



**NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

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A brief report on UGC-DEB Sponsored Workshop on Sensitization and Orientation of Academic Coordinators (M.A. Education) of NSOU Study Centres”

A one-day UGC-DEB sponsored workshop on “Sensitization and Orientation of Academic Coordinators (M.A. Education) of NSOU Study Centres” was organized by the School of Education, Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata on 24th June 2016.

At the beginning, Dr. A.N. Dey, Director, School of Education, NSOU welcomed all the guests, dignitaries and participants. He presented a brief introduction of the activities of the SoE with an anticipation that there is a need to highlight certain issues pertaining to education, management and administration of M.A Education course of the University.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Mita Banerjee, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, West Bengal University of Teachers' Training, Education, Planning and Administration, Kolkata. She accentuated on the term sensitization and its dearth in today's realm of Open & Distance Learning (ODL). She further added the key role of sensitization in nurturing ODL system. According to her, demand for pursuing M.A Education may be due to the NCTE notification regarding granting equivalence of M. Ed and M.A in Education. This has a special relevance to the would be 'Teacher-Educators'. She also envisaged that in the near future NSOU will come up with new courses on Bachelor degree programs on Education.

Distinguished Guest, Swami Tattwasarananda, Principal, Ramakrishna Mission Sikshana Mandir, Belur Math, West Bengal in his valued speech pointed out the significance of M.A. Education in the area of Teacher Education in general. Maharaj further added the impetus of NUEPA, NCTE, IASE, DIET in strengthening Education in general and Teacher Education in particular.

Prof. Subrata Saha, Head of the Dept, Dept of Education, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, in his keynote address opined that in future the University will be much changed but strongly reaffirmed institution: one that makes little distinction between face-to-face and Distance Education. Increasing enrolment alone cannot be an indicator of success of an institution. Providing good quality support services to distance learners is an issue of great concern in order to prevent attrition and encourage retention.

Presiding over the inaugural session, Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU, held the notion to approach UGC-DEB for introduction of BDP in Education and cultivate quality issues in advocating major activities of ODL system.

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst. Prof, SoE, NSOU & Joint Organizing Secretary proposed vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session.

First Technical session was chaired by Prof. Ashit Baran Aich, Registrar (Acting), NSOU and Smt. Ananya Mitra, Dy. Registrar (Adm), NSOU. The speaker, Smt. Nilanjana Chatterjee, Asst. Director, Study Centres, NSOU emphasized the overall management of study Centres. Matters related to the functioning of the study centres, roles and responsibilities of the coordinators, communication barriers, etc. were dealt with precision.

The second speaker of the first technical session was Prof. Swapan Kr Sarkar, Head, SoE, NSOU identified quality issues in carrying out effective Personal Contact Programmes (PCP) in M.A. Education course. The third speaker of this session, Prof. Dulal Mukhopadhyay, SoE, NSOU discussed on the elements, role, efficacy and status of Self- Instructional Materials (SIM) pertaining to the M.A. Education course of the University. The last Speaker of this session, Prof. Sumanta Chattaraj, Professor & Joint Organizing Secretary SoE, NSOU upraised the dos and don'ts in preparing assignments related to M.A. Education course. He further ascertained the pedagogic value attached to assignments as it helps the learner to know the shortcomings and gives inputs for improvement.

Professor Ashit Baran Aich, Registrar (Acting), concluded the session by expressing the idea of flexibility to the learner in the philosophy of openness. He further advocated the major contribution of ODL that occupies a special place in the Indian Higher Education system which promotes democratization and demands of lifelong learning.

The second technical session was interaction with the coordinators. Around fifty coordinators from the NSOU study Centres across West Bengal participated in this session. The following concerns emanated from this session:

- ✚ Non-availability of SIMs for Paper-VIII Special Education
- ✚ Demand for English version of existing SIMs
- ✚ Assignment evaluation needs to be relooked
- ✚ Improvement of the quality of existing M.A. Education curriculum
- ✚ Practicum to be included in the M.A Education Curriculum

✚ Help desk to be remain open in Saturdays and Sundays to meet the queries of the study centres.

The concluding session had been developed to wide scale inter-action with the participants. Dr. A. N Dey, Director, SoE, NSOU, chaired this session. Various doubts and questions were raised by the coordinators on different aspects regarding PCP, SLM and assignments of M.A in Education programme, which were clarified during the session. The workshop manifested an indelible note of achieving better coordination and improvement of learning.

The Workshop concluded with distribution of certificates to the participants. At the end, Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst. Professor, SoE, NSOU& Joint Organizing Secretary moved the vote of thanks.