

## Academic Progression under ODL mode

**Hemant Gawande**

*Educational Consultant  
Anadi Educational Services Bhopal  
M. P. India*

**Objective:** Develop an academic progression model for a learner of higher studies under *Online & Distance mode of learning(ODL)*.

*Distance Education Council(DEC)* of India offers multi-faceted programs in various streams through its affiliated Universities. A dedicated learner can attach himself to the most basic program under any of the concerned schools and gradually progress at his/ her own pace, while adding on courses each time he/ she successfully clears a certificate/ diploma level. Limitation of time and resources compels an adult learner who is yet academically inclined to go for ODL mode and accomplish his pursuits of higher education & research. One such optimum option for these scholars who have lack of time and space is offered by various schools of *Indira Gandhi National Open University(IGNOU)* under one common platform of distance education.

The *School of Continuing Education(SOCE)* at IGNOU offers various programs pertaining to community outreach & development aiming at target learners from both urban & semi-urban/ rural strata of society. The programs range from Rural Development, to HIV & Family Education, to Early Childhood Care & Education, as well as Home Science, Food & Nutrition, and Health education.

A school dropout who has yet not completed his matriculation can enroll for '*Bachelor's Preparatory Program'(BPP)*'. This program brings him at par with a higher secondary student under the conventional mode of education. BPP is a certificate program of 6 months duration whereby a learner has to opt for any two out of three courses from OSS(Preparatory course in Social Sciences), PCO(Preparatory course in commerce) & OMT(Preparatory course in Mathematics).

After successfully clearing the BPP certificate the learner is entitled to join the *BDP(Bachelor's Development Program)* offered by IGNOU which is equivalent to and runs parallel with any bachelor's degree program offered by any traditional University. Variations offered here are *BA(Bachelor of Arts)*, *BCom(Bachelor of Commerce)*, *BSc(Bachelor of Science)*, *BSW(Bachelor's in Social Work)* & *BTS(Bachelor's in Tourism)*.

Each of the above comprises of a compulsory *Foundation course in Humanities(FSH)* component. FSH in turn consists of an *Elective in Rural Development (ERD)*. It is a non-compulsory course but the starting point for anybody who wishes to pursue his career/ research in the field of Rural development.

## Rural Development

The vast rural area of the country, the large number of functionaries working in the area of rural development and the future employment opportunities that this developing sector is throwing up, point out the need to provide cadre of professionals to serve as specialist manpower in the field of rural development. The study programme in rural development is in response to this felt need for trained manpower in rural development and consists of the following areas of intervention:

- *Elective in Rural Development ( as a part of BDP)*
- *Certificate Programme in Rural Development (CRD): Duration 6 months*

### CourseCode      Course Name

MRD-101	Rural Development - Indian Context
MRD-102	Rural Development Programmes
MRD-103	Rural Development - Planning and Management

- *Post-Graduate Diploma in Rural Development (PGDRD): Duration 1 year*

### CourseCode      Course Name

MRD-101	Rural Development - Indian Context
MRD-102	Rural Development Programmes
MRD-103	Rural Development - Planning and Management
RDD-6	Rural Health Care
RDD-7	Communication and Extension in Rural Development
MRDE-101	Rural Social Development
RDD-5	Research and Project Work

- *Master's Programme in Rural Development (MARD): Duration 2 years*

## First Year

### CourseCode      Course Name

MRD-101	Rural Development - Indian Context
MRD-102	Rural Development Programmes
MRD-103	Rural Development - Planning and Management
MRD-004	Research Methods in Rural Development

MRDP-001      Dissertation - MRDP-001

## **Second Year**

<b>CourseCode</b>	<b>Course Name</b>
RDD-6	Rural Health Care
RDD-7	Communication and Extension in Rural Development
MRDE-101	Rural Social Development
MRDE-002	Voluntary Action in Rural Development
MRDE-003	Land Reforms and Rural Development
MRDE-004	Entrepreneurship and Rural Development

- *PhD Programme in Rural Development {PHD(RD)}*

## **Eligibility:**

(i) Those possessing MARD with B grade are included as a category eligible for enrolment in Ph D Programme in Rural Development, provided they submit two papers on their chosen subject for Ph.D and subject to their acceptance by the Doctoral Committee.

(ii) Those who possess M.Phil in any subject, (other than Rural Development) may take three compulsory course; namely;

- MRD-101 Rural Development-Indian Context
- MRD-103 Rural Development Planning & Management
- MRD-104 Research Methods in Rural Development

However, the Doctoral Committee may exempt a candidate from taking the Research methodology course, if they feel so.

(iii) Those from other streams (other than Rural Development) not having M.Phil will have to undergo three compulsory courses and also submit two papers as outlined in item (i) above.

MARD & PHD(RD) programs do not have any exit option. Once enrolled, a learner has no option but to complete the remaining programme. Hence, if a learner does not have 2 years in continuation to dedicate towards Master's & Doctorate programs, it's better he/she gradually progresses by opting for Certificate Program first, go for PG Diploma later & Master's Degree and complete leftover courses each time he enrolls for the subsequent level, as and when his convenience allows him and secure his certificate/ diploma/ degree at his own individual pace. Time, money, place, family commitment & priorities do not create any hurdle during the pace of education/ research of a dedicated learner belonging to any place around the globe in this unique model of education.

**REFERENCE**

- [1] [www.ignou.ac.in/upload/Executive%20Summay.doc](http://www.ignou.ac.in/upload/Executive%20Summay.doc)
- [2] <http://www.ignou.ac.in/ignou/aboutignou/school/soce/programmes/detail/145/2>
- [3] <http://www.ignou.ac.in/ignou/aboutignou/school/soce/introduction>
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