

Establishment of NCIDE under 10th Five Year Plan

Research Support and system standardization: The Open Learning System is complex and is substantially big in terms of the number of students, vast geographic expanse, modular courses & programmes and student support services literally upto the door steps of the learners. The operative mechanisms for some of the major functions i.e. need assessment, production of materials, inventory control, delivery of the material and monitoring of counselling and examinations have not been standardized. The efficiency and the effectiveness of the existing structures and processes have not been assessed due to limited research activities in the open learning system. These issues are becoming important as the system is rapidly growing and expanding, and the concern for its accountability is also increasing.

Development of National Resource Material and Programmes: The study material developed by the IGNOU is of good quality as it is prepared by pooling the expertise of many professionals and academics in the disciplines from various educational institutions and industries in the country. At present, the study material is being adopted/adapted and purchased in bulk by a number of SOUs and CCIs. The utility of the material and the programmes could be increased manifold by translating it into the regional languages, and transforming for wider application.

National Centre for Innovations in Distance Education: It is proposed to set up a National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education. The objectives would be to provide intellectual, financial and technological support for application-based research so as to plan for system standardization and development of national resource material. The various areas of activities in the centre could be: (a) standardization of systems, (b) identification of innovative practices and development of guidelines documents, (c) mechanism and modalities for convergence of different systems of education for seamless education spread (d) on-line education (e) system analysis for improving the efficiency and effectiveness. (f) development of National programmes which could be tailored by the other institution as per their requirements, (g) development of study materials in specific regional languages, (h) bridging- the gap/ deficiency make-up programmes/ courses/ study material packages for the disadvantaged groups, (i) development of programmes/ courses and study materials for differently abled persons (j) development of material suiting to the demand of the students and markets for the disciplines with rapidly changing dynamics, (k) development of vocational and skill based programmes and framework of qualifications (l) development of workforce training package programmes and (m) Total Quality Management(TQM) of various facets of the system.

The system development should also focus on human resource development which is essential for the effective use of new educational technologies and for action research to improve the institutional performance. The proposed academic and non-academic staff requirement is given in Annexure-VII B.

N-NODE: A National Network for Open & Distance Education (N-NODE) is envisaged in the Tenth Plan. It is a dedicated hybrid communication network which uses combination of technologies such as, Satellite Communication, WLL and optical fibre suiting to the purpose and place. Such network is essential in order to have connectivity of IGNOU headquarters with its own Regional Centres (RCs) and further down to a secondary network of Study Centres (SCs) under the respective RCs. IGNOU headquarters will also be connected to all the State Open Universities