

Offering Cross-Border Education through Master of Arts in Distance Education Program: Experiences in Indira Gandhi National Open University of INDIA



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Background of IGNOU, India

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established in the year 1985 by an act of Parliament of India.

- ❖ It is the only central open university in India.
 - ❖ It is a mega university of having 4.7 million learners from both Indian and abroad(IGNOU Profile, July, 2009).
 - ❖ It provides all sorts of possible support services to the learners through out all generations as Taylor (200) stated it.
 - ❖ One among the other objectives of IGNOU is to promote acquisition and up-gradation of knowledge, and offer opportunities for training retraining in the contests of innovation and research.
- (<http://www.education.nic.in/dl/dl-ignou.asp>)

Background of MADE Program

- ❖ To fulfill that objective, IGNOU established a division STRIDE with support from COL; Canada, as a nodal agency to support training and research in DE in South Asia Region.
- ❖ STRIDE was entrusted with the responsibility of staff development, research & development, and system development in DE.
- ❖ MADE was offered by STRIDE in 1987.
- ❖ It is a pioneer & unique professional development program designed & developed for the first time in the whole commonwealth countries. (PGDDE guide book, 2007, p.7)

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- ❖ As being an innovative program, it is offered to the national and cross-border learners scattered across the globe.
- ❖ It is designed with aims at promoting the concept and utility of DE in India, and the developing world in general.
- ❖ Further, it aims at to develop the much needed human resources for the existing open universities, DEIs, and those which may ready to come up in near future. (Panda, 2007)

Development of MADE Program

- ❖ It was started with the title DDE in the year 1987.
- ❖ It was upgraded as PGDDE in the year 1995.
- ❖ Finally, it was conceived the name MADE in 1996.
- ❖ It aims at to develop specialization in various areas of Open and Distance Education.
- ❖ It is 02 years program comprises of 30 credits in each year.
- ❖ At IGNOU, we define 'credit' as a fixed amount of students' study hours devoted to various aspects of their study.

Define Credit System in MADE Program

- ❖ These are;
- ❖ Studying the text with comprehension
- ❖ Working on assignments
- ❖ Going through other course related documents
- ❖ Listening to the audio programs
- ❖ Watching the video programs
- ❖ Attending the academic counseling sessions,
- ❖ Etc.
- ❖ Thus, one credit is equivalent to 30 study hours.
- ❖ Each course is designed as 06 credits
- ❖ There are 05 courses in each year.

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- ❖ Thus, one needs to spend 900hrs. to complete the 1st year program.(so, a little more than 02 hours of study per day)
- ❖ However, the 'flexi-learn' enables them to complete this program in minimum 02 and maximum 07 years.
- ❖ In the ongoing revision of the year 2011-12, learners may select their optional and interested courses from the basket full courses available to them in this program, although some courses will be compulsory due to its basic and fundamental contents of Open & Distance Education.

Cross-border Education through MADE

- ❖ Cross Border education (CBE) is not a new phenomenon in India.
- ❖ It has been there since the ancient times, where Takshila, Nalanda, etc. were admitted students from China, Magnolia, and others for their higher studies.
- ❖ Thus, it will be nearly appropriate to interpret that **when educational institutions cross border on any country it is called *Cross Border Education***. (IGNOU-ODL: Pedagogy, Science and Technology, 2007, p.100)
- ❖ It is of two varieties,
 - First:** F-2-F educational institutions set up
 - Second:** Open Universities are delivering programs at the door steps of the learners in their respective countries.

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- ❖ There are various modes of supply of CBE.
- ❖ Franchisee
- ❖ Program Collaboration
- ❖ Twinning
- ❖ Offshore campus/ DE
- ❖ CBE is of two forms in the DE set up:
 - Distance learning by using the print, audio, video materials as delivery mode.
 - E-learning using the internet technology.
- ❖ In both the cases, learners need not to travel out of their countries for obtaining the degrees.
- ❖ Programs are delivered at the doorsteps of the learners in their respective countries.

Offshore campus of DEIs

- ❖ The UKOU: United Kingdom Open University, UK.
- ❖ The Fernuniversitat; Germany
- ❖ The IGNOU; India
- ❖ The Shanghai TV University; China
- ❖ The University of South Africa; Africa
- ❖ IGNOU has made serious efforts to export its programs in abroad.
- ❖ It provides high quality and need based programs at an affordable price to the cross border students in the developing countries.
- ❖ At present MADE is available in more than 53 Partner institutions (PIs) of 35 countries across the globe for the cross border learners. (PGDDE Program Guide, 2008)

Partner Institutions Selection Procedures

- ❖ To initiate the cross border delivery educational programs, IGNOU approaches to both public and private educational institutions of foreign countries.
- ❖ Feedback and license are received from the interested institutes and the same are verified by the Indian Mission in the state on our request.
- ❖ Then it is registered with IGNOU as a PI through MoU.
- ❖ Now, students can take admission in this program through PI while residing at their own place.

Admission

- ❖ The admission for this program is announced two times in a calendar year; July and January sessions.
- ❖ However, the 'walk-in registration' facility allows learners to take admission round the year.
- ❖ Filled-in application forms submitted between June 01 to Nov 30--**December session** between Dec 01 to May 31---**July session** of the calendar year.
- ❖ In this way learners can enroll in the program as and when they wish for without waiting for the next advertisement.

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- ❖ MADE Program prospectus and program guide are freely downloadable & also available at the IGNOU HQs, its all RCs, and SCs in India, and in overseas it is with the sponsoring institutions and its affiliated centers.
- ❖ Unlike F-2-F educational systems this program does not have any age bar to take admission.
- ❖ All graduates are eligible to take admission in this program.
- ❖ But it has been observed that people those have interest in ODE either by virtue of being an employee in the ODE or willingness to work in the system.
- ❖ Further, it is keenly noticed that in-service teachers in Correspondence Course Institutes/DE Centers and Open Universities are taking admission in this program.

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- ❖ However, it is important to note that one can't be permitted to pursue 2nd year courses without completion of the 1st year courses in this program.
- ❖ This program is enabled with ICTs. Hence learners can check their registration details, addresses, & validity of the program in the web page.
- ❖ So far we have 14,932 learners completed successfully (Dec, 2009- MADE convocation report).
- ❖ The medium of instruction of this program is English, which means the multimedia learning materials (print, audio, video, etc.) are in English.

Curriculum & Instructional Design of the MADE Program

1st year course:

- ES-311: Growth and Philosophy of DE
- ES-312: Design & Development of SLMs
- ES-313: Learner Support Services
- ES-314: Management of DE
- ES-318: Communication Technology in DE

2nd year course:

- ES-315: Research for DE
- ES-316: Curriculum Development for DE
- ES-317: DE: Economic Perspective
- ES-319: Staff Development in DE
- ES-320: Project Work

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- ❖ Appropriate case studies have been incorporated in this program from various countries like Bangladesh, Srilanka, Iran, China, Thailand, Guyana, Zimbabwe, Uganda, South Africa, Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, UK, and US.
- ❖ Thus, learners do not only get an opportunity to know the DE phenomenon of India but also the phenomena of around the world.
- ❖ So the arousal of interest for them is obvious.
- ❖ The Units contributors of this program are from different parts of the globe.

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- ❖ All Units incorporate the five essential features: self-explanatory, self-contained, self-directed, self-motivating, self-evaluating.
- ❖ ‘A Course Manual’ is sent to the learners along with the course print/audio/video materials.
- ❖ While assessing the assignment-responses, we write comments are of; positive, constructive, personal, and global comments.
- ❖ We also instruct our MADE counselors to do the same as it is required for the learners.

MADE Revision process

- ❖ This program has been revised once in 04 years.
- ❖ We collect feedback from all sources includes counselors, students, other scholars from Indian and abroad, other care takers, unit contributors, etc.
- ❖ The revision process is a rigid process aims at to produce quality materials and provide update information to the target groups.
- ❖ A diagram is presented for elucidating the revision process of MADE Program at IGNOU

1

- Course coordinator suggestions on the course revision in line with collected feedback for the last 03 years
- Materials sent to experts (course wise identification of experts by STRIDE)
- Submission of reports on each course by experts

2

- Organize revision expert's committee meetings to discuss the reports in detail
- Detailed out the structure of the course for revision
- Course coordinator (Identification of writers for revision)
- Allotment of units to the course writers

3

- Receiving revised units from course writers
- Format editing is verified/ done by the course coordinator
- Then it sends to the content editor(s) for the content editing
- Then it is requested to the chief editor for overall checking

4

- Lastly the work is assigned to the language editor
- Developmental testing by learners and counselors (abroad)
- Feedback received, & modifications: course coordinator
- Revised course certified by review experts and COL experts
- **Launch of New Revised Course**

Support Services

- ❖ Learner support is an important sub system of DE system.
- ❖ It can be defined as a range of human and non-human resources to guide and facilitate educational transaction.
- ❖ Alan Tait(1995), Simpson(2002), Thrope (2003) and others in the 21st century still believed that if support services are good and timely in a DE institution, then majority of the problems will be resolved, if not solved.
- ❖ IGNOU provides facilities in various ways to the differently-abled learners.
- ❖ IGNOU provides all sorts of possible support services to its learners in all generations.

Generation: Models (Taylor, 2001)**Use of media and technologies****1st generation (the correspondence model)**

Print

2nd generation (the multimedia model)

Print

Audiotape

Videotape

Interactive video disc

3rd generation (the tele-learning model)

Audio-teleconferencing

Video-teleconferencing

Audio-graphics communication

Broadcast TV

Interactive radio phone-in

4th generation (the flexible learning model)

Interactive multimedia online

Interactive based access to www resources

Computer mediated communication

5th generation (the intelligent flexible learning model)

Internet multimedia, online

Internet based access to www resources

Computer mediated communication, using automated response systems

Campus portal access to institutional processes and resources

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- ❖ DE handbooks are readily available in the STRIDE webpage (<http://www.ignou.ac.in/ignou/aboutignou/icc/stride/traning-materials>).
- ❖ E-gyankosh: online digital learning resources platform (<http://www.egyankosh.ac.in>)
- ❖ An MHRD-IGNOU collaboration educational web portal called SHAKSHAT (<http://www.sakshat.ac.in/>)
- ❖ On going educational project NPTEL (<http://nptel.tvm.ernet.in/>)
- ❖ Virtual conferencing for MADE cross-border learners (<http://made.ignouonline.ac.in/made/login/login.html>)
- ❖ Other support services as and when demanded by learners (e.g. Blogging, emailing, twittering, wiki platform, etc.)

Term End Examination facility for cross-border learners

- ❖ IGNOU has been providing facility to appear TEE exam in the PIs for the cross-border learners.
- ❖ Due to some reasons if cross-border learners come to India and they wish to appear TEE here, they can be permitted to write their exam in India and vice versa.
- ❖ The facility for paying exam. fee and registering for the next semester courses are available online for the cross-border learners.
- ❖ On online platform they can see their assignment grades, comments on assignment-responses, TEE results, & other update information.



Consideration of Learners' feedback on the MADE Program

- Learners' feedback on each course is taken very seriously and efforts are made to eradicate some immediate problems.
- Feedbacks are received on support services, instructional design, course materials, evaluation and assessment procedure of the courses.
- Feedback are examined rationally whether to incorporate in the next course revision process or not.
- This program runs successfully reasons behind of its timely revision, structured curriculum, appropriate instructional design, and excellent support services to learners.

Sponsored organizations for MADE cross-border learners

- MADE is an international, valuable, market demanded, and non-profit program attract learners from different countries of the world.
- Academic organizations, agencies, and some educational institutions by accessing its need and significance for the learners sponsored them to enroll in this program. Those organizations are;
- COL; Canada
- Rajiv Gandhi Foundation; India
- UNESCO-IICBA(*International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa*); Africa
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)-DEMP; Srilanka.

MADE Program Networks

- This program has been accumulated learners from the following countries (but not limited to); **Jamaica, Nigeria, Lesotho, Namibia, Seychelles, Samoa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Liberia, Ghana, Sierra, Leone, Madagascar, Bangladesh, Mauritius, and Srilanka.**
- IGNOU invites the MADE Gold-medal winner to attend the convocation at HQs, New Delhi, as a token of inspiration and appreciation for the learners).



THANKS INDEED !