



UGC-DEB sponsored

Orientation Programme on

**BDP – English Counselling in the Open and Distance Learning Mode**

16<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Organised by

School of Humanities  
Netaji Subhas Open University  
DD – 26, Sector – 1  
Salt Lake City  
Kolkata – 700064

- The BDP Course at NSOU:

As the only State Open University in West Bengal, Netaji Subhas Open University is also the only institution in our state that offers the Bachelors Degree Program (BDP) in the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. The relevance of ODL in the education scenario in general, and to the Indian knowledge society in particular does not need to be stated or emphasized anew. That the combined admission figures of BDP level subjects for the academic session 2017-18 at NSOU have reached nearly fifty thousand and is still counting, is testimony to the fact that the flexibility of the mode is the choice of the day for innumerable learners. It is indeed time that all of us who are part of the system in whatever capacity, begin to take serious note of the academic responsibility that such sky-rocketing admission figures conjoin upon us. As members of the NSOU family, we realize that while 'Reaching the Unreached' remains our broad mission, it also verily stands the test of quality control, if we are to claim equivalence of degrees for our learners who walk into the threshold of this university with the dream of graduating from a UGC recognized institution of higher learning. The only difference between teaching the undergraduate course at NSOU in comparison with any other college in the conventional mode is that we have the additional and rigorous challenge of imparting standardized quality education to learners spread out across the length and breadth of West Bengal through our network of study centres. Let us remember that a registered learner in the ODL mode actually courts the greater challenge of self-motivated study towards acquiring the degree of her/his choice, and in so doing, s/he has the right to receive the support – academic and administrative, that is promised. Hence, both as stake holders in the ODL system, and as partners in progress, our aim is to constantly reach out to fellow academics far and wide, who have taken up the task of being the face of the university to learners.

- The School of Humanities:

Of the six Schools of Studies presently in existence at NSOU, the School of Humanities offers the BDP course in two subjects – Bengali and English; and these two disciplines have a cumulative intake that amounts to more than half of the total enrolment. Apart from this, the School also offers the PG course in Bengali, English, and English Language Teaching; as also Diploma and

Certificate courses in ELT and Journalism and Mass Communication. The faculty strength of SoH comprises of one Associate Professor, four Assistant Professors, and one Lecturer. The mission of SOH is to foster a community, cutting across institutional lines, that will disseminate the study of language and literatures in vernaculars and English, encourage trans-literary activities, become a centre for pan-India literary confluence and in due course of time evolve as a window to the wider world from this part of the country. In a nutshell, the endeavour of the SOH will be to rear itself in the true spirit of Open Learning. In the context of existing courses both at Graduation and Post-Graduation levels, the School is on constant vigil in updating and revising syllabi, monitoring academic delivery, organising counselor workshops and learner interactions as also nurturing our learners with an individualised holistic approach. Members of the faculty function from the campuses at Salt Lake and Kalyani.

- **About the Orientation Programme**

The curricular framework of any academic activity in the ODL mode has certain key academic components – Personal Contact Programme (PCP), Assignment submission, and Term End Examinations. All three activities involve both the learner and the teacher – the latter either as counselor or as examiner in different paradigms. This Orientation Programme is primarily intended to facilitate interactions between the planning and delivery levels of the BDP English course. It comes at a time when the new syllabus of BDP English (introduced in 2015) is up and running, and the evolution of Self Learning Materials is in the final phase. This has been the first major syllabus overhaul in English since the very inception of the course, and its implementation has been in a phased manner which is the outcome of sustained research. The orientation Programme intends to share with counselors the broad objectives of the new syllabus, the planning and delivery of Learning Objectives in the print SLM, and its commensurate Instructional Design. It is necessary to ensure parity between the aforementioned categories and its desired academic output through student interactions at the Personal Contact Programmes. We are aware of the challenges this entails at the ground level, and sincerely feel that a strong feedback mechanism is the necessity of the hour if the desired levels of success are to be achieved with students.

Accordingly, the following lines of discussion have been identified as being the broad area of deliberations at the Orientation Programme:

- Discussions on the desired outcomes of the syllabus
  - Constructive feedback on commensurate achievement levels of the SLMs
  - Understanding the logic of Assignment and Term End Question Papers, and gearing PCP planning towards that end
  - Setting expected proficiency levels with answering question papers and discussion on marking schemes
  - Hands-on problem solving activity through simulated classroom sequences
  - Model presentation of Counseling session by Resource persons
  - General feedback by counselors
- Participation at the Orientation Programme

It is practically impossible to conduct any programme where all counselors engaged in the concerned course can be accommodated at one go. Keeping this logistic issue in mind, the School of Humanities proposes to conduct a series of such events phase-wise across the state. For the present programme, Coordinators of the concerned Study Centres are to nominate one (1) Counselor each, who is presently engaged with BDP-EEG instruction, on the prescribed proforma appended with this communication. Such nominations must reach the office of the **Officer in Charge, School of Humanities, Netaji Subhas Open University, DD – 26, Sector 1, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700064 not later than 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017**. Centre coordinators are requested to superscribe the envelope thus:

**“Application for Participation in Orientation program for BDP-EEG Counselors”**

It may kindly be noted that all relevant columns in the Application Form (including contact details) must be duly filled. This is of extreme importance, since the contact details of the counselor will henceforth remain the only channel of all further communication.

Counselors nominated for attending the Orientation Programme will be eligible for Travelling Allowances as permissible under NSOU norms specifically applicable for such events. Their

participation will also be duly recognised and certified. It is expected that counselors will be adequately prepared to brief fellow academics at the programme with the feedback on the BDP EEG course from their respective centres. Participating counselors will also be expected to share the discussions at the workshop with their co-counselors in the respective Study Centres.

With these objectives, we sincerely hope that the Orientation Programme will mark a new beginning in our interactions with fellow academics and key resource persons of the BDP English course of Netaji Subhas Open University. On behalf of the School of Humanities in general and the faculty of English of our university in particular, this communication is to welcome you to participate at the Orientation Programme and register your meaningful contribution.

### Tentative Programme Schedule

10.00 am to 10.30 am: Registration

10.30 am to 11.30 am: Inaugural Session – Encompassing the scope of the Orientation Program

11.30 am to 11.45 am: Tea Break

11.45 am to 1.45 pm: First Technical Session

1.45 pm to 2.15 pm: Lunch

2.15 pm to 4.15 pm: Second Technical Session

4.15 pm to 5.00 pm: Summing Up

5.00 pm: Distribution of Certificates and Payments, followed by Tea