



## **INDIA**

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### **GUIDELINES FROM COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING (COL)**

1. Key challenges and opportunities (not more than 3 each) for 'learning for development' in your country
2. Status of distance education/e-learning in your country
3. Identify (not more than 5) top priorities that you would like COL to take up during the next Three Year Plan 2012-15

### **INDIA**

#### **Key Challenges**

- Addressing the issue of equity, access and quality in terms of regional imbalances and differential participation of different groups
- Policy of affirmative action for Public Private Partnership in the education sector to promote inclusive growth
- Standardization and expansion of skills-related courses, particularly vocational education in developing workplace skills.

#### **Opportunities**

- Enhanced public investment in education
- Use of ICT in education and skills development
- Replacement of regulatory governance by developing the culture of self-accountability.

#### **Status of OER in India**

In India, there are 14 Open Universities (OUs) that includes one national, namely Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and 13 State OUs. In addition, there are a number of conventional universities offering programmes through the distance mode through their Directorates/ Centres of Distance Education. Currently, there are more than 200 such Directorates attached to conventional universities as well as Institutes. A large

number of private providers have taken the initiative to offer distance learning programmes. IGNOU has been entrusted with the responsibility to promote, coordinate and determine standards in the ODE system of the country. At the school level, there is National Institute of Open Learning (NIOS) and State Open Schools.

IGNOU has a major international presence. It has an annual intake of 7000 students spanning 40 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia and America through 67 Partner Institutions. IGNOU is offering a few of its programmes in African countries under the Pan-Africa Project. It has also undertaken development of faculty members working in various African countries under the aegis of a MoU with the International Institute of Capacity Building in Africa, an organisation of UNESCO.

#### **TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2012-2015**

1. To showcase international best practices, particularly in technical education
2. To help India adopt a transnational approach to quality assurance and accreditation, by developing international benchmarking of standards and practices
3. To develop systems and models for mutual recognition of degrees, diplomas, certificates and credit transfers among the various institutions in Commonwealth countries
4. To institute exchange mechanisms, including fellowships for all groups of faculty working for the ODL system among the commonwealth countries.