

OLIMPIC - a Newsletter covering Open Learning Innovations & Management Practices in IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin

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The Regional Centre (RC14), Cochin Newsletter is named as OLIMPIC in the year 2017 by the team comprising Dr. M. Rajesh (RD), Dr. Sindhu P. Nair (DD), Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari (ARD) and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan (AD)

Apr –June 2020

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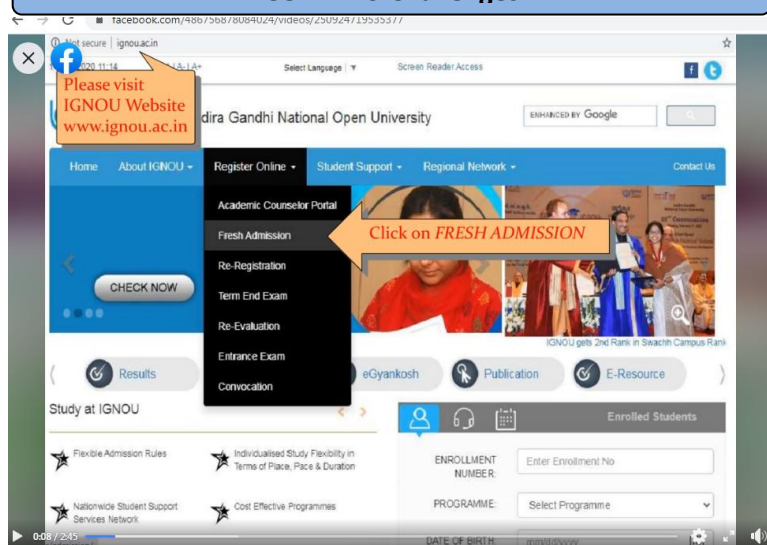
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COVID-19 Challenges



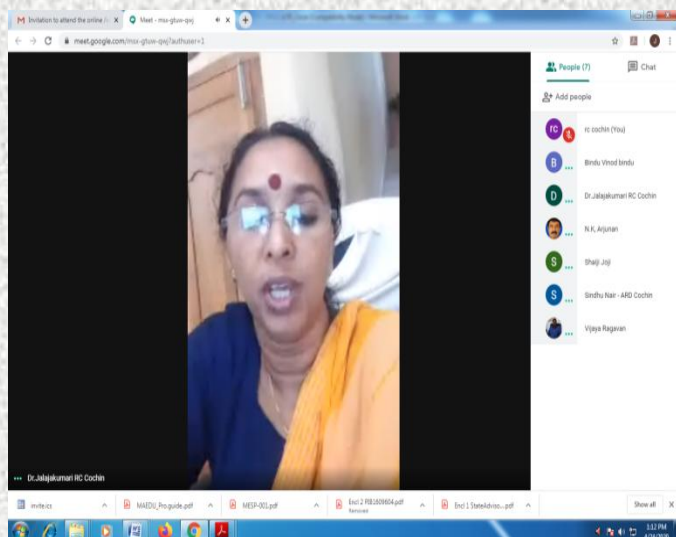
COVID 19 Challenges

The Covid 19 Pandemic situation has put forth various challenges for all and Education sector is no exception. In fact Kerala was the first State in the India to ban gathering of people due to the COVID-19 Pandemic situation. The Regional Centre, Cochin (RC14) undertook various innovative initiatives and Practices during the lockdown period. The innovative practices adopted during this period were Work from Home Suggestive Activities, Conduct/Organizing of Online/Virtual Meetings/Orientation Programme and Strengthening of Student Support Services through effective use of ICT enabled measures, Preparation of Guidelines for conduct of Virtual meetings, Use of Social media and Preparation/Uploading of Videos prepared by Academic Counselors/Academics of Regional Centre, Cochin were some of the other measures undertaken. In all occasions, it was ensured that the task is undertaken without moving away from the place of stay and maintaining social distancing norms.

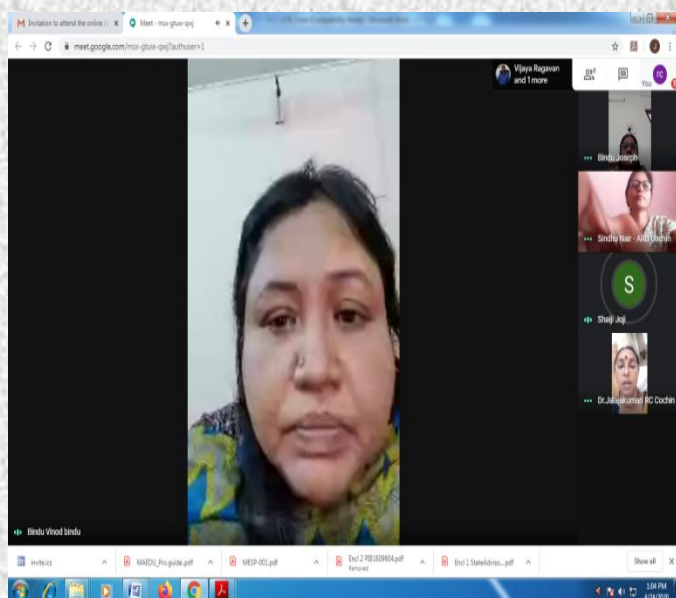
The present Lockdown period due to COVID-19 Pandemic has unleashed various unexplored avenues for rendering Student Support Services with the use of ICT enabled innovative measures and Regional Centre, Cochin has been in forefront with it's innovative initiatives and strategies. The present Newsletter intends to cover all the major initiatives undertaken during the first three months of the lockdown period.

Academic Counselors Orientation Programme

Indira Gandhi National Open University, Regional Centre Cochin conducted a Virtual/Online Orientation Programme for Academic Counselors of MAEDU of LSC1453P to orient the Academic Counselors pertaining to issues related to Dissertation (MESP1) on 24th April 2020. Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD gave a brief introduction to the meeting and all Academics contributed towards the meeting with respect to inputs pertaining to Admissions, Counseling sessions and other related matters. Thirteen participants participated in the Orientation Programme. The meeting was administered and Coordinated by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD.



Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD addressing the participants during the Virtual/Online Orientation Programme for Academic Counselors on 24.04.2020



Participants of Virtual/Online Orientation Programme for Academic Counselors on 24.04.2020

Coordinators/PICs Orientation Programme

Indira Gandhi National Open University, Regional Centre Cochin conducted Virtual/Online Meeting for Coordinator/Asst. Coordinators /PICs of LSCs under Regional Centre, Cochin on 15.05.2020 and 11.06.2020 to facilitate the Assignment Response Evaluation submitted through email. The meetings were organized/administered in the Google Meet Platform by Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD and Sh. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP as per the following schedule. All Academics participated in the meeting. Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD gave a brief on the initiatives undertaken by the Regional Centre for Assignment submission during the Lock down period. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD oriented all onto the importance of Tutor comments in Assignment Evaluation while Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD discussed on the Strategies for Online Evaluation of Assignments. Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD shared pertaining to Submission of Assignments through Google form link and Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD informed about the preparation of Award list and taking consent of Academic Counselors for Online evaluation.

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participants	Purpose
1.	15.05.2020 11.00 am to 1.45 pm	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan ARD and Sh. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP	Staff of RC Cochin & Coordinator/ Asst. Coordinators of Local LSCs located in Ernakulam Dist.	Soft copy assignment receipt and evaluation during lockdown periods
2.	11.06.2020 11.00 am to 1.00 pm	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan ARD and Sh. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP	Staff of RC Cochin & Coordinators/ Asst. Coordinators/ PIC of all LSCs outside Cochin	To facilitate the assignment response evaluation submitted through email

Sustenance of Student Support Services

For ensuring the sustenance of Student Support Services of Study Centres during the Pandemic period, Online/Virtual Meetings for Coordinator/Assistant Coordinators were organized/administered in the Google Meet Platform by Academics of Regional Centre, Cochin. Various issues pertaining to the respective Study centers were addressed by Academics including the sustenance measures being undertaken by Regional Centre, Cochin post Lockdown,

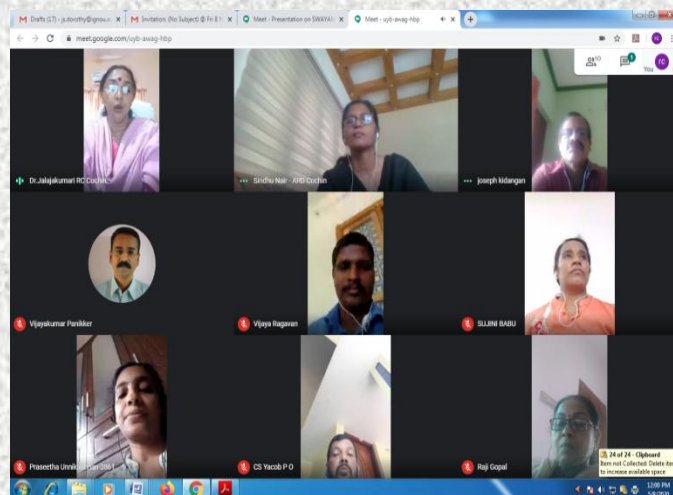
Admissions, Academic Counselors, Examinations, Assignment Evaluation and other related issues were covered during these meetings. The Virtual/online meetings held are given below.

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participants	Purpose
1.	30.04.2020 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	11 participants participated including staff of RC Cochin & Coordinator/ Asst. Coordinators of LSC14000	Sustenance of Student Support Services of LSC14000 with respect to allotment of 112 BAPCH students (in January 2020 session)
2.	08.05.2020 11.30 am to 1.00 pm	Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD	10 participants participated including staff of RC Cochin & Coordinator/ Asst. Coordinators of LSC14157	Sustenance of Student Support Services of LSC14157 RAMS, Ernakulam
3.	11.05.2020 11.00 am to 1.30 pm	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	10 participants participated including staff of RC Cochin & Coordinator/ Asst. Coordinators of LSC1407	Sustenance of Student Support Services of LSC1407 Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur
4.	16.05.2020 11.30 am to 1.30 pm	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD	12 participants participated including staff of RC Cochin & Coordinator/ Asst. Coordinators/ PTS of LSC1408	Sustenance of Student Support Services of LSC1408 Newman College, Thodupuzha, Idukki
5.	17.06.2020 11.00 am to 1:30pm	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan ARD.	12 Participants participated including Staff of RC Cochin & Coordinator /Asst. Coordinators/ PTS of LSC 14166	Sustenance of the Support Services at LSC 14166 Cochin College, Cochin

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participants	Purpose
6.	26.06.2020 10.00 am to 12.00 pm	Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD	14 participants participated including staff of RC Cochin & Coordinator/ Asst. Coordinators/ and PTS of LSC14184	Sustenance of the Support Services at LSC 14184 Al-Ameen College



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Meeting for Coordinators/Assistant Coordinators of SC 14000 for Sustenance of Student Support Services with respect to allotment of 112 BAPCH Students (in January 2020 session) on 30.04.2020



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Meeting for Coordinators/Assistant Coordinators for Sustenance of Student Support Services at SC 14157, Rural Academy for Management Studies, Ernakulam on 08.05.2020



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Meeting for Coordinators/Assistant Coordinators for Sustenance of Student Support Services at SC 1408, Newman College, Idukki on 16.05.2020

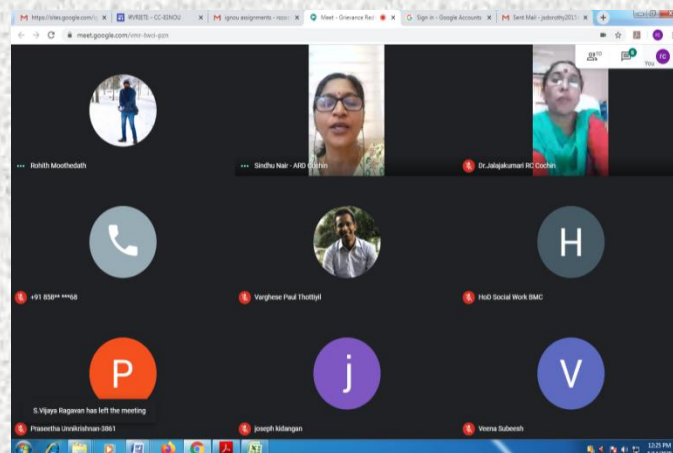
Grievance Redressal Sessions

In an effort to address grievances of Learners during the Pandemic period, since face to face interaction was not possible, Online/Virtual Grievance Redressal Meetings for Learners were organized/administered in the Google Meet Platform by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD as per the following schedule.

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/administered by	Purpose
1.	14.05.2020 11.30 am to 12.30 pm	Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD	Online/Virtual Grievance Redressal Meeting for learners (July 2019) of LSC14165D (Bharata Mata College, Ernakulam)
2.	18.05.2020 11.00 am to 1.30 pm	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	Online/Virtual Grievance Redressal Meeting for learners (July 2019 & January 2020) of LSC14817 (St. Michael's College, Cherthala)
3.	04.06.2020 11.00 am to 1.00 pm	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD	Online/Virtual Grievance Redressal Meeting for learners of SC1406 (CMS College, Kottayam)

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD gave an introduction to the meeting and a brief about the initiatives of IGNOU to facilitate Learner Support Services (LSS) during the lockdown period; Sh. K.K. Joseph, AR briefed about the Study Material - eGyankosh and e-Content App with the Suggestion for Bluetooth transfer/ storing in Memory stick; Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD shared about Admission/ Re-registration - checking the registration details, Add-on programmes which can be undertaken by learners and

iGRAM; Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD shared Online based Academic Support during lockdown period extended by IGNOU Headquarters, Regional Centre and the LSC: Online counseling/YouTube upload/GV/ GD/SWAYAM Prabha/ Gyandhara.



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Grievance Redressal Meeting learners of SC 14165D Bharata Mata College, Thrikkakkara on 14.05.2020

Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD briefed about the Guidelines for Submission of Assignment - with focus on online submissions during lockdown period – Submission through online /highlighting the last date and the Term End Examination June 2020 - highlighting the modalities and last date for submission of application form. Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD shared guidelines on Synopsis /Projects/ Dissertation highlighting the modalities and last date.

External Evaluators Orientation Programme

Indira Gandhi National Open University, Regional Centre Cochin conducted a Virtual/Online Orientation Programme for External Evaluator/Project Evaluators of LSC 14000 Regional Centre Campus, Kaloor and LSC 14169 Danahalaya, Punnappra on Revised guidelines for submission of Soft copy of Project Synopsis of MAPC received from SOSS on 23rd May 2020. Nineteen participants participated in the Orientation Programme. The Meeting was administered/organized by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD.

SWAYAM Courses Translation Initiatives

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin had undertaken the work for coordinating for the Translation of Eight SWAYAM Courses of IGNOU for which Dr. B. Sukumar, RD, IGNOU Regional Centre, Trivandrum is the Nodal Officer. Eight virtual meetings were held during the period Mar-June, 2020 to review upon the status of the Translation work by the Nodal Officer

Dr. B. Sukumar. All Academics of Regional Centre Cochin, Vatakara and Trivandrum attended the meetings and provided inputs pertaining to the Courses they were coordinating. The meetings were administered/coordinated by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Regional Centre, Cochin.

S. No.	Date	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participants
1	18.05.2020 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	All Academics and staff of RC14
2	23.05.2020 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	RDs/ARDs/AD of RC Trivandrum, RC Cochin and RC Vatakara
3	30.05.2020 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	RDs/ARDs/AD of RC Trivandrum, RC Cochin and RC Vatakara
4	06.06.2020 2.30 pm to 6.30 pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	RDs/ARDs/AD of RC Trivandrum, RC Cochin and RC Vatakara
5	13.06.2020 3.15 pm to 5.45 pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	RDs/ARDs/AD of RC Trivandrum, RC Cochin and RC Vatakara
6	20.06.2020 3.15 pm to 5.45 pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	RDs/ARDs/AD of RC Trivandrum, RC Cochin and RC Vatakara
7	22.06.2020 8.00 pm to 9.30 pm	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD.	Translation Experts
8	27.06.2020 3.15 pm to 5.45 pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	RDs/ARDs/AD of RC Trivandrum, RC Cochin and RC Vatakara

Sharing of Information/Resources

In-house Virtual/Online meetings for the Academics/Staff were also conducted/organized during the Lockdown period to share information pertaining the Meetings/Workshops attended by Academics. The following meetings were conducted between April-June 2020:

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Purpose
1.	28.04.2020 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	To share information gathered from deliberations of Honorable Vice-Chancellor and Director, RSD through Online meeting held with RD on 28.04.2020.

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Purpose
2.	11.05.2020 3.00 pm to 3.45 pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	To share information gathered from deliberations of Honorable Vice-Chancellor and Director, RSD through Online meeting held with RD on Presentation on SWAYAM Prabha Channels on 08.05.2020.
3.	12.05.2020 3.30 pm to 4.00 pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	To share information gathered from deliberations in meeting of Innovation club at IGNOU through Online meeting held on 'Web-based Video Counselling during Lockdown: Issues and Challenges'
4.	02.06.2020 11.30 am to 1.00 pm	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	Sharing of Information/Resources of "E-Content Development and Online Pedagogy – ICT TOOLS for ONLINE TEACHING" workshop attended from 24th -29th May, 2020.

Facebook Live Session

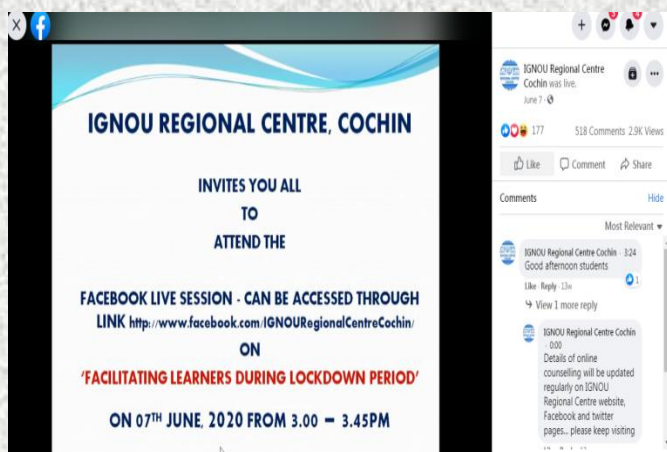
A Facebook Live session on 'Facilitating Learners during Lockdown Period' for IGNOU Learners of Regional Centre, Cochin was held on 07th June, 2020 from 3.00 pm to 3.45 pm using the Official Facebook Page of Regional Centre, Cochin. The Live Programme using Regional Centre Cochin Official Facebook Page was Administered/Coordinated/interacted by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD for sharing of facilities provided to the IGNOU Learners during the Lockdown Period so as to enable the learners to sustain the learning and ensure successful completion of the programme of Study which the learners have enrolled.

The Facebook session viewed has received 2.6K views, 510 comments and 7 shares as on 10.05.2020, which is increasing on a daily basis. Those who viewed the session included Learners of January, 2020 session (Fresh and Re-registration) besides other session IGNOU Learners as well. The Coordinators/Staff of Learner Support Centres and Regional Centre also viewed the session.

The session began with Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD highlighting the facilities provided to IGNOU Learners during the Lockdown Period. The presentation included the

following areas/topics for the benefit of IGNOU Learners: Assignment related information including soft copy of Assignments submission, Soft copy of MAPC Synopsis submission, Information about Online Live Sessions conducted from Official Facebook Page of IGNOU, Uploading of You Tube Videos/Power point Presentation prepared by Academics/Academic Counselors, Information about Gyandarshan, Gyanvani and Gyandhara, Information on eGyankosh and eContent App for download of soft copy of study materials, Information about accessing Student zone, Re-registration, Downloading assignment questions, old examination question papers and other related information,

The session ended with the comments of Learners being addressed/answered in the comment section of the Facebook page. The session provided the IGNOU Learners an opportunity to interact with each other on a common platform and thus address their concerns so as to enable them complete their programme successfully.



Screenshot of Presentation presented by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD during the Facebook Live session on 03.07.2020 at 3.00 pm

The Technical support for the Face Book Session Programme was provided by Sh. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP, Regional Centre Cochin; on the spot reply for chat / comments was rendered by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD Regional Centre Cochin.

Other ICT Enabled Initiatives/Activities

ICT Enabled Initiatives were undertaken with a view to facilitate the newly enrolled/existing Learners of Regional Centre Cochin (RC14) to the various Academic/Student Support Services of IGNOU. The Regional Centre Cochin (RC14) website is being regularly updated with the latest activities of IGNOU and essential links are being disseminated to specific/target Learners directly through SMS. Some of the

ICT enabled Initiatives undertaken at Regional Centre, Cochin during this period are given below:

- Induction Guidelines for January, 2020 session learners was prepared and uploaded in RC website and intimation of the link to access the same was sent by SMS.
- A presentation on “e-support services for IGNOU learners” was uploaded in Regional Centre website. SMS intimation was sent to learners of January 2020 and July 2019 session intimating the link to access the same.
- Creation of WhatsApp group of Regional Centre Academics and Coordinators/PIC of LSC facilitated sharing of relevant information on IGNOU activities. Relevant information on various matters such as Innovation Cell, online Counseling, Gyanvani IRC schedules, live FB counselling sessions, were shared. Queries of LSC on aspects such as Examination Form Submission, Assignments submission were responded by the Academics using the Whatsapp.
- Guidelines prepared by Sh. Muhammad Ansar, (AEDP) “Virtual Meeting through Google Meet - Guidelines for Desktop containing Steps to Join and start a Meeting using Google Meet from Desktop” and “Virtual Meeting through Google Meet - Guidelines for Android Mobile containing Steps to Join and start a Meeting using Google Meet from android Mobile handset”, published/ uploaded in the Regional Centre Website under <http://rccochin.ignou.ac.in/aboutus/3> and also circulated among the invitees to get accustomed to the use of Google Meet before the conduct of the virtual meeting.
- PPT/ Academic content shared by Schools of Studies uploaded on Regional Centre website for benefit of learners.
- Under Unnath Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) dissemination of information related to Government advisory aiming to protect farming during lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic sent by Director, SOA was uploaded on Regional Centre website for wider access besides dissemination by email to Panchayat of adopted villages under Regional Centre Cochin.
- Dissemination on date extension of Assignment Submission, TEE form submission, Re-registration. Postponement of June TEE uploaded on Regional Centre Cochin website.
- Guidelines for Re-registration was prepared and uploaded on the Regional Centre Cochin Website.

- Online Assignment evaluation undertaken and guidelines also forwarded to Coordinators for mobilizing Academic counselors for online evaluation.
- As a Promotional initiative 86 Colleges/Institutions/Universities under the jurisdiction of Regional Centre, Cochin were contacted via email and information about IGNOU Programmes were shared by enclosing the Common Prospectus and Regional Centre, Cochin Brochure.

Workshops/Conference attended and Article published

- Research Article published by Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD Toxic Effects of Carbendazim on Sperm Cell of Sedentary Polychaete Hydroids elegans (Haswell 1883). Journal of Environment and Ecology 38(2) pp.221-229 and Toxic Effects of Carbendazim on Egg Cell of Sedentary Polychaete Hydroids elegans (Haswell 1883). Environment and Ecology 38(2)pp167-177
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD and Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD attended two Day Online Training Workshop on Use of ICT Tools for Teaching and Providing Online Support to Students during Covid-19 Online Training organized by SOCIS on 28.05.2020 and 29.05.2020.
- Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD Participated in the Workshop on E-content Development and Online Pedagogy on the theme “ICT TOOLS for ONLINE TEACHING” from 23rd to 29th May, 2020 conducted by Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education(CPDHE) UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, University of Delhi, Delhi.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in a Webinar for two days (15th June, 2020 and 16th June, 2020) in the National Webinar Series on ‘Yoga and Holistic Health’ organized by School of Health Sciences, IGNOU.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in the ‘Workshop on Book Publishing’ organised online by IGNOU Library and Elsevier on 22.06.2020 at 2.30 pm to 4.40 pm.
- Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in the Webinar on ‘Publishing Ethics: The role of Publishers, Journals, Researchers and Institutions” conducted by

Springer Nature through IGNOU Library on 25.06.2020 from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm.

- Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in a National Webinar on “Holistic Approach for Sustainable Environment- Post Covid-19” organized for World Environment Day by Discipline of Environmental Studies, SOITS, IGNOU on 5.06.2020 at 11:00 am.

Study Centre Corner

SC 1402 – Sacred Heart College, Thevara

Sacred Heart College, Thevara was established in 1944 by the Sacred Heart Monastery, Thevara, a unit of the CMI (Carmelites of Mary Immaculate) Congregation. Prior to this, it was affiliated to University of Madras. The physical infrastructure of Sacred Heart College, Thevara are alike that of Loyola College, Madras where one of the founder priest Rev. Fr. Francis Sales, CMI studied. In 2014, the College became one among the first five autonomous colleges in Kerala. Sacred Heart College, Kochi is a premier institution of higher education affiliated to the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India. Honorable Vice President, Sh. Venkaiah Naidu visited the college in 2019 on 1st February, 2019 in relation to Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.



Entrance of Sacred Heart College, Thevara

The College has 14 Undergraduate and 15 Postgraduate programmes and a range of Diploma and Certificate courses. In 2014 the college became one amongst the first five autonomous colleges in Kerala.

The NAAC conferred on SH College, Thevara Five Star Accreditation in 2001. In 2003 the UGC recognized the College as one amongst the selected band of colleges with

Potential for Excellence, and NAAC reaccredited the College at the A+ level.

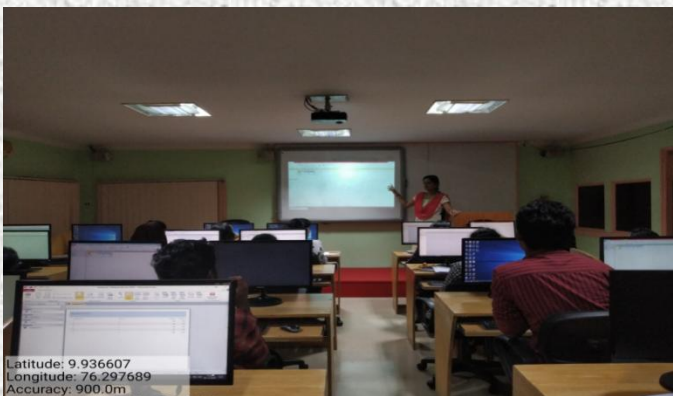


IGNOU Study Centre 1402 at Sacred Heart College, Thevara

IGNOU Study Centre SC 1402 is functioning from the campus of Sacred Heart College, Thevara. It is a Regular Study Centre established under Regional Centre Cochin in the year 1990 with 678 students and has presently grown to 902 IGNOU students as on January, 2020. There are twelve IGNOU programmes activated at this Study centre which include various Masters, Bachelors, Post Graduate Diploma and Certificate level programmes.



Dr. Tom Varghese Coordinator of IGNOU Study Centre SC 1402 at IGNOU Office in Sacred Heart College, Thevara



Lab facilities at IGNOU Study Centre 1402 at Sacred Heart College, Thevara

IGNOU Regional centre Cochin thanks Dr. Tom Varghese, the Coordinator and Dr. Shammi Joseph K., Asst. Coordinator, IGNOU Study Centre SC 1402 Sacred Heart College, Thevara for providing inputs about the Host Institution on behalf of the Management of Host Institution of Learner Support Centre 1402 for this issue of Newsletter.

Meet an IGNOU Learner



This 'Meet an IGNOU Learner' is about Adv. Ramakrishnan M.N., a student of Master of Arts in Psychology (MAPC) at IGNOU. He is a lawyer from Thrissur practicing at the Thrissur District & Sessions Court in Criminal as well as Civil law. His profile was shared to Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD for use in the Newsletter of IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin.

Adv. Ramakrishnan began his journey with IGNOU while being a Law student (integrated BBA; LLB(Hons) programme) at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), when he decided to carry forward his interest in psychology, by enrolling with IGNOU for BA Psychology in the January 2014 cycle. A learning experience that he thoroughly enjoyed, with quality syllabus and helpful counselors, his learning did not stop there. In January 2019, a Professional degree holder and practicing advocate by then, he chose to continue with his education at IGNOU by enrolling for 2 programmes simultaneously - PG Certificate in Cyber Law (PGCCL) & Master of Arts in Psychology (MAPC). After duly completing his PGCCL programme within the stipulated 6 months, he is pursuing his course in the MA Psychology programme and has expressed his wishes and intention to acquire further qualifications to suit his profession.

Adv Ramakrishnan is an ardent lover of words and a poet in his own right. A bilingual writer, he has penned over 60 poems in English and Malayalam, some of which he has

published in magazines, and some in his blog in WordPress (madmanbeforelaw.wordpress.com). He also served as a 'Teaching Volunteer' in the National NGO "Make a Difference" (MAD) for 3 years during his college days at CUSAT.

Adv. Ramakrishnan is vocal about the advantages, options and opportunities that IGNOU provides, without compromising on the quality of education in terms of the syllabus or Instruction design, and encourages his friends and acquaintances to enroll with IGNOU University and continue as a lifelong learner.

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin salutes his spirit, enthusiasm and is proud of his achievements and wishes him all the best in all his future endeavors!

Experience of Sh. K.K. Joseph, Assistant Registrar, Regional Centre, Cochin during lockdown



Lockdown did not lock-up the financial activities of the University. Initial self curfew on 22nd March, 2020 was honored by me as a citizen and was ensured virtually to switch off all lights in the Regional Centre campus. As Administrative Officer, I needed to update myself about the containment zone and the welfare of the employees residing there. Abrupt closure due to lockdown necessitated the sustenance of support services at LSC, clearance of LSC bills and maintenance of the Regional centre building. The local public administration was helpful to mobilize staff for cleaning of campus as vegetation was also as part of the building structure. Keeping in view the guidelines issued by

Head Quarters, all claims, bills were settled and the annual accounts closed. The clients and the LSC coordinators were tolerant towards the derailed schedule of settlement of the claim/bill. The bank officials were taking personal responsibility for disbursement of the fund through online transfer. Frequently encountered maintenance work were of switching on and off of computers, Television, Air Conditioners, Generator and lift. Doors were opened as usual to ensure non-struck and to prevent mold formation. The Government norms were strictly followed to collect letters from the learners/public. Work from home suggestive activity were shared to Academics to facilitate submission of ATR to MHRD through Director, RSD. Employee welfare was ensured in releasing medical advances for hospitalization, collecting joining report upon receipt of promotional orders and settlement of claims upon receipt of the same from the beneficiary.

As Assistant Registrar, lockdown taught me the ethics of working from home, the necessary requisites to be in touch with fellow employees to ensure their welfare and well being. What I could highlight as an employee was the ability of Coordinators/PIC of LSC to sustain the support services of the learners even when face-to-face interaction is not possible. The major milestone which was set as per MHRD/MHA/UGC guideline was online counseling implementation- which is sure to throw the "Ivory towers to be open" for the learners. Childhood memory of saying "give us this day our daily bread", "Good health to you and household", "God bless the work of the hands" were appreciated and experienced during lockdown.

During time of no transport, not only I resorted to the personal vehicle but also used foot "Service No.11" to move in traffic prohibited area.

Some of the virtual meeting memorable even now are the translation activity in Malayalam Language for Swayam courses under the Nodal Officer Dr.B.Sukumar, Regional Director, Trivandrum Regional Centre and the Webinar Lecture series on Post Covid scenario- Challenges and opportunities under Regional Centre, Vatakara. The childhood memory of singing was revived. Mid career activity of vegetable farming, animal husbandry and poultry farming raising based on earlier experience at Agricultural University was visioned for reality during lockdown.
