

**Malabar Diary -A Newsletter covering Educational
Innovations and Literary Activities at
IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara**

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5

July 2018



This volume highlights the efforts of the RC Vatakara to reach out to the unreached sections of the society. “Reaching the Unreached” is the mission of our University and the novel attempts of the Regional Centre, it is felt will bring in the desired changes.

Kindly give us your valuable feedback on the email address— rcvatakara@ignou.ac.in

Thoughts from the Chief Editor

The Monsoon is upon us. Mother Nature is singing lullabies to one and all. The sweet chirping of the tiny birds and the lush green meadows cast a spell upon every soul. Malabar is privy to this magnificent site. New life sprawls up in every conceivable strain. IGNOU also propels itself to new life under the dynamic leadership of our new Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Prof.P. Nageshwar Rao. It is our hope that under his able and visionary leadership, the University shall attain great heights.

The RC continues on its path of being a social institution with dynamic linkages with the lives of the general public. We are inspired to deliver not only high quality programs, but also pertinent skill development packages under the aegis of the Unnat Bharat Abhayan.

This volume of Malabar Diary looks at these events in addition to the efforts taken by the Regional Centre to promote IGNOU among the masses.

The second highlight of this edition is a beautiful poem contributed by Shri.Pushpakaran who is an inmate at one of the correctional homes (prison) in our region. The richness of emotions of the poet is truly praise worthy.

Then we also introduce our readers to our Study Centre Mary Matha Arts and Science College, Mananthavady (SC-83009). Needless to state, the Study Centres are the heart and soul of IGNOU. Towards the end of this volume we also take you through the Nipah virus scare that was witnessed in the districts of Kozhikode, Kannur, Wayanad and Malappuram.

We wish you a very pleasant reading!!

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Prof. Nageshwar Rao joins as Vice Chancellor of IGNOU on 26th July 2018



Prof. Nageshwar Rao has joined as the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University, the largest Open University in the world. Prof. Rao was Vice Chancellor of Uttarakhand Open University (UOU) prior to this appointment. He was also acting VC of IGNOU earlier from 28th November 2014 to 28th April 2016. He was also Pro Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University New Delhi from December 2013 to November 2014.

He is also the chairman of the National Task Force, committee constituted to assess and accredit open universities under NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council). He is also the Honorary Vice-Chairman, Rastriya Uchhatar Shiksha Ayog (RUSA), Madhya Pradesh since November 2014.

On his joining as VC of IGNOU, Prof Rao said that it is like home-coming for him as he has been part of the university as acting VC and as Pro-VC earlier. He further added that the open education presents a great opportunity for a country like India which has a very diverse and young human resource to harness the demographic dividend. He also said that he would focus on the quality of distance education and integration of technology with education support service. He has also held various key positions in past including the charge of Vice-Chancellor of Kumanyu University Nainital during 1st Nov 2016 to 1st April 2017 and as Vice-Chancellor of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Allahabad between August 2008 to August 2011. From October 1990 to December 2013, he served as Professor in Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Business Management (Pt. JNIBM) Vikram University, Ujjain where he acted as the Director of the institute for more than 13 years. His prior assignments also include Dean, Faculty of Management Studies for five terms; Dean, Faculty of information Technology for one term and Chairman, Board of Studies in Management for four terms at Vikram university Ujjain. He was also Reader in Faculty of Management Studies at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi between February 1985 and October 1990 and Lecturer in Department of Commerce & Business Administration, University of Allahabad, Allahabad between July 1978 to February 1985.

English Language Workshop at Central Prison, Kannur on 04-07-2018.

Training of Jail Inmates in essential skills is a grey area. Many agencies are either not too interested or do not find access to the inmates in order to provide them with relevant training. IGNOU RC Vatakara in the past one year has conducted a series of programs to bridge this gap at Central Prison, Kannur. The following passage dwells light on the latest initiatives of this kind.

As a part of its continuing commitment towards social sector regeneration, IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara conducted a three day workshop for jail inmates at Central Prison, Kannur. This program was conducted as a continuation to the first level training workshop conducted a couple of months back.

Prof.P.Bhaskarana Nair, eminent educationalist and former professor, Pondicherry Central University was the key resource person. Through a medium of folk songs and popular culture, Prof.Nair took English Language deep into the hearts of Jail Inmates. The trainees found the session extremely useful and requested that more such programs may be conducted in future. Dr.M.Rajesh, RD and Dr.Prameela.O, ARD attended the program from IGNOU side, while the Central Prisons was represented by Mr. Ramesh Nath. This program was conducted as a part of the 'Unnat Bharat Abhayan' campaign of the Regional Centre.



Admission Campaign at Mangattidam Gramapanchayath on 10-07-2018.

IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara and IGNOU Nirmalagiri college study centre conducted a admission campaign at Mangattidam Gramapanchayath on 10-07-2018. The highlight of this program was the presence of large number of Kudumbasree workers. The details of various IGNOU programs on offer as well as other exemptions available to deprived sections of the society (SC/ST) were highlighted. The participants were mostly part of self-help groups and were interested in pursuing programs of a vocational nature. During the discussions it emerged that the participants would greatly benefit if an English Language Training Program and Computer Literacy Program was made available to them. As a result, a seven day long English Training Workshop in association with ELTIF has been planned and started.

The program was attended by Ms.Praseetha, Panchayath President, Dr.M.Rajesh, Regional Director, IGNOU Vatakara and Dr.Prameela.O, ARD, IGNOU Vatakara and Dr.Deepa Mol Mathew, Coordinator, IGNOU Study Centre, Nirmalagiri College, Koothuparamba. At the meeting, it was decided that a long term association would be established with the Gramapanchayath to deliver various skill based programs of IGNOU.



Admission Campaign at SN College Chelannur on 06-07-2018.

IGNOU RC Vatakara conducted a half day campaign at SN College, Chelannur to inspire college students as well as the general public to join IGNOU programs and thereby improve their career prospects. A basic status report on distance education in India and the benefits of this mechanism were presented to the audience. Further, an elaborate presentation on the programs on offer, the admission criteria, the admission process and other relevant matters was made before the prospective learners. The college authorities including the Principal extended all support to IGNOU for conducting this program. During the program presentations were made by Dr.M.Rajesh and Dr.Prameela.O. Coordination for the program was done by Mr.Rejish.M.T, Coordinator, IGNOU Study Centre 83012, Sree Narayana Guru College, Chelannur.



Admission cum Awareness Campaign at tribal hamlet in Kallachi, Puthukkayam on 08-07-2018.

The Malabar region boasts of some of their most pristine mountain ranges in the Western Ghats. Many of these areas have several hamlets of tribal population. It is IGNOU RC Vatakara's endeavour to reach out to these hamlets and spread the light of knowledge.

Kallachi, Puthukkayam nestled in the gorgeous Western Ghats houses some of the ancient tribal populations. Though accessibility by road is quite difficult to this area, the RC has taken it up as a mission to reach out to the tribal hamlets located in these pristine hills. The only prominent landmark in this secluded area is a Lower Primary School where a few hundred children study. There are no avenues for higher education and the nearest educational institutions for higher learning are in Vatakara. Transport services are quite limited and the steep terrain makes movement of men and material very difficult. In an effort to include students from this area into the educational main stream, the RC organized an admission campaign with the help of the Head Master, Govt. LP School, Kallachi. During the program not only was the benefit of learning at a distance explained to the participants, but also many inspirational anecdotes were presented. The participants expressed a deep interest in joining IGNOU programs. As an immediate effect more than 20 persons from the ST category submitted their admission forms. The program was attended by Dr.M.Rajesh, RD and Prof.Ammukutty, the Asst. Coordinator, IGNOU Study Centre 83010.



Admission Campaign at ST Hamlets in Nilambur on 13-07-2018.

Nilambur is a Taluk Head Quarters with a sizable schedule tribe population. The area is noted for its lush green tropical forests and timber farms. Asia's biggest Teak farm as well as the oldest Teak Museum is located at Nilambur. Located at a distance of around 150 kilometres from Vatakara, Nilambur houses some of the sprawling tribal hamlets in the state. Reaching the unreached in this part of the world demands penetrating into forest and semi forest areas. In order to expand its mandate, the officials of RC Vatakara along with the Coordinator of Amal College, Nilambur, Shri. Shihabudheen visited the tribal hamlets in the area. Since many of these hamlets were located inside reserve forests, special permission have to be obtained for entering the tribal zones. The highlight of the visit was a meeting conducted at an LP School inside a reserved forest. The most attractive feature of this school is that it is modelled in the shape of a train and the interiors are painted with pictures of forest surroundings, comic characters and learner centric depictions. At the meeting, we found that most of the participants were either women or teenage boys wishing to pursue a career of their choice. The team from the RC consisting of RD, Dr. M. Rajesh and ARD, Dr. Prameela. O introduced the participants to IGNOU programs and exhorted them to join these useful academic programs. The Coordinator of Amal College, Shri. Shihabudheen played a major role in organizing the event. The program was also facilitated due to the good office of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri. Abdul Wahab.



Negotiating the Nipah Virus – the experience of IGNOU RC Vatakara

The virulent Nipah virus paralyzed most services in the Malabar area, in the months of May and June 2018. Due to the timely intervention and efficient handling by the State Public Health Department, a potential contagion was prevented. However, this did not prevent a massive scare from being generated by false propaganda through social media and other uninformed sources.

IGNOU RC Vatakara was faced with a very challenging proposition of conducting its June Term End Examinations amidst the Nipah scare. This was further worsened by the untimely postal service strike which paralyzed the postal system in the state. Faced with these twin emergencies, the Regional Centre had to draw up major contingency plans to tide over the situation. Close coordination with the postal service department and efficient logistic planning prevented a major crisis from evolving. As far as the Nipah virus was concerned, much credit should go to the examination centres and its superintendents, who conducted the examinations smoothly and assuaged the fears of examinees by helping them adopt efficient preventive measures. The students also cooperated a great deal by turning up in large numbers to attempt the scheduled examinations. The work at the Regional Centre continued unabated in spite of the fact that the office is located at a distance of hardly 15 kms from the epicentre of the outbreak. Needless to state, the services of the Regional Centre were sustained while fighting potential contamination .



A tribute to Mrs.Lini Puthussery

Our Heartfelt tributes go to Mrs. Lini Puthussery, the dedicated nurse who breathed her last, after being infected by Nipah Virus. She contracted the deadly virus while attending two brothers, who later died of the illness, the first confirmed cases of fatalities in Kerala due to Nipah.

Her sacrifice is such that would have made even Florence Nightingale proud.



Promotional video for IGNOU Admissions

For long the functionaries of the Regional Centre have understood the fact that the unreached can be reached effectively and efficiently through the appropriate use of visual media. In an effort to highlight the advantages of studying through IGNOU at a distance, the Regional Centre prepared a promotional video highlighting the programmes on offer, the online admission process, advantages of IGNOU, and its unique selling propositions and so on. The video is mostly shot in Malayalam. The script was written by Dr.M.Rajesh, RD and suitable amendments and adaptations were carried out by Dr.Prameela.O, ARD. The presentation was done by Mrs.Sharanya, a faculty of Cooperative Arts and Science College Vatakara. Camera work and editing was carried by Mr.Jithesh.

The video is available at the following URL: <https://youtu.be/bfYwp8FstOs>

Within a short span of time, the video has registered around 1000 hits on YouTube. It is expected that this video will play a stellar role in enhancing both popularity and admissions to IGNOU RC Vatakara.



Awareness campaign for SC/ST Promoters, CDS Promoters, Saksharatha Preraks and the students of Jamia Nadwiyya Training College on Distance Learning through IGNOU at Jamia Nadwiyya Training College on 12-07-2018

As a part of its outreach program Regional Centre Vatakara conducted an awareness campaign on Distance Learning through IGNOU at Jamia Nadwiyya Training College on 12-07-2018. The participants of the program are SC/ST Promoters, CDS Promoters, Saksharatha Prerak and the students of Jamia Nadwiyya Training College. The aim of this awareness program was to create awareness about IGNOU programs among the participants, who can popularize these programs among the local people. The key resource person for the program was Dr.Prameela.O. Prof.C.Abdul Salam, the Coordinator of IGNOU Study Centre at Jamia Nadwiyya College also participated in the program and delivered an awareness speech. The Academic Counsellors of this Institution also actively participated in the program.



Inauguration of IGNOU Study Centre(83013) at Amal College of Advanced Studies, Nilambur on 13-07-2018.

Amal College of Advanced Studies, a premier educational institution at Nilambur, decided to join hands with IGNOU and thereby bring education to the door steps of the most needy. Malappuram district has traditionally been considered as an educationally backward area. But recent initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational levels of the populates has seen a number of part breaking initiatives. In fact the premier educational hub, the University of Calicut is actually located in Malappuram. The state govt. has also been making massive efforts to advance the force of education in Malappuram. It is in this context that Amal College and its missionary leadership decided to join hands with IGNOU. The Study Centre was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Malappuram, Shri.Abdul Wahab. The glittering ceremony was attended by Dr.M.Rajesh, Dr.Prameela.O, Shri.Shibabudheen, Dr.Dhanya, IAQC Coordinator and other functionaries of the college and persons of local importance. Needless to state, IGNOU study Centre at Amal College, will in times to come will to beacon light for educational empowerment in the region.



IGNOU Study Centre, Mary Matha College, Mananthavady

Mary Matha Arts & Science College, established in 1995, is a Government-aided College managed by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Mananthavady started with the objective of meeting the higher educational needs of the youth of Wayanad.

There are **Seven Under Graduate Programs** (B.A. Functional English, B.Sc. Mathematics, Zoology, Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry, and B. Com), two **Post Graduate Programme** in Mathematics and Computer Science, and **two Research Centres** in Mathematics and Zoology. Mary Matha College symbolizes the realization of the dreams and aspirations of the people of the tribal, minority concentrated and backward hill-district of Wayanad. Dr Savio James is the principal of the college since 2015. Rev. Fr George Myladoor is the manager of the college from 2017.

The College, included under Section 2 (F) & 12 (B) of the UGC Act, was awarded Grade B++ (83.5%) by the NAAC in 2006, and re-accredited with A grade in 2014. The College is preparing for the third cycle of accreditation in 2019.

IGNOU Study Centre at the College was established in 2014 with Dr Thomas Monoth as the founder Coordinator. Dr P P Shaju, Associate Professor of Journalism, has taken up the responsibility of the coordinator from 2018. Nearly 200 students have registered for the various IGNOU programme and more than 70 per cent of the students belong to the SC/ST category. The Centre is expected to be elevated as an examination centre from this academic year. Dr. M.Rajesh and Dr Prameela.O visited the centre in May 2018 and interacted with the principal, manager, Tribal Officer of Mananthavady and Panchayat President of Edavaka. Dr P P Shaju has also addressed several gatherings in Mananthavady along with RC officials to promote the IGNOU programmes.



Sensitization meeting with Women's Jail Authorities and Inmates

The focus of IGNOU RC Vatakara till now has been an empowering male prisoners. However, a change was urgently called for as regards this approach. With a course correction in view, a sensitization meeting was held with Kannur Women's Jail Authorities and Inmates on 04-07-2018.

The Regional Centre authorities namely Dr.M.Rajesh, RD and Dr.Prameela.O, ARD visited Women's Jail Kannur on 04-07-2018 with a clear objective of opening up the wide vistas offered by IGNOU to the jail inmates and authorities alike. The meeting was began with a formal interaction with the Jail Superintendent Mrs.Shakunthala. After the initial interaction, a wide ranging discussion covering IGNOU programmes on offer, rehabilitation prospects, need based assessment of inmates and possibilities for conducting extension activities etc was conducted.

The Jail Superintendent clearly stated that the problems facing female inmates were substantially different from male inmates and therefore required additional care. Apart from the inmates the functionaries of the Jail also exhibited keen interest in IGNOU Programmes. The meeting ended with a solemn declaration from both sides that there would be more closely linked interaction and implementation of IGNOU programmes in the Women's Jail of Kannur.



തൃത്താവിന്റെ രോഷം

.. പുഷ്പാങ്കുരം ..

എന്റെ മരണത്തിൻ
രോഷം നടിച്ച്
കണ്ണിൻ കെട്ടിക്കുറവരേ

നാവിക ചിട്ടിയെറിഞ്ഞ
വിരലുകൾ കൊണ്ട്
എന്റെ ജഡത്തിൻ
വായ്ക്കരിയിടരുത്

പൊന്നു തുളസിയും ചേർന്നു
ജലപാനവും നടത്തേണ്ട

ഹോ... നമ്പ്യാക്കൾ
ജീവിച്ചിരുന്നവർ
രന്നും മുക്കിയോർ
ജൂടിവെള്ളം മുട്ടിച്ച്
കുടൻ രുക്കിച്ച് വെച്ചവർ
ധാരാ മുക്കുവൻ
മുൻവേലി കെട്ടിയോർ

മരണത്തിന്റെ മുൻപുള്ള

നാജക പോലും
എന്റെ നാമത്തിന്റെ
മാനം കുറഞ്ഞവർ

മലർന്നു കിടന്ന്
മേൽപോട്ട് തൂപ്പിയവർ
ജീരമുത്ത് നലകച്ചാൽ
മലം വാരിയെറിഞ്ഞവർ

കുറുക്കുന്ന പേച്ചിവാർ
 തൊട്ടും നശിക്കുവിട്ടുനാൻ
 സ്വന്തം തെക്കുളിലാണാൻ

ഹേ... സഹജരേ

ഇവതെന്റെ ബന്ധുക്കൾ
 ഇവതെന്റെ അനുക്കൾ

ഇവർ എന്റെ പെണ്ണിന്
 ഭാര്യമാ പെർന്നവർ
 ഇവരിൽ ചിലർ എന്റെ
 പെണ്ണിന്റെ മാന്മാ കുമാർന്നവർ

ഇവർ എന്നോ ഭയാഗ്വർ
 ഇവർ എന്നോ മാന്യർ

പോതാം... രക്തബന്ധങ്ങളേ
 പാലിൽ നിങ്ങൾക്കിനിപ്പും
 പാലുകൾമാങ്ങകിൽ
 പരസ്പരം പരസ്പരം

പോളൂ... നിങ്ങൾക്കൊക്കെയും
 ചരിതെണ്ണിയിലെ
 ഇരകളെ ഭരതൂ...

നന്മ... എന്റെ അടുത്തിൽ
 തൊട്ടുപോകരുത്

നാനുനത്തിൻ മുൻപേ
 എന്റെ അടുത്ത
 ബന്ധുക്കൾ
 സമനന്തരമവർ
 വരാതിരിക്കട്ടെ.

അമ്പലക്കാട് പ്രതിഫലം
 മരണത്തിന് മുമ്പേ
 താൻ നൽകിയിരിക്കാം

രചനകൾ...

കടത്തിന്റെ
 മനസ്സ് പുനർജന്മമായി
 നിരക്കി വരില്ലാതെ
 രാപ വാങ്ങിയത്

മനസ്സിൽ
 ത്വന്മയ്ക്കിട്ട.
 നിങ്ങളുടെ
 ത്വന്മയ്ക്കിട്ട.