

## Malabar Diary -Newsletter covering Educational Innovations and Literary Activities at IGNOU

Welcome readers! The monsoon is once again back to give us respite from the sweltering heat that haunted us for the past few months. The greenery is back. Rivers are busy streaming down its parched beds.

In IGNOU, it is a busy period. We have just come out of a tight examination period. Regional Centre Vatakara conducted the June Term End Examinations at 10 exam centres, including one jail centre. Some of the examination centres saw a heavy attendance of examinees. The heaviest exam centre was SN College Kannur. JDT, PSMO, Nirmalagiri, and MCT examination centres also saw heavy allotment of examinees. It is a tribute to the hardwork and commitment off all the examination centre, that all activities were carried out peacefully without any hiccup. We heartily congratulate our exam centres on their stupendous achievement.

Since the time that the previous edition of this newsletter came out, the Regional Centre has carried out a large number of activities. The concern behind each of these activities has been to make the lives of every segment of the society better. With this aim in view, the Regional Centre conducted a digital sensitization programme for mentally challenged persons at Ashaniketan, near vatakara.

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.

Your comments and feedback may be sent to [rcvatakara@ignou.ac.in](mailto:rcvatakara@ignou.ac.in)

The Regional; Centre felicitated the glorious achievement of Mrs.Lisha, the gold medallist for MA (Sociology) for the 31st Convocation. The keynote address for the event was delivered by Ms. E.P.Latha, the Worshipful Mayor of Kannur.

The Regional centre also carried out a good number of publicity campaigns to promote IGNOU programmes as the July admission cycle is open till 31st july 2019. Special emphasis was laid on the SC./ST fees exemption provided by the university for Certificate and Bachelors Degree Programmes.

Last but not the least, I would like to draw your kind attention to the seminal events held at RC Vatakara in this duration. The first in this series was the Coordinators' and Academic Counsellors' Meet held to sensitize the participants on the various changes taking pace in the field of Distance Education, including that of the introduction of the CBCS. The Regional Centre also conducted the International Day for Yoga and Prof.Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture with great sanctity.

All these events are depicted briefly in this edition of Malabar Diary.

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### 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation at Regional Centre Vatakara

IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara celebrated its 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation in a glittering function on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. The function was graced with the presence of the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri.M. Venkaiah Naidu who was the Chief Guest at the National Ceremony organized at IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, Prof.Nageshwar Rao while welcoming the Hon.ble Vice President of India laid stress on the significant role that IGNOU plays in democratizing higher education. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor also highlighted significant initiatives taken up by the university, such as the CBCS, Skill Development initiatives, Unnat Bharat and Swatchh Bharat Abiyan. The Guest of Honour at the Regional Centre was Prof.Gopinath Ravindran, Vice-Chancellor, Kannur University, Kerala. The glittering ceremony saw the awarding of Gold Medal to Ms.Soorya.M who secured 1<sup>st</sup> rank for MTTM Programme in the whole country. While delivering the Convocation address at the HQs, the Hon'ble Vice President of India stressed upon the yeomen role played by Institutions like IGNOU in spreading education in the country. In his address, Prof.Gopinath Ravindran emphasised upon the need for expanding the horizons of Education in India and more particularly in Kerala, while spelling out the immense role that IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara has to play in this regard. As many as 200,000 numbers of learners were awarded Degrees and Diplomas at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation and at them 1115 were from IGNOU RC Vatakara.

The Regional Director presented report on the functioning of the Regional Centre and the significant activities taken up by it in t6he previous year



### Coordinator's Meeting

The Coordinators of IGNOU are the eyes and hand of the University at the ground level. They are the first contact point for any learner. The efficiency of student support services depends on the efficiency and dynamism of the Coordinators. IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara has made it a point to conduct periodic meetings with the Coordinators so as to motivate them and meeting their problem in an expeditious manner. A Coordinator's meeting was convened on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 with the objective of brain storming on the vital issues confronting Regional Centre Vatakara and its field units. The meeting was inaugurated by Shri.C.P Kunhi mohammed, President, JDT Islam Orphanage and Educational Institutions. Coordinators and part time staffs from 18 study centres attended the meeting. A number of vital issues were discussed during the meeting. Some of which are enumerated below:

- i. The issue of study material distribution.
- ii. Counselling and related activities.
- iii. Best practices adopted at various study centres.
- iv. Finance for Study Centres.
- v. Publicity measures adopted at Study Centres.
- vi. Issues related to remuneration of part time staffs.
- vii. Information management and dissemination at study centre level.
- viii. Grievance redressal at Regional Centre and Study Centres.
- ix. Assignment handling and timely dispatch of grade to Regional Centre.

The meeting witnessed presentations from Dr.M.Rajesh, RD, Dr.Prameela.O, ARD and Shri.B.Praveen Kumara, AR on various topics. The Coordinators also presented brief activity reports of their respective study centres.



### Orientation Programme for Academic Counsellors

It is a practice at IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara to train its Academic Counsellors periodically on various functional aspects. With the coming into vogue of the ODL regulations 2017, it is imperative that all Academic Counsellors become trained not only in traditional counselling but also in the digital delivery of study packages. Therefore, the orientation programme held on 3rd May 2019 clearly embarked upon the path of equipping the Academic Counsellors in the digital transaction of distance programmes. The Programme was inaugurated by Dr. Aroquiassamy P.A.J , The Principal, Mahatma Gandhi Government Arts College, Mahe. The following sessions were taken up:

- i. Distance Education in India – a brief outline by Dr.M.Rajesh
- ii. Assignment handling in IGNOU by Dr.Prameela.O
- iii. ODL Regulations 2017 by Dr.M.Rajesh
- iv. Finance for Academic Counsellors by Shri.B.Praveen Kumara
- v. Academic counselling through online live class room by Dr.M.Rajesh and Mr.Jithesh Roshan A.
- vi. Digital empanelment of Academic Counsellors by Dr.Prameela.O.

Some of the Academic Counsellors were invited to make presentations in the online live class room. Practically all major sessions included hands on technical session.





### **Conduct of Term End Examination June 2019.**

IGNOU Tem End Examinations are conducted twice a year in June and December. In June 2019, examinations were conducted at 10 centres across the region. These centres were:

- i. JDT ISLAM, Kozhikode (SC-I403)
- ii. SN College, Kannur (SC-I405)
- iii. St. Mary's College, Wayanad (SC-I430)
- iv. PSMO College, Thirurangadi, Malappuram(SC-I409)
- v. Cooperative Arts and Science College, Vatakara, Kozhikode (SC-83010)
- vi. IRISH, Nirmalagiri, Koothuparamba, Kannur (SC-I485)
- vii. Central Prison, Kannur (SC-83004D)
- viii. MCT Training College, Melmuri, Malappuram (SC-I4100D)
- ix. Sree Narayana Guru College, Chelannur, Kozhikode (SC-83012)
- x. Amal College of Advanced Studies, Myladi, Malappuram (SC-83013)

Apart from periodic visits made by the officials of the Regional Centre, a big pool of observers was deputed at various centres. SN College, Kannur was the biggest exam centre with 13226 sittings. Sizably big exam centres were also at JDT Islam, Kozhikode, PSMO College, Thirurangadi and Nirmalagiri College (IRISH), Koothuparamba. The exam superintendents and supporting staffs of all the centres played a stellar role in conducting exams very smoothly.



### Yoga Day celebrations at Regional Centre Vatakara

IGNOU celebrated Yoga Day every year along with the nation. Yoga is not only a path to strengthening the body and mind but is also a way of living. In order to highlight the importance of Yoga Day and instill a feeling of pride in the yogic pattern of life, the Regional Centre organized an essay writing competition for college students on the topic "Yoga for nation building". The venue for the competition was Vatakara Cooperative Arts and Science College. Students enthusiastically participated in the program. After a stiff round of competitions, three winners were declared. The 1st position went to Ms. Anagha Prakash P.M, the second and third positions went to Mr. Anurag S and Ms. Fathimath Safna P C respectively. The study centre staffs of Vatakara Cooperative Arts and Science College led by Prof. K.P. Ammukutty and Dr. Satheesan played a major role in organizing the event at the college level.



### **Prof. Ram Reddy Memorial celebrations.**

Prof. Ram Reddy Memorial events were conducted with great reverence by IGNOU Regional centre Vatakara. Among the functions organized at the Regional Centre level, the notable one was a lecture organized in association with Vatakara Cooperative Arts and Science College. In the solemn ceremony held at Vatakara Cooperative Arts and Science College, Dr.Satheesan, the Principal of the host college delivered the presidential address. Dr.Aravindan Tharemmal, the former Coordinator and distance education expert delivered the key note address. Dr.M.Rajesh welcomed the gathering and Dr.Prameela.O delivered vote of thanks. Felicitation speech was delivered by Dr.K.P.Ammukkutty, Asst. Coordinator and Shri.Achuthan Puthiyedath. A remarkable part of the ceremony was the distribution of prizes to the winners of the essay writing competition held to mark the yoga day celebrations. The 1st position went to Ms.Anagha Prakash P.M, the second and third positions went to Mr.Anurag S and Ms.Fathimath Safna P C respectively. All speakers placed on record the substantial and immense contribution made by Prof. Ram Reddy for the development of higher education in India and more particularly distance education. Later on in the evening, live telecast of Prof. Ram Reddy Memorial celebrations lecture from IGNOU, New Delhi was also watched with keen interest. Prof.Nageshwar Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of IGNOU and Prof.V.P Singh who delivered the key note address shed light on the immense contribution of IGNOU in the distance education field. They highlighted the unparalleled role that Prof.Ram Reddy had played in bringing up the substructure and super structure of IGNOU and making it a household name throughout the country .





## Digital Orientation Programme for Mentally Challenged children at Asha Niketan

Mentally challenged children are perhaps the most neglected group in the society. The challenge of bringing up a child with differential mental capabilities is enormous and pain staking. The social protection cover to such children is almost absent and very less importance is given to the educational upbringing and skill enhancement of such groups. IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara has always considered as its bounden duty to enhance the skills of such categories of learners through various extension programs. As a part of this endeavour, the Regional Centre organized a computer awareness workshop for mentally challenged children at Asha Niketan, Nandi on 03/07/2019. As we are all aware the attention span of children with mental challenges is quite limited and to train them in computer skills is a major challenge. During the workshop an effort was made assess the attention span of such children while engaging with digital hardware. It was found that there is substantial difference between the attention span of various categories of mentally challenged learners such as autistic students, students with cerebral palsy and those with mental retardation. The aim of such mapping is to ensure that we are able to develop customized study modules to impart basic computer literacy in different categories of mentally challenged children. The Regional Centre will be seeking the assistance of experts working in the field to develop digital games for such learners. The sessions at Asha Niketan were taken up by Mr.Jithesh Roshan.A and Ms.Archana.A. The workshop was also attended by Dr.M.Rajesh, RD, Dr.Prameela.O, ARD and Mr.B.Praveen Kumara, AR along with other functionaries from Asha Niketan. It is hoped that through a series of interaction, Regional Centre Vatakara will be able to provide customized digital learning solutions to these disadvantaged sections of the society.





### Promotional visits to popularize IGNOU Programmes.

The Regional Centre has been making all out efforts to enhance the gross enrolment ratio in the Malabar region. As a part of these efforts, the officials of the Regional Centre have made visits to the following centres for enhancing admissions to the July 2019 session.

- i. Collectorate, Kananur, Azhiyur, Chorode and Onchiyam Gramapanchayaths (04/07/2019).
- ii. Eramala Gramapanchayath (09/07/2019).
- iii. SN College, Kannur and (10/07/2019)
- iv. Azhiyur Gramapanchayath (11/07/2019)
- v. Gender Sensitization camp organized at Azhiyoor Panchayat
- vi. Mercy College, Vatakara (18/7/2019)
- vii. SN College, Veerpad (10/7/2019)

Promotional literature as well as career guidance was given to prospective learners. Special emphasis was laid on skill based learning programs offered by IGNOU.



## Felicitation to Mrs.Lisha.K, Gold Medallist.

Mrs.Lisha.K, the Gold Medallist for MSO Programme at the 31<sup>st</sup> Convocation was felicitated at a glittering ceremony at SN College, Kannur on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The worshipful Mayor of Kannur, Ms.E.P.Latha, delivered the key note address and inspired learners to take up IGNOU Programmes and succeed in life. In her thanks giving speech Mrs.Lisha.K acknowledges the efficacy of openness provided by the IGNOU system and also admitted the quality and depth of IGNOU study materials. She also brought to light the difficult circumstances under which she pursued and emerged successful. Being an IT professional, she had to devote substantial effort to master the discipline of Sociology while braving the loss of dear ones, such as her own father and her father in law during the course of her studies. The performance of Mrs.Lisha.K is an inspiration for all IGNOU learners. The programme was also attended by Dr.M.Rajesh, Regional Director, Dr.Prameela.O, Assistant Regional Director, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Coordinator and Dr.Bhupesh, Assistant Coordinator.

The programme was followed by an admission campaign which was attended by a sizeable number of learners from the host institution.



**Reflections from Mrs.Lisha.K, Gold Medallist, MSO Programme, 31st Convocation.**



As a person who engages in social service and training, it was my sincere wish to have a PG degree in Sociology. I joined IGNOU the prestigious University of our Nation for the fulfillment of my ambition and during the programme period I felt that my decision was right in every respect. I got all course materials in time and received warm support from the study Center, SN College, Kannur. The contact classes conducted by them were extremely helpful to me in the successful completion of my programme. I am so grateful to IGNOU and the study center for making me well versed in the discipline of Sociology and in its applications. The syllabus helped me a lot in my professional field as a trainer. Now I am doing PG Diploma in Counseling and Psycho Therapy and I wish to study PG Psychology in IGNOU in the coming batch.