

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

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Facebook Page of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin



The Official Facebook page of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin was established on 18th July, 2013 for enhancement of Student support services and to reach out to the students enrolled in IGNOU through Social media. IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin Facebook page can be accessed through the link.

The Regional Centre Facebook page also posts about the sessions/posters/announcement of important dates pertaining to Admissions/Re-registration/Assignment submission/Examinations/ Convocation which are being uploaded so that all concerned students get the latest updates for the Programme he/she is pursuing. Further, informative live sessions of Induction Meetings, Promotional meetings, Innovation club meetings and other important programmes are regularly live streamed by IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin for the benefit of learners and the link of the same shared amongst students for their study purposes.

Also, National level events like Republic Day Celebrations, Yoga Day Celebrations and other events of National Importance have been shared as video on the Facebook page for further dissemination of information amongst all. Various Informative News/Information/Posters uploaded by other Regional Centres/IGNOU HQ, Delhi are also shared on the Facebook page for a better reachout amongst masses and students concerned. During the COVID times, the Facebook page had then become a major Digital Resource Centre for sharing of resources and acted as a mode to connect with the Learners virtually.

The recordings of the Promotional meetings held through FaceBook live session is always uploaded in the IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin YouTube channel under the playlist "Promotional Meeting". Similarly the recordings of the Induction Meeting held through FaceBook live session is always uploaded in the IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin YouTube channel under the playlist "Induction Meeting".

As on date, the Facebook page of RC Cochin has 18K followers and 13k likes and have become a Virtual/Digital resource for all concerned who have an aspiration for Higher education.

35th Convocation

The 35th Convocation was held on 26th April, 2022. The University awarded 2,91,586 Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates of different programmes to the successful students at 35th convocation on 26th April, 2022. The Convocation function was held from the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Convention Centre, IGNOU Headquarter, New Delhi and webcast from Head quarters and Regional Convocation held at 39 Regional Centres. IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin had the privilege of having three (03) Gold medalists from Cochin for the 35th Convocation.



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister for Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India delivering the 35th IGNOU Convocation address through virtual mode on 26.04.2022



The 35th IGNOU Convocation ceremony at IGNOU, New Delhi on 26.04.2022

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister for Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India delivered the Convocation Address at Headquarters. Thirty Four (34) Medals were awarded to the meritorious students at the ceremony. Degree certificates were also conferred to the successful students in different streams for 75 PhD and 17 M.Phil degree recipients at the convocation.



IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin learner Ms. Aiswarya Lakshmi was awarded Gold Medal for MCA programme and CEMCA Cash Award for the best female student in programme related to Information and Communication Technology during 35th IGNOU Convocation ceremony on 26.04.2022



Guest of Honour Mohandas Menon, Ph.D., D.Litt. Former Chief and Director of the UNESCO-UNRWA Education Programme delivering the 35th IGNOU Convocation address at Regional Centre Cochin on 26.04.2022



Special Guest Sh. Hibi Eden, MP addressing during the 35th IGNOU Convocation at Regional Centre Cochin on 26.04.2022

Professor Mohandas Menon, Ph.D., D.Litt. Former Chief and Director of the UNESCO-UNRWA Education Programme Guest of Honour of the Convocation delivered the convocation address at Regional Centre Cochin. During the Convocation, 4139 learners from Regional Centre, Cochin have successfully completed their Academic programmes. Around 2274 learners collected their Degrees and Diplomas Certificates in person. Sh. Hibi Eden, MP and also in-charge for Ernakulam Constituency (under which Regional Centre is located) was the Special Guest of the day.

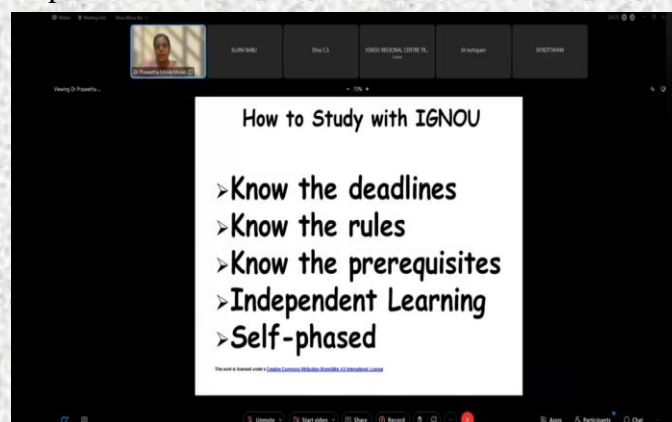


Student receiving Degree Certificate from the Guest of Honour at 35th IGNOU Convocation at Regional Centre Cochin on 26.04.2022

Induction Meeting (January 2022)

A Live Facebook Online/Virtual Induction Meeting was hosted by IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin for students of January, 2022 session and conducted through Webex platform on 13th April, 2022 from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm and the session was live streamed through the Official Facebook page of IGNOU RC Cochin. The Coordinators/staff of various LSC along with the staff of Regional Centre, Cochin attended the meeting and the meeting was live streamed on the Facebook page of IGNOU on 13.04.2022 and has received 3.3k views as on 27th April, 2022.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, RC Cochin welcomed all the participants and addressed the learners on how to study with IGNOU. The importance of Self check questions and use of study materials online was highlighted along with the importance of life skills for a Distance Learner. It was emphasized that Honesty, Taking one day at a time, Persistence, Expression of Interest, Stead fastness and Peer Interaction are very important life skills for a Distance Learner to enable him/her cope up with the Professional, Social and Educational responsibilities.



Screenshot of the Live Facebook Online/Virtual Induction Meeting through Google Meet platform live streamed through the Official Facebook page of IGNOU on 13.04.2022

Ms. Sujini Babu, Assistant, Regional Centre, Cochin then explained about the significance of Enrolment Number, the difference between Fresh Admission and Re-registration, Minimum and

Maximum period of Study made available at IGNOU.

Shri. Sebastian D'Cruz, EDP then elaborated on the facilities available at Regional Centre, Cochin for the Learners in which the facilities available for students including the location, timings, accessibility to Regional centre was highlighted. The IGNOU website and Regional Centre, Cochin website was elaborated upon so that learners can avail the support services by checking the same on a regular basis.

Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD further explained about the importance of Study Materials, its structure and how one can download the same from the IGNOU website. The importance of Online Counseling session to the learners was highlighted in which it was mentioned that Online/Virtual platform would be used due to the COVID 19 pandemic situation. The process of intimation of the schedule to Learners by uploading in the Regional centre website and intimation through SMS/email was highlighted. The Learner etiquette needed was also informed to learners. Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD also explained about the Internal Assessment at IGNOU specifically emphasizing on modalities of writing and submitting assignments. The online method of downloading of Assignment questions was explained. Examination and Convocation related activities to the students were deliberated with the new provisions for online submission of Examination form since June 2020 session. The Convocation being held once in a year was also informed to the Learners.

Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Asst. Director, Regional Centre, Cochin explained about the pre-requisites of Scholarship for special clientele and how one can apply for the same. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Asst. Director, also summarised the session by covering the main points as a Checklist starting from downloading of ID card to receiving of Certificate from IGNOU, so as to enable the Learners to successfully complete their programme from IGNOU.

The Online/Virtual Live session for students of January, 2022 learners was well received by one and all. The programme was coordinated/administered by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD and technical assistance for the same was provided by Shri. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP. The recorded video has been uploaded in the Regional Centre Official YouTube Channel (accessible at the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEveTqCon6Q>) to facilitate/ revisit the session and to enable the learners who missed the live session to access the deliberations.

Term End Examination (December 2021)

The IGNOU Term End Examination for December, 2021 was conducted from 4th March 2022 to 11th April 2022. The Examinations were conducted at 14 Examination Centres under the region at Ernakulam, Kottayam, Idukki, Thrissur and Union Territory of Lakshadweep with 76694 registered examinees. The Examinations were conducted smoothly in all Districts under Regional Centre Cochin. The Study Centre SC 14000 functioning from Regional centre Campus also served as the Examination Centre.

It is noteworthy to specify that with effect from December 2021 TEE, the three Academics Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD and Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD served as Exam Centre Superintendent for the LSC14000 situated in the Regional Centre campus headed by Dr. A.K. Prema, Coordinator, 14000.

Innovation Club Activity

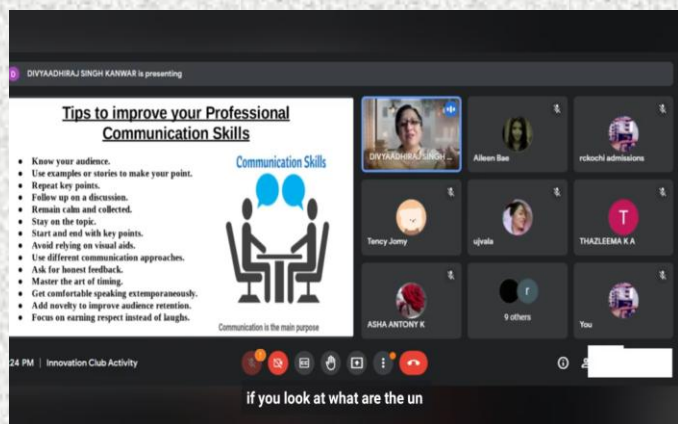
The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) of IGNOU. The sessions are being held at Regional Centre, Cochin with an objective to enrich and generate awareness amongst the learners of IGNOU on a wide range of topics ranging from *Career Management* to *Utilization of Social Media for effective learning* through which

the learners were made aware about various issues and motivated to think innovatively, generate ideas and embark on a path which could lead to future development of the Nation.

Two Online/Virtual monthly lecture identified as Open cum Enrichment Session were held at the Regional Centre, Cochin during this period. The two meetings were coordinated/administered by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD who is also the Nodal Officer for the Innovation club activities at Regional Centre, Cochin.

The recording of the Innovation club enrichment session is available in IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin official YouTube channel under playlist “The Innovation Club- monthly lecture identified as ‘Open Session cum Enrichment Session’ at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qQbtyYPZB8&list=PL-du1gIra7HJssHwGoeKPnpjZK1YZpMYs>

S. No	Date	Resource Person	Topic of Presentation
1	12.04.2022	Dr. Seema Singh, Asst. Professor, Guru Tegh Bahadur Institute of Technology, Delhi	Bringing out the best in people: unleashing the power of effective communication
2	26.05.2022	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, RC Cochin	Utilization of Social Media for effective learning



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session addressed by Dr. Seema Singh, Asst. Professor, Guru Tegh Bahadur Institute of Technology, Delhi on 12.04.2022



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, RC Cochin on 26.05.2022

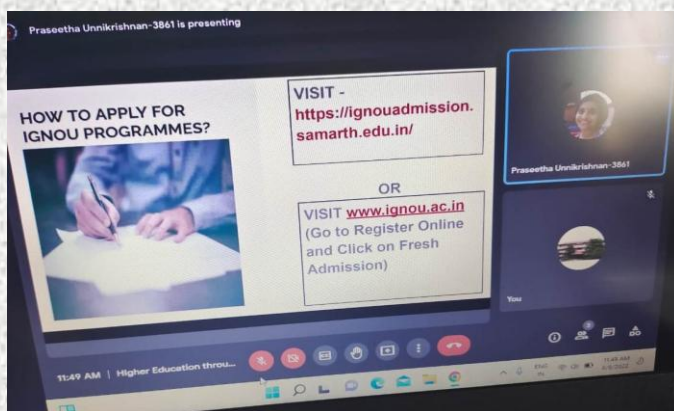
Promotional initiatives

Online/Virtual Promotional Meetings, Campaigns and Events with a view to enhance the enrolment for July 2022 Admission cycle besides optimizing the awareness about IGNOU programmes was organized by Regional Centre, Cochin through various Study Centres and other Institutions to promote IGNOU programmes by reaching out to the unreached. Facebook Live sessions were also organized for the Learners/General public associated with Regional Centre, Cochin for sharing of information pertaining to IGNOU Admissions for July 2022.

The Live Programme using Regional Centre Cochin Official Facebook Page was Administered/ Coordinated/interacted by the Academics of Regional Centre, Cochin. The Technical support for the Face Book Session Programme was provided by Sh. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP, Regional Centre Cochin.

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participant	Purpose
1	06.06.2022	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	The FB session was viewed by many and has 565 views	Facebook Live Promotional Session on UG and PG programmes by School of Social Sciences (SOSS)

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participant	Purpose
2	08.06.2022	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	The Facebook session was viewed by many and has 503 views	Facebook Live Promotional Session on UG and PG programmes by School of Humanities (SOHS)
3	09.06.2022	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	Chinmaya Mission College, Thrissur	An Virtual Promotional meeting on Awareness of IGNOU programmes
4	19.06.2022	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD	IPCAI Grace Care, Kottayam	Face-to-face Promotional meeting on Awareness of IGNOU programmes
5	26.06.2022	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	The Facebook session was viewed by many and has 733 views	Facebook Live Promotional Session on 'Add-on Certificate and Diploma Programmes of IGNOU for better job prospects'
6	30.06.2022	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD	BTH Bharath Hotel	Promotional session on IGNOU programmes among Members & Participants of Save Kerala Movement



Online/Virtual Promotional Meeting by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD for students and Staff of Chinmaya Mission College, Thrissur on 09.06.2022



Promotional session by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD at IPCAI Grace Care, Kottayam on 19.06.2022



Promotional session by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD for amongst Members & Participants of Save Kerala Movement on 30.06.2022

The recording of the Promotional Meetings are available in IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin official YouTube channel under playlist “Promotional Meeting” at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd2cmYLz9To&list=PL-u1gIra7HK5K37AdAJ0j61aQRo93F0m>



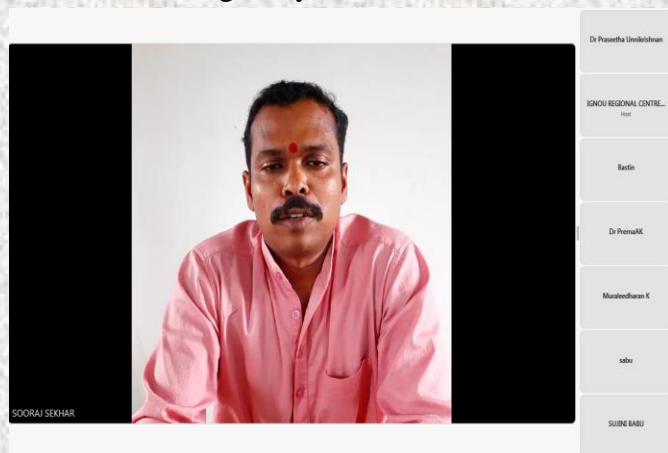
Screenshot of Presentation presented by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD during the Facebook Live Promotional Meeting on 06.06.2022

Other Activity

International Yoga Day Celebrations at Regional Centre, Cochin

The Yoga day celebrations at Regional centre, Cochin were held on 23rd May, 2022 (as per Headquarter schedule assigned to each Regional Centre) and on 21st June, 2022 (on International Yoga day) through virtual meetings which were held through Webex platform (*with acknowledgement to Dr. B. Sukumar, Regional Director, RC Trivandrum for sharing the facility of Webex for use of RC Cochin*) and livestreamed through the Facebook page of RC Cochin.

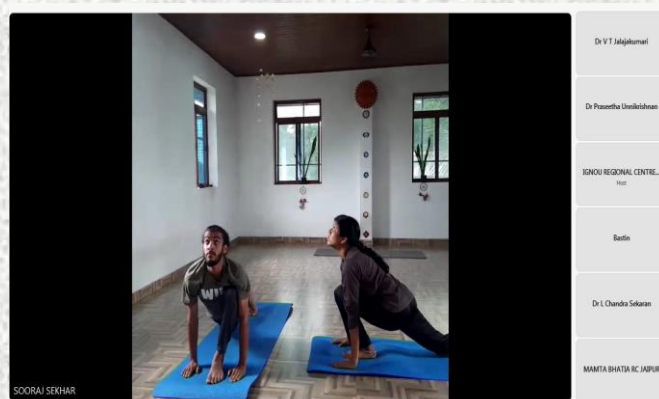
In the meeting on 21st June, 2022, Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD gave the Welcome Address. A brief about date-wise scheduled activities planned at Regional Centre for the International Yoga Day by RSD was briefed by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, RC Cochin. The event involving a webinar, virtual interaction, collaboration with LSC- all targeting the event related to International Yoga Day was highlighted. Dr. V T Jalajakumari, ARD gave a brief about International Yoga Day.



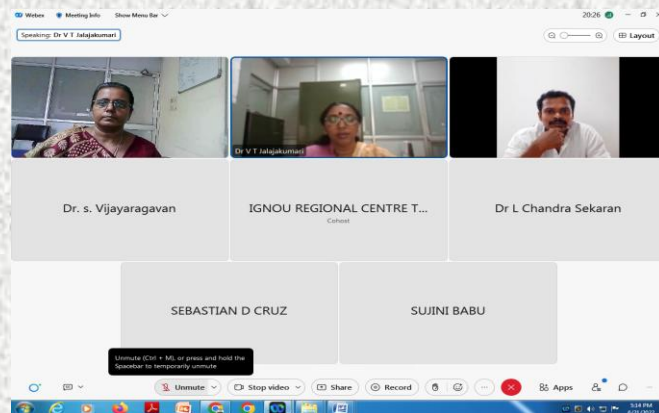
Lecture on Yoga by Sh. Sooraj P Sekhar, Director, SAHASRARA Institute of Yoga and Mind Culture, Cochin during the Virtual International Yoga Day celebrations on 23.05.2022

Sh. Sooraj P Sekhar, Director, SAHASRARA Institute of Yoga and Mind Culture, Cochin was the Resource person for the celebrations on

23rd May, 2022 and 21st June, 2022 and gave a lecture and demonstration on Yoga. During the Lecture and Demonstration on Yoga, Sh. Sooraj P Sekhar, briefed about the physiological changes while doing specific exercises and also demonstrated the ease with which it can be done as a daily routine in one's life.



Demonstration on Yoga during the Online/Virtual Yoga Day celebrations on 23.05.2022



Online/Virtual Yoga Day celebrations on 21.06.2022

Sh. K J Joseph, SO and Sh. K Muraleedharan, SO gave reflections of previous experience/ Session as in Cochin Regional Centre during the year 2016, during the tenure of Dr. M Rajesh as Regional Director, face-to-face exposure has been given using the same expert. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by the Regional Director acknowledging the guidance given by Dr. Umesh Pandey, Director RSD and Dr. Manoj Tirkey, Deputy Director, RSD. The Technical support for the Programmes was provided by Sh. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP, Regional Centre Cochin.

Participation in Online/Virtual Workshops/Seminar

- All the four Academics on rolls of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin (Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari ARD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD) attended Workshop on RTI-MIS Online Portal for (CPIOs) of IGNOU' on 31.05.2022
- All the four Academics on rolls of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin (Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari ARD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD) attended National Seminar on 'Only One Earth' to be held on 06.06.2022 as a part of Environmental Day celebrations at SOITS, IGNOU New Delhi.

Study Centre Corner

Rural Academy for Management Studies, Cochin (LSC 14157)

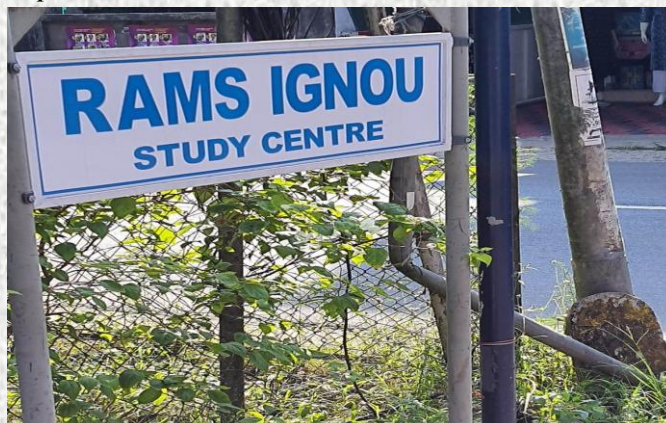


The RAMS was established in the year 2010 by Former MLA, Adv: MM. Monayee, the Honourable Chairman of RAMS, in Vypin, a thickly populated erstwhile island of Ernakulam District in the State of Kerala.

In the words of Shri. MM. Monayee, Chairman, RAMS,

“Chinese Philosopher Confucius said ‘If your plan is for one year, plant rice; if your plan is for ten years, plant trees; if your plan is for hundred years, Educate Children’. Providing quality Education to the rural people at their own place is a herculean task as it needs huge financial investment, not only to accommodate the students, but to attract the

qualified staff members to that location. This can be done only by those who are giving that much importance to Inclusive Education”.



IGNOU Study Centre LSC 14157 at Rural Academy for Management Studies, Cochin campus

RAMS is AICTE approved Higher Education Institution and affiliated to MG University, Kottayam. The first Principal was Sh. Antony and the IGNOU Study Centre 14157 was established under his leadership in the year 2010. The first Coordinator for IGNOU Study Centre 14157 was Sh. Vijayakumar and he has been rendering his services as Coordinator since 2010 and till date. The Institution caters to the needs of rural community especially those who aspire for Higher education. The IGNOU Study Centre provides opportunity for acquiring additional qualifications by the local populace to enhance employability without dislocation.



Sh. Vijayakumar, Coordinator of IGNOU Study Centre LSC 14157 Rural Academy for Management Studies, Cochin

The IGNOU Study Center at RAMS was established by IGNOU in the year 2011 with 102 students and has presently grown to 348 students as on January, 2022. There are 32 programmes of Masters/Bachelors/Diploma/ Certificate level activated at this Study Centre.

IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin thanks Sh. Vijayakumar, the Coordinator of IGNOU Study Centre 14157 Rural Academy for Management Studies, Cochin for providing inputs for this issue of Newsletter.

Meet an IGNOU Learner



In this edition of "Meet an IGNOU Learner", we introduce you to Ms. Aiswarya Lakshmi who is a Gold Medalist of 35th Convocation for MCA programmer and also received the CEMCA Cash Award for the best female student in programme related to Information and Communication Technology.

Ms. Aiswarya Lakshmi is presently working as a Lecturer in Computer science, Technical Higher Secondary School, Puthuppally, Kottayam. Her profile was facilitated by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Asst. Director for use in the Newsletter of IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin.

In the words of Ms. Aiswarya Lakshmi,

"I am very proud about myself as a successful IGNOU learner and I am happy to share my experience also. After completing my graduation in BSc Computer science, I decided to join IGNOU for doing my Masters in Computer Application. Initially I was uncertain about how can I do a subject like computer science through distant education. But I found that IGNOU is the best platform for those who are ready to work hard. It has a well-prepared syllabus and teacher inbuilt study materials. Those who work hard can really achieve good marks. While doing my Masters with IGNOU, I prepared for competitive exams also. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic time also, IGNOU RC Cochin provided all the required support. The Term-End Examination and the results were arranged well during pandemic also. It was really an appreciable experience of being a student at IGNOU. I am really thankful to the Almighty God for about the moment I decided to join in IGNOU. And the moment when I received my Gold medal from honourable Education minister. Sri Dharmendra Pradhan Ji would always be a memorable treasure in my life. I consider it as privilege to recommend IGNOU for those who are ready to work hard and have a great vision in life. The support from my study centre (IIIT Kottayam) was irreplaceable. I thank the Coordinator LSC 1424P Ms. Anie Kurian for all the support. Even the faculty was really supportive to each and every student."

The Gold Medalist also placed on record, the support received from family, friends and authorities/colleagues at the place of work.

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin appreciates her efforts and wishes Ms. Aiswarya Lakshmi the best in life and in all her future endeavors!
