



**Dr Debnarayan Modak** (b. 1956) is presently Professor of Political Science at *Netaji Subhas Open University* (NSOU). He was the Director of the unified *School of Humanities & Social Sciences* and subsequently of the *School of Social Sciences* for about six years. Earlier, he served *Vidyasagar University*, Midnapore, for eighteen years and *Nabadwip Vidyasagar College*, Nadia, for nearly a decade. Besides teaching and

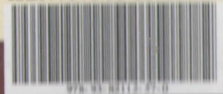
administration, Dr Modak has always been very active in multifarious research activities and his numerous publications bear the fruits of those. Apart from those published from the *School of Social Sciences*, NSOU, his major publications include *Politics of National Question in India : The Communist Approach (1942-64)*; *Pratiya Samaj O Rajniti : Jatiyata. Sampradayikata Ebang Dalit Prasanga* (in Bengali) and *Sahitya O Samaj Pragati : Banga Manisha-r Alope* (in Bengali). Added to these are some edited volumes like *Terrorism : Concepts and Problems*; *Open and Distance Learning : Future Perspectives* (Co-editor : Anirban Ghosh); *Women in Contemporary India : Aspects of Participation and Empowerment* (Co-editor : Parvin Khan); *Parasmonir Pradip Tomar* (A Bi-lingual Tribute to Rabindranath Tagore on his 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary) [Co-editor : Manan Kumar Mandal]



**Dr Chandan Basu** (b.1971) is Professor of History and Director, School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University. He did his Ph. D. in the Department of History Jadavpur University on the development of left ideology and politics in West Bengal during the post-colonial era. He is currently working on the social history of left politics in West Bengal. He has a very good number of publications to his credit. Besides those published by the

*School of Social Sciences*, NSOU, his other publications include *The Making of the Left Ideology in West Bengal: Culture, Political Economy, Revolution 1947-1970* (Kolkata: 2009) and *Radical Ideology and Controlled Politics: CPI and the History of West Bengal, 1947-1964* (Kolkata: 2015). He is also co-editor of 'Gender Socialization, Women Empowerment and Distance Education: History, Society and Culture' (Kolkata: 2014) and *Women, Violence and Law: An Intimate Interrogation - Volume I & II* (Kolkata: 2015 & 2016). Dr Basu has also published a number of papers in the reputed journals.

ISBN : 978-93-82112-59-5



Price : ₹ 750.00

Published by  
Registrar  
Netaji Subhas Open University  
DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 064

Teaching Social Sciences through Open and Distance Learning  
A Twenty First Century Perspective

Editors  
Debnarayan Modak  
Chandan Basu



# Teaching Social Sciences through Open and Distance Learning

A Twenty First Century Perspective

*Editors*

**Debnarayan Modak  
Chandan Basu**



**Netaji Subhas Open University**

DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 064

Website : [www.wbnsou.ac.in](http://www.wbnsou.ac.in)

# **Teaching Social Sciences through Open and Distance Learning A Twenty First Century Perspective**

## **Editors**

Debnarayan Modak  
Chandan Basu



**NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY**  
DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700 064

© Netaji Subhas Open University.

No part of this volume may be reproduced either electronically or by any means without written permission from the publisher.

**First Published:** September, 2017

**Published by:**

The Registrar,  
Netaji Subhas Open University,  
DD 26, Salt Lake City, Sector I,  
Kolkata - 700064  
Website: [www.wbnsou.ac.in](http://www.wbnsou.ac.in)

**ISBN:** 978-93-82112-59-4

**Price:** ₹ 750.00

**Printed by:**

Cyber Graphics

**Disclaimer:**

The views expressed by the authors/contributors are personal and do not necessarily represent the views of the University. It is the sole responsibility of the Authors for any legal ramifications for the contents in the research papers.

## FOREWORD

*Netaji Subhas Open University* (NSOU), since its inception in 1997, has crossed a number of important milestones in making breakthroughs in the fields of *Open and Distance Learning* (ODL) in the eastern region of the country. In the field of Social Sciences too, it has been contributing both in teaching and research in a very big way. Apart from imparting instructions to the thousands of learners covering different branches of social science disciplines through its network of comprehensive Student Support Services, the *School of Social Sciences (SoSS)*, which emanated from the erstwhile *School of Humanities & Social Sciences* in 2015, has been engaged in organising seminars, symposia, workshops etc. both in the core areas of the respective disciplines as well as in the applied aspects of ODL. It also undertakes several research projects with particular emphasis to carry forward the fruits of research to extend the border of ODL. The publications of the members of the School in different aspects of Social Science are also noteworthy.

The present publication entitled ***Teaching Social Sciences through ODL: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Perspective*** is the outcome of a National Seminar organised by the *School of Social Science*, NSOU, on 03 March, 2017 and attended by scholars all around and graced by some doyens in the disciplines of Social Sciences as well as the policy-makers of the ODL at different levels. The publication and the Seminar represents one of the functional aspects of a research project entitled ***Teaching Political Science through Open and Distance Learning: A Comparative Study of Student Support Services in Indian Universities*** undertaken by Dr Debnarayan Modak, Professor of Political Science, SoSS. It may be regarded as one of the pioneering attempts to assess the very status of the

teaching-learning process in social science disciplines under ODL. It may help one to understand the gaps, if any, between the promises and performances and to take fresh initiatives to make social science teaching through ODL more effective and fruitful. I congratulate Professor Chandan Basu, Director, SoSS and Professor Debnarayan Modak, the Principal Investigator of the Project and former Director of the School, for their initiatives and efforts to bring the contributions made in the Seminar under two covers. I am also very grateful to Professor Radharaman Chakraborti, the First Vice Chancellor of NSOU for contributing a thought-provoking lead article for the volume. I take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt thanks to the *Distance Education Bureau* of the *University Grants Commission* for making available to us the necessary financial assistance in this regard.

I do hope that the publication, will help all concerned to understand the specificities of the problems in this regard and enlighten us the scope of using the fruits of modern technology in commensurate with the potentialities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and encourage us to initiate further steps towards the quality assurance in teaching social science disciplines through ODL.



***Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar***

Vice-Chancellor

Netaji Subhas Open University

DD-26, Salt Lake City, Sector-I

Kolkata-700064

# Contents

## Foreword

*Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar*  
Vice Chancellor  
Netaji Subhas Open University

## Introduction

*Debnarayan Modak*  
*Chandan Basu*

## Looking Ahead

*Professor Radharaman Chakrabarti*  
First Vice Chancellor  
Netaji Subhas Open University

## SECTION : ONE

### **ODL, ICT and Knowledge Society: New Roles with Knowledge Gaps and Policy Apathy in India**

*Debal K. Sinha Roy* 25 - 41

### **Distributed Distance Learning: Designing a Prototype Portable Learning System**

*Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyaya* 42 - 57

### **Studying History : The Frontiers of Ideology, Identity and ODL**

*Chandan Basu* 58 - 70

**Debating Open and Distance Learning : A Feminist Perspective**  
*Barnana Guba Thakurta (Banerjee)* 71 - 83

**Application of Digital Rights Management System in Protecting Indigeneous Knowledge**  
*Barnali Roy Chowdbury* 84 - 96

## SECTION : TWO

**Reshaping the Future of Education through ODL**  
*Ashit Baran Aich* 97 - 103

**ODL in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century : Problems and Prospects**  
*Arnab Chowdbury* 104 - 114

**Importance of Open and Distance Learning in 21<sup>st</sup> Century India**  
*Debajit Goswami* 115 - 122

**Open and Distance Learning : Past, Present and Future**  
*Ananta Paul and Rakesh Manna* 123 - 137

**Making Distance Learning Programmes More Effective : Strategies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
*Arnab Das* 138 - 150

**Student Support Services in Distance Education: Overall Scenario**  
*Anwesha Acharya, Md. Kutubuddin Halder, Nimai Chand Maiti* 151 - 170

**Counselling Culture in ODL : Importance of Quality Assurance in Personal Contact Programmes**  
*Manosanta Biswas* 171 - 195

**Impact of Information and Communication Technology in Distance Education**  
*Arunava Samanta* 196 - 208

**A Casket of Novel Educational Resources: Learning through Distance Mode**  
*Moumita Sarkar and Chandan Adhikary* 209 - 218

### SECTION : THREE

**Teaching Social Science Disciplines through ODL : The Indian Scenario**  
*Debnarayan Modak* 219 - 250

**Social Sciences under ODL : An Evaluative Study of Dual Mode Universities in West Bengal**  
*Juran Krishna Sarkhel* 251 - 284

**Digitization and MOOCs : Exploring the Linkage and its Implications for Teaching Social Sciences through 'SWAYAM'**  
*Srabanti Choudhuri* 285 - 297

**Open Educational Resources in Social Sciences : Prospects in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
*Manoj Kumar Halder* 298 - 312



**Information Resources of Social Science  
Research Institutions in India : An Unexplored  
Area of ODL Support System**  
*Madhusri Ghosh Upadhaya* 313 - 336

**Developing Learner Autonomy and Enriching  
Teaching Learning Process through ICT in ODL:  
The Case of Social Sciences**  
*Monita Mitra* 337 - 367

**Social Science Curriculum of D.El.Ed.  
Course (ODL Mode) : An Evaluation**  
*Sujit Samanta* 368 - 382

#### SECTION: FOUR

**Methodological Differential of Teaching  
Political Science in ODL : A Comparative  
Perspective**  
*Sanjay Ratnaparakhi* 383 - 402

**Leaners' Support at National and State  
Open Universities in India– The Case of  
Political Science**  
*Ayan Das and Debajit Goswami* 403 - 435

**Students' Support Services in Political  
Science at State Open Universities in India:  
A Comparative Study**  
*Ayan Das* 436 - 453

**Students' Support Services in Political Science  
at IGNOU and DDEs of DMUs in West Bengal  
– An Evaluation**  
*Ayan Das and Debajit Goswami* 454 - 472

**Our Contributors** 473 - 478

## TEACHING SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES THROUGH ODL: THE INDIAN SCENARIO

Debnarayan Modak

### Abstract

At the institutional level, the experiments on *Open and Distance Learning (ODL)* in India has already crossed half a century. The first state-level open university, *Dr B. R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU)* was established at Hyderabad in 1982. The first national level open university, *Indira Gandbi National Open University (IGNOU)* came into being in 1985. Subsequently there emerged a number of State-level Open Universities (SOUs), dual-mode universities and other *Distance Education Institutes (DEIs)* throughout the country and the ODL has been contributing a considerable share of the *Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)* in India Today. Social Science disciplines constitute the major component in the process, Actually, the lion's share of the courses being offered as well as the number of learners enrolled belong to different branches of social science. Hence, it is imperative now to undertake an assessment of the current status of the social science disciplines under ODL. The present paper makes a very modest attempt to give an overview of the existing scenario and try to focus on the gaps between the promise and performances in this regard.

**Key Words :** *Open and Distance Learning (ODL), Indira Gandbi National Open University (IGNOU), Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), Directorates of Distance Educations (DDEs) Distance Education Institutions (DEIs), Dual Mode Universities (DMUs).*

### ODL : The Global Perspective

At the global level, the ODL has a very long history. It actually began in the eighteenth century with the 'slogan' of accessibility, flexibility and affordability as against the unavailability, inflexibility and inaccessibility of the prevailing