



Distance Education and People with Disabilities: The Special Programmes of IGNOU

Asha Khare

Indira Gandhi National Open University (India)

khare.asha@yahoo.com

Abstract

To impart education and training to the disabled children in an appropriate environment. the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) through its National Centre for Disability Studies designs, develops and implements educational, vocational and awareness programmes in disability for the service providers that are working for the rehabilitation of disabledS children. IGNOU offers need-based Special Education Programmes through Distance Education Mode in collaboration with Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) .IGNOU has been recognized as the apex National Resource Centre for Special Education and Rehabilitation programmes through Multimedia Distance Mode and facilitates delivery and certification of such programmes.

In order to empower the persons with disabilities, to strengthen the potentials of such people and build their capacity which may help them connect to the mainstream in the society and further to create a society that is friendly for them., the university implements several special programmes in this are i.e Post Graduate and Under Graduate Programmes on Mental Retardation ,Hearing Impairment and Visual Impairment.

This Paper proposes to study the B.Ed. Special Education programmes in the area of Hearing Impairment, Mental Retardation and Visual Impairment. It throws light on the objectives and course structure of these programmes . It further explores the methodology the university adopts to develop professionals for special and inclusive education within a broad perspective of education and to educate and train them to become agents of change as teaching-professionals by imbibing the required knowledge, skills and positive attitude in collaboration with Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI).