



**One day State Level Workshop for LIS Academic Counselors on “Information Literacy of Stakeholders of LIS Distance Education and its Role in Instructional Outcome”
Organized by Department of Library and Information Science, School of Professional Studies, Netaji Subhas Open University at NSOU HQ on May 24, 2023.**

REPORT

With an aim to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to 50% by 2035 the National Education Policy 2020 puts significant emphasis on expanding quality Open and distance learning. Optimal implementation of all the suggested measures to ensure quality open and distance learning in the country requires a sound level of information literacy (IL) by the stakeholders involved. Information literacy is considered important for the teaching-learning process, as it promotes problem-solving approaches and thinking skills including asking questions and seeking answers, finding information and evaluating sources.

In view of the above, the Department of Library and Information Science, School of Professional Studies, Netaji Subhas Open University has undertaken a research project on “Designing a Model on Information Literacy of Stakeholders of Distance Education and its Role in Instructional Outcome: With Special Reference to LIS Education”.

As an essential part of the research study, the Department has organised a One-Day State Level Workshop For LIS Academic Counsellors on “Information Literacy of Stakeholders of LIS Distance Education and its Role in Instructional Outcome” to find out the level of information literacy of the stakeholders associated with LIS teaching-learning process. Around Twenty Academic Counsellors were invited to participate in the workshop.



The event started with the Welcome Address by the Director i/c, School of Professional Studies, Professor Anirban Ghosh. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University, Professor Chandan Basu in his Inaugural Speech addressed to the audience, emphasised on the immense importance of Information Literacy Skills of the stakeholders in ODL system.

The Resource person of the Workshop, Dr Biswajit Bhowmik, Deputy Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Kolkata has delivered an insightful lecture on Relevance of Information Literacy in Open and

Distance Learning (ODL). He discussed how Information helps us in decision making and how important is the availability of authentic and timely information in the ODL system. Information literacy skill of the distant learners plays a significant role towards completion of their programmes specifically, at pre-admission, during study and at the verge of programme completion in distance education. They need correct information at various stages of their learning. Hence, he emphasised that it is essential on the part of all stakeholders of distance education like learners, Academic Counsellors, administrators, course writers to become Information Literate.



The participants, who are also actively involved in Library and Information Science Programme (BLIS and MLIS Programmes) of NSOU have shared their experiences during their involvement with LIS learners of NSOU. They shared their views and thoughts on the impact of IL on educational ecology in the sphere of LIS distance education.

Various issues came out of the brainstorming discussion and their responses through questionnaires in the workshop. Distant learners often suffer from demotivation during their self-guided study, mainly due to being away from their mentors in an asynchronous teaching-learning environment. The academic Counsellors have to take part to mitigate such psychological barriers of distant learners. The instructional system should also be designed in a way so that the objective functions are optimised.

The learners need to avail various information regarding their educational and studentship management, apart from their active study purpose. Different stakeholders including central and decentralised administrative staff members in the university and in the learner-support centres distributed throughout the State of West Bengal should play pro-active roles in this direction.

In the present technology-bound world, and at the same time in a realm of digital divide, appropriate literacy towards several channels, modes, tools, techniques and technologies involved in information communication flow call for information literacy among distant learners, particularly remote learners.

It has been suggested that a short course on Information Literacy Skill (IL Skill) may be incorporated as, at least a One-credit course in all programmes offered by ODL systems to increase the awareness of information requirement, availability and accessibility during the learners' self-guided study. Besides, orientation courses, etc. for enhancing IL Skills of learners and other stakeholders of ODL systems may also be organized frequently. LIS professionals may be involved in teaching IL Skill. LIS professionals will have to maximize the use of technology to teach more skills to greater numbers of users.

Report prepared- Dr. Anamika Das, Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science
& Workshop Organising Secretary, Date: 01.06.2023