

INTRODUCTION

The Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE) started as the Division of Distance Education with the establishment of IGNOU in 1985 to cater to the training needs of various functionaries of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). Later, based on the proposal by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India to set up a training institute for distance education in the South Asian Region, the Division of Distance Education of IGNOU was upgraded into the Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE) in 1993. STRIDE was initially entrusted with the task of training the staff of IGNOU, and State Open Universities (SOUs) and distance education institutes in India as well as South Asia. Over the years STRIDE has served the distance education training needs of the Asian, African, the Caribbean countries, and also the global reach in capacity building for Open and Distance Learning systems.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of STRIDE (in brief) are to:

- ❖ identify training needs of different target groups in open/distance education,
- ❖ build up a resource base of up-to-date information, training materials, courses and expertise,
- ❖ develop training strategies and training materials,
- ❖ organise and conduct training and staff development activities leading to completion of certificates, diplomas and degrees,
- ❖ promote research in open and distance education, and
- ❖ offer research degree programmes leading to M.Phil. and Ph.D degrees.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Two academic programmes developed by STRIDE are: *Post Graduate Diploma in Distance Education (PGDDE)*, and *Master of Arts in Distance Education (MADE)*. These two programmes having ten courses are currently under revision to form an integrated Master of Arts in Distance Education. Another new *Post Graduate Diploma in E-Learning (PGDEL)* is under development.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

STRIDE conducts short-term training programmes of various types, and for varieties of academic, technical/professional, and non-academic staff of IGNOU, state open universities, correspondence course institutes, and other agencies/organizations in India and overseas. Some of the programmes planned for 2009-2010 are as follows:

SL.NO	NAME OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES/WORKSHOPS	SCHEDULED DATES	COORDINATOR
1.	Planning and Management of Colleges for the College Principals of Gujarat State	1-3 April 2009	Prof. Madhu Parhar
2.	Orientation Programme for the Newly Appointed Teachers.	20-24 April 2009	Mr. S.S. Sethy
3.	Preparing Research Proposals in Distance Education for North-East Region (at Gangtok)	4-7 May 2009	Prof. Santosh Panda
4.	Orientation Programme for the Newly Appointed RDs/ARDs	27-31 July 2009	Prof. P.K. Biswas
5.	Orientation-cum-Workshop for Sr. Asst./ Assistants of IGNOU	26-28 August 2009	Mr. S.S. Sethy
6.	Workshop on Information Technology for Office Management	7-11 September 2009	Ms. G. Mythili
7.	National Workshop on Development of SLMs	14-19 Sept 2009	Prof. C.R.K. Murthy
8.	Hands on Training on Dealing with Students with Different Disabilities (for staff of HQ and Delhi RC-1, 2, 3, and Noida)	20-21 August 2009	Mr. Tata Ramakrishna
9.	Workshop on Assessment in ODL	5-7 October 2009	Prof. Basanti Pradhan
10.	Workshop on Research in Distance and Online Learning (South Zone)	5-7 October 2009	Dr. Ashok Gaba
11.	Learning English: The Easy Way (for JATs)	13-16 October 2009	Ms. Rose Nembiakkim
12.	National Workshop on Self-Learning Material Development: Alternative Models of Course Development in the Changing ODL Scenario	26-30 October 2009	Prof. P.R. Ramanujam
13.	Workshop on Research in Distance and Online Learning (West Zone)	9-11 November 2009	Dr. Ashok Gaba
14.	Workshop on Research in Distance and Online Learning (at HQ)	2-6 November 2009	Prof. Santosh Panda
15.	Workshop on Research in Distance and Online Learning (North East Zone)	5-7 January 2010	Dr. Ashok Gaba
16.	Refresher Programme in Distance Education	4-28 January 2010	Prof. C.R.K. Murthy
17.	Training of Trainers Programme on Distance Education	8-12 February 2010	Dr. Sanjaya Mishra
18.	Learning English: The Easy Way (for Assistants)	23-26 February 2010	Ms. Rose Nembiakkim

RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Recognizing the need for research degree programmes, the STRIDE has started Ph.D. in Distance Education under the systemic areas. A M.Phil. programme in Distance Education is under development and shall be on offer soon. The M.Phil. programme shall also serve as a bridge between the MA in Distance Education and PhD in Distance Education.

SYSTEMIC RESEARCH

STRIDE undertakes research and development, and programme evaluation activities on various functional areas of distance education for systems development and improving the effectiveness of staff development programmes. Recently the University has institutionalized programme evaluation by setting up a Programme Evaluation Unit within STRIDE to undertake systematic evaluation of the various programmes of IGNOU.

CONSULTANCY

STRIDE offers consultancy on programme and course development, teaching, learning at a distance and management of open and distance education, and other aspects of open distance learning. In the past it has offered its services to DOPT, Govt. of India, Indian Army, NIE, Bhutan, State Open Universities and CCIs in India, and many other institutions in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Africa.

PUBLICATIONS

STRIDE has a strong publication programme, and regularly brings out the international refereed Journal – *Indian Journal of Open Learning*, published three times a year. STRIDE has published over 15 training handbooks on various aspects of distance education, besides Manuals and Course Materials.

For further information, please contact:
The Director

Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi 110068, India.

Phone: +91 11 29535399, Fax: +91 11 29533073

Email: ramanujampr@yahoo.com Website: <http://www.ignou.ac.in/institute/frame.html>
or write to specific Workshop/Training Coordinator.

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Training Calendar 2009-2010



Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi 110068
<http://www.ignou.ac.in>