

# MOU between SSCE and IT for Change

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and executed in Bengaluru on 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2023, between:

**Sri Sarvajna College for Education**, (hereafter referred to as SSCE, which expression shall, whenever the context permits, mean and include its successor and assignees) represented by Principal, Dr Madhumati B.P  
AND

**Centre for Education and Technology, IT for Change**, Bengaluru, (hereafter referred to as 'ITfC', which expression shall, whenever the context permits, mean and include its successor and assignees), represented by Director Sri. Gurumurthy Kasinathan,

## Preamble

Whereas Sri Sarvajna College of Education (SSCE) is an aided college, affiliated to Bengaluru University, offering B.Ed. program for secondary school teacher aspirants. The vision of SSCE is *"to create professionally sound and ethically strong teachers, who develop into highly skilled human resource and to become a centre for excellence for life long learning, professional development and personal growth of teachers who ultimately become innovative and reflective practitioners in our global technological society."*

And whereas **ITfC** promotes the adoption of digital technologies (hereafter 'Information and Communication Technologies' or ICT) and processes in education to enhance the quality of education and has been working in programs with the Governments in Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and other states over the past decade, to support the capacity building of student teachers, teachers and teacher educators, and has supported pre-service and in-service syllabus and curricular design, training and assessment efforts. It has collaborated with the Karnataka education department as a resource institution for the Subject Teacher Forum (STF) and Karnataka Open Educational Resources (KOER) programs and also worked in Bengaluru South 3 block with the government and government aided high schools, on ICT integration in classroom processes and in school development.

ITfC is a proponent and practitioner of free and open ICT environment, to facilitate universal access and participation in digital technologies, this includes the use and development of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) applications and Open Educational Resources (OER).

## Background

SSCE and ITfC have been collaborating on the offering of an 'ICT integration course' for the B.Ed students of SSCE for the last three years. As part of the collaboration, SSCE & ITfC have been offering programs for teachers and teacher educators also. These courses/programs have been designed for a blended model, combining physical interactions through workshops and lectures along with online platforms for accessing course materials as well as collaborative learning. The courses have been developed on a Learning Management System, deployed and maintained by ITfC and the hands-on sessions have been conducted in the SSCE lab. During the years 2022-23, SSCE and ITfC have collaborated on the following:

- 1) a 2-year blended learning program on ICT integration for the 2020-22 student cohort.
- 2) a national level capacity building program for teacher educators on techno-pedagogical literacy.

Through these different course offerings over the past three years, the faculty in SSCE as well as ITfC have developed a more sound understanding of technology integration in teacher education.

**NOW THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITNESSES OBJECTIVES AS**

## **FOLLOWS:**

### **Objectives**

SSCE is keen to continue its collaboration with ITfC to build capacities of its student teachers and teacher educators (faculty) in integrating ICT in teacher education.

The objectives of the collaboration would include:

1. Developing techno-pedagogic expertise in pre-service teacher education, combining practice and theory, and enable SSCE sustain the program beyond the collaboration period.
2. Implementing models of blended learning for continuous professional development of student teachers and faculty in SSCE and other teacher colleges affiliated to Bengaluru University (BU)
3. Working with BU and teacher education colleges affiliated to Bengaluru University (BU), to incorporate elements of this course into the regular syllabus of BU.
4. Supporting and promoting the adoption of 'Free and Open Source' applications for democratic and participatory dissemination of ICT
5. Developing 'Open Educational Resources' in English and in Kannada, and publishing on the Karnataka Education portal, which houses the LMS

### **Scope**

The scope of this collaboration would include:

1. Designing, developing and transacting courses for the student teachers and faculty of SSCE, for enabling the development of digital skills and capabilities to:
  - a) integrate ICT into regular courses on a sustained basis
  - b) access, create and publish open educational resources (OER)
  - c) participate in virtual professional learning communities for peer learning and peer support
2. Supporting SSCE in developing OER for its courses and publishing these on the Karnataka Open Educational Resources (KOER)
3. Supporting SSCE in developing its Learning Management System (LMS) for enabling blended mode course transaction by its faculty.
4. Supporting SSCE in maintaining and managing its ICT lab infrastructure
5. Supporting teacher education colleges affiliated to Bengaluru University (BU) integrate ICT in teacher education, including developing a professional learning community of teacher educators, and work for including these components in the BU B.Ed. syllabus.

These broad areas cover the scope of the collaboration, based on which, the "Annual Plan" for specific activities would be developed every academic year, in accordance with priorities of SSCE and ITfC. All projects would require active collaboration between SSCE, teacher and teacher educator communities, and ITfC. The scheduling of activities would need to be planned in advance by SSCE and ITfC.

An important principle of the collaboration would be the adoption and promotion of free and open ICT. Most applications used are 'proprietary', meaning they are not owned by the college and hence cannot be freely downloaded, shared or modified. Instead, education institutions need to promote the use of free and open source software (FOSS) applications, which can be freely downloaded, shared or modified. The college



becomes the owner of the software and can freely share with all students. This has many benefits:

1. A number of high quality FOSS applications will be used to create a resource rich digital environment, replacing the traditional limited proprietary environment.
2. Student teachers and faculty will learn to use FOSS tools to create resources, instead of only “consuming” pre-prepared resources. Special effort would be invested to develop OER in Kannada, including by translating existing OER resources in English
3. Text, image, audio and video resources, animations, semantic maps will be created, using a wide variety of software tools and digital methods, from educational applications like Geogebra, Marble, Kalzium, phet; and text, audio, video, semantic map editors such as Freeplane, LibreOffice, Audacity, RecordMydesktop, OpenShot, Vokoscreen etc, as well as open web resources.
4. Upgrades of FOSS applications are freely shareable, hence the lab can have the latest versions

## **Roles and responsibilities of each party**

Specific actions from each party are discussed below.

### **ITfC**

ITfC agrees among other actions, the following specific actions:

1. Draft the “Annual plan” for the different projects to be undertaken, in discussions with the College. The plan will describe the objectives, activities, outcomes and deliverables from each project. This will include the course on ‘ICT Integrated Learning’ for the student teachers and teacher educators of SSCE
2. To design and conduct the activities as per the plan(s), in collaboration with the College
3. Support SSCE to offer courses on the LMS, and build capacities of faculty towards this
4. To provide its custom free and open source software for teaching to SSCE, and support installation in the SSCE lab.
5. To undertake such responsibilities as may be required by the project from time to time

### **SSCE**

The SSCE agrees among other actions, the following specific actions:

1. Contribute to and participate in program design and implementation, reviews and revision
2. Co-ordinate the program for the SSCE student teachers and teacher educators and provide administrative and other required support for the smooth implementation of the programme. *Over time, the SSCE faculty would be able to take over the program activities, from ITfC.*
3. Co-ordinate teacher educator programs for the colleges affiliated to BU and support development of a professional community of teacher educators
4. Maintain and manage the ICT infrastructure, including internet connectivity
5. To undertake such responsibilities as may be required by the project from time to time

## **Financial Aspects**

### **Financing the planned activities as per this MOU**

1. SSCE will participate in program activities and support its participation as per its own annual work plans and budgets
2. SSCE will provide support for the workshops for its students and faculty on its premises.
3. To meet its own programmatic and resource person costs to support the projects, ITfC will seek funding from donor agencies. ITfC participation in each project is contingent on its obtaining the required financial support, every year. ITfC may require to provide visibility / publicity for the support obtained from donors to support its activities under the collaboration. SSCE can provide a honoraria upto Rs. 1,000 per person day of the ITfC team for designing and conducting training programs. This will partly cover ITfC expenses and also serve as SSCE contribution to the development of a free and open ICT environment in teacher education in the country.
4. The courses for the student teachers and faculty of BU affiliated colleges may be offered by SSCE on a fee basis, to part recover the costs of the program. All fees collected from programs organized by SSCE and ITfC will be used to maintain the ICT infrastructure of SSCE and support activities under this MOU.

## **Coordination and monitoring**

1. SSCE and ITfC will nominate nodal persons who will coordinate the program activities. If required nodal officers for specific projects would also be appointed.
2. SSCE and ITfC will meet on a quarterly basis, or as required, to formally review the program design and implementation and provide input and suggestions. The collaboration can be formally reviewed at the end of every academic year and modified as required by SSCE and ITfC.

## **Validity**

The MOU shall be valid for a period of five academic years commencing from date of execution and may be renewed thereafter with mutual consent after a review. Either party may terminate this MOU at any time by giving the other at least three months prior notice in writing.

## **Force Majeure**

No party signing this MOU shall be liable to the other for any delay or failure of their respective obligations under this MOU caused by occurrences beyond their control including occurrences of fire, floods etc.

## **Disclaimer**

Each party shall be solely responsible for its own acts and omissions (and those of its employees and agents) and neither party will have the authority, or legally bind the other party in this project with a third party except as agreed in writing by the parties

## **Severability**

If at any time, one or more provisions of this MOU become invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect under any law or regulation, the validity, legality or enforceability of remaining provisions shall not be in any way be affected or impaired thereby

## **No legal obligations**






The parties agree that this MOU does not create any legal obligations between the parties.



## Settlement of disputes

In the event of any differences or disputes amongst the parties arising out of the interpretation or application of the provisions of his MOU, the parties shall immediately consult each other with the view to expeditiously resolve such differences or disputes in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE PARTIES UNTO HAVE SET THEIR RESPECTIVE HANDS AND SEALS TO THIS INDENTURE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE DAY MONTH AND YEAR FIRST HEREIN BEFORE MENTIONED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES

For SSCE	For ITfC
Signature: 	
Name: <u>Dr. Madhumathi B.P</u>	Signature:
Designation:	Name: Gurumurthy Kasinathan
Seal: <b>PRINCIPAL</b> <b>Sri Sarvajna College Of Education</b> <b>Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040</b>	Designation: Director
Witnesses:	Seal: 
1. Name: <u>Dr. UMASHREE D.K</u>	Witnesses:
Signature: 	1. Name: <u>Anand Desai</u>
	Signature: 

Place: Bengaluru

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023