

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK NO. 8, TEMPORARY STRUCTURES, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110 068 ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1992 AT 11.00 Hrs.

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The following were present:

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| 1. | Prof. V.C. Kulandai Swami | - Chairman |
| 2. | Dr. Vina Mazumdar | |
| 3. | Prof. M. Shanmugham | |
| 4. | Shri C.R. Pillai | |
| 5. | Prof. R.K. Grover | |
| 6. | Dr. P. Rengaramanujam | |
| 7. | Dr. Arun K. Mishra | |
| 8. | Prof. M.M. Pant | |
| 9. | Shri Upendra Vajpeyi | |
| 10. | Shri K. Narayanan | Member - Secretary |

Prof. T.V. Rao, Ms. Amrita Patel, Dr. N.C.B. Nath, Dr. T.S. Papola and Prof. A.K. Jalaluddin could not attend the meeting.

Prof. H.P. Dikbhitt and Prof. C.L. Anand, Pro-vice-Chancellors attended by special invitation.

The following agenda items were considered:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON MAY 11, 1992.

PB 13.1.1 The Planning Board noted that no comments had been received from the members on the minutes circulated. The minutes of the twelfth meeting held on May 11, 1992 were confirmed.

ITEM NO. 2 TO REPORT THE EIGHTH PLAN ALLOCATION FOR IGNOU

PB 13.2.1 The Planning Board noted that the total allocation made by the Govt. of India to the IGNOU for its development during the Eighth Plan period was Rs. 60 Crores and that the tentative distribution proposed by the University between revenue expenditure, capital expenditure and grants to State Open Universities was Rs. 25 Crores, Rs. 30 Crores and Rs. 5 Crores respectively. The Planning Board also noted that with the level of funding as

indicated above, the University would be able to admit about 45,000 to 50,000 students annually, and produce 25 eight-credit courses each year.

PB 13.2.2

While considering the above, the following suggestions were made:

- a. The possibility of industry funding specific programmes launched by the University for the training of serving personnel should be explored;
- b. Other possible sources of external funding should be explored to ensure that the University's priorities are not jeopardised in the event of cuts in funding by the Government. In this context, the possibility of securing a share of the social safety net provisions of the World Bank, especially in such priority areas as health and education might be considered;
- c. The University should offer courses to the employed, which are self-financing.
- d. The members of the panchayats in the country needed to be trained and they may constitute a special group for IGNOU to organise quality training programmes for which funds from the Government could be obtained.

PB 13.2.3

The Chairman explained that the University has not so far considered the launching of any programme on a fully self-financing basis. However, the University was already following a differential system of fees under which the fees charged were higher in respect of programmes exclusively designed for the serving personnel as in the case of Management, while the fees charged for such programmes as Certificate in Food and Nutrition were relatively low. He also pointed out that the overall recovery from students on account of fees matched the expenditure on salary of staff of the University in 1991-92. If the University is permitted to retain the additional resources generated through enhancement of fees, they could be utilised for development purposes. The Chairman also explained that each programme will now be analysed with reference to the total cost in order to assess the usefulness of the investment on it. Such cost analysis of each programme would cover areas like development and production of print materials, their distribution, services to students, evaluation of their performance, etc.

PB 13.2.4 The Chairman observed that the idea of industry funding technical education programmes has been under discussion for the last 25 years, but so far nothing has happened as the corporate Sector have not responded in a positive manner. However, for specific short term programmes organised for the employees of the corporate sector, the funding could be so arranged that a part of it could be utilised for offering programmes in other sectors whose social priorities are high.

ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION (POA 1992) FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION

PB 13.3.1 The Planning Board noted the Programme of Action, 1992 for the implementation of the National Policy on Education in respect of open university and distance learning. The Chairman drew special attention to Section 5 of Chapter 12 on Open Education in the Programme of Action, according to which the enrolment in the open university/distance education system is expected to increase from about 11.5% of the total enrolment in higher education to about 16.5% during the eighth plan period. He also drew attention to the system of differential fees referred to in the Programme of Action which the University is already following.

PB 13.3.2 The Planning Board suggested that with the launching of a new satellite, the possibility of developing a dedicated channel for educational broadcasting should be explored. The Planning Board also noted the CABE's recommendation that every State should establish an open university and expressed the view that four or five more state open universities might be established during the eighth plan period; The Board noted that the average annual expenditure per student in the open university was about 30 - 40% of the average annual expenditure on a college student in the formal system.

PB 13.3.3 While on the subject, Dr. Vina Mazumdar drew attention of the members of the Planning Board to Chapter 1, titled 'Women's Education for Equality' of the Programme of Action and emphasised the need to give effect to the recommendation that the national education system including the distance education system should play a positive interventionist role in this matter. All

educational institutions should involve themselves in the fulfilment of this mandate by 1995. She suggested that a Task Force be constituted to look into this matter and recommend the course and programmes to be offered in the area of Women's development.' As for funding, she suggested that the University may be able to mobilise external funding from agencies like Ford Foundation, UNDP, CIDA etc. as India was the only country in which the mandate for women's equality was built into its national policy on education..

PB 13.3.4 The Chairman while agreeing with the suggestions made by Dr. Vina Mazumdar requested her to prepare a brief note which could be circulated amongst the Schools for their consideration. At her request, the Chairman agreed to make arrangements for discussions with the faculty members by Dr. Mazumdar before her proposals were concretised.

PB 13.3.5 The suggestion that a full analysis of the Programme of Action should be made to identify possible areas for action by IGNOU was noted. It was also suggested that the action proposed should also cover the status of the girl child in various parts of the country for even in States like Gujarat where education for girls is free, girls were not educated and certain attitudinal changes were required.

ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES DURING THE EIGHTH PLAN.

PB 13.4.1 The Planning Board noted the inclusion of "Diploma in Computers and their Application" on Page 4 as Item 5 as one of the new programmes in thrust areas envisaged in the development proposals. The Planning Board endorsed the recommendations of the Workshop and the action proposed to be taken on them.

PO 13.4.2 Since the distance education system needed additional broadcast time, the Board suggested that the Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU and the Chairman, UGC should take up the matter with the Information and Broadcasting Ministry through the Ministry of HRD for allocating more time on TV and radio.

ITEM NO. 5 TO REPORT THE PROGRESS IN THE PROJECT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MEDIA FACILITIES WITH JAPANESE AID. .

PB 13.5.1 The Planning Board noted the progress in the project for the improvement of educational media facilities with Japanese aid. The Planning Board noted that this was the first project in which the building component formed part of the aid by an external agency.

ITEM NO. 6 TO REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

PB 13.6.1 The Planning Board noted that the Distance Education Council was an authority created to perform the functions assigned to the IGNOU for the promotion, coordination and maintenance of the standards of the distance education system. The support envisaged by the Distance Education Council covers the entire spectrum of distance education institutions ranging from the State Open Universities to the correspondence education institutions of conventional universities. The Board also noted that according to the arrangements settled with UGC the funding of correspondence education institutions of the conventional universities and their programmes will continue to be funded by the UGC for the time being- and that the responsibility for the development funding of state open universities will be with the IGNOU with effect from April, 1992.

PB 13.6.2 The Planning Board noted the guidelines for support to State Open Universities. The Board expressed the hope that while providing support to State Open Universities, there would be adequate flexibility in respect of the provision of matching grants by the State Governments so that the needs of backward regions and states can be met adequately. A view was also expressed that it may be necessary to assess the cost of distance education more accurately in order to make valid comparisons.

ITEM NO. 7 TO REPORT ON THE SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (NCERT).

PB 13.7.1 The Chairman explained that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NCERT will serve two purposes, namely, making use of the large pool of talent available in NCERT and secondly, using or adapting the programmes approved by the NCERT for the mass programmes of teacher education.

PB 13.7.2 It was stated that the Certificate programme in Guidance which was launched by the IGNOU was developed in collaboration with the NCERT. Such collaboration ensured that the programmes developed by the IGNOU responded to the felt needs and that their content had relevance. The Planning Board noted the signing of the Memorandum of understanding with the NCERT.

PB 13.7.3 While on the subject, it was pointed out that among the volunteers who participated in the total literacy campaign, there were large numbers of committed persons who could make very good teachers. It was suggested that IGNOU might consider development of programmes of training for them as a special group.

ITEM NO. EI TO REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL IGNOU: A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE.

PB 13.8.1 The Planning Board noted that the COL was considering a proposal to designate IGNOU as a Centre of Excellence. The proposal was based on the achievements of IGNOU, the quality of its print material and its willingness to share the material with the developing countries. The COL would shortly be sending a two member team to make an assessment of the performance of the IGNOU and make recommendations. When the IGNOU is named as a Centre of Excellence, it was felt that the material developed by the IGNOU for its programmes would find greater acceptance in the developing countries.

PB 13.8.2 The Planning Board also noted that the Management Programmes offered by IGNOU were considered by the representatives of four Commonwealth universities who met in Nairobi at a workshop in 1991 to develop a management education programme for the developing countries. The Workshop had recommended that a core for the proposed management programme could be developed from the IGNOU course materials which would then be supplemented by additional course material which would then be supplemented by additional course material which are relevant to the specific needs of each country. The recommendation of the workshop was under consideration of the COL.

- ITEM NO. 9 TO REPORT FOR INFORMATION THE VISIT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR TO CANADA FROM 14th - 25th OCTOBER, 1992.
- PB 13.9.1 The Planning Board noted the visit of the Vice-Chancellor to Canada from October 14 - 25, 1992 and the discussions he had with the President and Officers of COL.
- PB 13.9.2 The Vice-Chancellor informed the Board that the COL had suggested that the IGNOU offer its Diploma programme in Distance Education to the Chief Education Officers in the Caribbean Islands, and that the COL will be involved as a consultant in the launching of this programme.
- PB 13.9.3 The Vice-Chancellor, informed the Planning Board that the COL was prepared to fund an audio teleconferencing facility which can connect 16 regional centres and 4 state open universities for facilitating coordination both at intrauniversity and interuniversity levels, which could be later extended for imparting education. It was also mentioned that Tanzania was about to start an open university and the main objective being teacher training, IGNOU could play a very important role in this project.
- PB 13.9.4 The members of the Planning Board recorded their appreciation of the successful mission of the Vice-Chancellor.
- PB 13.9.5 In view of the fact that India occupies a pre-eminent position in the areas of higher education, rural development and research in women and development studies, contribution by IGNOU to the developing countries would be substantial in these areas including the courses in law reflecting the international conventions and human rights issues. IGNOU's participation would go a long way in South-South co-operation. The Chairman informed the Board that the Diploma programme in Higher Education offered by the IGNOU was one of the best possible courses in the area of teacher education and that efforts are being made with the UGC to accept this qualification as, equivalent to the inservice training programmes that teachers are expected to pursue for career advancement.
- ITEM NO. 10 TO REPORT ON THE STATUS OF PROGRAMMES ON OFFER AND IN DEVELOPMENT
- PB 13.10.1 The Planning Board noted the status of programmes on offer and which are under development.

ITEM NO.11 . TO CONSIDER A REFERENCE RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION 1972 CONCERNING EDUCATION OF THE HANDICAPPED.

PB 13.11.1 The paper placed on the table on the above subject was considered. The Planning Board noted the proposal and decided that the Ministry of HRD may be informed as proposed.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
(V. C. KULANDAI SWAMY)
Chairman