

Report on
One-Day Orientation Programme for Newly Appointed Faculty Members on

Role of Distance Teachers in Open and Distance Learning

Organized by CIQA, KKHSOU, Guwahati-22

Date: 19th May, 2023

Venue: VC Conference Hall, City Campus

Time: From 10.00 AM to 4.30 PM

About the Programme

The One-Day Orientation Programme on the Role of Distance Teachers in Open and Distance Learning was organized by CIQA (Centre for Internal Quality Assurance) at KKHSOU (Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University), Guwahati. The program aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the responsibilities and functions of distance teachers in Open and Distance Learning (ODL), emphasizing the learner-centered approach and the importance of professional development in this field.

Program Schedule and Session Details

The orientation program consisted of multiple sessions, each focusing on different aspects of ODL and the role of distance teachers. The schedule for the day, along with detailed session notes, is as follows:

Inauguration:

The program began with an inaugural session conducted by Prof. Prajit Borah, Director PGB School of Humanities a welcome address, emphasizing the significance of the role of teachers in ODL and the importance of the orientation program for the newly appointed faculty members. Prof. Joydeep Baruah, Director, SKB School of Social Sciences, eloquently explained the importance of team spirit in Open and Distance Learning (ODL), specifically in reference to the university. He emphasized how collaborative efforts and a strong sense of teamwork among faculty, staff, and students are crucial for the success and effectiveness of ODL initiatives.

Address of the Vice Chancellors

During his address, Vice Chancellor Prof. R. P. Das emphasized the pivotal role of the university in enhancing the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER). He highlighted the commitment and dedication of the faculties towards Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and technology-enabled education. Prof. Das acknowledged the transformative power of ODL in reaching out to a diverse range of learners and promoting inclusivity in education. He underscored the university's relentless efforts to leverage technology and innovative teaching methodologies to provide quality education accessible to all. Prof. Das expressed confidence that the collective efforts of the university's faculty members would contribute significantly to the growth and success of ODL in the region.

Introduction to Open and Distance Education:

In the first session, Dr. Pranab Saikia, Director i/c CIQA, KKHSOU, and Director i/c IM School of Education conducted an engaging session to introduce the participants to the fundamental principles and philosophical expectations of ODL. The session highlighted the learner-centered nature of ODL and the unique challenges and opportunities it presents to teachers, fostering a deeper understanding of the transformative potential of distance education.

Different Roles of Distance Teachers in ODL

Prof. N. N. Sarma, an esteemed professor, Director MD School of Management, delivered a session focusing on the diverse roles and responsibilities of distance teachers in the ODL system. The session explored the shift in teaching methodologies from face-to-face instruction to facilitation of self-directed learning. Prof. Sarma emphasized the need for teachers to be discipline experts as well as experts in distance teaching techniques.

Orientation to the Different Support Services of ODL:

Dr. Nabankur Pathak, Assistant Professor, KKHSOU conducted a session to familiarize the participants with the various support services available to students in ODL. The session highlighted the importance of student support systems such as counseling services, library resources, and online platforms. Dr. Pathak also discussed the role of teachers in guiding students towards utilizing these support services effectively.

The Art and Science of Material Development for ODL Learners (both print and e-content)

Dr. Bhaskar Sarmah and Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami, Assistant Professor, KKHSOU experts in material development for ODL, conducted an interactive session on the design and development of instructional materials for ODL learners. The session emphasized the importance of creating engaging and effective learning materials in both print and e-content formats. The participants were provided with practical insights into developing materials aligned with the specific needs of distance learners.

Evaluation System in KKHSOU:

Dr. Bhabaranjan Sarmah, Controller of Examinations, KKHSOU conducted a session on the evaluation system implemented at KKHSOU. The session covered various aspects of assessment methods, grading criteria, and the importance of fair and transparent evaluation practices in ODL. Dr. Sarmah emphasized the need for consistent and reliable evaluation procedures to ensure academic rigor and integrity.

Speech of the Registrar

During the event, Registrar of the University, Dr. Arupjyoti Choudhury, shed light on the philosophical aspects of teaching in the ODL system. He emphasized the importance of instilling a sense of dedication and commitment among teachers, highlighting their role in fostering a positive learning environment. Dr. Choudhury stressed the spiritual aims of

education, emphasizing the transformative power of teachers in shaping the minds and lives of learners in the ODL system.

Five-minute Yoga Break in Workplace:

The program concluded with a brief yoga session facilitated by Sri Dibya Jyoti Deka. This session aimed to promote physical and mental well-being among the participants, recognizing the importance of self-care and maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

Conclusion

The One-Day Orientation Programme successfully achieved its objectives of providing newly appointed faculty members with a comprehensive understanding of the role of distance teachers in Open and Distance Learning. The sessions conducted by esteemed resource persons covered various aspects, including the learner-centered approach, support services, material development, evaluation systems, and well-being. The program facilitated knowledge sharing, interactive discussions, and networking opportunities among the participants.

The participants expressed their gratitude for the informative sessions and the opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge in the field of ODL. The orientation program equipped them with the necessary tools and insights to effectively engage in distance teaching and support students' self-directed learning.

The program was coordinated and hosted by Dr. Sanjib Borah, Coordinator of CIQA, KKHSOU, ensuring the smooth execution of the sessions and fostering a conducive learning environment for the participants.

CIQA, KKHSOU, reaffirmed its commitment to organizing similar orientation programs and continuous professional development initiatives to empower faculty members in Open and Distance Learning and ensure the provision of quality education in the ODL system.

Sanjib Borah
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20 May 2023