

M.Ed. –SEMESTER-II

Paper CC8: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND ICT

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Unit-I, Chapter-3(b)

Dear Students,

Our chapter-3 of unit-1 is going on and we have understood about CIET in the last PDF. Today, we will try to explore **IGNOU**.

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)

Indira Gandhi National Open University known as **IGNOU** is a Central University located at New Delhi, India. Named after former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi, the university was established in 1985 with a budget of 20 million, after the Parliament of India passed the *Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985* (IGNOU Act 1985). IGNOU is run by the central government of India, and with total active enrollment of over 4 million students, claims to be the largest university in the world.

Objectives of IGNOU

- IGNOU was founded to serve the Indian population by means of distance and open education.
- The main aim of IGNOU was to provide quality higher education opportunities to all segments of society.
- It aims to encourage, coordinate and set standards for distance and open education in India.
- To strengthens the human resources of India through education.
- To promote extension and training along with teaching and research.
- To acts as a national resource centre, and to promote and maintain standards of distance education in India.

History

In 1970, the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare organized a seminar on 'Open University' in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the UGC and the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO. After the seminar recommendation, an open university in India has been established on an experimental basis. Starting in 1974, the government of India appointed

an eight-member working group on the open university, 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. They recommended that the university should have jurisdiction over the entire country so that, once 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 included:

Admission procedure, age relaxation, preparation of reading materials, setting up of core group scholars in different fields, setting up of study centers, 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.

In 1985, the Union Government made a policy statement for establishment of a national open university. A Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Education to chalk out the plan of action of the national Open University. On the basis of the report of the Committee, the Union Government introduced a Bill in the Parliament. In August 1985, both the Houses of the Parliament passed the Bill. Subsequently, the Indira Gandhi National Open University came into existence on 20 September 1985, named after the late prime minister.

In 1989, the first Convocation was held and more than 1,000 students graduated and were awarded their diplomas. IGNOU audio-video courses were first broadcast by radio and television in 1990 and IGNOU awarded degrees received full recognition by the University Grants Commission in 1992 as being equivalent to those of other universities in the country.

In 1999, IGNOU launched the first virtual campus in India, beginning with the delivery of Computer and Information Sciences courses via the Internet.

As of 2011 IGNOU has served over 3 million students in India and 40 other countries abroad.

Schools

IGNOU has 21 schools and a network of 67 regional centers, 2667 study centers, and 29 overseas centers (in 15 countries). Approximately 20% of all students enrolled in higher education in India are enrolled with IGNOU. IGNOU offers 226 academic programs comprising courses at certificate, diploma and degree levels.

Research Unit

The Research Unit has been established at the Indira Gandhi National Open University vide notification dated 6 October 2008. Prior to that, research-related activities were looked after by the Academic Coordination Division.

The Unit has been established with the following objectives:

- To conduct Research Council and Research Council's Standing Committee meetings for developing policies and frameworks for the conduct of research activities.
- To register and monitor all full-time and part-time MPhil and PhD candidates.
- To engage Research Teaching Assistants under IGNOU-DEC RTA Scheme for conduct of research and teaching.
- To conduct workshops/seminars on research methodology for full-time and part-time research candidates.
- To facilitate systemic/discipline based research in the University.

Accreditation & recognition

(IGNOU) has been granted the authority to confer degrees by Clause 5(1)(iii) of the IGNOU Act 1985. IGNOU is also recognized as a Central University by the University Grants Commission of India (UGC). The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) recognizes IGNOU conferred degrees as on par with the degrees conferred by its members and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) recognizes the Master of Computer Applications and Master of Business Administration program of IGNOU.

In 1993, IGNOU was designated by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) as its first Centre of Excellence for Distance Education empowered *"to actively participate in Commonwealth co-operative endeavors to identify, nurture, and strengthen open learning institutions throughout the Commonwealth, particularly in the Third World .."*

IGNOU also operates as an accreditor for Open University and distance education systems in India through the Distance Education Council (DEC).