Minutes of the 13th meeting of the Equivalence Committee held Online on 5th April, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. through Google Meet.

The 13th meeting of the Equivalence Committee was held Online on 5th April, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. through Google Meet. The following were present:

Prof. R P Das, PVC	Chairperson
Prof. S R Jha, SOS	Member
Dr Ashish Agarwal, Dir (SOET)	Member
Shri Kuldeep Dagar, Dy Secy, AIU	Special Invitee
Dr Himansu K. Bose, Registrar (SRD)	Convener

Dr S K Pulist, Deputy Director, SRD was present to provide academic inputs to the Committee.

At the outset, the Chairperson Prof. R P Das, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU welcomed the members to the meeting. On the request of the Registrar (SRD), Dr S K Pulist, Deputy Director, SRD took up the Agenda Items one by one for discussion.

The following items were taken up for consideration and decision:

13.1 **Minutes of the 12th meeting of the Equivalence Committee**

13.1.1 The Minutes of the 12th meeting of the Equivalence Committee were presented before the members. The members took note of the Minutes, which were approved by the Academic Council in its 73rd meeting

13.2 **To Report Recognition Status of IGNOU Degrees by Sister Universities**

13.2.1 The Committee was informed that the following sister universities have recognised IGNOU degrees as equivalent to their respective degrees:

Sl No.	Name of University	Recognition accorded to IGNOU Degrees
1.	2.	3.
01	Kannur University, Kerala	(i) M.A. Psychology degree of IGNOU as equivalent to M.Sc. Clinical & Counselling Psychology Degree

Sl No.	Name of University	Recognition accorded to IGNOU Degrees
		(ii) B.Ed. (Distance Education) degree of IGNOU as equivalent to B.Ed. Commerce Degree
		(iii) B.Sc. Physics (Distance Education) and M.A. Tourism Management (Distance Education) degrees of IGNOU, as equivalent to B.Sc. Physics and MTTM Degrees respectively
02	**Government of Tamil Nadu**	(i) M.Sc. Dietetics & Food Services Management Degree of IGNOU as equivalent to M.Sc. Home Science – Foods and Nutrition Degree
03	**University of Calicut, Kerala**	i) Recognized programmes of IGNOU (under Faculty of Arts, Commerce, Science, Education, Humanities, Gender Development, Computer Information Sciences, Library, Tourism & Hospitality Service Management) as equivalent to the respective degrees of University of Calicut for the purpose of higher studies and employment. ii) MBA Degree of IGNOU for the purpose of higher studies

13.2.2 Since the last meeting of the Equivalence Committee, the SRD has taken up the following matters with the respective Universities / Governments for recognition of the following programme of IGNOU:

a) **University of Calicut:** for recognition of B.A. Public Administration, Master of Social Work and M.A. Psychology of IGNOU for higher studies and employment.

b) **Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Dept. of Higher Education:** for recognition of M.Ed. programme of IGNOU.

c) **University of Kerala:** for recognition of MSW programme of IGNOU.

d) **Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam:** for recognition of MSW programme of IGNOU.

13.2.3 The members noted the status of the requests as above and desired that the matter may be followed up with the above institutions through reminders.

13.3 **To report action taken regarding Urdu Courses from various Madrasa Boards approaching IGNOU for the purpose of academic pursuit**

13.3.1 The Members were informed that the following Madarsa Boards have approached the University to recognise their certificates for admission to IGNOU programmes.

Sl.No.	Name of Madrasa Board
1.	Urdu Education Board, New Delhi
2.	Odisha State Board of Madrasa Education, Odisha
3.	Uttarakhand Madarsa Education Board, Dehradun
4.	Bihar State Madrasa Education Board, Patna

13.3.2 The members were further informed that a similar case of recognition of certificates issued by different Madarsa Education Boards was placed before the Equivalence Committee in its 5th meeting held on 12th December, 2006. However, the Equivalence Committee did not approve the recognition of their certificates and decided that such students may join IGNOU programmes through Bachelor Preparatory Programme (BPP).

13.3.3. A letter F. No. 16-227/2016 Sch. 3, dated 5th June, 2017 issued by Ministry of Human Resource Development *inter alia* stated as under regarding recognition of the certificates issued by the Delhi Urdu Education Board :

"2. Urdu Education Board (UEB), Delhi has been granted the status of a Minority Educational Institution by the National Commission for Minority Educational Institution (NCMEI) and not as a Minority Education Board, and as such it cannot conduct public examinations and issue certificates for Secondary and Senior Secondary levels."

13.3.4 Keeping in view the lack of clarity in this regard, the SRD has written to the Education Departments of the respective State Governments in case of the

above Madarsa Education Boards for clarification regarding recognition status of their certificates.

13.3.5 The members noted the status as above and desired that the case may be followed up with the respective state governments once again.

13.4 **To report action taken regarding recognition of Secondary School Certificate Examination conducted by Maharashtra State Open School, for purpose of admission to academic programmes in IGNOU.**

13.4.1 The members were informed that SRD has received a request from Maharashtra State Open School (MSOS) for recognition of its certificates for admission to IGNOU Programmes. The SRD vide its email dated 7th May, 2020 requested the Chairman, Maharashtra State Open School to provide the following documents:

1. Copy of the Gazette Notification issued by Govt of Maharashtra recognising their School to offer the said programmes.
2. Copy of the recognition letter issued by National Institute of Open Schooling, New Delhi which is coordinating the task of establishment of Open Schools in different States in India.
3. Copy of the membership letter from Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE).
4. Attested copy of the syllabus of 10+2 offered by your School.

However, the MSOS could not provide any of the above mentioned documents except mentioning that the Maharashtra State Open School is established under Section 8 of the Companies Act from Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

13.4.2 In view of the above, SRD has taken up the matter with the Government of Maharashtra with a request to clarify the recognition status of the Maharashtra State Open School. The response from the state government is still awaited.

13.4.3 The members noted the status as above and decided to wait for a response from the Government of Maharashtra.

13.5. **To report action taken regarding BA / BCom / BBA degree awarded by Jamia Milia Islamia (JMI), New Delhi to the Armed Forces Personnel (AKASHDEEP and GYANDEEP) after lateral admission to 3rd Year under Vertical Mobility (ODL mode) for purpose of academic pursuit in IGNOU**

13.5.1 The members were informed that the Equivalence Committee in its 12th meeting has taken up the matter of recognition of B.A./B.Com/BBA degrees awarded by Jamia Milia Islamia (JMI) through ODL mode under Armed Forces Personnel (AKASHDEEP and GYANDEEP) after lateral admission to 3rd Year under Vertical Mobility, for admission to IGNOU programmes. However, it was found that there is a variation in the marks awarded by Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode and that of IGNOU to Armed Forces Personnel as per the following details:

Year-wise distribution of marks for BA/BCOM of JMI & IGNOU

	JMI	IGNOU
Year	**Total Marks**	**Total Marks**
First Year	100*	400
Second Year	100*	400
Third Year	600	400
Total Marks	800	1200

**Credit given in the first and second year against In-service Training*

It was clear that JMI had awarded the degree under the above mentioned projects for a total of 800 marks as against IGNOUs weightage of 1200 marks. Therefore, the Equivalence Committee had decided in its 12th meeting to refer the matter to the Distance Education Bureau (DEB) of UGC for a clarification.

13.5.2 In view of the above decision, the SRD referred the matter to Distance Education Bureau, UGC, New Delhi vide letter No. IG/SRD-R-IV/Equiv./2020/692 dated 30th July, 2020 for clarification on recognition / acceptance of these certificates for admission to IGNOU programmes. A reminder in this regard has also been sent on 8th January, 2021. However, the response is still awaited.

13.5.3. The members took a note of the status in this matter and decided to wait for a response from UGC.

13.6 **To consider and approve recognition of Technical Examinations conducted by various Professional Institutions (as per MHRD's letter F No. 11-15/2011- AR (TS.II) dated 6-12-2012 for the purpose of academic pursuit in IGNOU.**

13.6.1 The members were informed that the following professional bodies/ institutions with their permanent recognition upto 31st May, 2013 were recognised by Dept. of Higher Education, MHRD, Govt. of India New Delhi for issue of certificates:

1) Institute of Engineers (India), Kolkata
2) Aeronautical Society of India, New Delhi
3) Institution of Civil Engineers, Ludhiana, Punjab
4) Institute of Mechanical Engineers (India), Mumbai
5) Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers, New Delhi
6) Institute of Fire Engineering, India, New Delhi
7) The Institution of Surveyors, New Delhi
8) Tool Room and Training Centre, Wazirpur, Delhi
9) College of Military Engineering, Pune
10) National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, (NIELIT), New Delhi
11) National Institute for Training in Industrial Engineer, Bombay
12) Indian Institute of Ceramics, Kolkata.

13.6.2 The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi also issued a Public Notice No. P&AP/10(04)/2017 dated 31-10-2017 which states as under:

".... the Council in its 52nd Emergent Meeting held on August 03, 2017 decided to recognize equivalence for all purposes including Higher Education & Employment to Technical Courses conducted by various Professional Bodies/Institutions which were duly recognized by MHRD with permanent recognition upto 31st May 2013. Thus all those students who were enrolled with these institutions with permanent recognition up to 31.05.2013, stand recognized."

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi Vide another Circular F.No. 13-56/PC/ODL-Mode/AICTE/2020 dated 23rd November, 2020 has reiterated the same recognition status of the certificates issued by the above mentioned institutions.

13.6.3 In view of the above, the University has already recognized the Section A & B Examinations of the institutions mentioned at Sr. 1 i.e. Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI), Kolkata, and Sr. 2 i.e. Aeronautical Society of India, New Delhi as equivalent to Graduation for purposes of admission to IGNOU programmes.

13.6.4 The members discussed the proposal of recognition of the Section A and B Examinations of the institutions mentions at Sr. 3 to 12 on the same analogy. Consequently, the Committee resolved to recommend to the Academic Council to accord recognition to Section - A and B of Associate Membership Examination of the following institutions as equivalent to graduation degree for admission to IGNOU post graduate programmes on the basis of AICTE Public Notice dated 31st October, 2017. However, the recognition will be restricted to the students who were enrolled with these institutions with permanent recognition up to 31.05.2013 only:

1) Institution of Civil Engineers, Ludhiana, Punjab
2) Institute of Mechanical Engineers (India), Mumbai
3) Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers, New Delhi
4) Institute of Fire Engineering, India, New Delhi
5) The Institution of Surveyors, New Delhi
6) Tool Room and Training Centre, Wazirpur, Delhi
7) College of Military Engineering, Pune
8) National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, (NIELIT), New Delhi
9) National Institute for Training in Industrial Engineer, Bombay
10) Indian Institute of Ceramics, Kolkata.

13.7. **To consider recognition of Council of Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE's) Sr. Secondary Examination (passed with four subjects) as equivalent to 10+2 for the purpose of academic pursuit in IGNOU**

13.7.1 The proposal to recognise the 10+2 certificates with 4 core courses issued by different Boards of School Education in the country subject to status as ***'PASSED'*** was put up before the Committee for consideration.

The Committee desired that the proposal may be put up again in a subsequent meeting with more details for an elaborate discussion.

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

Rajendra P. Das

(R P DAS)
Pro-Vice-Chancellor &
Chairperson,
Equivalence Committee