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ODISHA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY, SAMBALPUR

National Workshop on C-Delta organised by Odisha State Open University, Sambalpur (OSOU) & Common Wealth of Learning, Canada (COL) on 26.06.2019
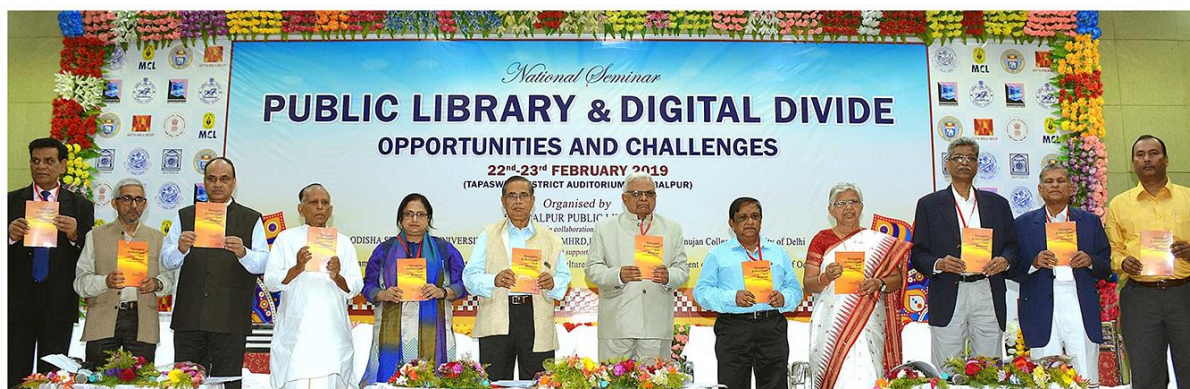
Preface

With great pleasure I present the Vision Document 2030 of Odisha State Open University Sambalpur to the stake holders and to the general public interested to know about the University and its future growth. The New Education Policy 2020 has provided the platform on which this Vision Document is formulated. As the first Vice-Chancellor of Odisha State Open University, I had the privilege of working and shaping the University from day one. Therefore, it was felt necessary to prepare a Vision Document for the next 10 years aligning the vision and mission of OSOU with that of NEP 2020. The target set before us to enhance our Gross Enrolment Ratio from the present 26% to 50% by 2035 shall only be possible if Open Universities and other Universities offering programme through ODL/Online mode are allowed to expand their operations targeting the disadvantage groups in our society by providing quality education at their door step.

During the next 10 years OSOU will turn out to be a major provider of Higher Education in the State of Odisha and shall be acclaimed for its contribution to Higher Education in the country. I humbly own the responsibility of any omission and commission in the Vision Document 2030. The contribution made by Ms. Prashansa Das, Ms. Heba Farheen, Ms Subhra Saraf and Mr. Abhinandan Tripathy in preparing this Vision Document is acknowledged and appreciated.

Dr. Srikant Mohapatra
Vice-Chancellor, OSOU

Executive Summary

OSOU has made an attempt to prepare a vision document for the next decade (2020-2030) in conformity with the vision, mission, values, and objects of the University as mentioned in the OSOU Act 2014 (Odisha Act of 2015). The New Education Policy 2020 emphasised on Institutional Development Plan (IDP) for each higher educational institution highlighting strategy for increasing participation of Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), affordable education, inclusive admission policy and curriculum and increasing employability potential of academic programmes. The policy has proposed for a flexible student- centric educational pattern based on both horizontal and vertical mobility of students within and across institutions and programmes having provision for multiple entry, exit and credit transfer.

The major thrust area of the vision document is on access, equity, affordability, quality, innovation, accountability and transparency in administration. University-Community Linkages, Technology-Enabled Learning, Skill Development Education, Institutional Collaboration at the National and the International levels, Faculty Development Programmes, Consultancy policy, Placement Policy, Alumni Involvement, Examination Reforms, Total Quality Management and Learners Satisfaction Survey on regular basis are some of the major thrust areas of the Vision Document 2030 of OSOU.

Resource mobilisation to make the university self-sustainable, networking of Regional Centres and Study Centre for qualitative improvement in student support services, reform in curriculum to make it both job and research oriented, infrastructure development in the permanent campus as envisaged in the Master Plan, scholarship and free education for the disadvantaged groups have been covered in the document.

During the next decade OSOU shall set a target to establish itself as a premier institution of higher learning in the country with greater emphasis on need- based and skill-based job oriented education creating employment opportunities for the youth of the state. Total quality management will be emphasised on every sphere of activities undertaken by the university. Staff recruitment and training, campus development, online programme delivery, leadership in higher education sphere, positive contribution towards creation of a knowledge society as a major producer of indigenous knowledge and effective participation of students and teachers in socio-economic development of the people and the state are few of our goals set to be achieved during the next ten years.

Content

- *Interactive and Dynamic Web Site*

- *User friendly Mobile App*

- *Online Admission portal*

- *Online Student Handbook and Prospectus*

- *Learner Web portal Services*

- *e-GYANAGAR (OER Repository)*

- *Audio/Video lessons*

- *e-Library / Digital Library*

- *Digitisation of ID card/ Grade Card/Provisional Certificate*

- *Monitoring of Study Centre through CCTV and Biometric Device*

- *Internet RADIO (Pragynavani)*

INTRODUCTION

Odisha State Open University is established by an Act of the State Government and is governed by OSOU Act, 2014 (Odisha Act 5 of 2015). It provides access to quality higher education to all segments of the society within the state. It is the 15th and the youngest Open University in India. The first Statutes of OSOU was notified in the Gazette on 19th February 2019. The University has jurisdiction over the entire State of Odisha. The University aims to achieve objectives to offer high quality, innovative and need-based academic avenues at different levels to all those who require them and to reach out to the unreached for access to higher education across the State. OSOU has been steadily expanding opportunities for inclusive learning. It is trying to become the next Generation University with the intensive use of ICT tools for delivering higher education. The academic programmes are designed and developed with inclusion of skill component for enhancing the employability prospects for the learners.

The objective is to provide an innovative system of university level education, flexible and open with regard to methods and pace of learning, course choice, entry requirements and evaluation strategies. Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates issued by the University are treated at par with Degrees/Diplomas issued by other Universities established by centre/states and recognized by UGC. The University emphasize on Skill Based Education to enhance employability of the students. To fulfil its objective, the Open University has established Regional Centres and Study Centres in different parts of the State. Add-on courses are offered targeting students already admitted in Undergraduate courses in the State. All the Academic Programmes offered are available at affordable cost for the learners, targeting to benefit the marginal section of the society. All Norms and Regulations prescribed by statutory bodies like UGC, AICTE, NCTE etc. are strictly followed in offering academic programmes by the Odisha State Open University.

The University has marked a remarkable increase in student enrolment with more than 30000 students admitted into different academic programmes of the University during the last five years. OSOU has registered 52.1% women students, 11.2% ST students, 15% SC students and 18% OBC students. The Academic staff and departments are engaged in their regular activities of planning, designing and developing academic programmes which are continuously monitored by the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance. Currently the University is offering 61 academic programmes covering English, History, Journalism, Odia, Political Science, Public Administration, Rural Development, Sociology, Commerce, Cyber Security, Hindi, Economics, Public Policy and Sanskrit, Business & Management Studies, Computer Science courses, Rural Development, Disaster Management,

Communication Skills, Translation Studies and functional aspects of Odia and Hindi language courses.

The present document outlines roadmap to achieve Vision 2030 of Odisha State Open University

MANDATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Mandate of the University is:

- To provide an innovative system of university level education, flexible and open, regarding methods and pace of learning, combination of courses, eligibility for enrolment, age of entry, conduct of examination and operation of the programmes with a view to promote learning and encourage excellence in new fields of knowledge.
- To establish, maintain or recognize institutes, schools, regional centres and study centres and such other institute at such places in the State as it may deem fit;
- To play a positive role in the development of the State and promote status of employment of people of Odisha through education, research and training;
- To introduce add-on courses related to the need of employment;
- To use communication technology for advancement and dissemination of learning and knowledge;
- To ensure access, equity, excellence and inclusive education

OBJECTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

The objects of the University are:

- To undertake research, training and extension programme to impart array of development in the state, based on the rich heritage of the state, to promote and advance the status of employment of the people of Odisha and its human resources;
- To strengthen the existing degree, certificate and diploma courses by way of introducing add-on courses related to the needs of employment.
- To advance and disseminate learning and knowledge by different means via technology;
- To provide access to higher education for large segments of the population, and in particular, the disadvantaged groups such as those living in remote and rural areas including working people, housewives and other adults who wish to upgrade or acquire knowledge through studies in various fields;

- To promote acquisition of knowledge in a rapidly developing and changing society and to offer opportunities for upgrading knowledge, training and skills in the context of innovations, research and discovery in all fields of human endeavors;
- To establish the following schools of the University, namely–

  School of Social Sciences and Humanities, (ii) School of Sciences and Technology; (iii) School of Education (Continuing and Extension); (iv) School of Teacher Education; (v) School of Business and Management Studies; (vi) School of Health Care Studies; (vii) School of Computer and Information Sciences: (viii) School of Agriculture; and (ix) Subject to the approval of the Government, any other Schools as it may deem fit;

- To contribute to the improvement of the educational system in Odisha by providing a non-formal channel complementary to the formal system and encouraging transfer of credits and exchange of teaching staff by making wide use of texts and other software developed by the University.
- To provide education and training in the various arts, crafts and skills and vocational courses.
- To provide or arrange training of teachers required for such activities or institutions.
- To provide suitable post-graduate courses of study and promote research.
- To provide counselling and guidance to its students.
- To promote national integration and the integrated development of the human resources through its policies and programmes.

VISION

- To play a positive role in the development of the State through education, research, training and capacity building
- To give emphasis on skill based vocational add-on courses for promoting employment opportunities
- To ensure access and equity in higher education

MISSION

- To increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in Odisha.
- To create a state-wide network of Study Centres to reach out to all parts of the state and all segments of the society
- To create University-Industry interface for creating employment opportunities
- To promote inclusiveness in higher education and establish University-community linkages.

VALUES

- Access
- Equity
- Excellence
- Innovation
- Transparency

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The academic programmes offered in the University have a distinct focus on Science, Technology, and Humanities and Social Sciences, reflecting the objective of the University. Currently the University is offering Masters programmes in 14 disciplines, Bachelor Degree Programmes in 11 disciplines, Postgraduate Diploma in 8 disciplines, Diploma in 16 disciplines, Certificate programmes in 15 disciplines. The University is also offering online Add-on skill based programmes via smart e-learning platform e-Gyanjyoti.

The University proposes to offer new programmes at Undergraduate and Postgraduate Level in the disciplines of Science, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Psychology, Anthropology, Education, Social Work with due approval of the statutory bodies. It also proposes to offer regular PhD programmes.

The OSOU Act 2014 provides that the University is to have Schools of Studies which shall consist of Departments and Centres of Studies, each school is to have a School Board and each department is to have a Board of Studies. Importantly, decisions with regard to the courses of studies, appointment of examiners, assignment of supervisor and standards of teaching and research have been placed by the OSOU Act 2014 under the purview of the School Boards. Keeping the above in view, the University proposes to organise its academic structure on the following lines.

- The Departments will be organized around basic disciplines.
- The Centres of Studies will be designed to be multi-disciplinary.
- Allied Departments and Centres of Studies will be grouped into Schools. Thus, each School will have different Departments and Centres of Studies.
- Though Departments will be designed around specialized domains of knowledge and subject disciplines, Programmes of Study of the University will be inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary.

- Departments of Study will not design Programmes of Study. As such, they will rather create conditions whereby faculty members could design and offer courses according to their own area of specialization,
- University will have a fully evolved Choice Based Credit system whereby students will make their own basket of courses chosen from across different schools of the university to accumulate the required number of credits to complete their programmes of study.
- All programmes of studies of the university will be inter-disciplinary so that all students who have completed even the same programme of study will actually have studied different courses significantly.
- Marks Sheet of each student will reflect a unique combination of courses and thereby pointing towards his own niche.
- Faculty members would be able to design and offer courses on their research interests and areas of specializations, which will make their teaching more effective and meaningful and will lead to research-based teaching.
- Since centres of Studies will engage in multi-disciplinary research cutting across disciplinary boundaries, it is proposed to set up specialized centers within each school.
- These centres, with state-of-the-art facilities, will provide an intellectual space to the students who may seek placements in these centres on some sort of internal sabbatical for a tenure to engage in research in a focused manner. Schools, Departments and Centers of Studies

REACHING THE UNREACHED:

The Odisha State Open University Act, 2014, includes the objective of providing access to higher education for large segments of the population, and in particular, the disadvantaged group such as those living in remote and rural areas. In addition, the efforts undertaken by a University for reaching out to the persons who do not have access to higher education is one of the evaluation parameters in the NAAC Accreditation. Keeping this in mind and in line with the vision and mission of Odisha State Open University (OSOU) a formal policy document on "Reaching out to the Unreached" was approved by the Board of Management of the University. The policy lists various factors responsible for depriving people from access to education in general and higher education in particular. Further, the policy has also identified different categories of unreached including people in the rural and tribal areas, Scheduled Caste (SC) community, financially weaker sections, Jail Inmates, Women in general, Differently Abled people, Sex Workers, Transgender and Slum Dwellers and

People not well versed with the language (English) in which the programmes are generally offered. Further, the rationale behind classifying them under the unreached category has been discussed in brief along with the broad policy initiatives to be undertaken by the university. The initiatives envisaged by the University as per the policy are as under:

- To open Study Centres/Learner Support Centres in rural and semi-urban areas
- Provision of fee reimbursement and scholarship for the needy.
- Introduce sponsorship for special categories of learners including transgender, sex workers, construction workers and Kendu leaf workers.
- Create awareness with regard to various scholarship programs offered by the government to the needy students from time to time.
- Facilitate options for "Learn-while-Earn" during the programme especially for the needy.
- Adopt extensive use of technology: Mobile App, Pragynavani and e-Resources, Live online counselling and e-library to provide quality education at doorsteps in backward blocks and villages.
- Ensure availability of high speed Broadband internet services at all study centres /support centres for successful adoption of ICT in reaching out to the unreached.
- Use ICT for conducting counselling sessions from a centralised location and facilitate interactions of learners in remote locations with the experts.
- Focus on SLM preparation, production of audio, video and e-resources/ digital resources, curriculum transaction, assessment and evaluation even in regional language for non-professional programs.
- Focus on training in Soft Skills, life skills, communication skills, inter-personal skills.
- Organise Seminars and Workshops to create awareness about OSOU Programmes and involve alumni, preferably from the same locality, (nearest study centre).
- Undertake awareness campaign through social media like Facebook and WhatsApp, Print media, Electronic media to bring special category of learners to mainstream higher education.
- Initiate informal/formal communication with learners/prospective learners to reach out to them instead of expecting them to reach us.
- Create facility to obtain feedback and suggestions from potential learners/stake holders through "voice messages" in addition to other means such as email, web portal, phone calls etc.
- Actively involved in career counselling and placement activities to provide job opportunities to the learners

- Initiate need assessment studies to understand the educational need of different categories of unreached in Odisha.
- Introduce provision of offering Micro-Credentials to enhance placement opportunities even before the programme completion.
- Introduce provision for Skill Competency Certification as part of recognition of prior learning.
- Aim at empowering the self-help groups (SSGs) through open and distance education.
- Strive to open special study centres in selected Jails for inmates.
- Get involved actively in pre admission counselling, motivation, efforts to reduce drop outs.

RESEARCH & EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Odisha State Open University provides financial assistance to teachers of universities, colleges and educational institutions in Odisha to carryout system-based research on Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system and practices. The areas of research covered, are Distance learning material development, Learner support system, Assessment and evaluation, Application of technology in teaching and learning, Tutoring and counselling, Analysing learners needs and preferences, Challenges of people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups. The first session of Minor Research Project started from 2018, and 10 faculties from Higher Education Institutions across the state of Odisha were selected for the same.

OSOU has framed a policy for Promotion and Felicitation of Research that is aimed towards developing a conducive ecosystem for fostering both applied and fundamental research. It is designed in line with the vision and mission of OSOU. The present policy focusses on Discipline Specific Research, Action Research and Systems Based Research. In doing so it seldom loses sight of the ethical considerations that are mandatory of all forms of research.

Policy guidelines for Discipline-specific research focus on researches that are mainly undertaken during the pursuit of academic degrees - starting from Master level dissertations to Ph.Ds. The policy stresses the need for a Common Dissertation Guideline for all major disciplines offered at the Master's level. The need for offering higher academic degrees such as M.Phils. and Ph.Ds., Along with drafting of elaborate guidelines governing their smooth execution, has been emphasized in the policy.

Guidelines for Action research call for meaningful collaborations between University and Industry / Society in mutual exchange of knowhow. The policy encourages exploring of fertile areas for carrying out applied research with a focus on Industry and Society and the pertinent problems that face them.

Taking advantage of its being an Open University, OSOU, in its guidelines on promotion and felicitation of research, emphasizes on conducting quality research on several aspects of Open and Distance learning. In continuance of the early research traditions of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), OSOU intends to leverage its understanding into several unexplored areas such as Technology usage in ODL, the effectiveness of ODL as a knowledge provider in developing societies as well as the limitations of the system and devising of suitable methodologies to overcome them.

We are cognizant of the fact that a University with excellent research output is also equipped to meet the needs and aspirations of the students, faculty, and other stakeholders of the society. The University envisages becoming the location for choosing bright and exciting career paths by active researchers.

UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY INTERFACE:

University-Industry (U-I) collaborations have been recognized as the key enabler to promote innovation ecosystem. Such collaborations deliver far reaching and enduring socio-economic impact that cannot be achieved by working in silos. It is proposed to seek the industries association for translational research including scale-up studies and commercialization of their knowledge base. Tie up with small scale industries, especially the financially compromised ones, by providing academic strength from the University for solving their R&D problems to remain competitive, both at the local and global level. Further, with the help of industry association as it has been envisaged to provides an opportunity for the learners to work on real-life industrial problems. In addition, active engagement of industry personnel in academic activities along with exposure to students/research scholars to industrial settings through internships help in development of the desired skill-set is being proposed.

The main objectives to be achieved under this scheme given below:-

- Utilize the potential of students as a valuable human resource.
- Involve the students in management and development of the institution.
- Provide students hands on experience and thereby prepare them for taking up jobs in future.
- Encourage young students to learn about dignity of Labor.

- Prevent students from avoidable distractions and engage them in meaningful, positive activities.
- Reduce dependence of regular ministerial staff whose productivity over a period of time has declined considerably.
- Achieve better work efficiency at a lesser cost.
- Enable meritorious and needy students to earn a reasonable amount every month to meet their expenses.
- Multi-layered Policy Interventions to Facilitate U-I Synergism
- To develop Academia- Entrepreunial ecosystem.
- Reorienting the university programmes and curriculum to suit industry requirements along with initiation of dedicated courses on 'Entrepreneurship', 'IPR' and 'Technology Commercialization' will apprise the students to the requirements of the innovation ecosystem.
- Establishment of 'R&D and Innovation Support Centers' at the University in association with Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Exploring Reciprocal Knowledge through Mobility between University and Industry
- To introduce incentives that may encourage faculty and the students to engage in industry relevant innovative research.
- Establishment of Technology Induced Innovation Centers at Headquarters and Regional Centers.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY LINKAGE:

Odisha State Open University collaborated with University-Community Linkage track of Odisha Vikash Conclave (OVC), 2018 organized from 24th to 26th August 2018 involving government, people's representatives, civil society, private sector, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Community based organizations to deliberate on different developmental issues and challenges of the state. Odisha State Open University had taken the lead to convene the one-day round table conference of the Vice-Chancellors and Heads of the Higher Education Institutions in the State of Odisha to identify the issues and set targets to address the challenges facing the society on 25th August 2018.

The following were the primary objectives of the roundtable conference:

- An integrated approach to address developmental issues
- Collaboration among universities for social cause
- Collaboration among Government, Universities, Civil Society Organizations,
- Corporate houses to address the challenges confronting the society.

- The focus shall be on areas highlighted in Sustainable Development Goals 2030
- Preparation of a Roadmap to address the burning issues like poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, social exclusion, livelihood, sanitation, climate change etc.
- Education is the key to address social issues

Following provisions are proposed for the University in the upcoming years:

- To facilitate strong University community linkages which will be driven by the university faculty and students in partnership with the society.
- Identification of ways to ensure that the contributions of the faculty/students towards community engagement are assessed qualitatively and rewarded.
- Curriculum of academic programmes will be aligned to a great extent with societal development. Credits and rewards for students and teachers will be ensured.
- Translational research – to convert research into socially productive and application oriented research for the benefit of the society will be encouraged.
- Mechanism for assessment of extension activities of universities at present.
- Identification of poor and developing society so as to reward actual value additions and contribution at ground level
- University shall reward social change agents during its foundation and convocation and prominent event and treat artisans, agriculturalists etc. with respect and invite to university and allow open interaction so that the intellectual social divide is bridged
- To identify illiterates who are knowledgeable and facilitating them to acquire professional degree to increase their value in the society.
- International experiences like   Science shops –living knowledge network to solve social problems, Talloires network – leadership for engaged universities, GUNI – Global University Network for Innovations, PASCAL lab – partnership with local / regional governments, Engaged Scholarship – Association of Commonwealth Universities will be used for suitable adoption in the University.
- New dimension to be introduced where catalyzing learning, Knowledge generation and mobilization and Service as mutual empowerment is required.
- Sustainable Development Goals – local knowledge and solutions are required – local priorities will be given importance while overcoming silos. Growing inequality and social differences will be taken care while formulating development initiatives.
- More extensive developmental activities to be covered under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan for identification and participation in indigenous development of self-sufficient and

sustainable village cluster by establishing networks for strong Institutional - community linkages

- Community radio initiative will be used for community engagement – make it relevant to the local community, highlight social issues, teen talk – sharing their problems and solutions, Archiving / creating a repository- local culture, tradition, history

- Creation of knowledge by involvement of community leading to Participative learning for the students will be explored.

- Every discipline will be oriented towards community engagement.

- Platforms will be created to share Schemes, policies, formalization, and best practices.

- Various methodologies like Student community interface through add-on courses, Small time inexpensive nature friendly technology, and Tribal youth training programme, Entrepreneurship development programme, Industrial training programme, Vocational skill development courses and Collaboration with villages to implement government schemes.

- Creation of accessible and enabling environment for the especially abled individuals. Promoting disability related research to ease the life of Persons with Disability (PwD). Introduction of programmes and learning resources those are PwD friendly. Sign language training, Braille training, access audit and monitoring mechanisms shall be adopted.

TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING:

Odisha State Open University with the use of Information and Communication Technology aims to provide quality teaching and learning through ODL system. India is transforming itself to the digital era, where with the use of ICT distance is not a barrier for acquiring education any more. More than 500 million people are using Internet mostly through their smart phones in India out of which 200 million are from rural India. OSOU strives to make quality education to reach the door steps of its learners with the usage of technology enabled learning. The initiatives taken by the University in this regard are as follow:

*Interactive and Dynamic Web Site***:** The University website is dynamic and contains all the information pertaining to various activities of the University which is updated in regular basis with the latest information to its stakeholders. The website address is www.osou.ac.in

User friendly Mobile App: The Mobile App OSOU is user friendly with a flexible interface available in the Google play store. It has every details of the University that can be accessed by the people anytime and anywhere just at a click of finger tips.

Mandate- Vision &Mission, Academic Programmes offered, location of Study Centres, Profiles of learners, counsellors and course writers, Student Corner, News and Notices, e-Resources, Video Lessons, Audio Lessons, Media files, OER Repository, Feedback from learners on support services, and Exam Results, Online Admissions are some of the features of the Mobile App. The aim of the app is to increase the access to educational resources of the University through android mobile phone

Online Admission portal: Admission portal of the University is completely online. It is monitored 24x7 by the IT staff to ensure that no hardship faced by prospective learners. The students immediately gets the confirmation regarding the successful registration of their admission and receipt of the fees paid towards their academic programmes. The document verification and certification validation are done completely online with minimal human intervention.

Online Student Handbook and Prospectus: E-prospectus of the University is made available to the students in its official website with no cost. Any prospective learner or general public can download the prospectus free of cost. In order to maintain transparency all important information pertaining to programme of study, location of study centres, fee to be charged and other important rules and regulations of the learners refer to the Student Handbook and Prospectus

Learner Web portal Services: Individual Web portal page is created for the learners with unique User ID and password for each individual learner to have access to all the programme related activities at one place. The services include: Profile view edit, Study Centre change feedback system, Grade Card download, Form fill up, SLM download, certificate download, result publication, grievance redressal, term and examination.

e-GYANAGAR (OER Repository): e-Gyanagar is an OER repository of OSOU holds the contribution of Odisha State Open University to the wealth of Open Educational Resources (OERs) in the form of Self Learning Materials., Audio and Video Lessons. All OERs in this repository are created under Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike (CC-BY-SA) license. Our OER Repository e-Gyanagar has become popular with more than 294890 visitors within four years with 755 titles 182 videos and 4873 subscribers.

Audio/Video lessons: OSOU has established its own multimedia studio to produce Audio and Video Lessons for the various academic programs. Video Lessons act as a good instructor in communicating the facts with visuals, animations, presentations, demonstrations and insights. It gives learner a classroom experience. All the videos are prepared in HD quality and are compressed in such a way that the students can download

or play even in their smart phones with consumption of minimal data. More than 500 video lessons and 300 audio lessons are available in the official website of the OSOU.

e-Library / Digital Library: Odisha State Open University (OSOU) works with a vision to adopt the best practices available in the ODL field to promote innovation in teaching, learning, training and research. To reach this we thank the Government of Odisha for providing us e-library platform ProQuest and Inflibinet and allow our learners to access to world class quality of materials, electronic resources, electronic books and other reference material that can be used at anytime, anywhere by them to pursue their studies. Through ProQuest the learners of Odisha State Open University can have access to more than 18113 International Journals, 215 Indian Journals, 2710 reports, 2340 Newspapers, 1874 Magazines, 4 Million Theses and Dissertations, 155000 e-books, 800 e-Reference & Encyclopaedias, 66000 Academic Videos.

Digitisation of ID card/ Grade Card/Provisional Certificate: Digital Grade Card and Provisional Certificates were provided to the learners since the inception of the University. Students are informed through SMS and e-mail to download the Grade Card and Provisional Certificates. Learners Satisfaction Survey indicates that they are very much satisfied with this innovative method and the University has not received a single complain from learners about non-receipt of Grade Card and Provisional Certificates. It has tremendous impact on Student Support System of the University. In view of its success in the year 2018-19 University also introduced Digital Identity Card that is issued to the learner after the admission confirmation.

The learners identity card are digitized that they can download and keep it in their smartphones.

Monitoring of Study Centre through CCTV and Biometric Device: World Bank funded OSOU, therefore University installed CCTV and biometric devices at all Regional Centres and Study Centres for effective monitoring of counselling and other student support activity. The purpose of installing is to ensure the conduct of examination in reliable and secure way. CCTV installation is mandatory for monitoring of smooth conduct of the University Examination at the examination centres. Installation of CCTV Camera and biometric devices in all the study centres of OSOU are under process and the target is to complete the installation by 2021.

Internet RADIO (Pragynavani): Odisha State Open University is the first University in the state to have its Internet Radio PRAGYNAVANI used for educational purposes only.

Many Audio lessons produced by different programmes are available in PRAGYNAVANI for learner's use at http://pragynavani.osou.ac.in/.

OSOU proposes to undertake following visions for technology enabled learning in the upcoming years:

- As per the National Education Policy the integration of technology is mandatory to improve multiple aspects of education will be supported and adopted, provided these interventions are rigorously and transparently evaluated in relevant contexts before they are scaled up.
- Technology will be used to strengthen the role of open and distance learning notably, for technical and vocational education, encouraging co-operation and partnership between enterprises, professional bodies and distance teaching institutions.
- Technological support will be given to open and distance learning to meet the special needs of the disabled, migrants, cultural and linguistic minorities, jail inmates, under privileged in crisis situations, who cannot be efficiently reached by traditional delivery systems.
- To promote web based learning where the Course text, examples and exercises can be interactive in the sense of immediately illustrating equations with graphs, changing parameters and seeing the results, linking to other web-sites according to the interests of the student.
- A Web-based course is envisioned as a dynamically-evolving resource that will prove beneficial to both students and instructors alike.
- Applied telecommunication media in educational programmes like online counselling classes, audio conferencing, video conferencing, and video tutorials will be the focus in coming years.
- Fully automated transactions of all the activities of the University using FMS, MIS, HRS to coordinate its activities in the three tier of its organisational structure.
- Completely detailed automated tracking system to monitor each activities and progression of the learners as they enrolled in the University
- Automated Examination System, with emphasis on online evaluation and digital maintenance of examination records.
- Emphasis will be given to Learning Management system and development of qualitative knowledgeable programmes in its online platform e-Gynajyoti.

PLACEMENT POLICY AND ACTIVITIES:

OSOU has an efficient Placement Cell to provide counselling and guidance to the students of the University for Suitable Career Placement. The objective of the Placement Cell is to cater the employability needs of the learners. The placement cell takes care of the pre-placement training of the students and find relevant opportunities for the learners and intimate them accordingly depending upon their choice and availability of jobs in the market. The placement cell of the University is constantly working towards providing the students with the proper training and guidance required to go through the recruitments.

The Placement Cell looks after advertisement, screening and other activities pertaining to the recruitment of administrative and technical posts. The activities involve publication of advertisement, receipt of applications, scrutiny of applications through a constituted Screening Committee, conduct of Written Test/Interview, selection of candidates on the basis of the recommendations of the Selection Committee(s). The placement cell has conducted Mega Job Fair at Headquarters and is planning to organise same in the Regional Centres in the coming years.

An online placement portal of the university has been formulated for greater convenience of our learners. Discussion is under way for the prospects of Certification of Hard Skills for various types of artisans in general including Jail inmates of Western Odisha in particular. The purpose of the placement policy is to define the overall structure of the placement and to delineate the roles & responsibilities of the teams working on the process of placement.

The major activities of the Placement Cell envisaged are:

- Organising On-and-Off campus interviews;
- Organising training programmes like Personality Development Programmes, Mock Aptitude tests, Group Discussion training and mock interviews;
- Coordinating Industrial Visits;
- Coordinating Project Placement for the Students;
- Supporting Seminars, Conferences, Workshop etc. organized by various departments;
- Organising Student level workshops/meets with major Corporates;
- Facilitating Industry University Interactions by inviting experts for lectures.
- Conducting career counselling sessions by inviting experts for the learners of the University.

- As per the National Education Policy the placement cell shall also look in to the recruitment, continuous professional development, positive working environments and service conditions of the teachers and staff of the University.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION:

The New Education Policy 2020 has advised for monitoring achievement of learning outcomes and encouraging examination boards to shift their assessment patterns towards meeting the skill requirements of the 21st century. As per the OSOU Act and First Statute of the University State to provide education and training in the various arts, skills and vocational courses. Under skill development education the University shall focus on the following:

- Shall establish the skill development education council as per the OSOU Act.
- Promotion of skill related study and training programs
- Shall give recognition to industries, firms, Institutions, different registered workshop, Laboratories, training institutes at the training platform for students of the university
- Shall work out the modalities to standardise vocational and skill development courses offered by various organisation
- Special Emphasis shall be on providing learning to women and other downtrodden sections of society through distance education in the fields of generating employment and entrepreneurship
- To start the Vocational programs at certificate, diploma PG diploma and graduation level that will help the learners to amplify their knowledge as per the required skill set in the job market.
- Training, skill up-gradation, skill development of the general population will be undertaken by the University through the skill development centre for employability and self-employment
- Capacity enhancement program, guidance, career counselling, personality development, cognitive development leadership initiative will be focused.
- Skill Competency Certification (SCC) is to be initiated to offer recognition to skilled workforce irrespective of their formal education and training. Large segment of the skilled workers earning their livelihood, both in formal and informal sectors of our economy, have neither undergone any kind of formal education nor have got their skills certified through any formal institutional mechanism. Existing skill gap can be reduced under this scheme not only for career progression of these workers engaged in skill based activities but also boost their self-esteem in the society.

CONSULTANCY POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION:

OSOU has adopted a Consultancy Policy approved by its Board of Management to promote academic, industry and research interaction and to encourage and facilitate faculty to provide knowledge inputs sought by industry, government agencies or other academic / research organizations. The aim is to disseminate knowledge and make an early and direct impact on society. Adequate care has been taken to maintain a balance between consultancy and the traditional roles of the academic staff. Hence, the interests of the University must be protected. This Policy provides provisions for conducting consultancy to ensure that consultancies undertaken by staff are consistent with the University's strategic and operational objectives and the costs are sustainable.

The vision of the University regarding Consultation policy is as under:

- To encourage the staff to undertake supported consultancy and any project, ensuring it does not conflict with the interests of University as OSOU feels the necessity of consultancy policy to ensure the optimal utilization of talents, skills and expertise of the University.
- To explore, create and maintain relationship between the university and outside organizations.
- To create support to OSOU in areas such as increasing research scope, student enrolment, placement assistance, and mostly exchange of knowledge for the mutual benefit.
- To provide a platform to increase the professional and/or academic competence and expertise of the members of OSOU
- The consultants shall work on sharing of new knowledge, skills, widening and expansion of existing knowledge and ensure new exposure to faculty members.
- The research and consultancy services which are likely to bring good image to the OSOU will be given top priority.

SCHOLARSHIP AND FREE EDUCATION FOR NEEDY:

Right to Education is one of the basic rights of every Indian citizen. A new educational order is envisaged where socio-economic disadvantages shall not create barriers for access to higher education. OSOU is formulating Scholarship and free education policy for the needy. The vision of this policy shall be:

- To extend scholarships and financial assistance to needy students based on their academic achievements and zeal for education.

- Concept of Need-based scholarships will be provided to needy learner. Students may qualify for need-based scholarship funds if they come from low-income backgrounds, and eligibility is usually determined based on family income
- A number of scholarships shall be offered to students depending on the academic credentials and their achievements in sporting and cultural arena.
- The University shall grant full to partial waiver on tuition fees payable by the student.
- To provide financial assistance to meritorious students from low income families to meet their expenses while pursuing higher studies.
- To ensure quality education for all for creating a scenario where people can be judged based on their talent and hard work and not on their financial background.
- Earn while learn scheme shall be emphasized to enable meritorious and needy students to earn a reasonable amount every month to meet their expenses towards education.

ONLINE EDUCATION: M-LEARNING AND E-LEARNING

Online education has proved to be an efficient mode of delivery of education during the Pandemic. In the New Education Policy 2020 the government is committed to both quality and inclusion in the sphere of higher education that needs the extensive use of e-Learning platform. Odisha State Open University have always prioritized the online delivery mode to provide door-step education to its learners for engaging them with the teaching learning activities. With the help of technology, the University has succeeded in adopting an innovative approach to teaching through ODL system to engage and encourage both the student and the teacher during the lock down period.

Various skill based modular programs are being offered through *e-Gyanjyoti*, the e-learning platform of the University that is open for all. More than 2000 learners are enrolled in various programmes like Cyber Security, IT Skills, Programming in Java, Communicative English, Soft Skills, Media Management, Video Production, Entrepreneurship Development, Leadership Skill, Disaster Management, MOOCS Gyan with e-Gyan, Phonetics, 3D Animation, Digital Imaging, Covid-19 awareness programme, Disaster Management and many more. *e-Gyanjyoti* helps the learners to get better and personalised online support via discussion forums, access to relevant Open Education Resources (OER), collaboration with fellow registered learners through blogs and much more. The course coordinator(s) monitors and interact closely with any registered learner in the course. We expect that over a period, the *e-Gyanjyoti* will be upgraded with addition of new modules

and new features. The highlights of the platform includes capacity to monitor learner engagement at every step, completion rate of a programme and learning analytics.

The Online Virtual Counselling Sessions are conducted for the learners on daily basis as a substitute to the face to face counselling sessions. Eminent Educationist across the country are invited to act as resource persons for various programmes as per their expertise to deliver lecture in the virtual class rooms. Around 1500 virtual sessions have been conducted with participation of more than 15000 students. A schedule is prepared by the Programme Coordinators for these sessions and the link of the same is uploaded three days prior in the official website of OSOU. The students of respective programmes are also informed via bulk e-mail and messages. The sessions are streaming live on YouTube and Facebook. Our technical team is providing all kind of support for the smooth conduct of these sessions. These recorded videos are uploaded on the homepage of the university website on regular basis.

The e-resources and OER repository (e-Gyanagar) of the University is filled with adequate soft copies of study materials of all the offered academic programmes along with plenty of video and audio tutorials

OSOU has its own Mobile App available in the Google play store free of cost to facilitate m-learning with a view to offer certain advantages like cost effectiveness, easy to carry and provide instant access to educational material of their academic programmes to facilitate "anytime" and "anywhere" learning via mobile devices.

OSOU envisages following advancements in its e-learning and m learning platforms such as:

- Online assignment submission and tracking for continuous assessment of the learners.
- Incorporating more features in the mobile app like geo-location, accelerometers, and cameras
- Academic Progress tracking of the learners will be done in a more rigorous way.
- Features like peer group interaction, instant chat, IVRS facility video chats, gamification, augmented reality, artificial intelligence will be added to the Mobile App to make it more learner centric.
- Internet radio will be strengthened and will be enriched with discipline specific audio programmes.
- It will be ensured that open educational resources meet standards of quality, integrity, and accuracy—as with any other educational resource—and that they are

accessible to students with disabilities to create an open source curriculum align them with state standards, and modify the materials to meet student needs.

- Emphasis will be given to provide all the educational programmes in Odia language to the learners.
- Online teaching and assessment will be made more rigorous and reliable with the due course of time.
- OSOU plans to offer more numbers of academic programmes in online mode at degree, diploma and certificate levels using both *SWAYAM* platform of the Ministry of Education and its own open source Moodle based LMS platform. Programmes specifically designed for the learners of the state will be accorded priority.
- Shot-term skill oriented modular programmes shall be offered at reasonable cost to ensure employability of the learners.

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABRATION THROUGH MOU

As per the Section 4 (2) of OSOU Act 2015 (Odisha Act 2014) the, University shall strive to fulfil the above objects by a diversity of means of distance and continuing education and shall function in cooperation with the existing Universities and Institutions of higher learning and make full use of the latest scientific knowledge and new educational technology to offer a high quality of education to meet contemporary needs. And as per section 5 (1)(ix) of OSOU Act 2015 the University shall have the power to cooperate with, and seek co-operation of other Universities and institutions of higher learning, professional bodies and organizations for such purpose as the University considers necessary. Fulfilling the Mandate of the University following Memorandum of Understandings has been signed with different organization that are mentioned as under:

- MOU with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for sharing the academic resources.
- MOU with six Regular Universities in the state of Odisha to provide skill based Programs to the students of the university to enhance their employability.
- MOU with Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and CEMCA for Designing and development of skill-based programs such as Multimedia and Animation and Capacity Building Program for the faculty in use of Open Educational Resources, Quality Assurance and Massive Online and Open Courses.
- Collaboration with Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) for designing and development of skill based programs like leadership development, IT skills, Soft Skills and Leadership Development, Disaster Management, Communicative English etc.

- Collaboration with State Institute of Rural Development, State Institute for Development of Arts & Crafts (SIDAC), OKCL and MKCL for monitoring program delivery, assessment and evaluation
- MOU with National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore for development of program on Psychosocial Care during covid-19
- MOU with for Higher Education Department, Govt. of Odisha for implementation of Institutional Development Plan under Odisha Higher Education Program for Equity and Excellence.
- MOU with National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi to develop Post-Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management and Certificate Programme in Relief Centre Management for disaster victims.

In the light of the above collaborative efforts University proposes to initiate the action in the following direction during the next decade:

*International level***:** Collaboration with International universities and institutions both at the bilateral and multilateral effect in promoting distance education online learning and technology integration in teaching process targeting students at the State level, National level and also reaching out to our International clients

National level: Collaboration with National Institutes of excellence, Premier Central Universities Open Universities and Institute of National Importance.

State Level: Collaboration with state universities for sharing of learning resources design and development of academic programs and use of common technology platform.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):

- Collaboration with internationally acclaimed NGOs such as UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, WFO etc.
- Collaboration with nationally acclaimed NGOs like Red Cross Society, YMCAs/YCWAs etc. and credible NGOs operating at the grass root levels at local Odisha

SKILL COMPETENCY CERTIFICATION:

Skill Competency Certification (SCC) is to be initiated to offer recognition to skilled workforce irrespective of their formal education and training. Large segment of the skilled workers earning their livelihood, both in formal and informal sectors of our economy, have neither undergone any kind of formal education nor have got their skills certified through any formal institutional mechanism. This double disadvantage acts as a bottleneck for

adequate earning and growth. Skill Competency Certification (SCC) would be a process of assessment, training (if required) and certification. It is to provide due credit to learning as an outcome rather than learning as a process. Learning outcome shall be tested through standard measurable parameters for formal certification. The accelerated economic growth has increased the demand for skilled human resources. In India only 10% of the total workforce have undergone formal skill training, assessment and certification. The rest lack formal training and certification thereof. We are targeting the larger segment which has not been formally assessed, trained or certified. As per Odisha State Open University Act, the object of the University is to provide education and training in the various art, craft, skill and vocational courses. The Board of Management of the University has approved and emphasized to launch Skill Competency Certification (SCC) under University Social Responsibility.

As a part of Skill Competency Certification OSOU envisages following in the coming years:

- To mobilize the unidentified skilled workforce for the purpose of assessment, training (if required) and certification.

- To include skilled workers excluded due to lack of formal education and training.

- To assess and validate skill and knowledge acquired through an informal route.

- For overall development of the adopted villages by identifying the existing prevailing skill there and recognizing them for Skill Competency Certification.

- To facilitate smoother access to jobs and for career progression.

- Economic wellbeing.

- Improvement in socio-economic status.

- Along with technical skills the aim is to impart soft skills, IT skills, and Entrepreneurship skills etc. that meet the current and evolving needs of the organization.

- The scheme is meant for self-development of those persons who have acquired skill at the workplace. They did not pass through the formal education system for certification of their skill competencies. The scheme aims at qualitative improvement in self-esteem, better access to facilities for self-employment and recognition as part of the skilled workforce.

- The skills up-gradation initiative will incorporate a robust impact evaluation mechanism that will assess training effectiveness, self-employment, easy access to Government schemes and increase in self-esteem.

ALUMNI PORTAL:

University has formulated policy for creation of an Alumni Association of the University and registered this under the Society Registration Act. The learners admitted from July 2020 session will automatically join the Alumni Association and the students of previous batches will also join the association through the University Web portal. University wants to make the alumni involvement in various activities more vibrant and meaningful from the upcoming academic session.

With the formation of Alumni Association, the University envisages the following:

- Establishing communication link between the University and the existing alumnus and enrolled learners.

- To bring together the former learners of the University and to promote fellowship amongst them and their families.

- Participation of alumni in decision making of the University and experience sharing of the alumnus for streamlining the activities of the University.

- To facilitate the efforts of the learners with the help of alumni association for seeking better opportunities to learn and grow.

- To promote goodwill and sense of pride to both alumni and students.

- To help and support alumnus development and spread a philanthropic mind-set among students.

- To advice and conduct activities that shall motivate and upgrade student skills.

- To help the university to introduce new technologies as per industrial expectations.

- To associate with the university management in planning and execution of alumni events.

- To establish a life-long relationship between the University and its alumni.

E-GOVERNANCE

E-Governance is central to any institution for the purpose of credibility, transparency in decision-making and participation of the stakeholders in the process of administration and governance. The National Education Policy 2020 has recommended extensive use of technology in governance planning, decision-making, monitoring, mentoring, assessment and curriculum design.

Odisha State Open University aims at establishing an e-governance ecosystem to provide opportunity for all stakeholders particularly the teachers and the learners to have a share in the decision-making process. Activities of the university related to the student support services such as admission, fees payment, e-prospectus, e-content, online counselling including assessment and evaluation of the students shall be made available through digital platform of the university. Process adopted to measure the learning outcomes will be based on robust technology. This broad module of e-governance shall have the following features namely:

- Management Information System (MIS)
- Financial Management System (FMS)
- Examination Management System (EMS)
- Grievance Redressal System (GRS)
- Inventory Management System (IMS)
- Placement Portal
- Scholarship Portal
- Portal for Student Satisfaction Survey
- Alumni Portal

PERMANENT CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY

40 Acres of land has been allotted to the University in Badasinghari Mouza adjacent to the GM University second campus and IIM campus near Goshala, Sambalpur, by the State Government.

Master Plan: The master plan of the University will have the following provisions:

In addition to the basic UGC requirements like academic, administrative, warehouse, library buildings the Master Plan will have provisions for skill development center computer centre, student support service centre, campus development and maintenance centre, guesthouse for the visiting faculty, convention centre for organizing Convocation, Foundation day and other functions of the University, Recreation Centre, Health Care

Centre, model laboratories for science and allied subjects and provisions for accommodation for the statutory authorities teachers as well as non-teaching staff. These construction works will be carried out in three phases as per the provision in Master Plan. It is proposed to have a green campus with provision for solar energy generation, rainwater harvesting, fire management system, waste management system proper drainage and electrification along with plantation at the vacant space.

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ENABLED FORUM

Currently OSOU has been an active member in Association of Indian Universities (AIU), National Academic Depository (NAD), All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), National Digital Library (NDL), Institute of Innovation Councils (IIC), Shodh Ganga, INFLIBINET etc. University intends to play a lead role in all National and International technology forums created for Higher Educational Institutions for the benefit of the teachers and the learners. At the International level University has already joined hands with Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and has uploaded its e-resources in a common platform shared by 35 best Universities/Institutions in the world having expertise in creating e-resources including the United Kingdom Open University (UKOU), Massachusetts International University (MIT). Participation in such International digital forums will help the University to increases its outreach to the outside world particularly targeting the Indian Diaspora.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

As per the provision of section 33(1) of OSOU Act 2015 (Odisha Act 2014) the University shall establish a fund to be called the University Fund to which State Government, Central Government, Industrial Undertakings, Corporation, Companies, Associations and other bodies including local authorities shall contribute. Any other income including income from the fees collected from the students, donations, endorsements and other grants received by the University shall be deposited in the University Fund.

During the last five years that is from 2015 to 2020 University has received financial support for development activities from the state government to the tune of Rs.10,47, 65,000. Other than this the State Government under World Bank project has made a commitment to provide Rs.25 Crores to OSOU on a 60:40 ratio for infrastructure development and other development activities of the University. The University has generated its own resources in the form of student fees and interest accumulation from the bank deposit to the tune of Rs.16, 81, 89,000.

Resource mobilization for self-sustenance is a major challenge for any Open University in the world. Open Universities are like heavy industry where initial capital investment is high. In the subsequent period it shall generate its own resources in the form of fees collected from the students. As there is an upward trend in the fee collection the government financial support takes a downward trend. Within ten years from the date of establishment Open Universities set target to become self-sufficient through internal resource mobilization and look for government support only for capital expenditure on infrastructure and purchase of capital items for the laboratories.

Odisha State Open University, aims at becoming self-sufficient for the recurring expenditures by 2025 and for all other expenditures including salary to the teaching and non-teaching staff by 2030. Following are envisaged to be the main source of revenue mobilization for the University:

- Fee collection from the student shall increase five times by 2030 as compared to the base year figure of 2020.
- Resources will be mobilized from Government and Non-Government sources including industry for infrastructure development of the University as per the Master Plan.
- Sponsored program will be designed and developed with financial support from external agencies.
- All capacity building program for faculty and staff development shall be sponsored by agencies like COL and CEMCA.
- For purchase of expensive items like multimedia laboratory, computer laboratory and e-Library facilities, anti-plagiarism software and other softwares will be mobilized either from the Government or Common Pool Fund shall be utilized.
- University will take stringent economic measures in spending its resources as per plan.
- Surplus Revenue collected from the student in the form of fees shall be placed in fixed deposit in Nationalised Banks with the prior approval of Finance Committee and Board of Management for additional fund generations.

CURRICULUMN REFORM

Curriculum reform shall be a continuous process to make it more relevant both for the purpose of the employment and research. Revision and enrichment of curriculum by adding new electives, skill components, functional application aspects of the subject shall be given due emphasis. Since most of the content shall be available in the digital portal in the form

of e-text it would become easier for the University to make necessary changes in the content as per the revise syllabus. It shall be the endeavour of the University to make the curriculum multidisciplinary and aligned to the broad mission and vision of the University. The curriculum shall me made learner centric so as to give wide choice to the students to choose courses and electives as per their interest.

PEDAGOGY AND ASSESSMENT

The University shall adopt flexible approach in adopting the method and means of teaching learning as per the requirements of the curriculum. Within a broad spectrum of pedagogy based on offline, online and blended mode of teaching curricular transaction shall be carried out. In programmes and courses having projects, seminars, workshops, community based activities face to face mode of programme delivery shall be adopted. Skill components requiring hands on training shall also be implemented in face to face mode as well as in virtual mode if necessary.

The New Education Policy 2020 has made a provision to avoid high stake examination for assessment of learning outcomes. Instead it emphasises on continuous and comprehensive evaluation based on assignments, projects, seminars, blocks, including peer group evaluation. OSOU shall adapt these methods proposed in NEP 2020 for effective assessment of learning outcome in each programme of study. End semester examination shall be conducted in proctored manner both in online and offline mode with maximum weightage in theory based programmes. However, in skill based programmes skill competency shall be assessed through independent assessors with less emphasis on written examination.

NETWORKING OF REGIONAL CENTERS AND STUDY CENTERS

Open Universities create a three tier structure for providing quality support services to the learners. These structures are Headquarter, Regional Centres and Study Centres.

OSOU currently has established Five Regional Centres and 68 Study Centres. During the period between 2020 to 2030 University will expand its network of Regional Centres to all 13 undivided districts of Odisha and further expands its network of study centres to all 315 Blocks in the State. Regional Centres shall act as an extension office of the Headquarters to facilitate the activities at the Study Centres related to student support, examination, administration and financial matters.

Both Regional Centres and Study Centres will be connected to the Headquarters through Wide Area Network having high speed internet connectivity and necessary hardware and software

available at both ends. Biometric Attendance System, CCTV Monitoring, Video Conferencing and Online Counselling Facilities including e-library shall be provided at the study centres targeting the poor students having no access to digital devices

TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT

In the Open and Distance Learning all over the world quality is the main concern. The Board of Management has always directed the University to maintain quality in programme design, development and delivery, student support services, the conduct of examination and evaluation and quality assurance in all other parameters of ODL. The Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) of Odisha State Open University was established, as a measure to maintain quality in Programmes offered through Open and Distance Learning mode. The Centre is constituted to monitor, advice and review different quality aspects of the overall functioning of the University. The UGC ODL Regulations 2017 has also reiterated about the total quality management in all aspects of ODL. The NAAC Assessment and Accreditation Criteria also highlights on quality parameters. Hence the University has prepared a policy document in Quality Assurance keeping in view the UGC ODL Regulations 2017, the quality parameters prescribed by the Commonwealth of Learning and the best practices adopted by other Universities for offering programme in ODL mode that was duly approved by the Board of Management of OSOU, It is envisaged that the University shall work as per the guidelines of the UGC and its policy document on Quality Assurance in the upcoming years to maintain high-quality standards in all its academic and administrative activities.

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY

1. Design and development of high quality self-learning materials (SLM) in English and regional language.
2. Production of audio/video programmes in English and regional language.
3. Development of e-content integrating multimedia components
4. Design and development of e-learning and m-learning platforms.
5. Web-conferencing and video-conferencing facilities for real time teaching and learning.
6. Online attendance management system at all study centres for academic monitoring of counselling and skill training sessions.
7. Online student feedback system for monitoring the quality of counselling and training programme.
8. Installation of biometric system and CCTV at study centres to monitor skill based training.

9. Integrated Examination Management System with Question Bank, Online Evaluation and Digitisation of certificates.

10. Construction of academic and administrative blocks, multimedia centre and centralized computing facility.

11. Faculty and student Exchange programs with State Open Universities (SOUs) for adoption of best practices.

12. Wide Area Network (WAN) and Local Area Network (LAN) and connectivity with the national network.

13. Contractual staff (teaching and non-teaching) appointment and training for capacity building.

14. Creation of IQAC, Legal Cell, Anti-sexual Harassment Cell, Anti-ragging Cell and Equal Opportunity Cell along with OER policy implementation cell.

15. Creating institutional brand image through Learning Management System (LMS), Internet Radio (Pragynavani) and Internet based video platform (e-Gyanjyoti).

16. Research activities to be augmented through R&D Cell and making provision for research & Training Apprentice (RTA).

17. Village immersion by students and adoption of two villages by university for enhancing quality of life.

18. Establishment of campus placement cell and training of students in soft skills to enhance employability.

19. Financial support to disadvantaged groups.

20. Fee exemption for transgender learners

21. Introducing "Earn and Learn" scheme for needy.

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One Day Training Programme on Gender Sensitisation organised by Odisha State Open University, Sambalpur supported by Women and Child Development Department, Government of Odisha

Coordinators' Meet @ Panthanivas, Sambalpur on 28th November 2019

Rural Engagement for Distribution of Winter Clothes on Dt: 07.01.2020 at Kardola and Badasinghari Village

PLANTATION DRIVE AT PERMANENT CAMPUS OF OSOU TO COMMEMORATE GANDHI JAYANTI

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www.osou.ac.in