

Report of the Seminar held on 3rd March 2017 on *Teaching Social Science Disciplines Through ODL: A 21st century perspective*

Netaji Subhas Open University has been a frontrunner at adopting the latest technological developments and providing the best possible resources to its learners and contributing to the overall growth of the Open and Distance Learning system in the country. The ODL mode of education has seen a dramatic shift in the 21st Century and NSOU has met the needs of the changing times and has ushered in the new era of ODL with great success both in terms of infrastructure and development and quality of education. The University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with an internationally reputed service providing agency and installed state-of-the-art studios and smart classrooms across all the regional centers and campuses.

In tune with the vision of the University, the School of Social Sciences has adopted significant steps to develop ODL method and deliver to the Learners the best possible education and resources for their optimum growth and development. Apart from installing smart-classrooms and using latest technology for reaching the students, several audio-visual lectures have been produced with the initiative and participation of all faculty members and the kind cooperation of external experts.

The constant drive for a larger outreach and accelerated stable growth has led to the School of Social Sciences to undertake a research project entitled *Teaching Political Science Through Open and Distance Learning : A Comparative Study of Students Support Services in Indian Universities* under the guidance of Prof. Debnarayan Modak. The natural culmination of all these developments led to the seminar on *Teaching Social Science Disciplines Through ODL: A 21st century perspective*, organized by the School of Social Sciences, held on 3rd March 2017. The Seminar was held with the following objectives:

- Gather the collective wisdom of the participants and industry experts to create an effective functional footprint of the research projects on ODL.
- Discuss the development of the ODL system and outline its changing dynamic nature which has grown leaps and bounds in the last couple of decades.
- Understanding the optimum ways to progress further.
- Address key areas of concerns within the ODL system and identify problems and their respective solutions.
- Focus on the processes of Teaching and Learning in the ODL system, especially for Social Science disciplines.
- Compare and contrast the progress and limitations of the ODL system as it is implemented in the National Open University, State Open Universities, and other dual mode universities.
- Chalking out a future path of the progress of the ODL system with the help of eminent social scientists and DEI functionaries

The School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University is fortunate to report that the above mentioned objectives were met and the national seminar was a grand success with notable contributions from eminent social scientists, higher educational researchers, DEI functionaries, and every faculty and staff of the University. Subsequently the contributions in the seminar, as well as invited papers, were published within two covers in the form of an edited volume. The title of the Volume is Teaching Social Sciences through Open and Distance Learning edited by Debnarayan Modak and Chandan Basu and published by the Registrar, NSOU in September, 2017 with ISBN 978-93-82112-59-5.

The contributions of the Distance Education Bureau of the University Grants Commission is undeniable, as their financial assistance for the seminar and subsequent publication has led to the grand success of the seminar and also wide circulation of its proceedings, so as to create a holistic understanding of the ODL system and sow the seeds of its brighter future. The Seminar was a success due to

the kind patronage and support of Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU. The School of Social Sciences also acknowledges the special contributors of the seminar- Prof. Radharaman Chakrabarti, founder Vice Chancellor of NSOU, Professor Swaraj Basu, Director School of Social Sciences, IGNOU, Prof. Debal Singha Roy, Professor of Sociology, IGNOU, Prof. Juran Krishna Sarkhel, Former Director DODL, University of Kalyani, Dr.Sanjay Ratnaparakhi, Assistant Director, IODL, University of Mumbai and all other dignitaries and participants who contributed to the immense success of the seminar.

(The Report is prepared by Debajit Goswami, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, School of Social Sciences, NSOU)