

IGNOU-MoHFW MoU on Skill Development in Health Sector

India is the country with the most youth population in the world and youth are the future of this country. They need proper training and skills to become assets for themselves as well as to the nation. To attain this, Government of India initiated the Skill Certification Scheme under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MDSE) with the idea to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training including in health sector that will help them in securing a better livelihood.

In the health sector, there is need to improve the quality of health care being delivered by health care facilities by providing trained health assistants, who will provide non clinical support to nurses, doctors as well as other healthcare team. At present, in the healthcare facilities such type of support services is not available. Whatever support services are provided, it is by unskilled manpower. Once the skilled manpower is available, there must be great demand of such manpower in public and private healthcare facilities. Keeping this in view, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship proposed to develop and launch a series of skill based health programmes through IGNOU to create trained health workers for improving health care delivery across the Country.

For this purpose, a Skill Training Cell (STC) has been created under the School of Health Sciences (SOHS) in IGNOU to develop, implement and certify the skill based health programmes. These programmes will be implemented through a nation-wide support services framework.

The implementation of skill based training will be done through a three tier hands-on training system following a pedagogic model that would include demonstration and return demonstration at study centres established in medical colleges/district hospitals, practice of skills under supervision in Skill Development Centres established in small health facilities and self practice of skills for confidence building in home setting in nearby health facilities.

The programme package would include text material, practical manual, logbook, audio-visual material, web-based discussion, tele-conferencing, assignments etc. It is expected that each of the programmes will have about 30 hours of theory teaching / interaction and about 80 hours for skill development and practice in health facilities. ***The training will be provided according to the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).***

Initially, the four short terms skill development courses will be conducted by IGNOU, which are as under:

1. Certificate in General Duty Assistance (CGDA)
2. Certificate in Geriatric Care Assistance (CGCA)
3. Certificate in Phlebotomy Assistance (CPA)
4. Certificate in Home Health Assistance (CHHA)

1. Certificate in General Duty Assistance (CGDA)

The General Duty Assistant (GDA) program is of six months duration skill based programme and open to all the individuals who has passed 12th standard. The basic objective of this programme is to develop a pool of trained workforce which can be employed by hospitals and other healthcare facilities to provide support to nurses, doctors as well as other healthcare team members in ensuring quality care to the patients. This program focuses on the acquisition of skills necessary to provide support by undertaking non-clinical tasks or the activities that have been directed by the healthcare team members.

The course is of 18 credits hours (6 for theory and 12 for hands-on training through the Government recognized health facilities) with medium of instructions in English, Hindi and all the major regional languages. The admission in this course will be in two sessions, one in January & the other in July. The course fee is only Rs. 6,000/-. The course will be organized in medical colleges/ district hospitals nearby to your home setting. The course will be conducted in all states.

After completing this programme, a student will be competent to perform the following skills:

- Demonstrate skills in patient positions and use of assistive devices, Preparation of Patient care unit, skills in transporting a patient, handling of samples, drugs and linen and use and after care of equipments
- Demonstrate skills in General Hygiene and Grooming, bathing procedures and guidelines, mouth, Eye, Ear, Skin, hair , nail and foot care, feeding the patient , taking care of elimination needs and Procedures
- Practice infection control measures, promote safety and demonstrate right methods of bio medical waste management

Job Opportunities: Every healthcare setting big or small will need GDAs to undertake and manage non-clinical activities within a healthcare setting (e.g. patient sample transportation, documentation, infection control and cleanliness) on availability of trained General Duty assistants.

2. Certificate in Geriatric Care Assistance (CGCA)

Certificate in Geriatric Care Assistance (CGCA) programme is of six months short duration skill based programme and is open to all individuals who has passed 12th standard with science background. The objective of this programme is to develop a pool of trained workforce which can be employed to provide support to old age patients and assist other healthcare providers majority in home / old age home (including assisted living facilities) settings, rehabilitation facilities or otherwise in hospitals as well. This program focuses on the acquisition of skills necessary to provide support by undertaking non-clinical tasks or the activities that have been prescribed for the patient by the healthcare team members.

The course is of 20 credits hours (8 for theory and 12 for hands-on training through the Government recognized health facilities) with medium of instructions in English, Hindi and all the major regional languages. The admission in this course will be in two sessions, one in January & the other in July. The course fee is only Rs. 6,500/-.The course will be organized at the in medical colleges/ district hospitals nearby to your home setting. The course will be conducted in all states.

After completing this programme, a student competent to perform the following skills:

- Demonstrate skills in basic geriatrics care such as assessment, patient positions, movements, preparation of facilities/environment of the patient, feeding, hygiene, grooming, dressing, bathing and elimination needs of the geriatrics patients, oral care, hair care, eye and ear care, skin, nail and foot care of geriatrics patients.
- Demonstrate skills in management of positions & pressure points, disabilities and well being of geriatric patient, including counseling skills and management of mental health issues in geriatric patients as well as Basic Life Support measures (BLS) & first aid in the event of emergencies.

Job Opportunities: With the increase in geriatric population as well as social limitations such as nuclear families, there is greater evidence of requirement of Geriatric Care Assistants. The GCA program is thus a platform for gaining knowledge, to understand the activities and variety of care interventions that are required by an elderly patient.

3. Certificate in Phlebotomy Assistance (CPA)

Certificate in Phlebotomy Assistance (CPA) programme is of six months short duration skill based programmed are open to all individuals who has passed 12th standard with science background with an objective to develop a pool of trained workforce which can be employed by diagnostic/healthcare service providers to assist medical laboratory technologist/pathologist. This program focuses on the acquisition of skills necessary to draw quality blood samples from patients, storage & transport to laboratory for medical testing.

The course is of 20 credits hours (8 for theory and 12 for hands-on training through the Government recognized health facilities) with medium of instructions in English, Hindi and all the major regional languages. The admission in this course will be in two sessions, one in January & the other in July. The course fee is only Rs. 7,500/-.The course will be organized at the in medical colleges/ district hospitals nearby to your home setting. The course will be conducted in all states.

The program aims at making a student competent to perform the following skills:

- Demonstrate the ability to collect. Storage, transport, receives, accept or reject and store blood, etc;
- Practice infection control measures including collection, segregation, storage, transportation and disposal of the Biomedical Waste in the lab/unit, techniques to maintain the personal hygiene & use of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at work place
- Demonstrate Basic Life Support (BLS) measures & first aid in the event of emergencies,

Job Opportunities: With the fastest growing market of diagnostics and laboratory chains, the demand for Phlebotomists is incremental. Phlebotomy can also be the entry point for candidates who may be interested in undertaking Medical Laboratory Sciences as their profession; however, to get streamlined in the medical laboratory field, the phlebotomist will be expected to undergo desired higher level qualification.

4. Certificate in Home Health Assistance (CHHA)

The Home Health Assistant (CHHA) program is of six months duration skill based programme and open to all the individuals who has passed 12th standard. The objective of this programme is to develop a pool of trained workforce who can be employed to provide patient support and assist other health care providers in home settings. This program focuses on the acquisition of skills necessary to provide support by undertaking non-clinical tasks or the activities that have been prescribed for the patient by the healthcare team members.

The course is of 18 credits hours (6 for theory and 12 for hands-on training through the Government recognized health facilities) with medium of instructions in English, Hindi and all the major regional languages. The admission in this course will be in two sessions, one in January & the other in July. The course fee is only Rs. 6,000/-.The course will be organized at the in medical colleges/ district hospitals nearby to your home setting. The course will be conducted in all states.

The program aims at making a student competent to perform the following skills:

- Demonstrate Skills of general hygiene and grooming, bathing procedures and guidelines, mouth, Eye, Ear, Skin, hair, nail and foot care.
- Demonstrate Skills of feeding the patient, taking care of elimination needs and procedures.
- Demonstrate skills to enable geriatric/paralytic/immobile patient to cope with changes to their health and environment including preventing risk of falls

- Demonstrate Basic Life Support, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and other actions in the event of medical and facility emergencies.
- Practice infection control measures; promote safety, list usage of protective devices and right methods of bio medical waste management at home level.

Job Opportunities: With the increase in non-communicable diseases, critically ill patients and accidental cases, there is greater evidence of requirement of home based assistance. Many home health assistants also work in assisted living facilities, which provide independent living in a homelike group environment, with professional care available as needed.

The detailed information on Skill Development Training Programmes is available in the IGNOU Website (<http://stc.ignou.ac.in>)