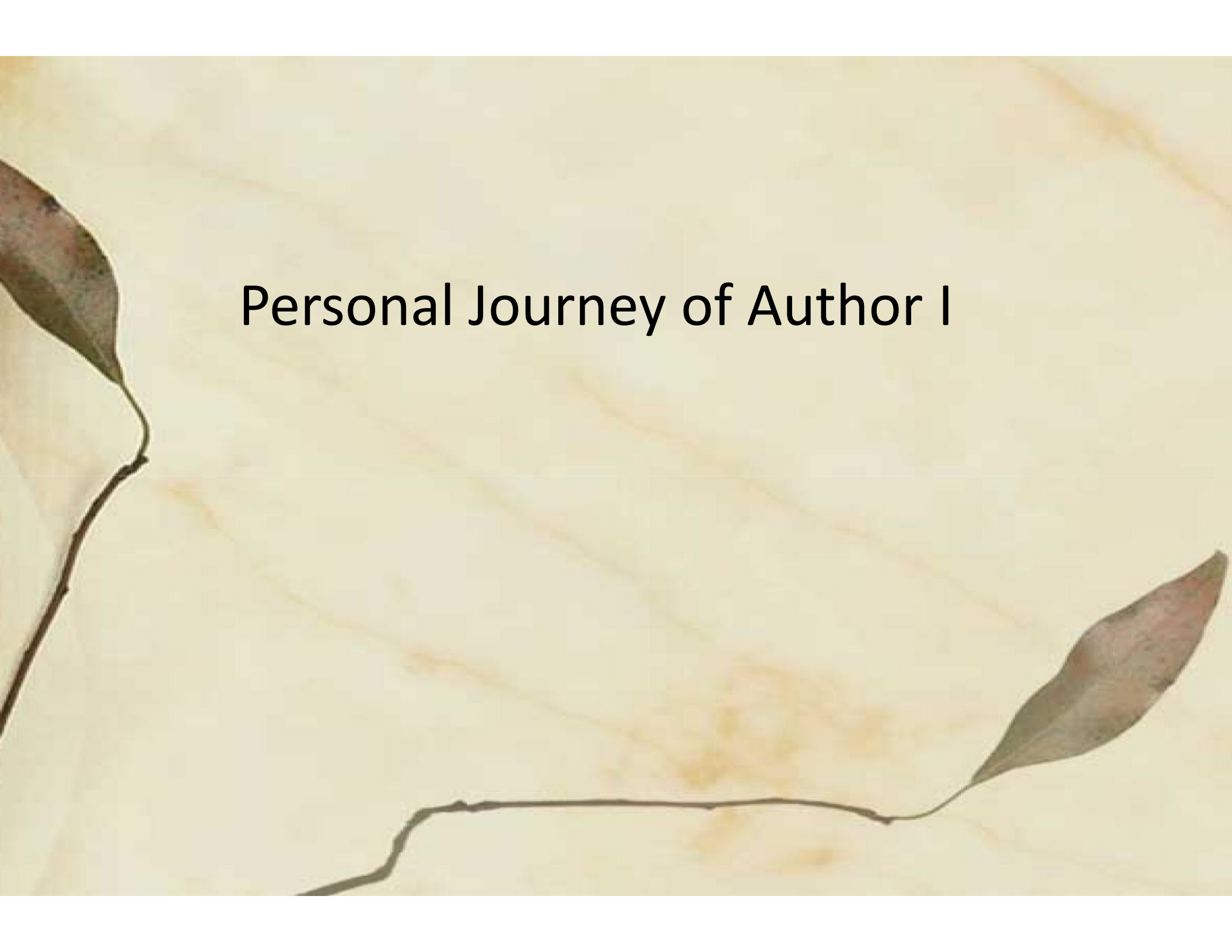
# Methodology

Extensive review of literature and inputs from the personal journey of the authors during the pandemic phase of online teaching are the bases of explorations and recommendations



# Exploring the Ground Reality

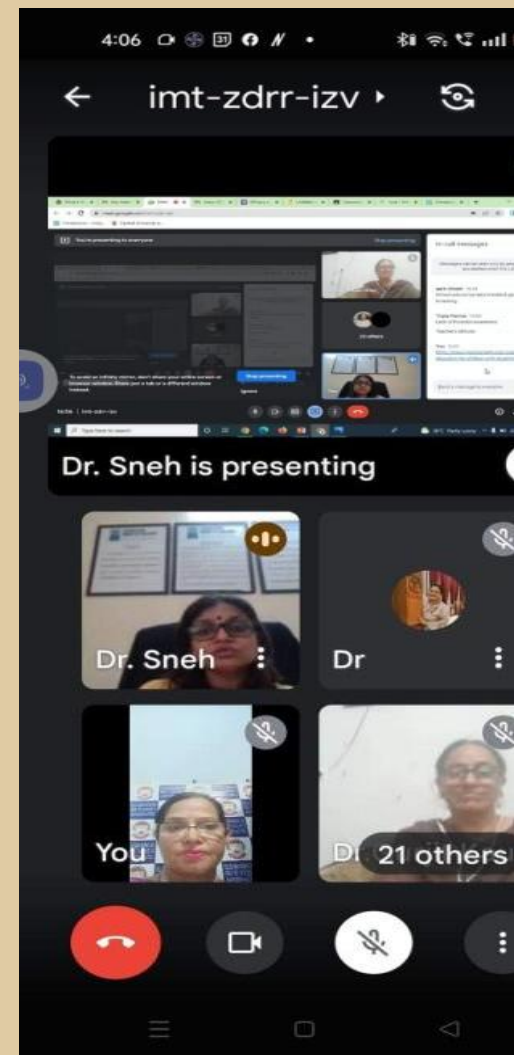
The ground level experience of two authors of this paper was as a principal and faculty member respectively at the teacher education institutions in Northern India during the pandemic. This paper will help the readers to reflect upon their teaching-learning practices in an online learning environment.



# Personal Journey of Author I

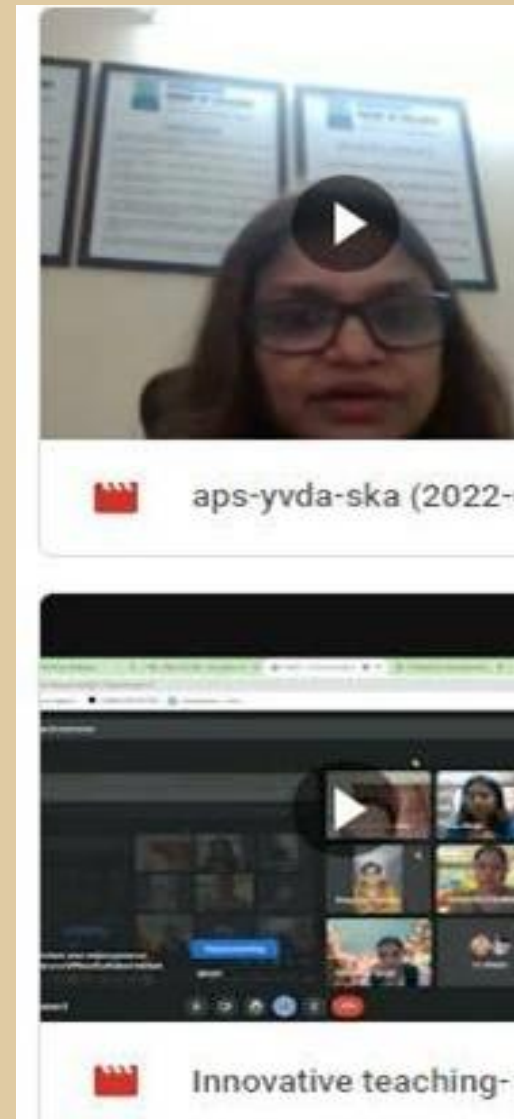
# Building up on – Life over Learning

- Being the pillar of strength for emotional support and care
- Arranging daily online sessions for needed guidance and orientation
- Creation of Google classroom (LMS) along with the whatsapp group with small counseling groups
- Focus on family values, health hygiene, emotional and social skills enhancement
- Encouragement to the students to get involved in some concrete tasks like exploring hobbies, helping others and online skill learning



# Creativity through Collaboration

- Live sessions of creative activities with invitation to parents and students to join sessions like of yoga, aerobics, taekwondo, meditation art and craft, cooking
- Encouragement to the students to prepare portfolio on activities and the learning experiences
- Ensuring consistent interaction through blogs, chat, forum, web conferences or video conferences, social networks that supported the students in affectively engaging
- Counselling sessions with parents on how to keep family atmosphere happy congenial and compassionate





## Personal Journey of Author II

## Virtual Collaborative Engagement Program (School Internship in a unique way)

- Technology/language integrated/ Constructivist lesson plans
- Innovative digital tools and creative ideas for effective teaching
- Peer observation and Feedback by mentors of both the institutes
- Capitalizing on key strengths of each institute and bring cultural aspects as examples
- Long term partnership (Student and mentor connect)




# Few Glimpses

REC

Let us follow some instructions

1. Be attentive in class
2. Answer when teacher calls out your name
3. Keep your mic off
4. Keep your stationary ready



PRIYANKA is presenting

PRIYANKA

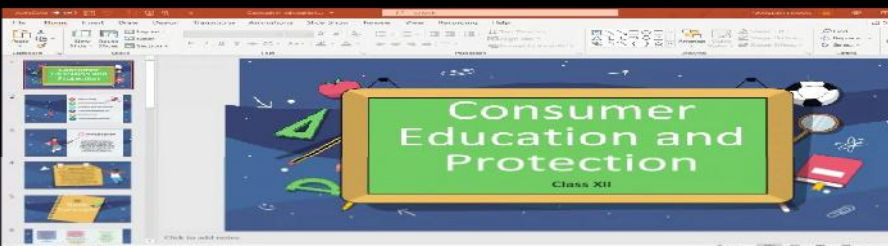
ARPITA

You

AFRIN 17 others

This screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, a red 'REC' indicator is visible. The main content area displays a slide with the title 'Let us follow some instructions' and a list of four instructions: '1. Be attentive in class', '2. Answer when teacher calls out your name', '3. Keep your mic off', and '4. Keep your stationary ready'. To the right of the text is an illustration of a classroom with several children sitting at desks. Below the slide, it says 'PRIYANKA is presenting'. At the bottom, there are four video thumbnails: 'PRIYANKA' (muted), 'ARPITA' (muted), 'You' (muted, with a pink 'S' icon), and 'AFRIN 17 others' (muted, with a teal 'A' icon).

REC



Shatakshi is presenting

Pooja

Shatakshi

You

aarti 22 others

This screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, a red 'REC' indicator is visible. The main content area displays a presentation slide with the title 'Consumer Education and Protection Class XII'. The slide features a green background with various icons related to consumer education. Below the slide, it says 'Shatakshi is presenting'. At the bottom, there are four video thumbnails: 'Pooja' (muted), 'Shatakshi' (muted), 'You' (muted, with a pink 'S' icon), and 'aarti 22 others' (muted, with a pink 'a' icon).

# Capitalizing on the potentials of Digital Learning

Development of the MOOC 'Nurturing Mindfulness among Educators and Learners' on the MOOKit Platform offered at prestigious IIT Kanpur Platform

Objective was to complete the uncovered content pertaining to the area of Mindfulness with respect to specific subject 'Understanding the Self' the MOOC being developed by the author





**OPEN EDUCATION™**  
*for a BETTER WORLD*



## ***MINDFULNESS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL- BEING***

Designed and Offered under UNESCO International Online Mentoring Program

*Course Mentor*  
**Dr. Yash Velankar**

*Course Developer*  
**Dr. Savita Sharma**

**Three Week Online Course (1<sup>st</sup> September – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021)**

**Level- Introductory**

**Course is designed for anyone inclined to develop psychological wellbeing with Mindfulness**

**Registration Link <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/YFYM96>**

**For any query kindly drop a mail at [savita12101980@gmail.com](mailto:savita12101980@gmail.com)**





**Key Take Away:**

## Four areas for online teaching requiring instructor competencies (Martin et al 2019)

- **Course Design**
- **Course Communication**
- **Time Management**
- **Technical skills**

# Active Learning in online setup

## *Adapting Social Constructivist Approach*



# BRINGING EFFECTIVENESS IN ONLINE LEARNING

**Active and  
Meaning  
Making  
Learning**

**Critical  
Thinking  
and  
Analysis**

**Reflection  
and Meta  
Cognitive  
Skills**

**Participation  
and  
Collaboration**

**Between the  
Learners**

**Between  
Learner/s and  
Instructor/s**

## **CREATING AN EFFECTIVE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIVIST ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

- **Knowing your Learner**
- **Having Clear Expectations**
- **Promoting Meta-cognitive awareness**
- **Maintaining a Social Presence**
- **Promoting Collaboration**
- **Promoting Active Learning**
- **Providing Adequate Technical Support**

## ***Constructivism in online set up***

**Need to provide a strong support through guided orientation and hand-holding**





# **The way forward- Proposing of an online capacity building program for Educators**

Keeping in view the emergence of equipping school and higher education institutions faculties,

The course enables the participants to design and execute your teaching in an online environment effectively based on constructivism strategies which will foster the students' engagements.





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**Chandigarh College of Education  
in Collaboration with  
Manav Rachna University  
*Offers Free MOOC***

## **CONSTRUCTIVISM IN ONLINE LEARNING**

**Aligned with SDG4,  
Quality Education**

### **DEVELOPER**



Dr. Sneh Bansal, Principal  
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Mohali, Punjab

### **CO-DEVELOPER**



Dr. Savita Sharma  
Assistant Professor,  
Manav Rachna University

### **MENTOR**



Jako Olivier, Professor  
Multimodal Learning,  
North-West University (NWU)

# COURSE OVERVIEW

- Course Duration: 6 Weeks course
- Mode of Delivery: Synchronous and Asynchronous Platform: Canvas/ Google meet/ zoom/ Google Classroom
- Challenge Level: Advanced
- Who can Join: Teacher Educators, Faculties from higher education, Research scholars from education, curriculum designer, School teachers, school principals and heads

# Broader Areas of the Course

- Constructivism in teaching learning process
- Collaborative Constructivism for Online Learning
- Instructional strategies and techniques for social constructivism learning
- Assessment from a social constructivist perspective

# Learning Outcomes

- Examine the key principles of constructivist learning theory with classroom implications
- Analyze and propose the Community of Inquiry (CoI) framework, a process model of online learning environment derived from collaborative constructivist view
- Analyze the instructional strategies to support learner in online learning
- Examine the key elements to assess the performances of students to measure attainment of subject and course learning outcomes.

# Uniqueness of the project

- Ready-reckoner and a tool kit for all the stakeholders aimed at bringing effectiveness in online learning
- Mode of Delivery using the constructivist instructional methodology in an online context
- Use of engaging mechanism like Introductory posts, survey, broadcast emails, synchronous chats, discussion forum, peer feedback and live interactions
- Modularization of the content with scaffold learning, quiz, team projects with individual and collaborative group activities

# Conclusion

The challenges as been faced by the students and teachers at large represent the journey of any new change which is hard in the beginning but eventually becomes part and parcel as we move along and discovers ways to not only overcome the resultant challenges but to learn to channelize the untapped potential of new phenomenon.



THANK YOU