

IGNOU to target primary education

Mrinal Bahukhandi
New Delhi

REALISING THE potential of distance education, 18 states (including the newly formed), have inspired Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to "review its directions and strategies" taken under Distance Education Programme (DEP) for Development of Primary Education Personnel (DPEP)

Launched in 1997 and funded by the World Bank, DEP was engaged in building the capacity among primary education personnel (teaching and non-teaching) and institutions to design, develop and produce various

kinds of distance learning materials and methods to educate people of all ages. These models of education are developed in print and non-print forms.

Presently, the programme uses audio, audio-visual, tele-conferencing, print study material etc as means to train the personnel.

"However, using distance education as a mode, a scientific and systematic strategy for development of primary education personnel, particularly teachers teaching primary levels, is yet to emerge in a vast country like India", said Ravi Mohan of IGNOU.

Keeping the potentials of the project and the booming

Information Technology infrastructure in the nation, on one hand, and the requirements of the target groups of DEP, IGNOU is conducting an international workshop on "Information and Communication Technology for Professional Development of Primary Education Personnel" from February 14-16 here.

The objective of the workshop is to share the knowledge and experience of experts through a series of presentations, discussions and group activities on various critical components of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

This will help to evaluate the effectiveness of ICT in context of the programme (PEP) and evolve

effective strategies and new improved methods for its better implementation.

"Experiences of experts in this area shall be availed to immense use in the workshop. These experts are mostly from developing countries using Distance Education, besides, USA, Canada and Britain", said Prof Mohammad Miya, Director, DEP (IGNOU).

The workshop will cover areas of primary education, distance education and information and communication technology.

The training of the future teaching personnel under this programme is projected to eradicate illiteracy in the coming years.

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