

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



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Words from the Chief Editor

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—
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Greetings!

We hope to find all our readers in the best of health and spirits. The educational systems across the world are undergoing far reaching changes and India is no different. Newer technologies are transforming the modes for accessing education. As a harbinger for this change, the UGC has brought out new guidelines for higher Distance Education, which gives a major role for technology enabled mechanisms such as MOOCs and online learning. MOOCs can indeed be game changers in the emerging scenario.

It is in this context that a MOOC has been launched in the SWAYAM platform un-

der the investigator ship of Dr.M.Rajesh and the co-investigator ship of Dr. Sindhu.P.Nair, Dr. Jalajakumari and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan on Environmental Sustainability.

The Regional Centre at Vatakara has undertaken numerous extension programmes for the benefit of marginalized sections including women, intellectually challenged, jail inmates etc in recent times.

Further, as a part of our student support services, we have conducted induction programmes at various study centres in our region.

A significant programme in the period under reference is the Coordinators' Meeting

that was conducted by Regional Centre Vatakara with its focus on student support services in a changed scenario. It is due to the wonderful work put in by the study centres that the Regional Centre has attained the second position among South Indian Regional centres as far as the July 2018 fresh admissions is concerned.

Finally, this newsletter is truly a digital newsletter in the sense that live links have been provided for you in various reports, so that you can view these event in real time.

So we wish you a happy reading and viewing!!

Jai Hind

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Empowerment of Kudumbasree workers through English Language Training at Koothuparamba

IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara has been involved in a large number of community development programs. The intention through making such interventions is to create a real difference in the quality of life of the rural population. Under the aegis of the Unnat Bharat Abhayan, the Regional Centre tied up with ELTIF (English Language Teachers Interaction Forum), a voluntary organization engaged in English language dissemination) to touch the lives of rural women at Koothuparambu. This intervention took the shape of an English Language workshop held on weekends. The workshop was inaugurated on 3rd August 2018. The Regional Centre officials, members of ELTIF, Panchayath President, Panchayath Members and Community Development Scheme (CDS-Kerala Govt.) officials attended the inaugural session. It is hoped that through this intervention the Regional Centre will be in a position to impart functional English literacy among women of Kudumbasree groups at Koothuparambu.



Awareness program at Asha Niketan (an organization working for mentally challenged children)

The interventions of IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara have mostly be in the field of adults who lead normal lives in the society though they may be under various types of deprivations. However we have always felt that the mentally challenged do not need our sympathies but surely deserve our support and encouragement. The report presented below indicates the first step of Regional Centre Vatakara towards working with this often unnoticed section of the society.

As a part of its effort towards making a real difference to the lives of mentally challenged children, Regional Centre Vatakara conducted a health orientation camp for the parents of mentally challenged persons on 6th August 2018 (Hiroshima Day). Apart from the fact that August 6th is synonymous with death and destruction due to the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima city, the day also marked birth of Asha Niketan, a voluntary agency working hard for the welfare of mentally challenged children. The institution is located at Nandhi, near Vatakara.

In this program Dr.Sahadevan, an eminent humanist working for improving the mental and physical wellbeing of mentally retarded children, delivered practical demonstration and provided tips for the wellbeing of such persons. The demonstration was immediately followed by a discussion session in which parents and care givers of persons with mental disability clarified their doubts.

The program was attended and facilitated by Dr.M.Rajesh, RD and Dr.Prameela.O, ARD and Dr.Ammukutty.K.P, Asst. Coordinator, IGNOU SC 83010. Needless to state, this was yet another significant intervention by the Regional Centre under the aegis of Unnat Bharat Abhhayan.



Inauguration of IGNOU Study Centre at (83014) SN College, Veerpad, Kannur

Iritty in Kannur district has been an area hither to untouched by IGNOU Study Centres. This area also houses the Aralam farm – a designated farm for resettlement of tribals (by Govt. of Kerala). Hence this could turn out to be a major outreach by IGNOU.

Right from its inception IGNOU Regional Centre Vatakara has sought to enhance its presence in areas with sizable presence of SC/ST populations. With this objective, the Regional Centre identified an institution affiliated to Kannur University (SN College, Veerpad) to start a Study Centre catering to Aralam farm. The inaugural function was attended by Shri.Vellappally Natesan, General Secretary, SNDP yogam and manager of all SN institutions in the state, K.Sudhakaran, Ex.MP, Sunny Joseph, MLA, Dr.M.Rajesh, RD and Dr.Prameela.O, ARD . In the July 2018 session itself 60 students have enrolled at the new Study Centre. It is hoped that in the forthcoming sessions, more students will join from the adjoining Aralam farm making IGNOU Study Centre SN College, Veerpad, a popular destination for higher studies.



Freedom Ride by Vatakara Riders on Independence Day 2018

by Shri.B.Praveen Kumara, Asst. Registrar

India celebrated her 72nd Independence Day on 15th August, 2018. In Vatakara, the Vatakara Riders planned to celebrate the occasion with the school children of Excel Public School, Mahe for Independence Day Celebrations and also to promote the idea of cycling during the important day. As part of its initiative during the Independence Day Celebrations, IGNOU supported the initiative of Vatakara Riders and T shirts were distributed as a combined initiative to all the riders for the occasion.

Hence on 15th August, 2018, Dr.M.Rajesh, Regional Director, IGNOU, RC Vatakara flagged off the ride from IGNOU, RC Vatakara. The President of Vatakara Riders Mr.Prasun, Secretary - Mr.Dinesh, Treasurer - Mr.Sibi.P were present along with other riders. The Captain of the Ride Mr.Ranjith, Mr.Prashob his deputy and other riders from Kannur and Thalassery participated in the Freedom ride.

The riders reached the Excel Public School, Mahe and participated in National Flag hoisting and singing of National Anthem along with the school children. Mr.Prasun, President of Vatakara Riders addressed the gathering of school children about the importance of riding bicycles and its role in preventing pollution and preserving the fossil fuels.

The riders highlighted the importance of cycling to stay healthy and did their bit to promote cycling in the region. Jai Hind.

Please click the link to watch the event live: https://youtu.be/DKBIDCMo_p4



Women empowerment camp at Nileswaram.

Continuing with yeomen task under taken by the Regional Centre towards empowering women from rural areas, a personality development cum English language training program was organized at Nileswaram in association with ELTIF, CDS, Panchayath and Municipality.

The program concluded on 15th September 2018. Representatives from all the above mentioned organizations attended the event. Apart from functional English training, the program also focussed on personality development women from Kudumbasree and grass root areas. The program was conducted under the aegis of Unnat Bharat Abhayan.

Apart from IGNOU officials, the program was graced with the presence of Prof.Suresh, Additional Dean, Kerala Agricultural University, Nileswaram , Dr.Bhaskaran Nair, Chairman, Nileswaram Municipality and Vice Chairman Nileswaram Municipality. The participants mentioned in very certain terms that they have greatly benefited from attending the program.



Induction meeting at Study Centres.

The Regional Centre conducted Induction meetings at Vatakara Cooperative College, St Marys College, Sulthan Bathery, SN College, Kannur, Nirmalagiri College, Koothuparamba, JDT Islam, Kozhikode, and PSMO College, Thirurangadi on 25-09-2018, 26-09-2018, 29-09-2018 and 30-09-2018 respectively for newly enrolled students of July 2018 batch. Comprehensive information was provided to the learners on all aspects covering IGNOU activities. An all encompassing induction booklet was also provided to the newly enrolled learners.

Induction Meeting at SC-I409



Induction Meeting at SC-I403



Induction Meeting at SC-I485



Induction Meeting at SC-I405



Coordinators Meet at Regional Centre Vatakara

The biennial Coordinators Meet was held at CR Complex Auditorium Vatakara on 21st September 2018.

Coordinators and supporting staffs from all the Study Centres in the region attended the program.

Besides operational issues, the meeting also discussed threadbare with new challenges for distance education in a technology driven era. Among the prominent issues discussed at the meeting the following were significant.

1. Improving student support services especially with reference to academic counselling, assignment handling, grievance redressal and student facilitation.
2. Strategies to increase enrolment especially with reference to the disadvantaged sections, groups and areas.
3. Improving publicity of IGNOU programs and activities.
4. Tiding over difficulties, faced by learners in various segments.
5. Improving communication between various stake holders.
6. Sharing of best practices.
7. Discussion on various challenges and difficulties faced by the Study Centres.
8. Improving financial management and administration.

The Coordinators and Programme-in-Charges put forth various concrete measures by which the support mechanism of IGNOU could be improved upon.

Please click the link to watch the event live: <https://youtu.be/3Q9mFxlJeyc>

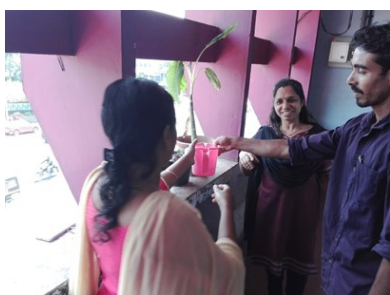


Swachhta Pakhwada and Swachh Bharat Mission

IGNOU RC Vatakara planned to observe Swachhta Pakhwada 2018 as per the letter received from HQs. A meeting with the staff of RC Vatakara was held on 5th September 2018, and the importance to undertake various Swachhta measures has been highlighted. Schedule for the conduct of Swachhta activities during this period has also been prepared during this meeting.

1. Zero tolerance to dust and filth.

The first activity has been conducted on 7th September 2018 by cleaning the surroundings of RC Vatakara. All staff members of RC Vatakara participated in the cleaning program.



2. Cleaning the office of RC Vatakara.

The next activity connected with Swachhta Pakhwada has been conducted on 11th September 2018 at RC Vatakara by cleaning dust from the computers and files and arranging them properly. The cooperation received from the staff members is highly appreciated.



Gandhi Jayanti celebrations and related events

The Regional Centre conducted a series of programs on Gandhi Jayanti and subsequent dates. Apart from giving emphasis on Swachhta and community development, the Regional Centre also conducted a number of events on the days following 2nd October. Some of these were : administration of Swachhta pledge at the Regional Centre, organizing bhajan singing sessions at Regional Centre by Ms.Anooja.R, organizing talks on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi by Dr.M.Rajesh and initiating community cleanliness drive at RC and vicinity. In all these events the philosophy of cleanliness, non-violence and community development was emphasised upon and practiced in full measures. The Regional Centre staff dedicated themselves to contributing 100 hours in an year towards spreading the message of Swachhta and its practice in the wider community.

