

REPORT OF THE ORIENTATION OF ACADEMIC COUNSELLORS OF M.A. SOCIOLOGY (MSO) PROGRAMME

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

A two day Orientation for Academic Counsellors of M.A. Sociology Programme was organized at the Conference Room, Rajasthan College, JLN Marg, Jaipur, Rajasthan. The programme was organized for Academic Counsellors of Regional Centres of Panaji, Pune, Nagpur, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Jodhpur, Jabalpur, Bhopal and Rajkot. Resource person from School of Social Sciences, IGNOU were invited to address the participants and orient them with various dimensions of the implementation of M.A. Sociology (MSO) programme. The programme was meant to equip the counselors to ensure effective and efficient support services of all kind to students enrolled in MSO Programme. At the same time one of the objectives of the programme was to get feedback from academic counselors about various dimensions of implementation of this MA Sociology Programme and their view points on different aspects of these programmes for further better development and implementation at the Study Centre level.

Date: November 25-26, 2016

Venue: Conference Room, Rajasthan College, JLN Marg, Jaipur

No. of Participants: 18 participants participated in the Orientation programme from 5 Regional Centres Bhopal, Jabalpur, Jaipur and Rajkot (list annexed as Annexure I)

Resource Person: Prof. Debal K Singharoy and Dr. Rabindra Kumar from SOSS, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.

Objectives of the Programme

- i) To explain the objectives and nature of MSO Programme and its effective and efficient implementation through LSCs.
- ii) To identify the issues of student support services at different levels (RC & LSCs).
- iii) To discuss the role of Academic Counsellors for facilitating the student support services in effective implementation of BA Sociology /MSO.
- iv) To collect suggestions & feedback from Academic Counsellors on various dimensions of the BA Sociology /MSO and its better implementation.

Programme Schedule: Annexed as Annexure II

DAY I: 25th NOVEMBER 2016

INAUGURAL SESSION [10:00AM-11:00AM]

Mr. Sher Singh, Assistant Regional Director & Coordinator Orientation Programme welcomed the participants, resource persons Prof. Debal K Singharoy and Dr. Rabindra Kumar from SOSS, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi and the chief guest Dr. Hari Singh, former Cabinet Minister, Govt of Rajasthan. The programme started with lightening the lamp by the Chief Guest, Resource Persons and Regional Director. Dr. M. K. Dash Regional Director welcomed the Chief Guest, Resource Persons and Participants with a presentation of the over view of the University, Regional Centre and highlighted the achievements of

the Regional Centre in last two years in terms of establishment of 14 new Regular Study Centre, establishment of 6 new special study centers in different jails, empanelment of nearly 930 new Academic Counselors and technology mediated interventions for facilitating and promoting student support services at the Regional Centre and over administration and management of the Regional Centre. The basic objectives of the two day programme was also presented by the Regional Director.

Prof. Debal K Singharoy welcomed all the participants and viewed that this orientation programme is an important initiative to train/orient the field functionaries for effective implementation of various courses of Sociology at masters & bachelors level through ODL mode. Dr. Rabindra Kumar also welcomed all the participants and focused the purpose of the orientation programme.

Dr. Hari Singh, Chief Guest of the inaugural session appreciated the efforts of IGNOU and initiatives of RC Jaipur in developing learner friendly services for facilitating their studies. Chief Guest insisted to implement the IGNOU Programme in the Hindi Medium for ensuring maximum utilization of accessibility of the higher education to all the sections of the society and advised to the participants to realize their roles and responsibilities with accountabilities for learning of learners through better implementation of the programme in the region.

Sh. Kamlesh Meena, Assistant Regional Director extended a formal vote of thanks to the Chief Guest and Resource Persons.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Prof. Debal discussed the development of Correspondence Education and Open and Distance Education at national and international level. He said that the University of London was the first university to offer distance learning degrees in 1828. The Open University revolutionized the scope of the correspondence program and helped to create a respectable learning alternative to the traditional form of education. It has been at the forefront of developing new technologies to improve the distance learning service. He told that First State Open University was established in 1982 in Hyderabad and subsequently National Open University IGNOU was established in 1985 for promoting the higher education at the national level.

He explained the meaning and importance of Open and Distance Learning in the present scenario. He viewed that Open and Distance Learning Institutions plays crucial role in promoting the education in a knowledge society by leveraging different strategies such as access and reach; equity and gender; quality and effectiveness; cost-effective education for all; and bringing quality education to the door step of millions. Further, he added that Learner-centric approach plays a pivotal role in ODE. Learners are heterogeneous group and their level of understanding differs from individual to individual and they are from different segments of the population from different places. Role of ICT is very important and to meet the expectations of these group of people in the society.

He explained in detail the procedure of course designing and development in IGNOU. He also pointed the role of various authorities like Course Coordinator, Programme Coordinator, Expert Committee, and School Board in the editing of the content, language. He also interacted with the Academic Counsellors and got the feedback from the Academic Counsellors. A video with Academic Counsellors is attached.

Dr. Rabindra Kumar elaborated the terms like Programme, Courses, Units Sub-Units used in the course designing and development in IGNOU and phases of the development of the programme. He also focused on the credit system of IGNOU and its role for conducting the academic activities at the Study Centres. Dr. Rabindra Kumar discussed the course structure of BA Sociology and MA Sociology in detail with the participants. Some Participants suggested including the practical and projecting based activities in Sociology Programmes for understanding in better way.

Academic Counselling and Role of an Academic Counsellor: Prof. Debal explained the term academic counselling in distance education and how to make it learner-centric with effective counselling of academic

counselors to remove the barriers and hurdles/ obstacles of distance learners. The basic parameters of counseling & roles of counselors were explained to the participants during the discussion and interaction. Dr. Rabindra pointed the role of Academic Counsellors in the teaching-learning process is very vital to carry on the academic deliberations in counselling sessions and resolving the doubts of the learners. He also focused on the important qualities of the Academic Counsellors for better counselling.

Assignments in ODL System: Prof. Debal explained the role of assessment through assignments and awarding the marks in Open and Distance Learning. He highlighted the importance of Tutor Marked Assignment for the distance learners and how it serves the purpose of two way communications. Dr. Rabindra Kumar cited types of teaching comments on the assignment response and some examples & illustrations and tried to give optimum exposure to participants to handle assignments effectively.

Course Specific Discussion in ESO/MSO: Prof. Debal explained the objectives and nature of ESO/MSO and complete programme structure of revised B. Ed programme was explained to all participants with highlight of course structure of First Year and Second Year. Besides, basic guidelines like duration of the programme and other aspects of flexibility approaches were also discussed with the participants. He also discussed elective course of MSO with the participants. Dr. Rabindra Kumar explained to the participants for the elective courses in BA Sociology. He said that elective courses are designed to cater the needs of the learners and to understand the nature of the society.

DAY 2: 26th NOVEMBER 2016

2nd day started with the review of activities of the first session. Sh Sher Singh coordinator of the programme presented a brief report of the first day followed by discussion and interaction among the participants. It was an open session for sharing experiences of the participants based on the deliberations of the Day 1

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

SOCIOLOGY RELATED OTHER DETAILS: Prof. Debal K. Singharoy explained that Sociology is the wider and broader in scope and it was related or interlinked with many others social sciences. Sociology is the science of the society many kinds of things were happens to fulfill the whole society and there is co-operation between other social sciences like history, political science, economics etc. Prof Kumar said that Sociology is a Science of society. It is a science of social groups and social institutions. It is a general science of society. It studies human interaction and inter-relations their conditions and consequences. Political Science is a science of state and Government. It studies power, political processes, political systems, types of government and international relations. It deals with social groups organized under the sovereign of the state. Participants insisted to include the current issues and practical based activities in the ESO/MSO Programmes for more demanding the courses in the society. Resource Persons interacted with all the Participants in the feedback sessions and apprised to all the participants for active participating and observations. A feedback questionnaire was also collected from the participants. Participants found the orientation programme very useful in terms of counselling, evaluation and use of ICTs in implementation of various courses of ESO/MSO.

In the post lunch session a meeting was also held at the IGNOU Study Centre 23115 Bhawans College of Communication and Management, JLN Marg, Jaipur, Raj. Resource Persons and Regional Director and Assistant Regional Director interacted with HOI, Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, Academic Counsellors and Students of MSO. Resource Persons apprised the meeting and found very useful to implement the ESO/MSO Programmes at the Study Centre. The meeting with the part time staff of SC 23115 was followed by the valedictory session at the conference room of the study centre 231155.

VALIDICTORY SESSION [04:00PM- 05:00 PM]

Dr. Indu Ravi, Asst Regional Director briefly explained the outcomes of each session of the two day programme and advised all participants to identify the action points and work on them at their work place. He also focused on some of the observations/feedback received from the Academic Counsellors.

Prof. Debal K SinghaRoy advised all participants to implement the MSO Programme meticulously to set a model in the field of Sociology.

Dr. M. K. Dash, Regional Director addressed the participants and categorically cited some of the grey areas in the implementation of programmes at the LSCs level in terms of organization of counselling sessions, assignment evaluation, and participation of learners in counselling sessions etc. He advised all counselors to be proactive with all professional ethics in terms of implementation of basic parameters of the University for the best interest of learners of MSO. Though it is the responsibility of the Coordinator at the LSC, however academic counselors are the major stakeholder to support and co-operate the Coordinator for ensuring quality of implementation Programmes.

The session ended with a formal vote of thanks extended by Dr. Indu Ravi, Assistant Regional Director.

DAY 3: 27th NOVEMBER 2016

Interactive Session with Part Time Staff of SC 23142, Academic Counselors & Students of MSO

[10:00AM-11:30AM]

A meeting was also held at the IGNOU Study Centre 23142 Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, JLN Marg, Jaipur. Resource Persons and Regional Director and Assistant Regional Director interacted with Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator and other part time staff of the SC and discuss various aspects of the implementation of MSO at the centre. During the course of interaction issues of the study centers were also discussed particularly some of the typical issues like low students turn-up in counseling sessions and lack of interest of learners for attending the counselling sessions.

Academic Counsellors and Students of MSO also participated in the discussion and interaction. During the course Prof Debal K SinghaRoy & Dr Pramod Kumar wanted to know the issues of academic counselors and students as well. The session was very interactive and participatory and was aimed at finding the grassroots level issues of study centre, academic counselors and students also.

The session ended with formal thanks to all by Dr Deeptima Shukla Coordinator of the SC 231542.

(M. K. Dash)
Regional Director

Director, RSD