

No.V-17013/01/2011-PR
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya

North Block, New Delhi
Dated the 15th June 2011

To

**The Principal Secretary (Prison)/
Secretary (Home) (In-charge of Prisons) of
All State Governments / UTs
DGs/IGs incharge of prisons of All State Governments/UTs.**

Sub: Advisory regarding guidelines for educational programme for prison inmates.

Sir/Madam,

Various Committees on Prison Reforms in their reports, have emphasized the need for providing various vocational and educational programmes to prison inmates for their social rehabilitation and also to enable them to earn their livelihood after their release from the prisons. The Model Prison Manual prepared by the Government of India and circulated to all States/ UTs in 2003 had also made provisions for providing education and vocational training and work programmes for prisoners. **The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Modernisation of Prisons in its 142nd report submitted in 2009 has also made recommendations *that there should be an effort to achieve total literacy among prisoners across the country. It has, therefore, recommended that there should be facility of correspondence courses in vocational disciplines in the prisons and degrees/diplomas should be awarded to the prisoners after successful completion of their course so that they could lead a normal life in the mainstream of society, after their release. The Committee had also desired that the Government may consider opening of ITI-like institutions within the jail premises to impart industrial training in various disciplines to the inmates, which would go a long way in rehabilitating them after their release. In this context, the State authorities can also consider converting existing prison workshops into ITIs.***

2. Keeping in view the above recommendations and also taking forward the correctional philosophy, Ministry of Home Affairs held consultations with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to discuss modalities for providing educational programmes for prison inmates throughout the country. IGNOU has informed that it has around 52 Study Centres in jails with an enrolment of approximately 1500. Some of the sectors in which IGNOU can offer its programmes are Agriculture, Insurance, Business Process Outsourcing, Computer and Information Sciences, Security, Tourism, Retail etc.

3. IGNOU is keen to take further this initiative to a large number of prisons throughout the country and enhancing the enrolment. She stated that the response from some of Regional Directors of IGNOU indicates that while there is an initial enthusiasm when meeting the authorities, frequent changes/transfer of officers poses a problem. At some locations these Regional Directors have also found it difficult due to delay in grant of permission by the jail authorities.

4. It is suggested that for better implementation and coordination, the DG/IG (Prison) may be appointed as a State nodal officer for interaction with IGNOU and identifying the institutes for introducing the programme. The States are also requested to consider following:

- (a) Conducting orientation programmes for jail inmates with a view to motivate them to get enrolled in the IGNOU programmes;
- (b) To establish the special study centres in prisons. The Regional centres will provide academic counseling and other support to these.
- (c) Organizing workshops to popularize the programmes of IGNOU and widely publicizing the same with the help of concerned Regional Centres.
- (d) To liaise with concerned Regional Centres for help and support.

5. To this end, the IGNOU has provided an MoU which they have already signed with some of the States including Tihar Jail, Delhi. A copy of the draft MoU is enclosed for guidance.

The receipt of the same may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Neeraj Kansal)
Director (CS)
Telefax: 011-23092933

Encl: As above

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
Regional Services Division
Memorandum of Understanding

For Special Study Centre (Prisons)

Signed between Indira Gandhi National Open University, hereinafter referred to as 'IGNOU', and Head of the Host Institution, (Please mention full name and address of the Institution)
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Please mention the category for which Special Study Centre (Prisons) is sought.....

1. The Host Institution will

- Appoint the Jail Superintendent or any other employee nominated by the appropriate authority as the Centre Coordinator.
- Identify inmates as Counsellors/mentors for the various programmes.
- Obtain necessary approvals/permissions if external Counsellors are to conduct contact sessions.
- Give 1 or 2 rooms with a space of approximately 500-800 sq. ft. for exclusive use of IGNOU for the office of Coordinator, Special Study Centre (Prisons).
- Let a signboard of IGNOU Study Centre be installed prominently at a proper place.
- Make halls/rooms available for holding counselling, practicals and term-end examinations.
- Extend library, computer and Laboratory facilities etc. as per the requirements of the programmes being offered.
- Adhere to the registration, examination and other academic schedules of the University.

2. IGNOU will

- Provide the required Self-instructional and Audio-Video materials pertaining to the programme(s) being offered.
- Consider providing the Study centre additional facilities like a Computer, a TV set and Dish antenna to watch IGNOU educational programmes, if there are more than 150 learners at any such centre.
- Not charge any tuition fee/other expenses from enrolled inmates of the host institution.
- Assist the Coordinator, if necessary, in the process of admissions/examinations.
- Meet the expenditure of remuneration to the Coordinator at Rs. 3000/- p.m.
- Provide recurring expenditure towards stationary, postal and photocopying as per

actuals.

- Pay the Counsellors (Inmates or external) as per IGNOU norms and also defray the expenditure towards assignment/project evaluation.
- Conduct examinations in the jail, make visits during exams and make payments for the conduct of examination.
- In cities where IGNOU has a Regional Centre; the Special Study Centre (Prisons) will be attached to it for administrative purposes and at other locations to the nearest Regular Study Centre.
- Have the right to shift or close the Special Study Centre (Prisons) if it finds that support services are not being provided, as per the requirements of the university.

Accepted and Signed
On behalf of the Host
Institution/Organization

Name -

Designation-

Seal -

On behalf of IGNOU Regional Director
Regional Centre

Name -

Designation-

Seal