NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY (NSOU)

Accredited by NAAC with Grade-A

Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA)

One-Day National Workshop
On
'Programme Approval Process of ODL Programme in India and Strategies Adopted for Quality Assurance'

Programme Report

Workshop Coordinates:
Date & Time-30th December 2022, Friday; 10:30am-4pm
Venue: Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar, NSOU HQs, Salt Lake, Kolkata
No. of participants: 86 (Director-CIQA of SOUs, faculties of NSOU, SoUs and DDEs, officers of NSOU)

Overture: As construed in the UGC (ODL & Online Programmes Regulations), 2020, a Programme Project Report (PPR) of a Higher Educational Institution is a document prepared to introduce a new programme, which must contain minutiae of –

(a) programme objectives and outcomes;
(b) nature of target group of learners;
(c) appropriateness of the programme with quality assurance for acquiring specific skills;
(d) programme content designing and developing;
(e) cost estimates for development of the programme; and
(f) admission, delivery and evaluation norms

All these are elucidated in the University Grants Commission [Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes] Regulations, 2020-Published on 07/09/2020, Gazette notification No. F. 1-1/2020(DEB-I, 04/09/2020. The present recognition of 30 (UG and PG) programmes is valid up to the academic session 2022-23. As per UGC (ODL and OL Programmes) Regulations 2020, prior approval is required to obtain to offer the DEGREE programmes w.e.f. July 2023. To consider the initiation of programme approval process [Preparation of Programme Project Report (PPR)] as per requirements of UGC Regulations, the university have to comply with the conditions to get the recognition from UGC, viz., preparation of Programme Project Report (PPR), faculty requirement for UG/PG, availability of Self Learning Materials, etc.
Keeping in view the enormous growth of the University; multifarious activities performed by the University; directive of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and University Grants Commission; the CIQA primarily focuses to shoulder the responsibilities of generating and promoting awareness for quality assurance; to undertake self-evaluative and reflective exercises for continuous improvement in all the systems and operations of the University.

Considering the backdrop, CIQA organized a One-Day National Workshop on 'Programme Approval Process of ODL Programme in India and Strategies Adopted for Quality Assurance'

with the objectives to orient the faculty members of the 05 Schools of Studies, NSOU on the guidelines of PPR to comply with the conditions before submission of application for programme approval and also highlighting the qualitative aspects of the degree programmes and it's sustenance.

Objectives:
1. Awareness on the procedure of Approval process of ODL
2. Orientation on Approval process of ODL Programme in India
3. Clarify doubts and glitches faced during the application process and related issues
4. Quality measures across the functionaries of the HEI, especially the curricular aspects.

The one-day workshop illuminated the minds of many by bringing forth the opportunity for discussion among the illuminati from the sphere of open and distance education. The focus of the workshop was on 'Programme Approval Process of ODL Programme in India and Strategies Adopted for Quality Assurance' was very much appropriate and needs pondering upon.

All the contributors of open and distance learning in India were urged to register for this workshop to take full advantage of the lectures and technical sessions that have specially been designed for them under the guidance of experts.

Nature of the participants: Dignitaries, guests and delegates across India from UGC, NAAC, various State Open Universities and Directorate of Distance Education, the Netaji Subhas Open University fraternity -Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Directors of School of Studies, Academic & Administrative Heads, Faculty members, officers and staff members. Directors of CIQA from KKHSOU, KSOU, Registrar, TNOU, faculty members and officers from SoUs and Centre of Distance Education (CODE) were also acknowledged for their august presence off the dais.

Programme Flow: The National-level workshop progressed systematically through-

Excerpts of the Addresses:
Opening:
The workshop started with a brief inaugural in the presence of a host of guests and invitees. Dr. B.S Ponmudiraj, Adviser, NAAC graced the workshop as the Chief Guest. The other 'dignitaries of the Inaugural Session included Professor Ranjan Chakrabarty, Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University, Professor Ashok Nath Basu , former Vice- Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Professor Sharanappa V. Halse, Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka State Open University, Dr. Vinod Singh Yadav, Dy. Secretary, UGC-DEB and Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA.

Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director of CIQA, while introducing the theme to the participants emphasized the ever-increasing role of Open and Distance Learning in India. He introduced the intent of the event and also focused on the objectives behind organising this event. The workshop, he believed, would not only help the participants in knowing the rules and regulations but it would also help them to understand the different nuances of programme approval process of ODL.

Prof. Ranjan Chakrabarty, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University in his introductory speech praised Dr Anirban Ghosh and his team for organising such an event. He further welcomed all the participants who attended the event.
" A lot of things depend on State Open Universities. Higher education can serve as a catalyst in a country like India and can change the society around us", he added.

Prof. Ashok Nath Basu, Former Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University, stressed on the need of life-long education. He emphasized that one needs to learn how to get education and should pose questions to the teachers. He asked teachers to encourage students to ask questions. "Quality is assured if the quality of teacher gets better. Teacher himself is associated with the creation of knowledge, Ample time and resources should be provided to the teachers", he added. He also stressed on the role of guardians and parents in orienting the students towards the choice of study. "Teachers can guide parents. Administration should be open minded and be careful in the present system", he added. He concludes his address by stressing on the importance of quality education.

Dr. B.S Ponmudiraj, Adviser, NAAC focussed his talk entirely on the Quality assurance perspective. He highlighted how to go about the policies in line with the National Education Policy 2020. He stressed on the need of 'One Data One SSR'. He also urged the higher education institutes to organise Criteria wise workshops.

Dr. Vinod Singh Yadav, Dy. Secretary, UGC-DEB in his keynote address explained different requirements for the UGC-DEB recognition process for the approval of new programmes of ODL. He also emphasized on the eligibility criteria regarding the application for approval of new programmes. His deliberation was supplemented with reasonable and resourceful PPT slides.

Professor Sharanappa V. Halse, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Karnataka State Open University in his presidential address stressed on the need to improve the quality of education. "Syllabus needs to be framed according to the need of the society. We have to change the mental status. We have to assure the quality. Indian education is rich and best among the world", he added.

Q & A session: Few queries and doubts were raised by the faculty members and other participants. Those were addressed and explained by the speakers. Dr. Yadav's erudite responses clarified and satiated the seekers.

Vote of Thanks: The inaugural session ended with the Vote of thanks offered by Mr. Debajit Goswami, Asst Professor of Public administration, NSOU.

Technical session I: Programme Approval Process as per UGCRegulations 2020
Chair**:** *Dr. Vinod Singh Yadav, Dy. Secretary, UGC-DEB*
Presentations:
1. *Dr. Pranab Saikia*, Director-CIQA, KK Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU)::Dr. Saikia ushered the initiatives taken by the KKHSOU in maintaining the quality controls and quality assurance in all the functions of the University. His presentation was interesting and invoked clear comprehension and ideas for quality improvement.
2. *Dr. Niranjan Raj S.*, Director-CIQA, Karnataka State Open University (KSOU): Dr. Niranjan focused on the various activities and inclined more on the overview of KSOU. He also put into record the amassed opportunities that the university has taken in the recent past to mark the quality benchmarks of a HEI.

The house was open for an encouraging and promising interaction among all attendees.

Dr. Vinod Singh Yadav , Dy. Secretary, UGC-DEB, chairperson of the session thanked the speakers for their lucid and compact deliberations.

Technical Session II: Strategies adopted for Quality Assurance & Implementation of NEP 2020 in SoUs
Chair: *Prof. Sharanappa V. Halse, Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka State Open University*
Presentations:
1. *Dr. K. Rathnakumar* , Registrar, Tamil Nadu Open University (TNOU) portrayed a brief catchy details of TNOU. His enlightening presentation was appraised by one and all. Dr. K. Rathnakumar, Registrar, Tamil Nadu Open University, showcased how his university provided e-governance to the learners. "Apps are being provided to the learners. Varied documents are accessible via the mobile app", he added. He further highlighted the different research projects undertaken by the faculty members. His queries on approval and recognition process of B.Ed-ODL was duly redressed by Dr. Yadav, negating subvert actions of the regulatory authority.

2. *Dr. Gagan Singh,* SoM & C, Uttarakhand Open University (UoU) vividly deliberated on the quality initiatives and best practices of the UOU. He also elucidated on the various ICT-based interventions, especially curbing the students' grievance redressal system of the university and its success. Dr. Gagan Singh, School of Management and Commerce,Uttarakhand Open University gave a presentation on the implementation of NEP atUttarakhand Open University.He further highlighted about the UOU's community radio "Hello Haldwani", where they organise frequent talks on pertinent topics.

3. *Dr. Anirban Ghosh*, Director-CIQA, Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) primarily dealt with all requirements and guidelines as urged by the apex bodies and regulatory authorities like UGC-DEB, NAAC, MoE etc. Right from the schematic representation of the steps involved in approval process to quality measures, he deliberated upon every single aspect significant to the PPR and quality strengthening. Prof. Ghosh also touched upon the requisitions of NEP 2020 in bringing out a holistic and multidisciplinary approach in education. Additionally, Prof. Ghosh summarized the cutting-edge ICT enabled pedagogy of the university and how learners can accrue benefits during their course of study at NSOU

All the deliberations were supplemented with reasonable and resourceful PPT slides.

Outcome of the Workshop: PPR is a self-disclosure by the HEI about launching the programme in the Open and Distance Learning mode and/or online mode. The Institution is expected to define specific aims and objectives for each of the academic programmes which will give the direction to launch a programme and will allow focusing on results. These aims and objectives, in turn will help to demonstrate what has been achieved. The programme shall be planned with clear deliverables and knowledge experiences to be gained and ensure continuous improvement in the operations of the University through adoption of quality strategies.

Closure and Way Forward: The technical sessions were summarized by Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst Prof., Education, NSOU. The house was invited for interaction and suggestions. The delegates and participants had a fruitful discussion and exchange of views. It was a promising event that led to a true orientation of the faculties and officers of HEI across India on programme approval process-its technical know-hows and strategies of quality adoption in ODLIs. Dr. Upadhyay extended gratitude to all the concerned visionaries, esteemed dignitaries, delegates, staff and members of the academia for making the workshop outcome-based and meaningful. Participation Certificates were distributed. The workshop members assembled for a group photograph to clinch the event.

The entire workshop was conscientiously facilitated by Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst Prof., Education, NSOU, and the Master of the ceremony.

-----Report Prepared by
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