



Memo no. SoSci/673

Date: 27-04-2018

Call for Papers for One-day National Conference on
‘Distance Education and its Obscurities: Addressing the “Inaccessibility”
Conundrum in Mathematics and Other Disciplines’
On 9th June, 2018

Concept Note

The connotation of Education in itself has two very important elements incorporated within it; one is the concept of life long education and the other is the concept of universal education. In order to address both the elements, distance education along with the conventional idea of education through regular mode plays a very important role. With the advent of welfare states, and the subsequent idea of education as a matter of public policy, the nations along with International Organizations like the United Nations are constantly trying to promote lifelong, universal education and at the same time trying to mitigate and solve the various challenges faced by the institutions. Distance Education as a system of disseminating academic curriculum was developed with the objective of reaching those sections of the society who remain underprivileged, compared to those opulent sections of the society who are exposed to a plethora of alternatives at their disposal. Open Distance Learning have been a culmination of evolution from the antedated techniques of correspondence to a more contemporary *Digitized* version of edification. If we trickle down at the micro level, education as a process is being challenged socially, economically, politically, geographically and most importantly psychologically. In this context, distance education, as a method of eradicating these impediments and challenges, have taken the centre stage in the debates regarding the successes and failures of building educated societies. One of the major challenges faced by the distance education is the inaccessibility of the study centres, which includes geographical inaccessibility, psychological inaccessibility and physical inaccessibility between the students and teachers. Although the ushering in of Information and Communication Technology and its subsequent incorporation into the educational sector seems to provide a long term solution, ‘Inaccessibility’ still remains a grave problem that precludes the very idea of ‘reaching the unreached’.



It is essentially important to note that learners enrolled in such institutions mainly belong to those sectors, for whom affording regular mode of higher education is costly in terms of economy, time and merit. Apart from the physical inaccessibility, emotional detachment with the classroom premise remain another reason for the estrangement of ODL institution. The feeling of oneness with the institution is nearly absent amongst the learners of the Open Universities. This is somewhat antithetical to the regular mode of university education. In regular universities students develop an emotional attachment with the classrooms and the campus. Whereas in case of the Distance Education Systems the absence of institutional infrastructure creates a psychological barrier amongst the students, this in turn emerges, as the major cause of disinterestedness amongst the learners to attend the classes held at study centres.

In this context, the Distance Education Institutions in general and the Open Universities in particular are working shoulder to shoulder with the government in mitigating these challenges. One of the imperatives in order to mitigate the challenge of ‘Inaccessibility’ can be greater use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the delivery of lectures. Propagating science subjects through distance education has always remained a daunting task; mathematics being one of the pivotal discourse within the realm of science requires technology as a means to edifice the knowledge. This in turn requires the faculties and teachers to have sufficient knowledge of ICT and knowledge of how to develop e-content and Audio-Visual Lectures (AVL) being one such pivotal tool, especially for a course like Mathematics. Somewhat similar is the situation in other disciplines where, incorporation of ICT and its implications calls for academic discussions and debates.

Thus, a one-day conference is proposed to be organized by the School of Sciences, which essentially aims at enhancing the opportunities of using ICT in promulgating Mathematics as well as other disciplines through the system of Open Learning. In the backdrop of the decision of making the Post Graduate science courses of the University ICT enabled from the forthcoming academic session by the authority, the proposed conference will also help to prepare a comprehensive plan of developing various options under ICT for instance, Audio-Video Lectures, Webinars and Digital Self Learning Materials etc.



**The conference committee also perceives and desires to publish a post-conference Edited Volume that shall amass the presented views of the scholars as well as few excellent articles from Resource Persons in the format of a Book.*

Sub Themes:

- **Inaccessibility: Definition and Scope.**
- **Approaches in Mitigation: Mathematical Approach, Socio-Economic Approach, Geo-Spatial Approach, Technical Approach and others.**
- **Discipline oriented decision making regarding the incorporation of ICT and the consequential implications and issues.**
- **Role of State: Laws and Policies, Implementation, Target Areas.**
- **Information and Communication Technology: ICT and the Indian Scenario, whether bridging the gap or propelling abeyance?**

Interested Scholars are requested to contribute their valued opinions and research articles for the conference. **All abstracts and papers should be sent to the email id: projectsc.wbnsou@gmail.com .**

Guidelines for Submitting an Abstract:

Abstracts should not be of more than **400 words** and should contain **5 to 6 keywords**. The abstract should be sent in **MS Word Format (12 pt. Font)**. There should be a Proper Title followed by the name of the Contributor/s, Designation and Institution of Affiliation, Contact number and Email ID. Joint papers are acceptable but the number of authors should be limited to maximum Three authors. Abstracts are subjected to rejection on the basis of a Double Blind Review. **All Abstracts must be submitted by 15th May, 2018. Last date for informing about the acceptance of Abstract is 19th May, 2018.**

Guidelines for Submitting Paper:

Articles should be prepared and sent in **MS Word / LaTeX format** (word limit should not exceed **6000 words**). The standard **Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double spacing** should be used for preparing the script. **All titles and subtitles should be in Times New Roman 'Bold' font. Subtitles should be in Times New Roman 12 pt. bold and the main title**



should be Times New Roman 14 pt. bold font. All graphs and tables should be properly cited. APA 6.0 referencing style should be followed, with a proper bibliography (Alphabetically and Chronologically arranged) at the end of script. Additional information should be provided as ENDNOTES, footnotes are not allowed. All Papers should be submitted by 1st June, 2018 via email.

- Double blind review process will be followed in the final selection of the papers. The university has every right to reject any paper. The university may also suspend the process of publication due to unprecedented circumstances or unforeseen situations. The copyright of the papers published in the proposed volume will belong to Netaji Subhas Open University.
- The contributors are also requested to mention their Name, Designation and Institutional Affiliation, Contact Number and email id in the title page of the paper. A Declaration stating the originality of the paper and a statement mentioning that the paper has not been presented or published or communicated for publication elsewhere should also be submitted along with the paper to the editors in the abovementioned email address. The University or the Editors shall not bear any responsibility so far as the originality of the papers are concerned. The decision of the Editors regarding selection of papers will be final and binding.

Conference Venue: Seminar Hall (1st floor), Head Quarters, NSOU

Conference Date: 09-06-2018

A Registration fees shall be charged from the participants and presenters for the conference

✚ *Academicians and Teachers: Rs. 800*

✚ *Research Scholars and Students: Rs. 500*



**NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
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Kalyani Campus: First Floor, Academic Building, Kalyani Ghoshpara, Kalyani 741235
Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

All payments should be made online through bank transfer and the information regarding the success of payment (snapshot of bank deposit slips) should be sent separately to the above mentioned email id.

Bank Account Details;

Name of the Account Holder - Director, School of Science NSOU

Bank Name: Allahabad Bank

Branch Name: Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700064

Ac/No. - 50189358220

IFSC Code: 23374808

For any inquiry regarding the conference and conference related issues, kindly communicate with the organisers through an email.

Email Id: projectsc.wbnsou@gmail.com .

Organising Committee:

Organising Secretaries: Dr. Sanjay Kumar Ghosal (9432902847)

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Kajal De

Director, School of Sciences

Date: 27-04-2018