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கல்வி அமைச்சு  
Ministry of Education



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

SACTD  
South  
Asian  
Centre for  
Teacher  
Development

**Report of the  
Capacity Development Programme of  
NCOE Primary Teacher Educators  
for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Primary Education**

*Conducted by the  
Faculty of Education, University of Colombo  
8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022*

Prepared by:

Prof. Manjula Vithanapathirana (Program Coordinator, Professor of Educational Psychology,  
Faculty of Education, University of Colombo)

H. T. Kamal Pathmasiri (Additional Director General SACTD)

Capacity Development Program of NCOE Primary Teacher Educators for 21 Century Primary Education was held on 8, 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022 as a residential program at SACTD, Sri Lanka, Meepe.

The program included sessions including the following:

- *21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning and Introduction to CONTESSA Teacher Education Modules*
- *Teaching Excellence: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teacher Competencies, Roles and Classroom Management*
- *Digital Media and Technology Tools for 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching and Learning*
- *Learning Outcomes for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Primary Teaching and Learning*
- *Learner Centred Lesson Planning to develop Co-created 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning*
- *Diversity of Learners and Inclusive Pedagogy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Primary Classes*
- *Lesson Planning to Facilitate 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning (ENV, Mathematics, iSTEM, Sinhala)*
- *Teacher personality perspectives and Empowering the Learner Personality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*
- *Developing the Learner with a humanistic perspective: Lesson planning, Aesthetics with music and children' drama/role play*

- *Exposure to Aesthetic experiences/awareness for Primary level (Adapting the learning points from the Finnish system of Early childhood and Primary Education)*
- *Authenticity in Assessment and Authentic Assessment for Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Primary Education*
- *Digitization and New Trends in Teaching and Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*
- *Learning Consolidation towards 21<sup>st</sup> Century Primary Teacher Education and Primary Education*

The resource persons were the Faculty members of the Faculty of Education, University of Colombo, and one more invited resource person (Annex 1).

The capacity-building program was based mainly on the following resources:

1. Up-to-date newly developed Modules of the EU Co-funded Erasmus+ Capacity Development project titled “Contemporary Teaching Skills for South Asia’ (CONTESSA, <https://contessa-project.eu/>) 2019-2022 and the ‘Train-the-Trainer (TtT)’ program of CONTESSA project was the main resource used for this program while a few components were added to enrich the program from other experiences.

The modules and the TtT program were developed by the University of Graz, Austria, the Technology University of Dresden, Germany, the University of Colombo, the Open University of Sri Lanka, and two universities from Cambodia in 2020-2021 (Annex 2). All modules are in translated form into Sinhala and Tamil

Prof. Manjula Vithanapathirana elaborated on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century focus on Primary Education and teacher education modules and capacity development through the

CONTESSA project and how all faculty members are certified as Master Trainers under the CONTESSA project on Train-the-Trainer programs by German and Austrian trainers. The approach adopted by the Faculty of Education for the Capacity Development of SACTD 'Train-the-Trainer program was 'Learner-centred' and was justified with explanations to the participants and highlighted the need for such an approach as adopted Capacity Development using examples from personal experiences from the world. Each session included a proportionately high activity-based format and some direct sharing of knowledge.

During the SACTD program, all participants received the opportunity to access and use CONTESSA modules (Sinhala versions) and received training in the new Train-the-Trainer approaches.

The five comprehensive modules of CONTESSA are for Teacher Educator/Teacher/Teacher Trainee development. The five modules covers all professional aspects of a Teacher Capacity Development Program with a focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning.

The modules are made available by the project as Open Education Resources. The links for modules and all material used in the capacity development program were included in a Google Classroom to which all participants and Ad. Director General, Mr. Pathmasiri is given access.

2. The training included the use of ICT in Teaching and Learning by Ms. Samadara Amarasinghe, a qualified, experienced and a doctoral researcher on ICT use in the Pedagogical Dimension (under the supervision of Prof. Manjula Vithanapathirana and Dr. Sandra Hummel, Project Director, CONTESSA, University of Graz). The SACTD Capacity Building program included hands-on activities on the ICT tools for pedagogical usage conducted in the Computer Laboratory.
3. Teacher Competencies for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Primary education were identified through various aspects by Dr. Lalitha Kumari with an emphasis on Classroom Management', Teacher Professionalism by Ms. Tiromi Indigahawela and

Characteristics of an Effective teacher by Ms. Udeshini Perera combining local and global scenarios.

4. Lesson Planning sessions were planned based on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education teaching skills. First to 'Develop Learning outcomes' by Prof. Lakshman Weddikarage and Dr. Kumudu Seneviratne. Second, the 'Generic Lesson Planning' with a focus on 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching approaches by Prof. Manjula Vithanapathirana, Ms. Jeevani Herath, and Ms. Dulani Priyadharshani elaborated the application of Learning theories and incorporation of 21st-century teaching skills in lessons. Subject-specific hands-on lesson planning for primary for Sinhala (mother tongue) by Dr. S. Dahanayake, Mathematics (Ms. Anurudhika Siriwardena) and ENV and iSTEM (Chandrajith Gamage) primary were included focusing on the modern approaches of developing 21st-century skills.
5. In addressing Student Personality development, Dr. Lanka Wedikandage and Ms. Imesha Kinkini developed the session using the modern perspective of 'Life- World Experiences' which is an emphasis on student empowerment using folk tales. In addition, ABOE experience was included in the student personality development module by Dr. Sulochana Neranjani who is a specialist in TESL.
6. Case study-based child study and psychological problems and inclusive pedagogy in education in the CONTESSA modules were replenished in the SACTD program with real case studies from Sri Lanka with the research findings by Prof. Samudra Senarath and Ms. Enoka Randeniya.
7. Aesthetic component in primary education was experientially conducted with an education specialist who has done research on this field of study (Mr. Chamika Hathlahawatta). The session was enriched by applying learnings

from Finnish Early Childhood and Primary level Aesthetic education was also included in the program. Prof. Manjula Vithanapathirana and Mr. Chamika Hathlahawatta gained exposure and experience in Aesthetic based Teacher Education and Personality development intervention for Childhood development in Finland. This experience was shared for the development of the affective domain of teacher educators to transfer the learning to teacher development and classrooms. Chamika is a doctoral student under Dr. Kapila Bandara.

8. In order to develop the Socio-Emotional component of the Teacher Educators with a view to transferring the learning to trainees and classrooms a special session was organized, Doctoral research-based intervention on 'Development of Pro-social Attitudes of School-aged children through Aesthetic Intervention' by Mr. Sanath Wimalasiri was introduced to the program. Having completed the doctoral research under Prof. Manjula Vithanapathirana (now thesis being examined) conducted a session to awaken the pro-social feelings and attitudes with song-based intervention tested for its impact on school children illustrated.
9. One of the most important new approaches to assessment. 'Authentic Assessment' was introduced by two Senior Academics, Mr. Chinthaka Chandrakumara, Ms. R D C Niroshinie who have specialized in the modern strategies of Assessment by conducting research.
10. The exposure to Digitization and ICT-based new education trends (eg: was included in the program by replenishing the CONTESSA module with experiences from China (Shenzen, the Silicon Valley of China) by Dr. Kapila Bandara.
11. Finally, consolidation of learning across the entire program was facilitated by Prof. Manjula, focusing on takeaways and on furthering the application of the integrated capacity development in the work context of teacher trainee

development in NCOEs. Also on the recommendations for further improvement of the program in future implementation.

The 41 participants were primary teacher educators from the following NCOEs.

- Peradeniya
- Hapitigama
- Ruhuna
- Pulathisipura
- Nilwala
- Wayamba
- Maharagama
- Ruwanpura
- Pasdunrata
- Dambadeniya
- Mahaweli
- Sariputta
- Siyane
- Uva

The participants were awarded the attached certificate of completion at the closing ceremony (Annex 3).

### **Outcomes of Feedback Analysis**

The feedback on the Capacity Development program on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Primary Education was obtained by the Faculty of Education in three 3 modalities.

- Structured Google form
- Open Questionnaire
- Discussion session

The responses from all modalities were separately as well analyzed by triangulation.

The outcomes of the Feedback Analysis of Participants were highly positive for all sessions. The participants were 'satisfied and highly satisfied' with all sessions, and they recommended the program be extended to other members of the primary teacher education in NCOEs.

**Some moments of the Program are attached. (Annex 4)**



## **Annex 1**

### **List of Resource Persons from Faculty of Education, University of Colombo**

Prof. Manjula Vithanapathirana (Chair, Educational Psychology)

Dr. Kapila Bandara

Dr. Lalitha Kumari

Ms. Tiromi Indigahawela

Ms. Udeshini Perera

Prof. Lakshman Wedikkarage

Dr. Kumudu Seneviratne

Ms. Jeevani Herath

Ms. Dulani Priyadarshani

Prof. Samudra Senarath

Ms. Enoka Randeniya

Dr. Somapriya Dahanayaka

Ms. Anurudhhika Siriwardhana

Mr. Chandrajith Gamage

Dr. Sulochana Neranji

Dr Lanka Wedikandage

Ms. Imesha Kinkini

Mr. Chamika Hathlahawatta

Mr. Chinthaka Chandrakumara

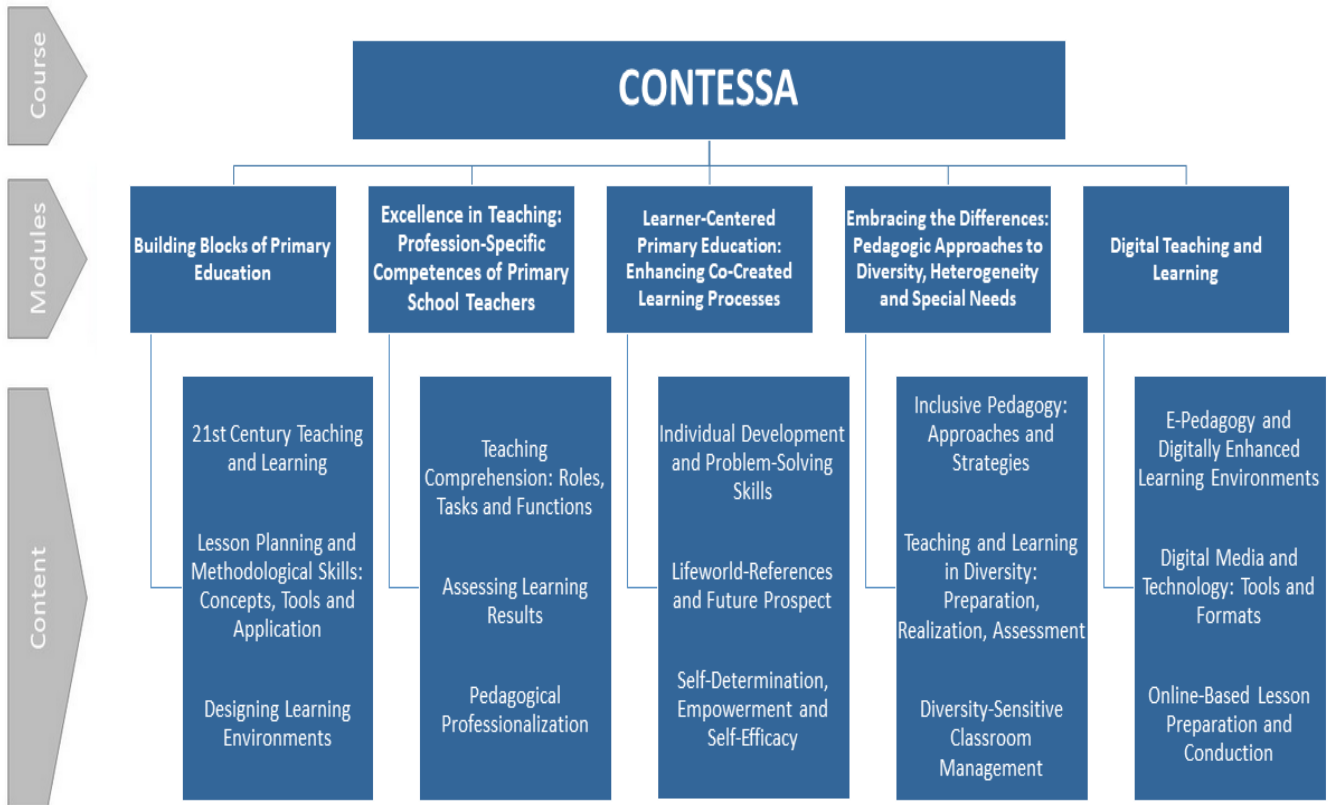
Mr. R.D.C. Niroshinie

Ms. Samadara Amarasinghe

**and**

Mr. Sanath Wimalisiri ( Veteran Artist, Educator, and Doctoral Candidate)

Structure of the CONTESSA Modules



### **Annex 3**

**The certificate was awarded at the closing ceremony on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December in person as a Hard copy personally each signed by signatories. (this is the only paper usage in the entire program). Certificate format is attached herewith.**



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UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO



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கல்வி அமைச்சு  
Ministry of Education



# Certificate of Completion

for

We certify the successful completion of

## **Capacity Development Programme of NCOE Primary Teacher Educators for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Primary Education**

conducted by the Faculty of Education, University of Colombo

on 08<sup>th</sup>, 09<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022

at the South Asian Centre for Teacher Development Sri Lanka (SACTD), Meepe.

### **The Capacity Development Programme consisted of the following themes:**

- *21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning and Introduction to CONTESSA Teacher Education Modules*
- *Teaching Excellence: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teacher Competencies, Roles and Classroom Management*
- *Digital Media and Technology Tools for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning*
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**Ranjith Chandrasekara**

Chief Commissioner  
(Teacher Education)  
Ministry of Education

**Dr. Kapila Bandara**

Dean/Faculty of Education  
University of Colombo

**Prof. (Chair) M.V. Vithanapathirana**

Programme Coordinator  
University of Colombo

**H.T. Kamal Pathmasiri**

Additional Director General  
SACTD

## Annex 4















