

The conference aims at reaching a consensus on the potentials of ICT in higher Education and desires to open new arenas of research and academic discussions. I believe, that your presence will facilitate us in exploring this field of research and will open new dimensions of innovation.

Date: 18/5/2018

Prof. Kajal De
Director, School of Sciences

Organizing Committee:

Chief Patron:

Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU

Chairperson:

Professor Kajal De, Director, School of Sciences and Professor of Mathematics, NSOU

Organizing Secretaries:

Dr. Sanjoy Kumar Ghosal, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, NSOU

Mr. Mrinal Nath, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, NSOU

Treasurer:

Dr. Sintu Ganai, Assistant Professor of Chemistry NSOU

R.S.V.P: *Sampurna Goswami, Project Assistant, School of Sciences, NSOU.*

Program:

Inaugural session: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Welcome Address:

Prof. Kajal De, Director, School of Sciences, NSOU.

Address of the Guest of Honour:

Uttarakhand Open University.

Release of Edited Volumes of School of Sciences

Address by the Key Note Speaker:

Padma Shri Professor Ajoy Kumar Ray, IIT Kharagpur and Former Director, IEST, Shibpur

Presidential Address:

Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, Vice Chancellor, NSOU.

Vote of Thanks:

Dr. Sanjoy Kumar Ghosal, Asst. Prof. of Mathematics.

Tea Break: 12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Plenary Session: 12:15 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

Chair Person:

Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, IIT Kharagpur

Invited Lecture:

Dr. Maloy Banerjee, IIT Kanpur

Parallel Sessions: 12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Chairperson (I):

Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, IIT Kharagpur

Chairperson (II):

Prof. Sanjay Sen, Retd. CU

Lunch: 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Parallel Sessions: 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Chairperson (III):

Dr. Maloy Banerjee, IIT Kanpur

Chairperson (IV):

Prof. Arindam Bhattacharya, Prof. of Mathematics, Jadavpur University

Tea Break: 3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Panel Discussion: 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Coordinator:

Prof. Kajal De, Director, School of Sciences, NSOU

Valedictory Ceremony and Distribution of

Certificates: 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

UGC- DEB SPONSORED ONE-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

Distance Education and its Obscurities: Addressing the "Inaccessibility" Conundrum in Mathematics and Other Disciplines



Organized by
School of Sciences

Netaji Subhas Open University

9th June, 2018

**Venue: Seminar Hall (1st Floor), NSOU
DD-26, Salt Lake, Sector I, Kolkata-700064**

NSOU: An Overview

Netaji Subhas Open University is one of the premiere Open Universities of West Bengal and one of the renowned Open Distance Learning Institute in the World. The university is working tirelessly to achieve its goal of 'Reaching the Unreached'. The university has been awarded with the most prestigious International Award titled, 'Excellence in Distance Education Award (EDEA) for Institutional Achievement in Open and Distance Education by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Vancouver, Canada. NSOU is emerging as a modern university well equipped with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as Instructional Aide with adept faculty members who are discovering new edifying techniques with ICT. With a humongous student base and over 70 academic programs managed by 3 Regional Centres spread across the length and breadth of the state, NSOU is emerging as an institution where technology meets education, giving rise to promising colours of innovation.

The School of Sciences

The School of Sciences (SoSci) is one of the most celebrated schools in the Netaji Subhas Open University. The school is full of vim and vigour and is highly spirited when it comes to the question of bringing about innovations in the academics and research orientation. The school provides both BDP courses in Physics, Chemistry and Botany and both BDP and PG courses in Mathematics (Applied/Pure), Geography (Urban), Zoology. The school have developed and well-equipped laboratory facilities for Geography, Physics,

Chemistry, Zoology and a gouging Computer Science laboratory. At, present 60 study centres, have been entrusted with the task of edifying the courses under SoSci. The school frequently organizes lecture programs, seminars and conferences of both National and International recognitions. One of the most unique events organised by the school is the Laboratory Counselling-cum-Evaluation Sessions (LCES) which is acknowledged in many ways. Therefore, SoSci portrays a picture where the faculties, the students and the staffs, within the periphery of NSOU, makes a well-knit family, a family that is exuberant, effervescent and at the same time whole-heartedly devoted to their purview of activity.

'Inaccessibility of Study Centres: Challenges faced by Distance Education in building an Educated society': A brief Introduction to our Project

The thin line of differentiation that lies in between the Regular mode and the Distance Mode of education is highlighted by the physical presence and the tangible communication between the learners and the Teachers. The ODL institutes are flexible in the sense that the institutes allow students with eclectic academic backgrounds, age groups and professions to continue and complete their education without abnegating their professional and personal commitments What is also important is to understand that rural communities, which remains a target group of such institutes suffer from the lack of communication facilities and often cannot access the study centres, faculties and the university

infrastructures. Apart from such physical inaccessibility, psychological inaccessibility, emotional non-attachment with the institution is another determinant that needs to be addressed.

Objective of the Conference:

Following the above explanation regarding the dilemma of 'Inaccessibility', and considering the fact that edifying highly technical science subject like Mathematics through ODL mode is extremely challenging and daunting task, the UGC-DEB sponsored one-day National Conference aims at enhancing the opportunities of using ICT in promulgating Mathematics as a serious science subject 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.

Invitation

Dear Academicians/ Participants,

It is an occasion of immense pleasure for me to invite you all to this 'UGC-DEB sponsored One-Day National Conference on, 'Distance Education and Its Obscurities: Addressing the "Inaccessibility" Conundrum in Mathematics and Other Disciplines' to be held on 9th June, 2018 Saturday in the Seminar Hall (1st Floor) of Netaji Subhas Open University, DD-26, Salt Lake, Sector I, Kolkata-64.