



# Introducing competency-based assessment through online workshops

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Client:	Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS), New Delhi
Duration:	2020-22
Objective:	To develop staff capacities in competency-based assessment to help improve teaching-learning practices.
Summary:	<p>The ACER India capacity building programme helped a group of educators from SAS and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) gain understanding of the key components of assessment, including development of an assessment framework and test instruments.</p> <p>The programme will help change assessment practices of select SAS and CBSE schools by familiarising teachers and students with the formats of international learning assessments and competency-based learning.</p> <p>The intensive capacity building programme over nine months included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• development of a holistic assessment framework</li><li>• formation of an expert team to lead assessment projects</li><li>• development of item banks in core subjects for Grades 6 to 10.</li></ul>
Significant challenges:	Competency-based assessment was an entirely new topic for participants, who had multiple queries which had to be resolved through online interactions. Short timelines coupled with online delivery of workshops meant intense involvement of human resources to ensure the timely delivery of services.
Activities:	<p>The project implementation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Competency-based framework: Developing a framework linked to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum for Grades 6 to 10 that includes competencies similar to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and other international learning assessments.</li><li>• Teacher handbook development workshops: Training the SAS curriculum development team on competency-based learning (CBL) lesson plans for the development of teaching guidelines.</li><li>• Monthly tests: Developing four to six competency-based tests for monthly administration in schools, including grading and analyses rules.</li><li>• Assessment item development workshops: Training the SAS curriculum development team to design a curriculum aligned to competency-based assessment.</li><li>• Item creation workshops: Training school teachers on the creation of a curriculum that accommodates competency-based assessment.</li><li>• Assessment items: Developing competency-based assessment items and a grading system for each item.</li><li>• Teacher handbook creation: Ensuring the quality of teacher handbooks is in keeping with the competency framework and questions.</li><li>• Capacity building for SAS lead trainers: Designing a professional development programme that develops the capacity of SAS lead trainers responsible for training other school teachers on competency-based learning.</li></ul>