XXXV Training Programme on
Science Communication and Media Practice - 2022-2023

Theme
Science Popularization:
The Role of Women Communicators

Organized Jointly by
INDIAN SCIENCE NEWS ASSOCIATION, KOLKATA
and
VIGYAN PRASAR, DST, GOVT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

Programme & Brief Profiles
Friday, March 17, 2023

Venue
Meghnad Saha Auditorium
University of Calcutta
Rashbehari Siksha Prangan, Rajabazar Campus
92, A.P.C. Road, Kolkata - 700 009
Fourteenth Science Communicators’ Meet

XXXV Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice 2022-2023

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Science Popularization:  
The Role of Women Communicators

As Media Educators:

For quite some time there has been an emergence of a bevy of women media educators in several colleges, Universities, and other educational institutions. They are young, highly educated, competent, and are winning laurels by dint of their class of professionalism. We, at ISNA, have devoted the first session to hear some of them, especially in the context of the changing media scenario. We would like to hear from them also on how they are emphasizing on the need for science popularization in their curriculum. The session will be chaired by a media veteran who will share her experience over the years and help inculcate participants of the ISNA course on how to excel in science communication in future.

As Health Communicators:

It has been observed that among all the issues, health touches the people most because everyone is concerned about his or her health, more so in the wake of the recent virus maelstrom. This session has been reserved for two experts who will narrate their experience as health professionals, one as an experienced health writer and the other as someone who has been engaged in public health issues since long. It would be interesting to hear them when they highlight during their presentation which issues concern the women most and how do they deal with these issues through scientific communication. Someone who chairs this session is an academic and frequently writes on health issues for quite some time.
As Communication Veterans:

Again, we at ISNA, take pride in announcing our involvement in science communication and popularization since the time our organization was founded by our forefathers of science communication years back. We are happy that veteran women communicators, who are equally known as academics, are associated with us to work in this direction hand in hand, though in different modes. This session would be chaired by someone who is quite well known in academic circles in India and abroad.

Valedictory Session:

At the end of the day everyone will be eager to know what will be delivered and by whom in this session. We are glad to have chosen someone who is associated with a prestigious University of the state heading the department of journalism and mass communication. More interestingly, her specialization is on science communication. Could we have a better choice? The theme of the valedictory is naturally: The Road Ahead For Women Communicators.
Fourteenth Science Communicators’ Meet  
(XXXV Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice 2022-2023)

Science Popularization:  
The Role of Women Communicators

**PROGRAMME**

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<td>10.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.</td>
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| 10.30 a.m. | Welcome address                           | Prof. Manas Chakrabarty  
Honorary Secretary, ISNA                                                    |
| 10.40 a.m. |                                             | Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary, ISNA and Convener, Organizing Committee 
- To speak on the course and upcoming activities                     |
| 10.50 a.m. |                                             | Ms. Ishani Datta Ray, Editor,  
Anandabazar Patrika to inaugurate & Launch of e-paper Scientifica Communica |
| 11.15 a.m. |                                             | Shri Prasanta K. Bose, Chairman,  
Organizing Committee - What the programme is all about                  |
| 11.25 a.m. | Vote of thanks                             | Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha  
Honorary Treasurer, ISNA                                                  |
1st Session: 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

*As Media Educators*

**Chair**: Ms. Madhumita Dutta, Special Correspondent, Anandabazar Patrika

**Rapporteur**: Dr. Shefalika Ghosh Samaddar, ISNA

**Speakers**:
1) **Prof. Moumita De Das** of Adamas University - Overview of Journalism Education vis-à-vis Science Communication
2) **Prof. Ambika Ghosh** of The Heritage Academy - The Specific Role We Play As Science Communicators
3) **Dr. Bakul Srimany** of Vijaygarh Jyotish Roy College - Digitalization As A Tool To Communicate Science

**Ms. Arpita Chakraborty**, Member, Organizing Committee, to act as compare

**LUNCH**: 1.00 p.m.- 2.00 p.m.

2nd Session 2.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.

*As Health Communicators*

**Chair**: Dr. Minakshi De, Former Professor, Surendra Nath College

**Rapporteur**: Ms. Satabdi Bhattacharjee, ISNA

**Speakers**:
1) **Dr. Sujata Mukherjee**, *Ei Samay* Online and Health Writer – The Story By A Health Writer
2) **Dr. Madhumita Dobe**, Former Director-Professor, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health – Experience of A Public Health Professional
3rd Session 3.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

As Communication Veterans

Chair : Prof (Mrs.) Julie Banerji, Vice-President, ISNA

Rapporteur : Ms. Sahoni Sarkar, ISNA

Speakers : 1) Dr. Sumitra Chaudhuri, President, Bangiya Bijnan Parishad – Women In Science Education And Communication Since The 19th Century

2) Dr. Sima Mukhopadhyay, ISNA - Role of Puppetry In Science Communication

Valedictory Session : 4.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Chair : Dr. Srabanti Basu, Heritage Institute of Technology

Valedictory Address: Dr. Reshmi Naskar, HoD, Journalism, St. Xavier’s University - The Road Ahead For Women Science Communicators

Ms. Tithi Roy, ISNA, to act as compere

TEA
Shri Prasanta K. Bose

Chairman
XXXV Training Programme
E-mail: boseprasanta@hotmail.com
Phone No: 9432254086/8777015883

Prasanta K. Bose is a media professional with over 50 years of experience. Presently a Council Member of the Indian Science News Association (ISNA), he has been involved in its science communication curricula for several years. Now he is the editor of *Scientifica Communica* and *Bigyan Kahon*, ISNA’s English and Bengali e-Papers for science popularization. As a reporter he has covered various assignments, though science journalism is his passion. He has interviewed eminent personalities including Rajiv Gandhi, former Minister for Science and Technology and eminent physicist Raja Ramanna, and world-famous biologist Ananda Mohan Chakrabarty.

He started his career in UNI and then got attached to the century-old English daily *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. Afterwards, he joined Kolkata’s U.S. Consulate as the Chief Regional Media Advisor, eastern India. Mr. Bose has a diploma in advanced
journalism from the UNESCO-affiliated International Institute for the Training of Journalists in Budapest, Hungary. He was a participant of the pilot course run by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Ahmadabad, on science communication.

Widely travelled, he was a member of an international team of journalists to probe environmental degradation in Europe. Mr. Bose was closely associated with the Doordarshan and AIR as an interviewer on science and health related programs. For over three decades he was a member of the visiting faculty at Jadavpur University and other educational institutions in journalism. He was conferred on Gopal Chandra Bhattacharyya Award for popularisation of science from Science Association of Bengal recently,
Dr. T. V. Venkateswaran
Convener
XXXV Training Programme
E-mail: tv123@gmail.com
Phone No: 9810512077

T. V. Venkateswaran, a science communicator, science writer, science communication trainer and founder chief editor of ‘India Science Wire’, is a senior scientist with ‘Vigyan Prasar’, National Institute for Science Communication, Dept of Science and Technology, New Delhi. He is the national coordinator for the Bhasha Project of Vigyan Prasar, which aims to take science in various Indian languages across the country. He has authored more than 70 popular science books in English and other Indian languages. He conducts the widely watched weekly TV show ‘Eureka, conversation with an Indian scientist’ on Rajya Sabha TV(RSTV). Currently, he conducts the Science Simplified television show in Bharata First. He contributes to weekly science columns in newspapers and digital media. At Vigyan Prasar, he initiated the use of radio medium for science communication on a sustained basis. He designed, developed and coordinated the production of 35 radio science serials ranging from 13 to 52 episodes each in 19
Indian languages. The programmes were broadcast through All India Radio, Gyan Vani, and various community radio stations. As a media trainer, he has formulated and conducted many skill & capacity building workshops for students, journalists in different media and aspiring science writers. His research profile includes the circulation of modern science in the pre-modern Tamil region, the evolution of calendars and the history of astronomy and science, colonialism, and modernity in India, the evolution of science content in school textbooks, and history of science communication in Indian cultural cosmos, mediation between science, society and media.
Dr. Amit Krishna De
Convener
XXXV Training Programme & Hony. Secretary, ISNA
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Phone No: 9903510336

Dr. Amit Krishna De, M. Sc in Biochemistry and Ph. D from Calcutta University has won several awards for his work which includes Gopal Chandra Bhattacharyya Award for popularisation of Science from Science Association of Bengal and National Award for Science Communication from Indian Writers Association in 2006. Dr De is former Advisor and Executive Secretary of Indian Science Congress Association at Kolkata (under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India). He is visiting faculty in Sister Nivedita University and Swami Vivekananda University. He is also Fellow of several academies including West Bengal Academy of Science & Technology. Dr De has more than sixty research publications in journals of International repute and is author of around 20 books. For the last 20 years, Dr De has been trying to present the different aspects of scientific developments to the common people through various medium like (i) writing articles, features, and books, (ii) arranging seminars / workshops, (iii) delivering radio/doordarshan talks (iv) writing and staging dramas.
Manas Chakrabarty, M.Sc., did his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Calcutta University in 1974 under the supervision of late Professor Mrs. Asima Chatterjee. After a brief period (1976-1978) of Postdoctoral Research in the Cardiff University, Wales, UK., he gathered R&D and industrial experiences in I.I.C.B. (then I.I.E.M.), Organon (India) Ltd. and an Indo-U.S. Marine Research Project. He then joined Bose Institute, Calcutta as a Lecturer and retired as a Senior Professor of Chemistry (2008), extended to 2010, and as an Emeritus Scientist (CSIR) in January, 2013. He supervised many doctoral researcher-students and have 80 scientific publications in addition to a number of articles on topics of science in *Jnan-O-Bijnan, Science and Culture, Anandabazar Patrika, Monthly Bulletin of the Asiatic Society*, etc. He has delivered invited talks in many Colleges, Universities and Symposia. He is currently a Vice-President of the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK), Eastern India section, and is an Honorary Secretary of ISNA, Kolkata. He enjoys science communication and teaching Chemistry at Postgraduate level in Colleges, Universities, etc. He is an Associate Editor/Member of Board of Editors in national and international journals.
Former Sr. Professor and Chairman, Division of Plant Biology, Consultant Scientist and Executive Chairman, Acharya J. C Bose Biotechnology Innovation Centre, Bose Institute, Kolkata.

Editor of three scientific Journals and Reviewer. Published 90 research papers in National and International Journals. Produced eight Ph.D. scholars. Members of National Scientific Academy & other learned societies in India and abroad.
Mrs. Ishani Dutta Ray

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Ms. Madhumita Datta

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With 30 years of work experience as a senior journalist in different Bengali newspapers, she has had the privilege to cover many important events, to travel extensively in India and the U.S. on different reporting assignments and to author two books, ‘Roktomakha Chhai’ (Blood-Smeared Ashes), based on the Gujarat atrocities, and ‘Cyber Santras’ (Cyber Terrorism), on cyber terrorism and cyber crime. After functioning as the Chief Reporter of the popular Bengali daily Aajkaal, she is now working in Anadabazar Patrika, the largest circulated Bengali daily in India as a Special Correspondent.
Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Communication, School of Media and Communication (SoMC), Adamas University (AU), Kolkata. She is pursuing Ph.D. programme in the Faculty of Media and Communication, Symbiosis International University, Pune. She is the Chief Editor and Project Supervisor of Journal Post (AU student news portal). Recently, she has published her debut Bengali fiction book, Shatkahun by Ukiyoto Publishing 2022. She is the Executive Member of Global Media Education Council (GMEC). She was the former Editorial Consultant of International Justice Mission. She has M. Phil in International Relations (IR) from Jadavpur University. She also has double Masters in IR and Journalism and Mass Communication. AU has conferred her with the Teaching Excellence Award, 2021. She has rich experience of 16 years in both media studies and the print media industry.
Ambika Ghosh is a UGC-NET qualified Assistant Professor at the Dept. of Media Science, The Heritage Academy.

She pursued her Post Graduate Diploma and Masters in Journalism and Mass Communication with a specialization on Media, Society and Culture from Jadavpur University.

She is the recipient of University Gold Medal from JU for ranking 1st Class first in her M.A Final Examination in 2019 and also a recipient of the University Silver Medal for topping Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (MAKAUT), West Bengal in the Bachelor’s Degree Final Examination.

She is also the recipient of Dr. Smarjit Dutta Memorial Award from Calcutta Journalists Club in 2019.

She is an empanelled anchor with Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata, and an FM Presenter with FM Rainbow, All India Radio, Kolkata.
She has worked for the Dept. of Publicity at Birla Industrial & Technological Museum, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India popularizing science communication among young scholars and students, and in areas of Integrated Marketing Communications, Advertising and Public Relations in MNC’s like L & K, Saatchi & Saatchi, MSL India & Ketchum Sampark.

She has been a research assistant for Ritam Communications under the able guidance of PR expert Mrs. Rita Bhimani for books - Centenary of Calcutta School of Music, PR 2020 – The trending practice in Public Relations, and on a key documentary film commissioned by the Ministry of External Affairs titled “In Search of the Rajah” on the life of Raja Rammohan Roy, directed by Goutam Ghose.
Dr. Bakul Srimany

E-mail: purple.patch.web@hotmail.com
Phone No: 8961208074

Dr. Bakul Srimany has worked in many national and international media houses, and has been engaged in the media industry for a decade. She holds Ph.D. in digital media and science communication. Her research interests include digital media communication, science communication, web journalism, and multimedia content development and design. She has a longstanding track record of working as an editor for many well-known web portals and e-magazines. She has worked as a media educator in different Indian and international institutions, colleges, and universities. She has published papers on digital media communication in various national and international journals. As a media educator and researcher, she has received several honours, including state, national, and international recognition for her work on an online platform with digital learning, multimedia tools, and its various approaches. She is currently employed as a faculty at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Vijaygarh Jyotish Roy College (affiliated to the University of Calcutta).
Dr. Minakshi De

e-mail: deminakshi1965@yahoo.com,
Phone No: 9903349760

Dr. Minakshi De completed her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Calcutta University. She was former SACT Professor of Microbiology in Surendra Nath College, Kolkata. She was engaged as Ramaseshan Fellow in Indian Academy of Sciences and regularly wrote articles in Current Science, The Telegraph, Kolkata, Science Reporter, New Delhi, and also Science and Culture.
Dr. Sujata Mukherjee did her Ph.D. in chemistry but she preferred to follow her passion. She started writing on health issues in all leading newspapers of Kolkata. She wrote 18 health books, which were published from Kolkata and Bangladesh. Presently she is working as an health administrator in a leading hospital in Kolkata.
Dr. Madhumita Dobe

E-mail: madhumitadobe@gmail.com

Dr. Madhumita Dobe, MBBS, DCH, MD, MCH, has worked as Dean and Director - Professor (Public Health) at the All-India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health, Kolkata, and now serves as the Chairperson of FAITH (Foundation for Actions and Innovations towards Health Promotion). She has vast experience of working in the field of Health Promotion and Education, serving as Head of the department of Health Promotion and Education for almost two decades. Her areas of expertise and special interest in Health Promotion and Health Education include Social and Behaviour Change Interventions, IEC, Health Communication and Social Determinants of Health. She has been actively involved in teaching, training and research along with guidance of post-graduate students at their field practice areas in Urban and Rural settings with reference to community needs assessment, community organization, generating community involvement/ participation and development and use of effective communication methods and media for improving awareness and promoting adoption of healthful behaviour in the community through IEC & BCC interventions. She has been the course coordinator of the Diploma in Health Promotion & Education course at AIH&PH and involved in teaching
and research activities for post graduate training programs conducted at AllHPh, ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), and various other national and international organizations.

She has been member of the International Expert Group in Health Promotion at WHO, Geneva (2009 – 2012) and has undertaken several national and international assignments on behalf of WHO, SEARO, and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India as an expert in Health Promotion and Education.

She has several publications in peer reviewed national and international journals with high impact factor. She has authored a book on –”Health Promotion and Education, Foundations for changing Health Behavior” and contributed to chapters in books and treatises on matters of importance in Public Health.

Dr. Dobe is a regular commentator and columnist on public health issues in international and national print and electronic media.
Professor Dr. (Mrs.) Julie Banerji, PhD. PRS, FAScT, FISCA (born 1946), Former Khaira Professor of Chemistry, Calcutta University, obtained her Ph.D. degree in 1972 from Calcutta University under the guidance of Professor Dr. (Mrs.) Asima Chatterjee. She carried out post-doctoral research at the University of East Anglia, UK with (late) Professor Dr. Alan Roy Katritzky, FRS, and with Professor Maurice Shamma, Pennsylvania State University, USA as an UNESCO/UNDP Fellow. She received the INSA Young Scientist Award (1976), the Premchand Roychand Studentship of CU (1976), the Mouat Medal of CU (1984), was elected Fellow of the West Bengal Academy of Science (1994), was awarded the Professor R.C. Mehrotra Life Time Achievement Award of the Indian Science Congress Association (2019) and was elected Fellow of the Indian Science Congress Association (2019). Mrs. Banerji has been actively engaged in teaching (1978-2012) and research (1969 till to date). She has 148 research publications...
in peer-reviewed journals. She was involved in the Popularisation of Science programme among school children and conducted the popular Science Programme QUEST in the national Television network (1988-1992).

Currently she is the Vice-President of the Indian Science News Association.
Dr. Sumitra Chaudhuri

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Dr. Sumitra Chaudhuri, M.Sc., Ph.D., Ex-Principal, Victoria Institution College. President, Bangiya Bijnan Parishad, President, Gopal Chandra Bhattacharya Vigyan Prasar Samity. Secretary, Prof. Asima Chatterjee Foundation, Kolkata. Member, Board of Advisor, Bigyan Katha, Vigyan Prasar, DST. Member of ISNA Council. Actively associated with science communication for around forty years.
Dr. Sima Mukhopadhyay

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Phone No: 70449885509

Dr. Sima Mukhopadhyay did her Ph.D. on Medicinal Plants in 1985 from the University of Calcutta. She carried out Post Doctoral Work on the river Ganga Project under Prof. T.M. Das, Dept. of Agriculture, University of Calcutta. At present she is working on ‘Reuse of Waste Material in Home Management’. She was selected as Resource Person by the Ministry of Environment, Forests, & Climate change and the Ministry of Urban Development under Swachh Bharat, Mission to develop awareness of Waste Management Rules among school and college students of Eastern Region in West Bengal where the Ganga flows. She developed script for Vigyan Prasar’s radio serial on sustainable development. She retired as Programme Co-ordinator from SRC (AE), West Bengal and was the editor of Jiban Katha, a monthly newspaper for neo literates. She received Gopal Chandra Bhattacharya Award from Science Association of Bengal for popularizing science in print media in 2005. She developed the puppetry script for one short film entitled - The Puppet Communicator - directed by Sunandit Chaudhuri, and nominated from West Bengal in the 6th National
Science Festival organized by Vigyan Prasar (DST, Govt. of India) at Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai in 2016. She has many publications including books such as ‘Amader Ektai Prithibi’ (parts 1 and 2) in Bengali on environment, and many booklets for neo-literates on different science, health and social issues. She is a regular contributor to Science Magazines like Gyan-o-Bijnan, Bijnan Mela, E Yuger Kishor Vigyan, Paribesh O Vigyan, etc.

Sahoni Sarkar

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Sahoni Sarkar, post graduated on Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Calcutta. She is a cartoonist, Scientoonist and a science journalist by passion.
Dr. Srabanti Basu

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Dr. Srabanti Basu is a Professor in the Department of Biotechnology, Heritage Institute of Technology. She did her M. Sc and Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Calcutta. Her area of research interest is Environmental Biotechnology. She has 22 Publications in International journals. Apart from her academic research, she is interested in Science Communication. Before joining the Heritage Institute of Technology, she served in The Telegraph as a sub-editor of the science page. She writes articles for several newsletters published by professional societies and gives popular science talks in All India Radio.
Valedictory Address

Dr. Reshmi Naskar

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Dr. Reshmi Naskar is currently the HOD and Assistant Professor at the Department of Mass Communication at St. Xavier’s University. Dr. Naskar specializes in the field of Science Communication and shares over 18 years of academic teaching at graduation and post graduation level. A PhD from Visva-Bharati, she has not only to her credit several research publications but she also is an active science communicator, mentoring and spearheading several research and innovative projects to popularize science amongst youngsters.
Dr. Shefalika Ghosh Samaddar

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Prof. Shefalika Ghosh Samaddar is currently associated with Dr Sudhir Chandra Sur Institute of Technology and Sports Complex, Dumdum Kolkata as a professor of Computer Science and Engineering branch with specialization in Cyber Security, Network Security, Cloud Security, IoT Security, Innovations and IPR, Indian Knowledge System etc. Prof. Ghosh Samaddar has dedicated herself for building up scientific temperament among the children and youths. She contributes science and technology articles to the dailies such as the Statesman, the Sikkim Express, Northern India Patrika etc. other than publication of research papers in the journals and proceedings. Prof Samaddar was associated with organizations of repute such as Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Allahabad, National Institute of Technology Sikkim, National Institute of Technology Arunachal Pradesh, India Institute of Information Technology Allahabad, Army Institute of Management Kolkata etc. Her other interests are in philately, numismatics of Indian native states (Pre Independence), innovation in crochet design etc.
Submitted Thesis for Ph. D.

Currently working at Sports Authority of India, NSEC, Kolkata, as Exercise Physiologist Grade-1.

Published, so far, 10 full length peer reviewed papers as first author in Journals, Books and Conference Proceedings and presented papers in National and International Conferences held in different reputed Indian institutes.

(1) Received Certificate of Merit for securing Second position in Science Communication and Media Practice (XXVIIIth Batch – 2015) Programme conducted by Indian Science News Association, Kolkata and supported by DST, Government of India, BigyanPrasar, Government of WB, Bose Institute and University of Calcutta.
(3) Received fellowship from Higher Education, Science and Technology and Bio-Technology Department, from University of Calcutta.
I nurture a dream of eradicating unemployment of youth, inequality, uplift socio economic status of women so that they in turn become positive and productive element and contribute to the society. An educated woman is an asset of our society who practice science in her day to day life and promote scientific temperament among her next generation through her activities. Science beyond the classroom is best taught by mothers and trained science communicators can guide them in attaining that. My effort is to bring Science and society work hand in hand for a better tomorrow. Done MBA in HR, MA in Public administration.
She works as a freelance writer at Voice of America (Bangla), also contributes as a feature writer on several web portals and webzines. Science Communication is one the major thrusts of her works. Besides, she is exploring her career as an independent researcher. After B.Sc from University of Calcutta, she is currently pursuing Post Graduation in Mass Communication from Jadavpur University.

She has work experience in gender sensitization and gender education. She has a keen interest in History of Science, Environmental Awareness as well as Gender Politics. Though she lives in Kolkata, she likes to explore the places, cultures and cuisines from other parts of Bengal.
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