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ABSTRACT

Since its inception in India in 1962, distance education has grown in popularity. The Distance Education Council (DEC) directs distance learning within India's higher education system. The DEC's promotion, coordination, and maintenance of standards for distance education are its three major roles. Its initiatives include grants, support for technology, quality assurance measures, development of standards and guidelines for degree programs, and technical assistance for new open universities. Collaboration programs at the national and international level also exist, and focus on such topical areas as MEA degrees, B.Ed. degrees, self-assessment of the open university system, and information and data exchange. Areas for future activity are listed and include the development of an open education network, technical assistance to state government, audio-visual support, research project support, Web-based initiatives, quality assurance measures, database support, and transformation of correspondence study programs into distance education programs. A listing of open universities and institutions offering correspondence programs is provided, as well as a map of India indicating locations of open and distance education institutions. (HB)

DEC

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Distance Education Council



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EMERGENCE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The distance education system has been gaining widespread popularity over the years. By widening access to higher education, the distance mode provides an opportunity to all those who are unable to pursue higher education through the traditional system.

From the nineteen sixties to nineteen nineties, there has been a phenomenal growth in the distance education system all over the world. More than 70 countries are offering educational programmes through distance mode today.

In India, since Independence, the number of students enrolled in higher education has risen from about 0.2 million to about 6 million. This six million represents a meagre 6% of India's young population.

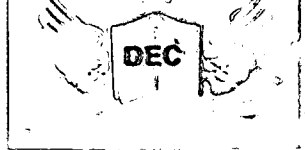
Open Universities today, are the prime avenues for imparting education through the distance mode. All the aspects necessary for making the system amenable to self-learning and learner friendly are incorporated in the system for serving the isolated distance learner.

With the evolution of new methodologies in teaching and learning, and the aid of innovative and diverse channels for learning, the distance education can be a boon in providing access to the spatially and geographically disadvantaged.



The distance / open education system aims to :

- provide an opportunity for education to all aspirants including those in service, women, adults, handicapped, from remote places etc.
- allow self-paced learning.
- provide innovative and flexible education,
- provide cost-effective education,
- provide learning materials that are self explanatory, user friendly and appropriate for the target group,
- provide opportunity for a number of diverse courses - Professional, Technical, Vocational and General,
- cater to the needs of certification, education, knowledge, skill upgradation etc.,
- provide regular counselling and other appropriate learning support through networks of study centres, and last but not the least, to
- incorporate new technologies, satellite communications, networking, internet, e-mail etc. for easy access to learners.



DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

Distance Education Council (DEC) is established under Statute 28 of IGNOU, under Section 25 of IGNOU Act, 1985. The DEC became operational in 1992. Its mandate is to function as an apex body of distance education in India for the promotion, maintenance of standards and coordination of open and distance education in India. The National Policy on Education (NPE, 1986) and the Programme of Action (POA, 1992) also give stress to the role of the DEC.

In India, distance education started in the form of correspondence education in the year 1962. The first open university came into existence in 1982. At present, there are ten open universities - one National Open University, the IGNOU(1985), and nine State Open Universities (SOUs) in India. Of the 229 university level traditional institutions, 62 are dual mode institutions. The latter, through their Correspondence Course Institutions (CCIs) impart education through correspondence/distance mode.

The DEC, since its inception, is supporting SOUs. From the Ninth Plan onwards the CCIs that were earlier being supported by the UGC are being supported by the DEC.

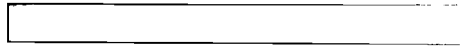


THE ORGANISATION

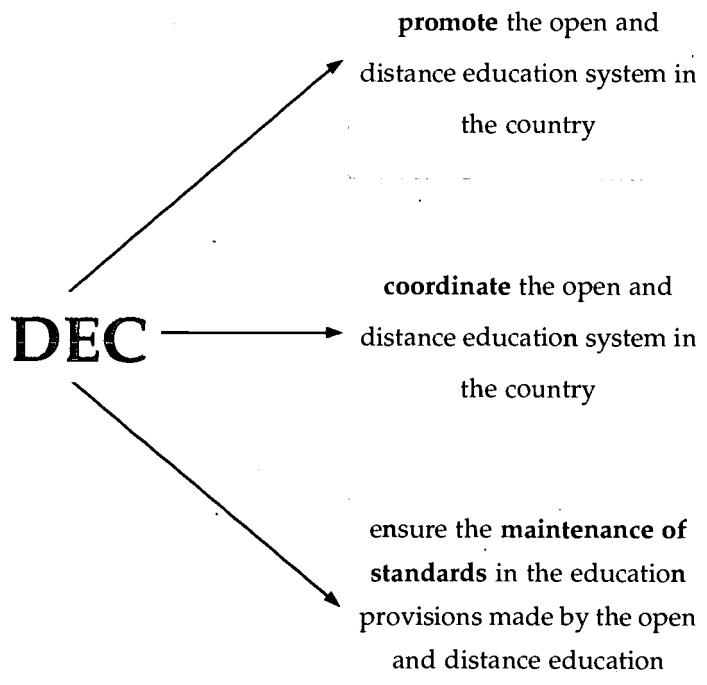
The DEC is a statutory authority of IGNOU consisting of 15 members. The Vice Chancellor of IGNOU is its Ex-officio Chairman. The members of the Council include the Union Education Secretary, Secretary of University Grants Commission (UGC), a member of the UGC, Director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), two members of the Board of Management, two Vice Chancellors of SOUs, two Directors of CCIs, three nominees of the Visitor and a teacher from the distance education system. The Director, Distance Education Council is the Secretary of the Council. The Secretariat of the DEC consisting of a Director, a Deputy Director, two Assistant Directors and a complement of supporting staff, is involved in policy implementation.



T HE ROLE



The objectives of the DEC are as delineated below :





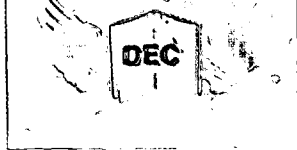
THE ACTIVITIES

Promotion

- Preparation of norms and standards/guidelines for support to SOUs and CCIs
- Dissemination of information
- Assistance for establishment of new State Open Universities
- Support to SOUs for Student Support Services.

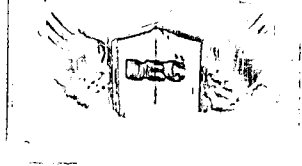
Coordination

- Funding for downlink facility, for Wide Area Network (WAN) and Local Area Network (LAN). Support in training and development of communication channel networks
- Development of database on Open Universities in India
- Identification of Common Pool of Courses and Programmes for sharing by distance education institutions
- Technical assistance to SOUs for adoption of Credit System and Common Grading Pattern for Student Evaluation



Maintenance of Standards

- Provision of financial support to SOUs and CCIs for infrastructure development (mainly for equipment)
- Provision of support to CCIs for transformation of course material to distance mode (self learning material)
- Provision of grants for human resource development to SOUs
- Provision of research grants to SOUs and CCIs
- Support to SOUs and CCIs for application of new technologies
- Support for audio-visual facilities
- Establishment of Quality Assurance Mechanisms
- Formulation of norms and guidelines for offering programmes of study through distance mode viz., M.B.A., B.Ed., B.C.A., M.C.A., B.Lib., B.Sc. (Nursing).



COLLABORATIONS

The different collaborations of the DEC on national and international level are as follows

- DEC-COL collaboration is continuing since its inception on a number of fronts like exchange of information, data on distance education and quality concepts.
- AICTE-DEC collaboration for recognition of MBA programmes offered through distance mode.
- NCTE-DEC collaboration for devising norms for recognition of B.Ed programme offered through distance mode.
- NAAC-DEC are in the process of evolving strategies for self assessment of the open university system.



THRUST AREAS OF **PROJECTED ACTIVITIES**

- Development of open education network
- Consultations to State Governments and Technical Assistance for establishment of new State Open Universities
- Development of promotional material (Print, Audio-Video etc.) on distance education
- Award of Research Projects on identified thrust areas in distance education
- Web-based Education Fellowships for technical competence for Distance Education staff
- Development of norms and standards for maintenance of standards of programmes offered through distance mode and other quality assurance measures
- Strengthening of database on open and distance education system
- Transformation of correspondence programmes into 'distance education programmes through judicious use of multiple channels of self-instruction



OPEN UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA

1. Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi,
New Delhi-110068, India.
2. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Open University
Road No. 46, Jubilee Hills
Hyderabad-500033
Andhra Pradesh, India.
3. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra
Open University
Dnyangangotri, Near Gangapur Dam
Nashik-422005
Maharashtra, India.
4. Kota Open University
Rawat Bhata Road, Akhelgarh
Kota-324010
Rajasthan, India.
5. Dr. Babasahed Ambedkar Open University
Govt. Bungalow No. 9
Dafnala, Shahi Baug
Ahmedabad-380 003
Gujarat, India.



6. Nalanda Open University
S.K. Puri,
Patna-800001
Bihar, India.
7. M.P. Bhoj (Open) University
Red Cross Bhavan,
Shivaji Nagar,
Bhopal- 462016
Madhya Pradesh, India.
8. Karnataka State Open University
Manasa Gangotri,
Mysore-570006
Karnataka, India.
9. Netaji Subhas Open University
1, Woodburn Park,
Calcutta-700020
West Bengal, India.
10. U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open Univeristy
17, Maharishi Dayanand Marg,
Allahabad- 211001,
Uttar Pradesh, India.





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INSTITUTIONS OFFERING CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

University / Institution :	State
1. Alagappa University	Tamil Nadu
2. Andhra University	Andhra Pradesh
3. Annamalai University	Tamil Nadu
4. Awadhesh Pratap Singh University	Madhya Pradesh
5. Bangalore University	Karnataka
6. Barkatullah Vishwavidyalaya	Madhya Pradesh
7. Berhampur University	Orissa
8. Bharathiar University	Tamil Nadu
9. Bharathidasan University	Tamil Nadu
10. Birla Institute of Tech and Sci	Rajasthan
11. Central Institute of English and Foreign Language	Andhra Pradesh
12. Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya	Madhya Pradesh
13. Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya	Madhya Pradesh
14. G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology	Uttar Pradesh
15. Gujarat Vidyapith	Gujarat
16. Guru Ghasidas University	Madhya Pradesh



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| 17. Guru Jambheshwar University | Haryana |
| 18. Himachal Pradesh University | Himachal Pradesh |
| 19. International Institute for
Population Sciences | Maharashtra |
| 20. Jadavpur University | West Bengal |
| 21. Jain Vishva Bharati Institute | Rajasthan |
| 22. Jamia Milia Islamia | New Delhi |
| 23. Jawaharlal Nehru Tech University | Andhra Pradesh |
| 24. Jiwaji University | Madhya Pradesh |
| 25. Kakatiya University | Andhra Pradesh |
| 26. Kurukshetra University | Haryana |
| 27. Lalit Narayan Mithila University | Bihar |
| 28. Mahatma Gandhi Gramodaya
Vishwavidyalaya | Madhya Pradesh |
| 29. Madurai Kamaraj University | Tamil Nadu |
| 30. Maharishi Dayanand University | Haryana |
| 31. Mahatma Gandhi University | Kerala |
| 32. Manonmaniam Sundaranar
University | Tamil Nadu |
| 33. Maulana Azad National
Urdu University | Andhra Pradesh |
| 34. Mother Teresa Women's
University | Tamil Nadu |



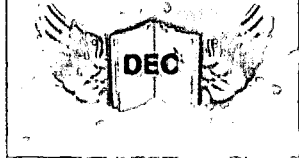
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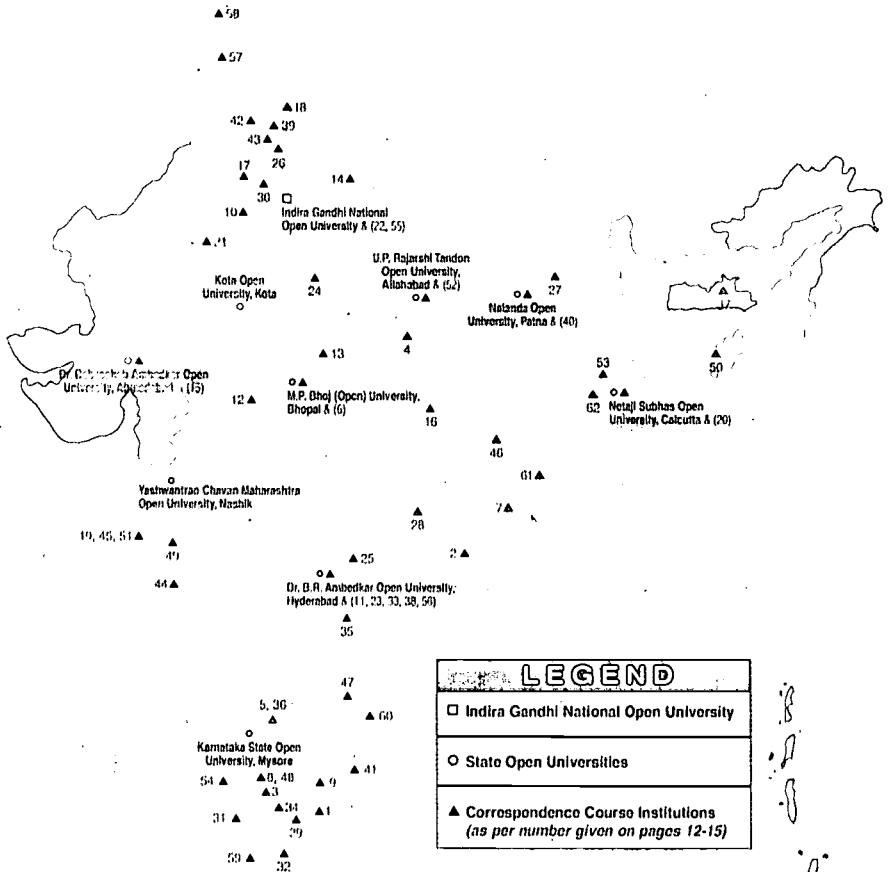
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| 35. Nagarjuna University | Andhra Pradesh |
| 36. National Law School of India University | Karnataka |
| 37. North Eastern Hill University | Meghalaya |
| 38. Osmania University | Andhra Pradesh |
| 39. Punjab University | Chandigarh |
| 40. Patna University | Bihar |
| 41. Pondicherry University | Pondicherry |
| 42. Punjab Agricultural University | Punjab |
| 43. Punjabi University | Punjab |
| 44. Shivaji University | Maharashtra |
| 45. SNDT - Women's University | Maharashtra |
| 46. Sambalpur University | Orissa |
| 47. Sri Venketaswara University | Andhra Pradesh |
| 48. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University | Tamil Nadu |
| 49. Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth | Maharashtra |
| 50. Tripura University | Tripura |
| 51. University of Bombay | Maharashtra |
| 52. University of Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh |
| 53. University of Burdwan | West Bengal |



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|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 54. University of Calicut | Kerala |
| 55. University of Delhi | Delhi |
| 56. University of Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh |
| 57. University of Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir |
| 58. University of Kashmir | Jammu & Kashmir |
| 59. University of Kerala | Kerala |
| 60. University of Madras | Tamil Nadu |
| 61. Utkal University | Orissa |
| 62. Vidyasagar University | West Bengal |



O PEN & DISTANCE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA



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