



22nd International Conference of Indian Distance Education Association: Glimpse and Highlights

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CONFERENCE REPORT :

The 22nd International Conference of Indian Distance Education Association (IDEA) was hosted by School of Distance Learning and Continuing Education (SDLCE), Kakatiya University (KU) on 11th and 12th August 2018. IDEA Conference enables to be a platform to know the perspectives of all either against or for the Distance Education System. The Language Policy of IDEA is to enable the paper presenters to use either the National language or Regional language or English language for dissemination of the information to the audience in the academic sessions. The main theme of the XXII IDEA Conference was “Improved access to Distance Higher Education –focus on underserved communities and uncovered regions”.

There were six parallel sessions which were clubbed to keep in phase with time, on the following six Group (Group A, B, C, D, E, F) of subthemes:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
Learner Needs and Problems	Competency and Skill-based Learning	E-Learning	Online Teaching and Learning	Learner Management Strategies	Issues & Challenges in ODL
Learning Environment	New Pedagogies	Expanding Access	MOOCs, OER and Collaborative Teaching Learning	CBCS and Evaluation System	Implementation of ODL Programmes
Strategies on underserved communities & regions	ODL and ICT	Teaching in ODL	Virtual Learning	Quality Assurance & Best Practices in ODL	Trends in Distance Education

Around 88 Abstracts of paper related to the Main Theme/Sub Theme were received for the XXII IDEA Conference. Abstracts received were of both co-authored Paper and sole author Paper; However, sole author Paper abstracts were more when compared to co-authored Paper abstracts.

The Abstracts submitted by the practitioners, Research Scholars and stakeholders were released as a Souvenir in the inaugural session on the first day of the Conference.

On the first day of the Conference, the President for the inaugural function was Prof. R.Sayanna, Vice-Chancellor of Kakatiya University; the Chief Guest was Prof.Nageswar Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU); the Special Chief Guest was Prof.T.Papi Reddy, Chairman, Telegana State Council of Higher Education; the Distinguished Guest was Prof.K.Seetharama Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Dr. B. R. Ambekar Open University (BRAOU). On the Stage, the President of IDEA Prof. K.Murali Manohar, the secretary General IDEA, Prof. Romesh Verma were also present in the inaugural session.

During the inaugural session, the President of IDEA, Prof. K.Murali Manohar expressed the delight over the conduct of International IDEA Conference at Warangal- which is the birth place of IDEA. He also placed on records, the appreciation to Kakatiya University to host the IDEA Conference earlier in 2011 and now in 2018. He recalled that even earlier the Theme on the uncovered regions was highlighted in the IDEA Conference held in the 2000s and the XXII IDEA Conference being on the same theme stress the need for highlighting that there remains uncovered Regions inspite of the felt need on the necessity for the Open and Distance Learning System to keep in phase with the changing societal, student needs amidst the changing phases of programme delivery involving Technology. Prof. Romesh Verma, Secretary General, IDEA traced the role of IDEA in organising 21 National / International level conference, eight Director Round Table and Two Vice-Chancellor Meeting.

In the inaugural session, in his Chief Guest address Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University emphasised the need for novel decisions at the field level for efficient implementation and effective reach.

The President for the inaugural function Prof. R.Sayanna, Vice-Chancellor of Kakatiya University demanded for the need of the Distance Education System (DES) to change with the changing environment so that it is apt for the current need of the society. The Special Chief Guest for the inaugural function Prof.T.Papi Reddy, Chairman , Telegana State Council of Higher Education could not be present but his address was shared wherein he had expressed expectation related to Transformational changes in the ODL System due to the involvement of Technology.

The Distinguished Guest Prof.K.Seetharama Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Dr. B. R. Ambekar Open University (BRAOU) stated that Higher Education is also the Human Right, which is not yet fulfilled holistically in India inspite of the various developments in the Technology front.

Prof. D. Harichandan, in the plenary lecture threw light of how the Government of India has opened venues for taking the education to the doorsteps of the learners using Technology through the SWAYAM Portal. As a true ambassador of MOOCS, Prof. D. Harichandan, encouraged the audience present to be benefitted by courses on offer through SWAYAM and NPTEL Portals. The first day came to an end by a cultural programme which has given memories to carry along as the participants leave Kakatiya University.

Second day of the XXII IDEA Conference began with the 18th Annual Prof. G.Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ravindra Kanhere, the Vice-Chancellor of M.P. Bhoj Open University. A tribute to Prof. G.Ram Reddy was placed by the President IDEA, Prof. M. Murali Manohar.

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The memorial lecture was given by Prof. N. Linga Murthy former Vice-Chancellor, Kakatiya University on the topic 'Status of Higher Education in India; Call for reforms' highlighting on of how the independent India inspite of giving importance to Higher Education, there are still underserved Communities and Uncovered Regions having aspirants for higher education and this stress the need for the reforms to improve Access to Higher Education by encouraging the spread of Open and Distance Learning System in India which is the third largest Higher Education System next to America and China. Prof. Linga Murthy, also emphasised that while resorting to frame reforms to ensure the reach of education to the masses, the quality should not be at stake. Quality of the Higher Education determines the quality of the Human Capital which is the only capital which is capable of not only producing another Human Capital but also the other capital like physical capital and financial capital.

The second plenary lecture was delivered by Prof. R. Satyanarayana, STRIDE, New Delhi on the topic 'ODL and Transaction Analysis'. He stressed the new concept of Transactional analysis with the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) based on reflection practices of ODL practices, alongwith the need for integrity as an ODL Practitioner because Education is inclusive but excellence is exclusive and that moral character of an individual contributes to the excellence of an individual.

The Full papers received for presentation, which were related to the Six group of subthemes Group A, B, C, D, E, and F, were conducted through the Parallel Sessions. On both of the days, there were three sessions scheduled, but were shuffled to two sessions per day for ease of convenience.

On the First day, Paper Presentation was in two parallel sessions namely Parallel Session 1 and Parallel Session 2.

In the Parallel Session 1, the subthemes Group A and B were clubbed together and held on the first day. Ten papers were presented by the following participants:

1. Dr. S. B. Nageswara Rao, Former Director of Distance Education, Annamalai University presented the co-authored paper with Dr. Swarna Swathi, Associate Professor, Sai dental College, Hyderabad on Served the unserved.

2. Dr. Badrul Haider Chowdhury , Regional Director, Bangladesh Open University presented the paper on Strengthening higher Education in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to empower hilly people through ODL; Experience, Plans and Ideas.

3. Dr. G. Anbalagan, Assistant Regional Director (SS), IGNOU Regional Centre, Madurai on Distance Learning Programmes for empowering Skills-A case Study of IGNOU.

4. Dr. Renuka Kumar, Academic Consultant, Social Work, Directorate of Distance and Continuing Education, Utkal University, Vanivihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha presented the paper on 'Preventions to Privileges', social Transformation of Women through Distance Education.

5. Dr. J. S. Dorothy, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Kochi presented the paper on Connected Learner Concept of network for optimising distance learning in the North Eastern Region.

6. Dr. S.K.Tripathy, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Evaluation Centre, Bhubaneswar, Odisha presented the paper on Needs and Problems of Distance Learners in India

7. Dr. Om Prakash Tiwari, Assistant Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Bhagalpur, Bihar presented the paper on Potential Application of ICTs in open and Distance Learning in Developing Countries: Prospects and Challenges.

8. Dr.T.Kalpna Bharathi, Assistant Professor, English, Department of Humanities and applied Sciences, CVR College of Engineering, Rangareddy (D) presented the paper on Distance Education – issues of learners.

9. Dr.M.Prashant, Faculty of Geology, IGNOU, New Delhi presented the paper on Geospatial Education in ODL System – an IGNOU initiative

10. Dr.Dharmarao Gonipati, Assistant Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Visakhapatnam, AP presented the paper on Creating harmonious Learning Environment through Open and Distance Learning.

On the Second day, Paper Presentation was in two parallel sessions namely Parallel Session 3 and Parallel Session 4. Fifteen papers were presented by the following participants:

1. Dr.Rama Devi, A, Asst.Director, Dr.BRAOU, Khambham presented the paper on Multi-use of new Technology in ODL-A study

2. Ms.Revathi, Scholar, Osmania University, Hyderabad presented the co-authored paper with Mr.R.Ravikanth, Scholar, Osmania University, Hyderabad presented the paper on MOOCS, OER and Collaborative Teaching-Learning

3. Mr.Vidya Varidhi Upadhyay, Research Scholar, STRIDE, IGNOU, New Delhi presented the paper on Use of E-resources by the Researchers of IGNOU University Library.

4. Dr.T.Hymavathi, Associate Professor, Department of H&S, CVR College of Engineering, Ibrahimpatan, Hyderabad presented the paper on Online learning- a Great asset for sports Persons

5. Dr. D.Samuraiah, Asst.Director, Regional Coordinator, Dr.BRAOU, GG College, Nizamabad presented the paper on ODL and Information and Communication Technology.

6. Dr.Romesh Verma, Prof. of Education, DDE, University of Jammu, Jammu presented the co-authored paper with Ms. Nivedita Verma, Ph.D Scholar in computer Science, SMVD university, katra, J and J State presented the paper on Online Education in India:signs of Grey Revolution.

7. Prof.R.Panchalan, Institute of Distance Education, University of Madras, Chennai presented the paper on Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in the Distance Education – issues and Challenges

8. Dr.N.Venkateshwalu, Assoc.Professor, School of Engineering, IGNOU, New Delhi presented the co-authored paper with Mr. B.Surender, Asst. Prof, SVS Group of Institutions, Hasanparthy, Warnagal on Distance Education Programmes:Quality improvement for maintaining the Standards of Distance Education System and its sustainability.

9. Mr.Ajay Kumar, Asst Prof in commerce, Vijayanagar College of commerce, Vijayanagar colony, Hyderabad presented the paper on Challenges of Higher Education in Global Era.

10. Dr.R.Mahandran, Asst Prof of English, School of Humanities, Tamil Nadu Open University, Chennai presented the paper on Staff Development for Quality Empowerment in Open and Distance Learning in India.

11.Dr.Raju Bolla, Assistant Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Hyderabad presented the co-authored paper with Mr. Kandagatla Sruvan Kumar, Research Scholar, Department of Sociology & Social Work, Kakatiya University, Warnagal on Role of IGNOU Hyderabad Regional Centre in Distance Education- its impact on newly formed Telegana State.

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12. Dr. Jaya Verma, Asst Professor of English, Dept of H & S, CVR College of Engineering, Hyderabad presented the paper on Nomenclatures for Teachers in Distance Education System: Their roles in changing scenario.

13. Dr.L.Vijaya Krishna Reddy, Asst. Director, Dr. BRAOU, presented the paper on Needs and Problems of Open distance Learners.

14. Dr.Kanjarla Narasimha Ramulu, Dept of MCT, Kakatiya University, Warangal presented the paper on Media Support in Distance Education.

15. Dr.Satyanarayana Rapolu, Faculty Training, DMHO, Warangal presented the paper on Regulatory Aspects of ODL in Health Sciences in India.

Dr. J.S. DOROTHY is currently the Regional Director for IGNOU Regional Centre, Kochi, Kerala. Earlier to this place of work, she was on the employee rolls of Four IGNOU Regional Centre namely Jaipur (Rajasthan), Bangalore (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Bijapur (Karnataka). She was the first employee of Bijapur Regional Centre of IGNOU at the State of Karnataka and was responsible to make it functional.

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