

### INNOVATION CLUB ACTIVITIES AT REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN (RC14)

Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE), IGNOU. A Series of monthly lecture clubbed with Grievance redressal identified as 'Open Session cum Enrichment Session' is being held at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018. The sessions were held at Regional Centre, Cochin with an objective to enrich and generate awareness amongst the learners of IGNOU on a wide range of topics ranging from E-Support Services of IGNOU Challenges of Entrepreneurship, ICT Interventions, Time Management, Employment Opportunities in Banking Sector, Interview skills to National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 - The Road to Reforms. Through these sessions the learners were made aware about the various issues and motivated to think innovatively, generate ideas and embark on a path which could lead to future development of the Nation. Regional Centre, Cochin conducted 20 Open Sessions cum Enrichment Sessions since 2018 as given below:

S.No	Date	Resource Person	Topic of Presentation
1	18.09.2018	Prof. U.V. Unnikrishnan	Career Management
2	16.10.2018	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari	How to study through MOOCs
3	28.11.2018	Dr. Sindhu P Nair	Skills on Open and Distance Learning
4.	22.01.2019	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan	E-support services in IGNOU
5.	13.02.2019	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan	Environment Sustainability in day to day life
6.	07.03.2019	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari	ICT Intervention in Education
7.	25.04.2019	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan	IGNOU Website and E-Learner Support Systems of IGNOU
8.	08.05.2019	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan	Citizen Responsibility for Environment Protection
9.	21.06.2019	Smt. Omana Muraleedharan	Challenges of Entrepreneurship
10.	04.07.2019	Dr. Radhika S	Awareness of Official Language
11.	21.08.2019	Shri. K Balachandran	Employment Opportunities in Banking Sector in the State of Kerala
12.	24.09.2019	Shri. Suneed S	Interview Skills for Employment in Banking Sector
13.	31.10.2019	Dr. Sindhu P Nair	Time Management

S.No	Date	Resource Person	Topic of Presentation
14.	26.11.2019	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari	Domestic Environmentalism- Approaches and Strategies
15.	23.01.2020	Dr. J.S. Dorothy Dr. M Rajesh Dr. Sindhu P Nair Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari Dr. S. Vijayaragavan Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan	Swachta and Environmental Sustainability
16.	27.02.2020	Shri. Benny Mathew	Pre-requisites for registering in Government Employment Exchange
17	13.08.2020	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan	'E- Support Services of IGNOU'
18	11.09.2020	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan	Environmental Significance and Challenges in the present day scenario
19	30.10.2020	Ms. Sindhu B S	Relevance of Positive Strokes in a Successful life
20	25.11.2020	Dr. Shakila Shamsu,	National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 - The Road to Reforms

Reports of the Open cum Enrichment session are enclosed.

## IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN

### Report on the Innovation Club Activities so far at Regional Centre, Cochin (RC14)

The Innovation club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE). A Series of monthly lecture identified as Enrichment Session was held at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018 as given under :

S.No	Date	Resource Person	Topic of Presentation
1	18.09.2018	Prof. U. V. Unnikrishnan	Career Management
2	16.10.2018	Dr. V. T. Jalajakumari	How to study through MOOCs
3	28.11.2018	Dr. Sindhu P. Nair	Skills on Open and Distance Learning
4	22.01.2019	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan	E- support services in IGNOU
5	13.02.2019	Dr. S .Vijayaragavan	Environment Sustainability in day to day life
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7	25.04.2019	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan	IGNOU Website and E-Learner Support Systems of IGNOU
8	08.05.2019	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan	Citizen Responsibility for Environment Protection

The sessions were held at Regional Centre, Cochin with an objective to enrich and generate awareness amongst the learners of IGNOU on a wide range of topics ranging from Career Mangament, MOOCs, E-Support services of IGNOU to ICT Interventions in Education, Environmental Sustainability/Protection through which the learners were made aware about the various issues and motivated to think innovatively, generate ideas and embark on a path which could help all as well as future development of the Nation.

The photographs of the last two enrichment sessions under Innovation club activity held on 25.04.2019 and 08.05.2019 is enclosed herewith.



Dr. Praseetha U., AD addressing learners under Innovation club session on 25.04.2019



Dr. Praseetha U., AD taking a session on 'IGNOU Website and E-Learner Support systems of IGNOU' on 25.04.2019



Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD and Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD with the IGNOU learners on 08.05.2019 under Innovation club



Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD taking a session on 'Citizen Responsibility for Environment Protection' under the Innovation club on 08.05.2019

The Nodal officer for the Innovation club activity at Regional Centre, Cochin (RC 14) with effect from 25.03.2019 is Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD.

## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activities at Regional Centre, Cochin (RC14) on 21.06.2019 on the topic Challenges of Entrepreneurship**

The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE). A Series of monthly lecture identified as Enrichment Session was held at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018

Enrichment Session for the month of June was held on 21st June 2019 at the Regional Centre, Cochin

Smt. Omana Muraleedharan, Proprietor of Charris Food Products Ltd., recipient of Sakthi Prema Puruskar medal was the Resource Person for monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session under Innovation Club Activities held on 21st June 2019 on the topic "Challenges of Entrepreneurship". The Resource person was introduced by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, the Nodal Officer for the Innovation Club Activity at Regional Centre, Cochin. The session was attended by around 30 learners.

Smt. Omana Muraleedharan, Resource person traced the challenges in Entrepreneurship venture citing personal experiences as a case study. It is pertinent to mention that Smt. Omana Muraleedharan, Resource person is the Entrepreneur behind "PRAWNOES" a snack based on Prawns under the aegis of M/s. Charris Food Products a firm located in Aroar, Allepey District., Kerala.

Smt. Omana Muraleedharan discussed in detail the practical realities of being an entrepreneur and shared her inputs on the basic qualities /needs for being a good entrepreneur- which are enlisted as follows.

1. SWOT Analysis - A thorough SWOT analysis needs to be done before the start of any entrepreneurial venture.
2. Must have a Dream targeting success
3. Be Ambitious
4. Continuous Learner
5. Shoulder Responsibilities and be accountable for the challenges encountered besides being a contributor for solutions
6. Be Optimistic
7. Determination to Hard work
8. Have a strong will power
9. Be Positive in all situations
10. Have Integrity (honest and healthy competition)
11. Passion towards Business
12. Have Patience since delays are not denials
13. Connect to successful people.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director also shared inputs pertaining to Skill Development programmes offered by Central Institute for Fisheries Technology (ICAR - CIFT) , Ernakulam and MOOCs programme offered in SWAYAM portal with the learners.

Few of the learners in their feedback shared that more such sessions need to be held at the Regional centre as the session was more based on the entrepreneur's practical experiences. The session was received with a warm round of applause from one and all. The meeting came to an end with some of the learners giving feedback to the Resource person about her presentation.



Smt. Omana Muraleedharan, Proprietor of M/S. Amrutha Metal Finish & Charris Food Products Ltd., addressing Learners during the Enrichment session of Innovation Club on 'Challenges of Entrepreneurship' on 21.06.2019



The participants of the Enrichment Session with the Resource Person and Regional Centre Staff on 21.06.2019

The participants of the Enrichment Session with the Resource Person and Regional Centre Staff on 21.06.2019



## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 04.07.2019 on the topic Awareness of Official Language Hindi**

The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE). A Series of monthly lecture identified as Enrichment Session was held at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018

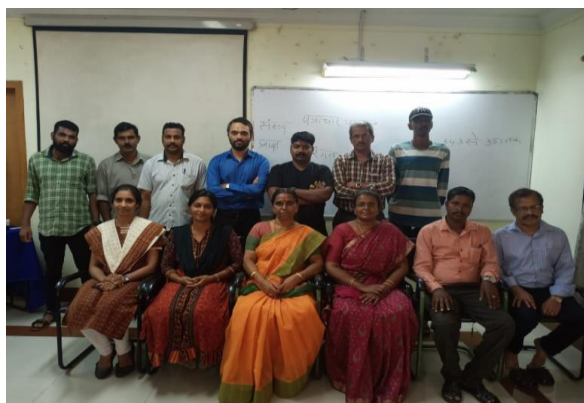
Enrichment Session for the month of July was held on 04<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at the Regional Centre, Cochin.

Dr. Radhika Devi. D., Officer-In-Overall Charge, Hindi Teaching Scheme, Cochin was the Resource Person for monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session under Innovation Club Activities held on 04<sup>th</sup> June 2019 on the topic "Awareness of Official Language Hindi". The Resource person was introduced by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, the Nodal Officer for the Innovation Club Activity at Regional Centre, Cochin. The session was attended by around 25 learners.

Dr. Radhika Devi. D., Resource person traced the historical importance of Hindi language from the time of Independence and the reasons for it being conferred the Official Language status. Hindi was called the Official Language on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1949. She highlighted that Hindi is the most widely spoken language with the Hindi-Sanskrit script being similar. She also empa

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director also shared inputs pertaining to Skill Development programmes offered by Central Institute for Fisheries Technology (ICAR - CIFT) , Ernakulam and MOOCs programme offered in SWAYAM portal with the learners.

Few of the learners in their feedback shared that more such sessions need to be held at the Regional Centre as the session was more based on the entrepreneur's practical experiences. The session was received with a warm round of applause from one and all. The meeting came to an end with some of the learners giving feedback to the Resource person about her presentation.



The participants of the Enrichment Session with the Resource Person, Dr. Radhika S., Assistant. Director, Head (I/c), Hindi Teaching Scheme, Cochin and Regional Centre Staff on 04.07.2019



Dr. Radhika S., Assistant. Director, Head (I/c), Hindi Teaching Scheme, Cochin as Resource Person interacting with the learners during the Open cum Enrichment on 04.07.2019

## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 21.08.2019 on the topic Employment Opportunities in Banking Sector in the State of Kerala**

Shri. K. Balachandran Unnithan, Asst. Vice President, HDFC Bank, Kaloore Branch was the Resource Person for monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2019 on the topic **"Employment Opportunities in Banking Sector in the State of Kerala"**. The session was attended by around 40 learners including the staff at RC Cochin. The Resource person was introduced by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Nodal Officer for the Innovation Club Activity at Regional Centre, Cochin. As an innovative practice the monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session under Innovation club is coupled with Grievance Redressal session as it would enable the learners to take home some message besides resolving their grievances. It is recorded that the Resource person Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, was coordinated for use of Regional Centre by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD and Shri. K. K. Joseph, AR.

Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, Resource person for the session traced his journey as a Banker and explained about the significance of the role played by a Banker in the current scenario. It was highlighted that since a Banker is a person close to the customer's life (including the family), the profession has its own importance when compared to any other professions like that of a Doctor, Lawyer, Police Officer etc. In a family, almost every individual have a Bank account and have an opportunity to interact with a Banker against other professions where one representative from the family meet the respective professional like Doctor or Lawyer. Thus, the Bank is linked with every aspect of life. Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, explained that the changes are happening in the Banking sector with respect to Technological Innovations, Financial inclusion, Derivatives and Risk Management Products, Consolidation, Demonetization, Jan Dhan Yojana, Wide usability of RTGS and NEFT transactions and about the personal touch including data security by Knowing the client. Shri. Balachandran informed that in India, the Banking system is moving towards a Profit Orientation mode and moving ahead with a 'Customer centric approach'.

Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, highlighted that there are presently 5452 Public and Private Sector Banks in Kerala and the Indian Banking system as an Industry is moving towards profit, besides constantly on expansion. Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, also shared how expansion of Banking sector by establishing new branches to optimize reach in rural areas augment the need for Banking personnel. Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, informed about the Recruitment process in Private and Public Sector Banks. It was emphasized that in Private Sector Banks the recruitment process is Quick, mainly done through Campus placement, involving Private Employment Agencies, through Reference, from Competitors, preference for Bank trained candidates. With respect to Public Sector Banks it was emphasized that the Recruitment process has a waiting period, Aptitude test is rigorous and Reservation as per Government of India norms is applicable.



Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, discussed about the skills needed in the Banking sector like having good customer dealing skills identifying complaints as requirements of a customer, soft skills like patience exhibited in listening and asking beyond the grievance to solve the issues, having good Analytic, ICT skills and good with numbers and Accountancy. Hence, depending upon the profile and nature of an individual, both sales and operations in a Banking sector needs Human capital.

Through 'Iceberg Theory', Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, emphasized on bridging the gap between customer potential and sale potential in the Banking sector. It was emphasized that the gap can only be bridged by a Professional who has the expertise in the Banking sector.

Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, also shared that with the Government initiative in India, the future of Banking sector has enormous opportunities for employment and for its interaction/involvement in improving the populace. Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, also shared about basic information on financial literacy to the learners.

On a concluding note, Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, motivated the learners to prepare a good Curriculum Vitae before appearing for any Banking Interview, have some basic knowledge about the Banking sector, be truthful to their respective professions and be passionate about whatever one does. Shri. Balachandran Unnithan, also stressed upon honesty and of being truth to the moment by linking intention activity and thought in a consistent way.

Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD then briefed about the Placement and Alumni initiatives being undertaken at the Regional Centre Cochin.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director also shared inputs pertaining to Skill Development programmes available with the Central Institute of Fisheries Department (CIFT), Cochin and MOOCs programme available in the SWAYAM portal with the learners.

As an innovative practice, four learners amongst the participants shared their feedback about the session and thanked the Resource person. The session came to an end with Shri. K. K. Joseph, AR proposing the vote of thanks to all present.



The participants of the Open cum Enrichment Session with the Resource Person, Sh. K. Balachandran Unnithan, Asst. Vice President, HDFC Bank, Kaloor Branch on 21.08.2019.



Sh. K. Balachandran Unnithan, Asst. Vice President, HDFC Bank Kaloor as Resource Person addressing Learners during the Open cum Enrichment session on 21.08.2019

## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 24.09.2019 on the topic Interview Skills for Employment in Banking Sector**

Shri. Suneed S, Dy. General Manager & Branch Head, IDBI Bank, Ernakulam was the Resource Person for monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session held on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 on the topic **"Interview Skills for Employment in Banking Sector"**. The session was attended by around 40 learners including the staff at RC Cochin. The Resource person was introduced by Dr. J. S. Dorothy, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin. As an innovative practice the monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session under Innovation club is coupled with Grievance Redressal session as it would enable the learners to take home some message besides resolving their grievances. It is recorded that the Resource person Shri. Suneed S, was coordinated for use of Regional Centre by Shri. K. K. Joseph, AR and Shri. Mohammed Ansar, AEDP.

Shri. Suneed S, traced the existence of two type of banks- Public sector banks and Private sector banks in the Indian context. He also shared of how the bank has become a super stall beyond lending and moved into Insurance, mutual funds and other banking products. With the digital initiative of the Government, Artificial Intelligence Platform tracking how the money is spent by an individual or any identity holding a bank account, banking has become a mandatory event. Differentiating the process of recruitment in public sector banks (*which is based on records, process oriented, fair charge of existence, outsource to IBPS*) and private sector (*which is customer choose with the target of addressing cream of customer*) Shri. Suneed S shared that sales oriented marketing jobs besides grievance redressal are the common job opening in private banking sector.

Shri. Suneed S, traced of how five banks (Canara Bank, Syndicate Bank, Corporation Bank, Vijaya Bank and Bank of Karnataka) started in Mangalore and after liberalization how the Banking Sector have expanded and became an integrated part in an individuals' life.

Shri. Suneed S, shared the following requisites to be prominent in an individual for attending the Interview for a job in the Banking Sector:

1. Knowledge of the domain (Subject matter)
2. Soft skills
3. Terms of banking earlier known
4. Knowledge of jargons used in Banking
5. History of the banking sector with special reference to the specific bank which has called for the interview.
6. Development in banking sector (Artificial Intelligence, payment solutions like QR Code, efforts to reduce footfall)
7. Business ethics (banking as a business vis-a-vis as a service)
8. Common view about an individual
9. Ability to be genuine in answering questions (do not beat around the bush and admit when you do not know the answer)

10. Knowledge about place of origin, place of birth, current existence
11. Showcasing the strength and weakness of an individual (with assurance to improve the weakness and not over exaggerating while describing the strength)
12. Formal dress code to present oneself as it reflects one's personality (avoid flashy clothes, body parts exposing clothes, dress which make somebody to look back again)
13. Ability to lead the interviewer to the area of interest of self (do not argue or over emphasis but answer to the point without touching any controversial subject/ideological point)
14. General awareness of the happening during the last six months (this is essential because banking is a business and so business has to run with latest information)

On a concluding note, Shri. Suneed S, also shared about of how he had travelled as a Banker with an experience in both Public Sector and Private Sector bank. Shri. Suneed S, was also available to share basics on financial literacy to the learners.

Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD then briefed about the Placement and Alumni initiatives besides a short awareness about the reduced use of Plastic being undertaken at the Regional Centre Cochin.

Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD brief about the procedure to access SWAYAM platform and register for a course using the easiest way of access through gmail account.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director also shared inputs pertaining to Skill Development programmes available with the Central Institute of Fisheries Department (CIFT), Cochin and MOOCs programme available in the SWAYAM portal with the learners.

As an innovative practice, six learners amongst the participants shared their feedback about the session and thanked the Resource person. The session came to an end with Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD proposing the vote of thanks to all present.



The participants of the Open cum Enrichment Session with the Resource Person, Sh. Suneed S., Dy. General Manager & Branch Head, IDBI Bank, Ernakulam and Regional Centre Staff on 24.09.2019



Sh. Suneed S., Dy. General Manager & Branch Head, IDBI Bank Ernakulam as Resource Person addressing Learners during the Open cum Enrichment session on 24.09.2019

## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 31.10.2020 on the topic 'Time Management'**

The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the NCIDE, IGNOU. A series of monthly lecture identified as 'Open Session cum Enrichment Session' are being held regularly at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018. The enrichment session for the month of October was held on 31st October, 2019 at the Regional Centre, Cochin.

Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD (In-Charge), Regional Centre, Cochin was the Resource person for the monthly lecture known as the Enrichment session under the Innovation Club Activities held on 31st October, 2019 on the topic 'Time Management'. The Resource Person was introduced by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, the Nodal officer for the Innovation club activity at Regional Centre, Cochin. The session was attended by around 180 IGNOU learners.

The Resource person Dr. Sindhu P. Nair introduced the participants to the basics of Time Management in which it was emphasized to utilise the available time in an optimum manner to achieve one's personal and professional goals. Dr. Nair emphasized on the importance of organizing, planning and dividing the time between specific activities to achieve one's goals. The importance of Time Management enabling to work smartly under tight time and pressures was highlighted. Time Management from the perspective of being an IGNOU learner was explained. The students were informed to manage their time effectively during their registration as an IGNOU learner. The concept of Credit in IGNOU was elaborated with a view to sensitize the learners about the time to be allocated for various learning activities. The session concluded with Dr. Nair highlighting the importance of Time management for completing the IGNOU programme successfully and the need to have a 'to-do' list for each day for effectively completing the tasks set.

In the Open session, Dr. Praseetha U. Asst. Director also shared inputs pertaining to basics of being an IGNOU learner, Gyandarshan Counselling schedules of live Interactive session which are being uploaded on the IGNOU website and the need for visiting the IGNOU and Regional Centre websites for regular updates about IGNOU queries raised by the learners during the Open session were addressed by the academics. The session was received with a warm round of applause from one and all. The session came to an end with Shri. Muralidharan, SO. Proposing the vote of thanks to all present.



Dr. Sindhu P Nair, ARD, IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin also Resource Person addressing learners during the Open cum Enrichment session on 31.10.2019



## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on the topic Domestic Environmentalism - Approaches and Strategies**

The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the NCIDE, IGNOU. A series of monthly lecture identified as 'Open Session cum Enrichment Session' are being held regularly at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018. As an innovative practice the monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session under Innovation club is coupled with Grievance Redressal session as it would enable the learners to take home some message besides resolving their grievances. The Open Session cum enrichment session for the month of November was held on 26th November, 2019 at the Regional Centre, Cochin.

Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, Assistant Regional Director (ARD), Regional Centre, Cochin was the Resource person for the monthly lecture known as the Enrichment session under the Innovation Club Activities held on 26th November, 2019 on the topic 'Domestic Environmentalism - Approaches and Strategies'. The Resource Person was introduced by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, the Nodal officer for the Innovation club activity at Regional Centre, Cochin. The session was attended by around 30 IGNOU learners.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director also shared inputs pertaining to Skill Development programmes available with the Central Institute of Fisheries Department (CIFT), Cochin and MOOCs programme available in the SWAYAM portal with the learners. Dr. Dorothy emphasized on the importance of life skills and how it would help them in overcoming the challenges posed by life.

The Resource person Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD introduced the participants to the basics of Domestic Environmentalism which has been defined as a habitat designed for favorable and supporting environment. Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari discussed about the basic requirements/strategies needed for a sustainable habitat like pure water, air, land and shelter. The models of Domestic environmentalism like Habitat Resource Model, Inquiry model, Guided Discovery model and Jurisprudence model was explained during the session. The approaches towards Domestic environmentalism like Individual, Familial, Social, Professional and Educational Approaches were discussed in detail. The importance of 'Saving water' was highlighted during the session with an example of Arjen Y. Hoekstra's 'Water Footprint' model. The water footprint is the amount of water consumed by human activity as well as the assimilation capacity used. The participants were practically demonstrated about the questions asked in assessing the water footprint and requested to assess their water footprint. The activity enabled the participants in assessing their water consumption and made them aware about the importance of saving water in their day to day lives. The session concluded with Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari highlighting the importance of sustainable measures which need to be used by all for saving the environment like reducing the use of plastics, reducing water consumption in daily life, use of eco-friendly measures etc.

Dr. Sindhu P Nair, ARD and Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD also shared their experiences and inputs pertaining to sustainable living.

In the Open session, certain issues to downloading ID Card, receipt of Study materials were resolved. The session was received with a warm round of applause from one and all.



Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin also Resource Person addressing Learners during the Open cum Enrichment session on 26.11.2019



The participants of the Enrichment Session held on 26.11.2019 with Regional Centre staff (First Row).



## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 23.01.2020 on the topic Swachta and Environmental Sustainability**

The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the NCIDE, IGNOU. A series of monthly lecture identified as '**Open Session cum Enrichment Session**' are being held regularly at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018. The Open session cum Enrichment session for the month of January was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2019 at the Regional Centre, Cochin on the topic 'Swachta and Environmental Sustainability'.

All the Academics (Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P.Nair, ARD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, Dr. Praseetha U., AD) from the Regional Centre, Cochin and Dr. M. Rajesh, RD, RC Vatakkara were the Resource persons for the talk show on the topic '**Swachta and Environmental Sustainability**'. The Resource Persons were introduced by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, the Nodal officer for the Innovation club activity at Regional Centre, Cochin. The session was attended by around ..... IGNOU learners.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director in her talk welcomed Dr. M. Rajesh, Regional Director, RC Vatakkara (Former Regional Director of RC Cochin) and shared inputs pertaining to Skill Development programmes available with the Central Institute of Fisheries Department (CIFT), Cochin and training provided by Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur was shared amongst all participants. The MOOCs programme on Environmental Sustainability available in the SWAYAM portal of MHRD was also shared amongst the learners. Dr. Dorothy further emphasized on the importance of life skills and how it would help them in overcoming the challenges posed by life.

Dr. M. Rajesh, RD, RC Vatakkara shared the importance of International Conventions and Agreements in Environmental Protection. The Paris Convention Agreement, 2015 emphasized on limiting the Global temperature rise not above 1.5 degree Celsius and the International Solar Alliance whose Headquarters is in Gurgaon, Haryana is in the process of creating non-conventional energy systems in which India is a major player. Dr. Rajesh also highlighted 'International Carbon Trade' regulated by the Carbon Market - an International Market which operated by seeing how much carbon each country can diffuse in the atmosphere. At the end, Dr. Rajesh highlighted and demonstrated on screen the activities done under Innovation club of RC Vatakkara which included 'Online Video Channel' of video lectures by Academic Counsellors of RC Vatakkara

Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD in her talk explained the concept of Environmental Sustainability. The concept of 'Renewable and Non-renewable sources of Energy' with examples such as Water cycle and Environment Friendly Technologies was explained.

Dr. Nair cited the example of Solar Energy as the biggest source of Energy on the planet. The technologies used to harness solar energy i.e. Solar Thermal Technology and Photovoltage technology were highlighted. How each individual can contribute towards Environmental sustainability by choosing Environment friendly technologies such as Soar cooker, Solar Water heater, Generation of current by using solar panels and supplying in-grid was explained. Dr. Nair in the end concluded the talk by saying that Environment sustainability needs to be the way of life.

The next Resource person Dr. Jalajakumari, ARD highlighted the importance of Cleanliness in daily lives, The importance of Water conservation and the basic requirements/strategies needed for a sustainable habitat like pure water, air, land and shelter was emphasized. The importance of 'Saving water' was highlighted during the session with an example of Arjen Y. Hoekstra's 'Water Footprint' model. The water footprint is the amount of water consumed by human activity as well as the assimilation capacity used. The participants were practically demonstrated about the questions asked in assessing the water footprint and requested to assess their water footprint. The activity enabled the participants in assessing their water consumption and made them aware about the importance of saving water in their day to day lives. The session concluded with Dr. Jalajakumari highlighting the importance of sustainable measures which need to be used by all for saving the environment.

Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD in his talk highlighted the need for reducing Environmental Pollution by planting of more trees. The impact of climatic changes and radiations received by Earth was having hazardous impact on the health of common man was emphasized. Dr. Vijayaragavan also explained the importance played by plants in release of Oxygen which comprised 21 percent of the oxygen in the air. The same was also being utilized by Animal and Humans. Hence the talk rounded off with the message that plants need to be protected and afforestation needs to be carried out in large scale for a sustainable living and protecting our environment.

Lastly Dr. Praseetha U. in her talk briefly highlighted that Environment and Society are closely inter-related and the changing scenario has resulted in a dynamic inequilibrium between the two. The examples of Bhopal Gas Tragedy and Plachimada case were cited to emphasize the same. Dr. Praseetha emphasized that the carrying capacity of the earth was limited and all needs to work together to preserve the environment by bulding a sustainable future for the coming generations. As a take

home message, the importance of reducing the use of plastics, reducing water consumption in daily life, use of eco-friendly measures etc. was highlighted with the quote of 3Rs i.e. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

The session was then Open for discussions in which participants shared their queries and doubts. The session ended with the vote of thanks and was received with a warm round of applause from one and all.



Resource Persons during the Open session cum Enrichment Session on 23.01.2020 (From L to R- Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD, Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, RC Cochin, Dr. M. Rajesh, RD, RC Vatakara and Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD)



Dr. M. Rajesh, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Vatakara addressing Learners during the Open session cum Enrichment session on 23.01.2020



Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin addressing Learners during the Open session cum Enrichment session on 23.01.2020

## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 27.02.2020 on the topic Pre-requisites for Registering in Government Employment Exchange**

The 'Open session cum Enrichment session' for the month of February was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 at the Regional Centre, Cochin on the topic 'Pre-requisites for Registering in Government Employment Exchange'.

Shri. Benny Mathew, Employment Officer (VG), District Employment Exchange, Kakkanad, Ernakulam was the Resource Person for monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 on the topic 'Pre-requisites for Registering in Government Employment Exchange'. After a brief introduction about the session by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, the Nodal Officer for the Innovation club activity, the Resource Person was introduced by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD to the audience. Around 50 students including staff at RC Cochin participated in the event.

The session began with Shri. Benny Mathew enlisting the basic pre-requisites for registering in an Employment Exchange like one should be minimum 14 years of age - the proof can be SSC Marksheet, Nativity proof like Voter ID, Aadhar Card, Passport copy alongwith all the relevant certificates. The Certificates produced by the candidate need to be recognized and not fake or from unrecognized Institutions/Universities. The Registration can be done online at <http://www.employment.kerala.gov.in> and within 90 days the Originals of the certificates need to be produced at the Employment Exchange. It was highlighted that Renewal of his/her application can also be done Online. Shri. Benny informed that the Employment exchange regularly conducts Job fairs atleast twice in a month. The importance of Group Discussion and Presentation skill was highlighted in the session.

As an example of Skill Test, Shri. Benny tried testing IGNOU learners present by asking learners to list out the States of India. The Resource Person demonstrated a simple technique of A, B, C, D...till Z in which the entire list of States could be easily remembered by the Students. For eg. A for Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, B for Bihar, Bengal, C for Chattisgarh and so on till Z wherein the entire 28 States could be easily remembered and covered. Shri. Benny also shared tips to students on remembering important events like for example BAR (Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan) were the most backward States of India, KEMISTRI (Kerala, Mizoram and Tripura) were the most Literate States of India. Shri. Benny also explained that 'Unemployment Allowance' was also available to the registered applicants under the following three schemes.

1. KESRU - Loan scheme for a group of people who want to be an entrepreneur
2. Job Club - A group of people who get loan from Banks for opening Beauty Parlour, Shop etc.
3. Kaivelya - Scheme for Persons with Disability wherein they are provided financial assistance

4. Sharanya - Scheme for Widows/Divorcee wherein Rs. 50,000/- is the loan amount provided and only Rs. 25,000/- needs to be repaid. This scheme is one of the most popular schemes as on date.

Shri. Benny rounded off his talk by emphasizing that more and more learners need to register at the Employment exchange for better job opportunities and that the registered learners need to renew their application every 3 years for which the applicant gets a grace period of three months and additional qualifications if any can be added within 90 days from the change done online.

The session was then open for discussions in which participants shared their queries and doubts with the Resource Person. Two learners even shared their feedback about the session in which they highlighted that the session was very impressive and useful in knowing the basic facts about Employment Exchange and its activities.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director also shared inputs pertaining to Skill Development and MOOCs programme available in the SWAYAM portal with the learners. Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD summarized the highlights of the session and the session was received with a warm round of applause from one and all.



The participants of the Open cum Enrichment session with the Resource Person Sh. Benny Mathew, Employment Officer (VG), District Employment Exchange, Ernakulam and Regional Centre, Cochin staff on 27.02.2020



Resource Person Sh. Benny Mathew, Employment Officer (VG), District Employment Exchange, Ernakulam addressing the participants during Open cum Enrichment session

## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 13.08.2020 on the topic E-Support Services of IGNOU**

The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the NCIDE, IGNOU. A series of monthly lecture identified as 'Open Session cum Enrichment Session' are being held regularly at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018. As an innovative practice the monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session under Innovation club is coupled with Grievance Redressal session as it would enable the learners to take home some message besides resolving their grievances.

After the Pandemic situation which began in March, 2020, this was the first Online/Virtual Open Session cum Enrichment Session conducted by IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin. The session was conducted on 13th August, 2020 through Google Meet Platform and was co-ordinated/administered by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Asst. Director (AD) who is also the Nodal Officer for the Innovation Club Activities at Regional Centre, Cochin.

Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Assistant Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin was also the Resource person for the monthly lecture known as the Enrichment session under the Innovation Club Activities held on 13th August, 2020 on the topic 'E- Support Services of IGNOU'. The Online/Virtual session was attended by around 155 participants which included IGNOU Learners of January, 2020 session.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director initially addressed the learners by sharing inputs pertaining to Skill Development programmes available with the Central Institute of Fisheries Department (CIFT), Cochin and MOOCs programme available in the SWAYAM portal with the learners. The importance of life skills and how it would help the Learners in overcoming the challenges posed by life was also highlighted. Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD also informed students about the importance of applying for add-on programmes of IGNOU for improving upon employability skills.

The Resource person Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD introduced the participants to the basic things which Learners should be knowing as an IGNOU student i.e. their Enrolment Number, Programme Code, Study Centre Name and Code. The main IGNOU Website was explained in detail starting from how to check the Registration Status, Downloading of Assignment Questions, Old Question papers, Knowing the Study material status, eContent App, Gyanvani, Gyandarshan, IGram, Induction Guidelines and other details. The Facebook /Twitter Account and RC Cochin Website information was also shared amongst participants. Information about the Admissions being open for the July, 2020 session and the link for applying was also provided. The session concluded with Dr. Praseetha highlighting the importance of checking the Websites of IGNOU and Regional Centre on a regular basis so as to keep oneself updated about important notifications with respect to the programme being pursued from IGNOU.



In the Open Session, the queries from IGNOU Learners were mainly addressed by all Academics and they were pertaining to:

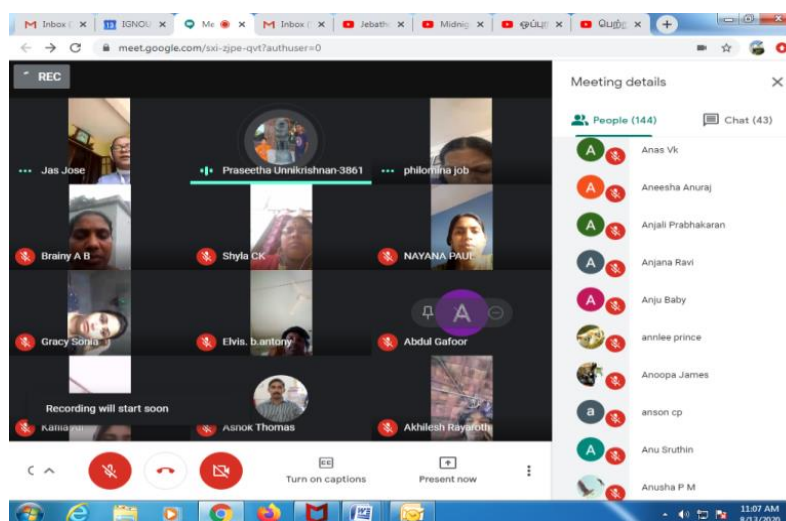
- Counselling sessions of IGNOU
- Downloading of Assignment question and submission of the same
- Downloading of Soft copy of study materials
- Conduct of Examinations
- Choosing courses for Re-registration and
- Some other general queries pertaining to Facebook page of IGNOU

In response to various queries pertaining to Counseling sessions, Dr. Sindhu P Nair, DD shared in detail about the Online Counseling sessions being conducted by RC Cochin and also shared information about the Facebook Live sessions being conducted for various Programmes by IGNOU Head Quarters, Delhi. Information about the videos uploaded in the RC Cochin website, Gyanvani/Gyandarshan schedules being uploaded on Facebook page was also shared amongst participants.

Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD also addressed various queries of Learners pertaining to downloading of Assignment questions, submission of the same, conduct of Term end examinations and other related queries.

The Session gave an opportunity to all IGNOU Learners of January, 2020 session to gain an understanding about the E-Support services of IGNOU. Further the session enabled the IGNOU Learners to clarify their doubts/queries pertaining to the programme they were pursuing.

The session came to an end with the Vote of thanks being proposed by Shri. K.K. Joseph, Assistant Registrar, Regional Centre, Cochin.



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session on 13.08.2020

## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 11.09.2020 on the topic Environmental Significance and Challenges in the present day scenario**

The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the NCIDE, IGNOU. A series of monthly lecture identified as 'Open Session cum Enrichment Session' are being held regularly at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018. As an innovative practice the monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session under Innovation club is coupled with Grievance Redressal session as it would enable the learners to take home some message besides resolving their grievances.

After the Pandemic situation which began in March, 2020, this was the second Online/Virtual Open Session cum Enrichment Session conducted by IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin. The session was conducted on 11th September, 2020 through Google Meet Platform and was co-ordinated/administered by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Asst. Director (AD) who is also the Nodal Officer for the Innovation Club Activities at Regional Centre, Cochin. A brief introduction towards the session and the Resource person was provided by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD.

Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, Assistant Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin was the Resource person for the monthly lecture known as the Enrichment session under the Innovation Club Activities held on 11th September, 2020 on the topic 'Environmental Significance and Challenges in the present day scenario'. The Online/Virtual session was attended by around 81 participants which included IGNOU Learners of January, 2020 session. Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director initially addressed the learners by sharing inputs pertaining to Skill Development programmes available with the Central Institute of Fisheries Department (CIFT), Cochin and MOOCs programme available in the SWAYAM portal with the learners. The importance of life skills and how it would help the Learners in overcoming the challenges posed by life was also highlighted. Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD also informed students about the importance of applying for add-on programmes of IGNOU for improving upon employability skills.

The Resource person Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD introduced the participants to the basics about Environment in which Dr. Vijayaragavan highlighted that our environment consists of living and non-living beings and it was the responsibility for every citizen to keep the environment clean and green without polluting the same. The importance of Oxygen which we get from Plants was specifically highlighted and the need for planting more plants/trees to maintain the ecological balance was emphasized. The need to maintain 21 percentage Oxygen by the plants to provide life to Humans and Animals was emphasized. The idea that our environment needs to be our first house rather than our own house was also discussed. The various types of Pollution which included Marine pollution and Pesticide pollution was explained to the participants.

The Endosulfan tragedy at Kasargod District was discussed and how pollution is affecting our daily lives was highlighted during the talk. Further the role of Industry in preserving our environment without polluting the rivers and ground water was highlighted. Lastly the challenges due to Global warming/Afforestation was discussed and the need to save the Environment for ourselves and future generations was highlighted for a better sustainable and healthy life.

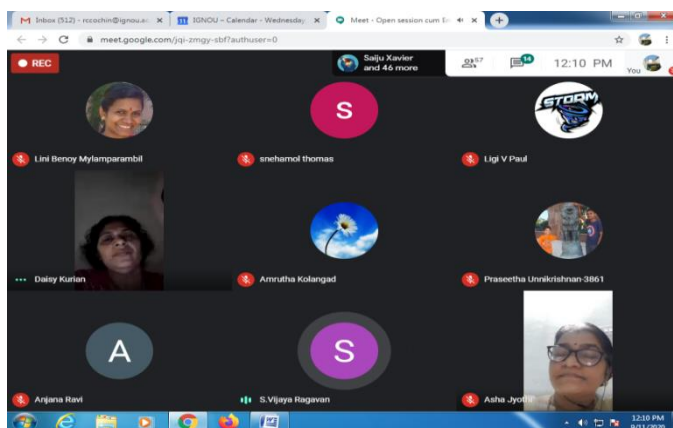
In the Open Session, the queries/chat messages from IGNOU Learners were mainly addressed by all Academics and they were pertaining to:

- Counselling sessions of IGNOU
- Downloading of Assignment question and submission of the same
- Downloading of Soft copy of study materials
- Conduct of Examinations
- Choosing courses for Re-registration and
- Some other general queries pertaining to Facebook page of IGNOU
- 

In response to various queries pertaining to Counseling sessions, Dr. Sindhu P Nair, DD shared in detail about the Online Counseling sessions being conducted by RC Cochin and also shared information about the Facebook Live sessions being conducted for various Programmes by IGNOU Head Quarters, Delhi. Information about the Gyanvani/Gyandarshan schedules being uploaded on Facebook page was also shared amongst participants.

The Session gave an opportunity to all IGNOU Learners of January, 2020 session to gain an understanding about the basics of Environment and the Challenges faced in the present day scenario. Further the session enabled the IGNOU Learners to clarify their doubts/queries pertaining to the programme they were pursuing.

A brief feedback about the session was given by two IGNOU Learners and the session came to an end with the Vote of thanks being proposed by Shri. K.K. Joseph, Assistant Registrar, Regional Centre, Cochin.



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session on 11.09.2020

## **IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN**

### **Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 30.10.2020 on the topic 'Relevance of Positive Strokes in a Successful life'**

The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the NCIDE, IGNOU. A series of monthly lecture identified as 'Open Session cum Enrichment Session' are being held regularly at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018. As an innovative practice the monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session under Innovation club is coupled with Grievance Redressal session as it would enable the learners to take home some message besides resolving their grievances.

After the Pandemic situation which began in March, 2020, this was the third Online/Virtual Open Session cum Enrichment Session conducted by IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin. The session was conducted on 30th October, 2020 through Google Meet Platform and was co-ordinated/administered by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Asst. Director (AD) who is also the Nodal Officer for the Innovation Club Activities at Regional Centre, Cochin. A brief introduction towards the session and the Resource person was provided by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD.

Ms. B.S. Sindhu, Asst. Coordinator, Model Study Centre (SC14000) under Regional Centre, Cochin was the Resource person for the monthly lecture known as the Enrichment session under the Innovation Club Activities held on 30th October, 2020 on the topic 'Relevance of Positive Strokes in a Successful Life'. The Online/Virtual session was attended by around 88 participants which included IGNOU Learners of January, 2020 and July, 2020 session.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director addressed the learners by sharing the importance of life skills and how it would help the Learners in overcoming the challenges posed by life. The importance of applying for add-on programmes of IGNOU for improving upon employability skills. inputs pertaining to Skill Development programmes available with the Central Institute of Fisheries Department (CIFT), Cochin and MOOCs programme available in the SWAYAM portal was also shared with the learners

The Resource person Ms. B.S. Sindhu introduced the participants to Mr. Eric Berne, a famous psychologist who introduced the idea of Strokes into Transactional Analysis which was based upon the work of Mr. Rene Spitz, a Researcher who contributed much in the area of Child Development. The importance of Physical stroking and the deprivation of same leading to emotional and physical difficulties in infants was highlighted. Based on these, Mr. Berne developed theories about the need of adults for Strokes. Ms. Sindhu then defined Stroke by quoting the definition given by Mr. Eric Berne as the "fundamental unit of Social action". A Stroke is a Unit of recognition, when one person recognizes another person. The meaning of Stroke was conveyed like it could be physical, verbal or non-verbal and so could a handshake, a compliment or a nod of the head. It could also be a 'Hello', 'Wave of the hand'. According to the Resource person, all of these acknowledge towards the fact that the other person exists.

The importance of Positive Strokes in our day to day life was emphasized with various practical examples by Ms. Sindhu like for example when an Infant needs Cuddling, an Adult craves for a

smile, a wink, a hand gesture or some other form of recognition. The same was explained as Recognition hunger or Stroke hunger.

The various types of Strokes like Positive Strokes, Negative Strokes, Conditional, Unconditional, Verbal Strokes and Non verbal strokes etc. was explained to the participants with various practical examples of our day to day life. Ms. Sindhu concluded the session by highlighting some specific aspects which one could practice in our day to day life like:

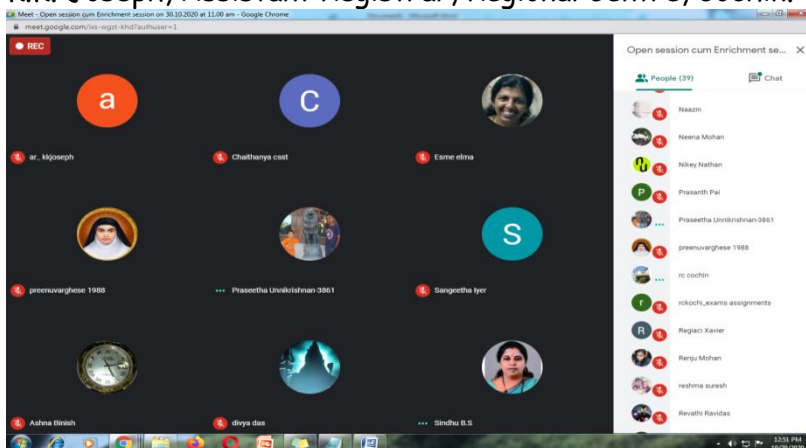
- Love needs to be unconditional
- One should accept the person as he/she is
- The reward given needs to be on time
- The present moments are inevitable and
- One always needs to imbibe Positive Stroking for a successful life

In the Open Session, the queries/chat messages from IGNOU Learners were mainly addressed by all Academics and they were mainly pertaining to:

- Downloading of Assignment question and submission of the same
- Downloading of Soft copy of study materials
- Conduct of Examinations
- Submission of Project and
- Choosing courses for Re-registration

In response to various queries pertaining to IGNOU, all Academics including Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P Nair, DD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan interacted with the participants and clarified their doubts. The Session gave an opportunity to all IGNOU Learners of January, 2020 session to gain an understanding about the importance of Positive Strokes for a successful life.. Further the session enabled the IGNOU Learners to clarify their doubts/queries pertaining to the programme they were pursuing.

The session was very interactive and the efforts of the Resource person Ms. B.S. Sindhu in explaining the concept in a practical manner was appreciated by one and all. As an innovative practice, two learners amongst the participants shared their feedback about the session and thanked the Resource person. The session came to an end with the Vote of thanks being proposed by Shri. K.K. Joseph, Assistant Registrar, Regional Centre, Cochin.



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session on 30.10.2020

## IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN

### Report on the Innovation Club Activity held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 25.11.2020 on the topic on the topic National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 - The Road to Reforms

The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the NCIDE, IGNOU. A series of monthly lecture identified as '**Open Session cum Enrichment Session**' are being held regularly at the Regional Centre, Cochin since September, 2018. As an innovative practice the monthly lecture identified as Enrichment session under Innovation club is coupled with Grievance Redressal session as it would enable the learners to take home some message besides resolving their grievances.

After the Pandemic situation which began in March, 2020, this was the fourth Online/Virtual Open Session cum Enrichment Session conducted by IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin. The session was conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 through Google Meet Platform and was co-ordinated/administered by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Asst. Director (AD) who is also the Nodal Officer for the Innovation Club Activities at Regional Centre, Cochin. A brief introduction towards the session and the Resource person was provided by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD.

Dr. Shakila Shamsu, formerly OSD (New Education Policy), Dept. of Higher Education, MHRD was the Resource person for the monthly lecture known as the Enrichment session under the Innovation Club Activities held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 on the topic '**National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 - The Road to Reforms**'. The Online/Virtual session was attended by around 32 participants which included IGNOU Learners of January, 2020 and July, 2020 session.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director addressed the learners by sharing the importance of life skills and how it would help the Learners in overcoming the challenges posed by life. The importance of completing their programme from IGNOU for improving upon employability skills. inputs pertaining to Skill Development programmes available with the Central Institute of Fisheries Department (CIFT), Cochin and MOOCs programme available in the SWAYAM portal was also shared with the learners

The Resource Person person Dr. Shamsu began the session by informing that NEP, 2020 is the FIRST Educational Policy of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The UNESCO, 1996 Report of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century was highlighted which emphasized the ultimate goal of education which are based on the following four Pillars of Education:

1. Learning to Know (means learn, acquire and build knowledge)
2. Learning to do (Learning social and professional skills to relate)
3. Learning to Live together (learning to live in society)
4. Learning to Be (develop one's personality)

Dr. Shamsu highlighted that any Education Policy is an aspirational document and not a legal document and that the Policy is a comprehensive framework for all sectors of Education i.e.



from Elementary education to Higher education as well as Vocational training in both rural and urban India. It was emphasized that the Policy aims to develop an Education system which empowers students to have Knowledge, Aptitude and Skills.

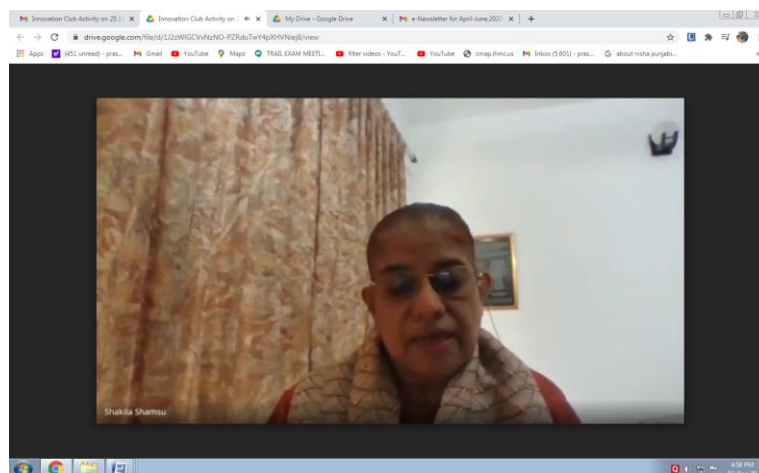
Presently the Gross Enrolment Ratio stands at 26.3 percent which needs to reach to 50 percent by 2035 for which the emphasis has to be on offering Higher Education Courses in Regional Languages so as to enhance participation from the rural populace was highlighted in the session. Further maximizing the reach of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) was emphasized for increasing the GER. It was reiterated that one needs to break away from being Discipline specific to offering Multi-Disciplinary Degrees. Lastly Dr. Shamsu ended her session by informing that the NEP, 2020 aims to bridge the gap between Higher Education and the Employment market by making students prepared for the Digital Revolution and by making Online Learning/Technology or Education more cost effective.

In the Open Session, the queries/chat messages from IGNOU Learners were mainly addressed by all Academics and they were mainly pertaining to:

1. Downloading of Assignment question and submission of the same
2. Downloading of Soft copy of study materials
3. Conduct of Examinations and
4. Submission of Project

In response to various queries pertaining to IGNOU, all Academics including Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD interacted with the participants and clarified their doubts. The Session gave an opportunity to all IGNOU Learners of January, 2020 session to gain an understanding about the highlights of the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020.. Further the session enabled the IGNOU Learners to clarify their doubts/queries pertaining to the programme they were pursuing.

The session was very interactive and the efforts of the Resource person Dr. Shakila Shamsu, in explaining the concept related to NEP in a simple understandable manner was appreciated by one and all. As an innovative practice, two learners amongst the participants shared their feedback about the session and thanked the Resource person. The session came to an end with the Vote of thanks being proposed by Shri. K.K. Joseph, Assistant Registrar, Regional Centre, Cochin.



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session on 25.11.2020