

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CELL (EOC)

In order to operationalise the Equal Opportunity Cell in IGNOU the Competent Authority has constituted an Advisory Committee under the Chairpersonship of Anti-Discrimination Officer of IGNOU. The composition of the advisory committee of equal opportunity cell is as under.

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| 1. | Dr. Bharat Bhushan,
Anti Discrimination Officer | - | Chairperson |
| 2. | Prof. Neeti Agrawal,
Chairperson, ICASH, IGNOU | - | Member |
| 3. | Dr. M. Shanmugham, Director
RSD, IGNOU, New Delhi | - | Member |
| 4. | Prof. Nilima Srivastava, Director,
SOGDS, IGNOU, New Delhi | - | Member |
| 5. | Mrs. Rajni A Jeet,
Incharge, SC/ST Cell, IGNOU | - | Member |
| 6. | Dr. Hemlata, Director,
NCDS, IGNOU, New Delhi | - | Convener |

Objectives

The Equal Opportunity Cell shall implement the provisions of the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012 and further amendments from time to time and follow the procedure as mentioned therein. The objectives of the Equal Opportunity Cell are to safeguard the interests of all the students without any prejudice to their caste, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, gender and disability so that the equality is promoted among all the sections of the students without prejudice to their belonging to any social group.

The Equal Opportunity Cell will oversee the effective implementation of policies and programmes for disadvantaged groups, provide guidance and counselling with respect to academic, financial, social and other matters and enhance the diversity within the University.

Functions

The Equal Opportunity Cell will perform the following functions:

- i. To ensure equity and equal opportunity to the community at large in the university and bring about social inclusion.

- ii. To enhance the diversity among the students, teaching and non-teaching staff population and at the same time eliminate the perception of discrimination.
- iii. To create a socially congenial atmosphere for academic interaction and for the growth of healthy interpersonal relationships among the students coming from various social backgrounds.
- iv. To make efforts to sensitize the academic community regarding the problems associated with social exclusion as well as aspirations of the marginalized communities.
- v. To help individuals or a group of students belonging to the disadvantaged sections of society to contain the problems related to discrimination.
- vi. To look into the grievances of the weaker sections of society and suggest amicable solution to their problems.
- vii. To disseminate the information related to schemes and programmes for the welfare of the socially weaker sections as well as notifications/memoranda, office orders of the Government, or other related agencies/organizations issued from time to time.
- viii. To prepare barrier free formalities/procedures for admission/ registration of students belonging to the disadvantaged groups of society.
- ix. To establish coordination with the Government and other agencies/organizations to mobilize academic and financial resources to provide assistance to students of the disadvantaged groups.
- x. To organize periodic meetings to monitor the progress of different schemes.
- xi. To adopt measures to ensure due share of utilization by SC/ST in admissions, recruitments (teaching and non-teaching posts) and to improve their performances.
- xii. To sensitize the university on the problems of SC/ST and other disadvantaged groups.
- xiii. To publish information on IGNOU website about the Equal Opportunity Cell and also the decisions taken by the university to eliminate discrimination of students and punishment for breaching these decisions for wider publicity among the students.
- xiv. To ensure strict implementation of decisions taken by the university so that no discrimination is done to the students.
- xv. To extend administrative support to Anti-Discrimination Officer.

Administration of the Equal Opportunity Cell

The Equal Opportunity Cell shall be housed in National Centre for Disability Studies (NCDS). The NCDS will ensure all administrative supports to the Equal Opportunity Cell for execution of its role and responsibility. The Director, NCDS will be the Administration Head to the Equal Opportunity Cell.

Anti Discrimination Officer

Dr. Bharat Bhushan,

Address of EOC:

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