

IGNOU ONLINE

An E-Learning Platform

Background

IGNOU offers around 150 programmes at different levels through a network of regional centres, and several study centres/tele-learning centres spread all over the country and overseas. The study centres to provide easy access and effective support services to learners.

The University provides multi-channel, multiple media teaching- learning packages in the form of self-instructional print and audio/video materials, radio and television broadcasts, face-to-face counseling/tutoring, laboratory and hands on experience, video conferencing, interactive radio counseling, interactive multimedia CD ROM and internet based learning. With the advancement of technology, ICT is being used for teaching-learning to a great extent in all sectors of education. Technology enabled learning becomes more pertinent in the open and distance education system. During last few years, IGNOU has also developed an online system of education for the distance learners who would like to perform their studies by using internet based technologies.



Need of the Innovation

IGNOU imparts education to a large number of learners through open and distance mode. Use of technology is increasing day by day for better and effective education. Moreover, with the increased use of internet and mobile, people find it comfortable with web based teaching learning system. IGNOU Online portal is to provide one stop window catering to the learning needs of IGNOU learner community using learning management system that will help students to learn according to their own choice of time and place convenience through the internet. Portal should be user-friendly, 'quick to learn' for the above purpose.

Description of the IGNOU-Online

During 2012-2015 IGNOU has created a dedicated website <http://www.ignouonline.ac.in> to catering to the learning needs of IGNOU online learners' community.

The Web applications described in this document is the <http://www.ignouonline.ac.in> website and associated support pages. This document seeks to provide the requirement specifications for the IGNOU Online Website. IGNOU-Online is one stop window catering to the learning needs of IGNOU learner community. It is a Learning Management System that will help students to learn according to their own choice of time and place convenience through the internet. It helps in exploring the links to access all learning resources available online. IGNOU-Online has a provision of linking Education Broadcast

also which is a webcasting facility linking students to educational channels – Gyandarshan, Gyanvani and EDUSAT. Virtual Class provides links to all the online programmes of the University.

The basic purpose of the IGNOU-Online is to provide the course wise search, submit the on-line registration form and make the online payment using their credit and debit cards. It also facilitates the assignment and term end examinations by ensuring the process of Student Evaluation Division (SED), IGNOU.

Faculty provides e-content of the units to be offered through online in word format along with related web resources like articles, video's etc and scripting for organizing the flow of content, designs and interactivity. Special templates have been created to organize the content modules (Sections, Pages...). An interface has also been made to upload the course content and other interactive components by the course coordinators. They can review the content and other design elements for technical and subjective accuracy. The course coordinator with the help of the administrator can publish the content on the IGNOU-Online.

Innovative Features of IGNOU-Online

IGNOU-Online is a specially designed and developed Learning Management System to meet the requirements of IGNOU students. It has certain innovative features as described below :

1. Online learning allows a more student-centered teaching-learning approach. Because every student has his or her way of learning that works for them, getting an online education may help in ensuring that each lesson or material is completely understood before moving on to the next, which in turn, could result to better learning.

2. Online course materials can be accessed 24 hours a day every day. This means that students can easily read and review lectures, discussions and other materials relevant to their courses. There are some students who find it a bit difficult to understand spoken material in a typical classroom setting because of a number of distractions, boredom or tiredness. Such students can simply access the material online whenever they are prepared to learn.
3. In IGNOU-Online setting, a student is marked present if the student has actually participated in the classroom discussion. This encourages students to interact, increasing the diversity of opinion as everyone, and not just one or two students, is given the opportunity to share their thoughts.
4. IGNOU-Online offers a lot of savings because there are no additional costs for transportation and accommodation. Online education programs and courses also cost a lot cheaper than courses that can be taken in a traditional manner of open distance learning.
5. Making use of the tools and resources available in the IGNOU-Online, a student can interact with other students that can help in learning the skills and individual needs in order to adapt with the present and future technology.
6. Students who are taking online classes can also socialize, interact and discuss things that are not related to the course through "chat rooms" facility of IGNOU – Online.
7. IGNOU-Online has a provision for online instructor who can come from different locations across the globe; students are exposed to knowledge shared by the instructor which cannot be learned through books.
8. Students of online courses are also given the chance to talk with their instructors whenever they want to. Through online chat, email and newsgroup discussions, students and teachers can discuss concerns related to the material without having to wait for office hours.

Blog on SMS Alerts Services



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School of Law (SOL)

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Introduction

The School of Law (SOL) was established in 2005 with an objective of imparting legal education through Open and Distance Learning system. The school aims to create awareness about legal rights and responsibilities in the emerging world order. The School strives to ensure high quality education and research through innovative, multi-media learning teaching packages with a focus on learning practical aspects of law, acquiring legal skills and scholarship.

Recognising the importance of legal education and demand for the programmes in Law, IGNOU constituted a five member Committee in 1994 under the Chairmanship of Prof N R Madhava Menon, an eminent legal educationist. Prof Menon's Committee suggested developing professional programmes in Law including programmes in Paralegal Education, Court Administration, Law and Office Management, Legal Aid administration, occupation based and management oriented legal education for middle and top-level personnel in government and industry. The UGC Curriculum Development Centre in Law (CDC) setup in 1990, under the leadership of Prof Upendra Baxi, an eminent jurist, also underscored the importance of Distance Education in Law as inclusive legal education for wider participation in legal profession, judicial appointments and government law offices.

The School of Law organised a brainstorming session in June, 2007 to prepare a road map for legal education in India. The important recommendations of the brainstorming session enabled the School of Law to plan and develop a range of programmes in law.

VIRTUAL EDUCATION IN LAW (VEL)

It is a virtual learning platform to offer the Law programmes online. This was introduced on June 9, 2008 through which PG Certificate in Cyber Law is being offered online.

Features of VEL

- Walk in admission: Admission will be available throughout the year. Facility for online payment gateway is available for the registration.
- Integrated multimedia courseware: Once registered, the learners will have access to personalized learning space (My page).
- Online e-counsellors: The counselling and mentoring will be done online. Distributed model will be followed with e-counsellors.
- Assignment Management System: Assignments will be of two types, objective and subjective.
- Online Term End Examination: Online examination will be conducted of course, in specified centres for proper monitoring.

Achievements

A prototype of IGNOU-Online was designed and developed in house. It is a full fledged Learning Management System having the facilities of uploading e-content, discussion forum, chat, self evaluation, etc. This LMS was successfully tested for few programmes of School of Law, School of Health Sciences and School of Agriculture. e-content for the programmes was also developed with the help of the concerned faculty.

Applications and Uses of IGNOU-Online

IGNOU – Online gives students an opportunity to choose from various schools, programs and courses which are not available in the area where they live in. This is especially beneficial for those who live in rural areas that only have one or two educational facilities, which most of the time, offer limited course and programme options for students.

Another benefit of taking online courses, and probably the most popular one, would be that it offers flexibility to students. Because they can attend classes and courses whenever and wherever there is a computer and access to the internet, they can easily plan out a schedule that would work for them. Because of the flexibility offered by online learning, not only students, but also individuals who already have full-time jobs or other commitments are able to take supplementary courses and even earn their degrees online.

Way Forward

As the use of technology in teaching-learning is increasing day to day, there is great scope for using web based technologies and programme for imparting need based education as per the pace and place of the learners. In that situation IGNOU-Online Learning Management System will prove to be a very important and useful system to provide online education. In future it can be further customized to be more user friendly system. A special e-learning or online-learning Cell having a core technical team may be created in NCIDE to develop e-content in dynamic format and to offer the online courses. Faculty may also be imparted appropriate training for developing e-content and offering online courses through IGNOU-Online.

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