



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PROMOTION OF EDUCATION FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE DISABLED



The Memorandum of Understanding between the NETAJI SHUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY (acronymed as NSOU hereafter) and the REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA (acronymed as RCI hereafter) is signed herewith on the Eighth of December 2004 by the Registrar on behalf of the NSOU and by the Member-Secretary on behalf of the RCI that both the NSOU and the RCI agree to collaborate in promoting education for the empowerment of the disabled and will abide by the following provisions to achieve the desired goals.

1. NSOU and RCI will make joint efforts in promoting and implementing educational programmes for the empowerment of special target group of persons with disabilities within the jurisdiction of NSOU.
2. The NSOU will collaborate with RCI in programme design and development in multimedia distance mode for the special education programmes and will facilitate delivery and certification of such programmes.
3. RCI recognizes NSOU as a State University equipped for undertaking Special Education and Rehabilitation Programmes through Distance Mode in Regional language. (Bengali). RCI will also extend technical expertise to the NSOU and study centres.
4. NSOU and RCI will launch/implement a B.Ed (Special Education) programme covering basic skills in Education including basic components for all major disabilities specified in the RCI Act.
5. For existing programmes, the academic contents, eligibility conditions and process of evaluation will be the same as prescribed by the RCI. However, NSOU in consultation with RCI could propose new programmes which could be designed by teams of experts appointed by RCI with two expert nominees of the NSOU.
6. The translation of the contents of BEd (SE-DE) programme of RCI will be done by a team of experts appointed by NSOU in Bengali language. The content will be vetted by the experts appointed by RCI.
7. All the educational programmes under operation or to be operated in future need to be planned as Transparent, Self-Financing and Self-Sustaining Schemes with generation of fund through Programme Fees to meet the running cost of the programme which includes -
 - (a) implementational cost of the implementing agencies, i.e., Study Centre & NSOU,
 - (b) 10% of programme fee as overall saving, as per accepted norm of the implementing University, NSOU

- (c) 10% of the programme fee for distance education project of the council covering staff, promotion, maintenance of quality and research etc as RCI share and
- (d) generation of developmental cost to the extent possible for recycling the amount as seed money for future development essential for continuous quality improvement. The amount of the Programme Fee is to be fixed in consultation with RCI to meet the above financial implications for self-financing.

8. On the basis of the criteria in article 7 the Programme Fees will be shared by the NSOU, the RCI and the Study Centre on PRORATA basis as per norm fixed for each programme as per need. The norm of sharing Programme Fees should be fixed on a long term perspective.

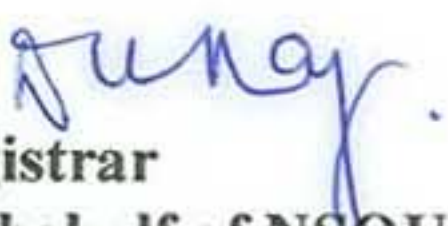
9. The responsibility of development and generation of self-learning course material in print, audio-video (including talking book) format etc., will be of NSOU. Approved material will be supplied by NSOU to institutions and students as per the requirement. However, the panel of experts will be identified jointly by NSOU and RCI.

10. NSOU and RCI will jointly decide norms for identification of study centres, the honorarium to the counsellor, details about system of evaluation and admission. However, 75% attendance in practice teaching in recognized schools/centres and counseling sessions will be compulsory for eligibility to appear in term end examination.

11. There will be an Apex Advisory **Committee** which will normally meet twice a year, to oversee the implementation of the MOU. The Committee will consist of the following:

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| a. | Vice Chancellor, NSOU | Chairman |
| b. | Two experts nominated by the Chairman, RCI | Members |
| c. | ^{Two} Three nominees of the Board of Management of the University | Members |
| d. | Member-Secretary, RCI | Ex-officio Member |
| e. | Academic Co-ordinator, NSOU | Member Secretary |

12. The MOU will be valid for a period of 5 years but could be renewed from time to time at 5 years interval. However, it could be terminated earlier by either party giving notice of one academic session.



Registrar
On behalf of NSOU
December 8, 2004

Registrar
Netaji Subhas Open University



Member Secretary
On behalf of RCI
December 8, 2004

Dr. J. P. SINGH
Member Secretary
Rehabilitation Department
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment