



ROLE OF THE E-LEARNING IN DISTANCE EDUCATION CASE OF IGNOU

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Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)¹ offers the Online Post Graduate Diploma in E-Learning (PGDEL) from January 2010 to develop professional competencies in offering online programmes in the Country. The programme is offered through the Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE). The objectives of the programme are to develop human resource capabilities in planning, designing, developing, implementing, and evaluating e-learning programmes. After successful completion of the programme the learners are expected to be able to

1. Apply theoretical principles to design e-learning programmes
2. Identify innovative practices and developments in the field of e-learning
3. Use appropriate instructional design models for e-learning programmes;
4. Teach online courses to develop collaborative learning and maintain communities of learners;
5. Manage e-learning projects; and
6. Choose appropriate technology for e-learning and develop content for E-learning

E-learning programmes

The e-learning programme has the following courses:

1. MDE-001 Introduction of E-Learning (4 Credits)
2. MDE-002 Design and Facilitation of E-Learning Courses (4 Credits)
3. MDE-003 Management of E-Learning Projects (4 Credits)
4. MDEI-004 Technologies for E-Learning (4 Credits)
5. MDEP-005 Project Work (8 Credits)

Programme Highlights

1. Blended learning with compulsory face-to-face practical at the Headquarters
2. Intensive online training to develop e-learning professionals
3. Strong project work component to facilitate hands on work in online learning tools
4. Personalized online student support
5. Use of Open Educational Resources (OERs) and recommended texts



6. Use of Moodle Learning Management Systematic
7. Use of ePortfolio for student progress
8. Use of Synchronous delivery methods using online conferencing tools
9. Extensive use of discussion forums for both academic and personal support
10. Innovative assessment mechanisms
11. Online programme with flexible exit route
12. Option to pay fees on semester basis

TargetGroup

The programme aims at developing competencies in design, development, implementation and management of online programmes at all levels of education, including the corporate training. Thus, the target group of the programme includes teachers, trainers, training managers, instructional designers, and course developers in schools, colleges, universities, and business and industry. Please note that the PGDEL programme is open to only students from India.

Duration: The duration of the programme shall be one year. Students not completing course(s) in the specified duration shall re-register on pro-rata basis, and compete the programme in 2 years time to earn the PG Diploma.

Number of Seats: 50

Eligibility: The eligibility for PGDEL is graduation in any discipline. Preference shall be given to higher degree holders.

Admission Process:

1. Student apply online, and send their form and copy of the certificates/credentials to the Programme Coordinator at STRIDE.
2. Upon selection, the offer of admission letter shall be sent to the students with instructions to pay fees online/ Challan/ DD.
3. On receipt of fees, admission is confirmed, and enrollment number and Identity Card issued.

Selection Process:

1. Merit based admission shall be given with reservation for SC/ST/OBC/PH candidates as per rules.
2. Rank list of the candidates shall be prepared for each category of students as per the following criteria:
 - 1). 50% weight to Marks in the Graduation;
 - 2). 20% weight to Marks in Post Graduation (only one PG degree to be considered);
 - 3). 10 marks each for MPhil and PhD;



- 4). 10 marks for Work experience in University/ College/ School level teaching/professional/research/administrative experience or Work experience as trainer/ training manager/ instructional designer in the business/ industry environment. 0.5 mark for each year of experience with maximum of 20.

Programme Fees: Rs. 15000/- be paid at one go. Programme Fee shall be payable through Demand Draft in favour of "IGNOU, New Delhi" at the time of admission.

Registration Fees: Rs. 100/- to be paid (towards processing charges) through Demand Draft in favour of "IGNOU, New Delhi" at the time of submission of Application Form along with relevant copies of certificates and marksheet.

HISTORY OF INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU)

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established in 1985, and at present offers 125 programmes of study through 1000 courses to a cumulative student strength of about 1.4 million. The University develops its academic programmes through nine Schools of Study, and has established a network of 58 Regional Centres (RCs), 6 Sub-Regional Centres and 1400 Study Centres (SCs) all over the country to provide easy access and effective support services to the learners. In 1970 (International Education Year), the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the UGC and the Indian National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO, organised a seminar on 'Open University'. The seminar recommended the establishment of an open university in India on an experimental basis. The government of India appointed an eight-member working group on Open University in 1974. The leading role was given to G. Parthasarathi, the then Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. The working group recommended establishing an open university by an act of parliament as early as possible. The university should have jurisdiction over the entire country so that, when it is fully developed, any student even in the remotest corner of the country can have access to its instruction and degrees (Working Group Report, 1974).

The working group suggested several measures to be followed in instructional and management processes of the Open University which include: admission procedure, age relaxation, preparation of reading materials, setting up of core group scholars in different fields, setting up of study centres, vehicle of curricular programmes, live contact with teachers, and so on. On the basis of the recommendations of the working group, the Union Government prepared a draft bill for the establishment of a National Open University, but due to some reasons the progress was delayed.

IGNOU, the largest university in the world with over 3 million students, was founded to impart education by means of distance and open education, provide



higher education opportunities particularly to the disadvantaged segments of society, encourage, coordinate and set standards for distance and open education in India and strengthen the human resources of India through education. Apart from teaching and research, extension and training form the mainstay of its academic activities. It also acts as a national resource centre, and serves to promote and maintain standards of distance education in India. IGNOU hosts the Secretariats of the SAARC Consortium on Open and Distance Learning (SACODiL) and the Global Mega Universities Network (GMUNET) initially supported by UNESCO.²

IGNOU has started a decentralisation process by setting up five zones, viz, north, south, east, west and north east. The first of the regional headquarters, catering to four southern states, Pondicherry, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, is being set up in the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. There were other options for open education, but I choose IGNOU because of the good quality of its study material. What did I like (or didn't like) about pursuing BA through open mode or IGNOU? I missed not being in a college but I was on my own and I had a lot of flexibility for my studies and exams. The whole experience was enriching. I was living three lives together – employee, BA student and civil services aspirant and I was able to manage my time due to the flexibility of the open learning system.

Programmes offered by IGNOU

Bachelor preparatory programme (BPP), BCA, BA also with major in political science, history, economics, math, public administration, philosophy, psychology, sociology, English, Hindi and Urdu; BCom; BSc also with major in physics, chemistry, maths, zoology and botany; BA tourism studies; bachelor of social work; BSc (hons) optometry and ophthalmic techniques; BBA retail; plus many masters', certificate and diploma courses. On-demand exam scheme is in place. IGNOU has study centres in every major city in India. These centres serve as exam centres by "default". "However, keeping in view the number of examinees, IGNOU creates as many number of exam centres as possible to accommodate growing number of examinees," says Aslam. This session, IGNOU has 800 exam centres in India.

Admissions

IGNOU offers walk-in admission. An aspirant can go to the nearest regional centre and apply for admission. The application is considered for the following academic session. The deadline for most courses starting in the July 2012 session was June 15.

Prospects after IGNOU

There is a Campus Placement Cell at the varsity's headquarters in New Delhi. The cell is "extensively engaged in interacting with the industry for engagement of IGNOU students in jobs," says Aslam. IGNOU students "get good



settlement after completing their programmes. The regional directors tie up with leading corporate houses for promotion of IGNOU students in their jobs.

About Indira Gandhi National Open University, School of Law³

The School of Law (SOL) was established in 2005 with an objective of imparting legal education through Open and Distance Learning system. School of Law is affiliated to Indira Gandhi National Open University. The school aims to create awareness about legal rights and responsibilities in the emerging world order. The School strives to ensure high quality education and research through innovative, multi-media learning teaching packages with a focus on learning practical aspects of law, acquiring legal skills and scholarship.

Courses Offered

The college offers Doctor of Philosophy in Law (PhD in Law), Post-Graduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Rights (PGDIPR), PG and Advance Certificate with specialization in Post Graduate Certificate in Cyber Law (PGCCL), Post-Graduate Certificate in Patent Practice (PGCPP), Diploma in Paralegal Practice (DIPP), Certificate with specialization in Certificate in Consumer Protection (CCP), Certificate in Human Rights (CHR), Post-Graduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Rights (PGDIPR) and Awareness Course on Intellectual Property Rights (AIPR).

- offer of degree, diploma and certificate programmes related to the needs of employment as necessary for building the economy of the country;
- provide opportunities for higher education to a large cross-section of people, in particular the disadvantaged segments of society;
- promote acquisition and up-gradation of knowledge and offer opportunities for training/retraining in the contexts of innovation and research;
- encourage an innovative system of university level education, flexible and open with regard to methods and pace of learning, combination of courses, eligibility for enrolment, age of entry, conduct of examination and delivery of the programmes to encourage excellence; and
- coordinate, promote, assess and accredit institutions and programmes offered by open and distance learning system as also to prevent through such measures as are considered appropriate, institutions from offering sub-standard courses and programmes.

Need for e-learning

The E-learning programme is intended to make learning a fun-filled and interactive experience. The programme is developed by quality e-learning experts and qualified instructional designers. The programme is designed for children from Standards I to X across all subjects. The curriculum is as prescribed and followed by the respective State boards. The complete syllabus is made in an audio-visual



format. The audio-visual format comprises an interactive question bank and employs a child-friendly interface

Modus Operandi

- The school is provided with an E-Learning system comprising of hardware and software tools
- On-site support for three years is provided for the entire system including software upgrades
- The school teachers are well-trained to seamlessly operate the E-Learning-equipped classrooms
- Wockhardt Foundation monitors the daily operation of E-Learning at the Schools

Hardware

- CPUs
- LCD projector
- Mouse
- Keyboard
- Screen
- Inverter + battery for power back-up.

Software

A comprehensive educational software including State-Board-based curriculum from Standards I to X in local languages for all subjects. Additional features of the software:

- Career guidance
- Question bank
- Science-based videos
- Basic spoken English
- School encyclopaedia
- Software usage tracker
- Adult literacy programme
- Vocabulary trainer and dictionary
- Planetarium
- Math games
- Periodic table of elements



STUDENTS	TEACHERS	SCHOOL	DONORS
Interesting	Support	Attendance	Goodwill
Interactive	Quality Content – State Board	Cost Effective	Far reaching impact
Retention	Technology / Computers	Maintenance	Wallpaper & Launch Screen in the software recognizing donor's contribution. Donor's name is displayed every time the teacher logs in to the software.
Attendance	Question Bank	Proven Contents	
Scores		Not dependent on Net Connectivity / Costs	

Social Investment

- INR 1,20,000 per school/per classroom
- This is inclusive of project management cost
- Identification of school
- Agreement with school
- Coordination with software, hardware vendors for installation
- Purchase and installation of inverter
- Help desk at Wockhardt Foundation office for emergency issues
- Impact assessment

Wockhardt Foundation has been running this programme for the underprivileged students of the Parali Village Ashram School in Thane district and the results have been extremely encouraging. The school has secured a 95% pass percentage in the Maharashtra State Board SSC results this year, as compared to 80% in 2012 and 45% in 2011.

Given the outstanding performance of the Parali Ashram School, Wockhardt has implemented E-Learning at 26 publically-funded schools in the Aurangabad district.

CONCLUSION

IGNOU practices a flexible and open system of education in regard to methods and place of learning, combination of courses and eligibility for enrolment, age for entry and methods of evaluation etc. The University has adopted an integrated strategy for imparting instruction. This consists of providing print materials, audio-video, tapes, broadcast on radio and educational TV Channels, teleconferencing, video conferencing as also the face to face counselling, at its study centers located throughout the country. The University has adopted the method of continuous assessment and term-end examination for evaluation of the performance of its students enrolled in various subjects.



Educational development of North-East Region (NER) is another focus area and 10% of the Annual Plan Budget used to be extensively earmarked to the development of this region. The University has established 8 Regional Centres in the North-East Region. One of the significant focuses of IGNOU is to pay special attention to disadvantaged sections of the society and regions. The university has developed a number of programmes for women and special study centers were established in the backward areas and districts with low female literacy rate.

IGNOU makes use the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) extensively for imparting education. In addition to self-instructional printed materials, the university utilizes Audi/Video programme tapes, tele-conferencing, Gyan Vani (FM Radio), Gyan Darshan (educational TV Channels), computer networks for imparting instructions. With the launce of “One Stop Education Portal SAKSHAT”; in October 2006 by the then President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, IGNOU developed plan to use this platform, extensively to provide knowledge resources and impart education to its students. IGNOU has a large number of programmes, ranging from purely academic to technical, professional and vocational at various levels leading to award of Competency Certificates, Diplomas, Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctor’s degree to successful candidates. Many of these programmes are modular in nature.

Reference

<http://pgdel.ignouonline.ac.in/pgdel/aboutthepgdel.html>

<http://www.icde.org/Indira+Gandhi+National+Open+University+%28IGNOU%29+India.9UFRvI12.ips>

<http://www.htcampus.com/college/indira-gandhi-national-open-university-school-law/>