



PAKISTAN

Focal Point: Prof. Dr. Munshi Parveen

GUIDELINES FROM COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING (COL)

1. Key challenges and opportunities (not more than three) for ‘learning for development’ in your country
2. Review the use of ODL in your country
3. Identify (not more than five) top priorities that you would like COL to take up during the next three year plan 2012–2015 and what COL can do for further support to your national agenda?

PAKISTAN

Key challenges and opportunities

- Achieving Universal Primary Education and enhancement of access towards learning opportunities at Secondary and Tertiary level
- Effective use and expansion of digital technology to enhance learning opportunities for Pakistani University Students
- Lack of expertise to develop and design ODL material for imparting knowledge and skills in both formal and non-formal learning environments

Review the use of ODL in Pakistan

1. ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (AIOU)

i. COL Executive MBA/MPA Program

COL Executive MBA/MPA Programme (CEMBA/MPA) was started in 2003 by Allama Iqbal Open University. So far, about 3,900 students have taken admission in this programme from the year 2003 to 2010. The programme is based on credit accumulation with the minimum duration to complete CEMBA/MPA is two years and maximum duration is five years.

Additionally, 1,200 students have received postgraduate professional certificate in Business Administration and 1,900 students have completed the

requirements of postgraduate professional diploma in Business/Public Administration.

AIOU was assigned to revise and review the courses (Management Information Systems, Corporate Finance, E-Commerce) by June 2012:

The above tasks of revision and review has been completed and accepted by the COL for incorporation in the course material.

The AIOU is interested in offering a special course of Legislative Drafting as a component of CEMPA Programme. The material on Legislative Drafting has been developed by the COL and is being offered by a couple of universities of the Commonwealth. The COL is requested to review and enhance the scope of available material so that a separate programme on legal drafting may be developed for legal professionals as well as administrators.

ii. CEMBA/MPA Boards (Dec 2010-2012)

Professor Majed Rashid of AIOU is a member of the Academic Board (AB) and Professor Dr. Nazir Ahmed Sangi is a member of Executive Governing Board (EGB) of the CEMBA/MPA.

Professor Majed Rashid and Professor Dr. Nazir Ahmed Sangi attended the AB and EGB meetings from August 9-12, 2010 in Malaysia.

iii. Open Schooling in Pakistan

Another area of cooperation between AIOU & COL was the establishment of “Open Schooling System” in Pakistan.

In this regard a feasibility study was conducted by Mr. Tony Dodds a COL consultant in 2006 which suggested the AIOU an appropriate platform for launching the “Open Schooling System”. A second consultancy visit was also proposed to revise and finalize the proposal.

iv. Technical and Vocational Education

There are a number of other programmes in technical and vocational education which are developed by the COL and being offered in a couple of universities of Commonwealth. The AIOU is also interested in offering these programmes in Pakistan.

2. HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION (HEC) PAKISTAN

i. Distance Education Directorate in Conventional Universities

In Pakistan large number of students appearing annually in graduate and postgraduate examinations in arts and social sciences subjects as private candidates, in public sector universities. But these private/external candidates cannot acquire quality education due to which there is less worth of their degrees at graduate and undergraduate level.

Realizing the untoward situation, the Higher Education Commission (HEC), has taken the initiative that private students will be recognized and dealt as Distant Students and quality in the private education will be ensured through distance mode. Therefore, the separate Directorate for Distance Education at six public sector universities has been established. Through this project approximately 100,000 students will get quality education.

The World Bank is providing finances for the period of one year for the project.

The COL can assist Pakistan in the above said project by introducing the ODL mechanism and can provide technical support.

ii. Virtual Education Project Pakistan (VEPP)

The HEC Pakistan has initiated a National Video Conferencing Program in collaboration with the L.E.J. National Science Information Center (ICCBS), University of Karachi. The program focuses on lectures/courses being delivered by eminent scholars/researchers in the chosen disciplines, aimed at building concepts, enhancing critical thinking, and developing understanding of the subject at undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels. These lectures/courses are relayed nationwide in various Universities and other HEI through VEPP (Virtual Education Project Pakistan).

The scope of Virtual Education Project Pakistan is much larger. It will create much goodwill between commonwealth member states and Pakistan. COL will be seen to be contributing significantly to higher education in Pakistan. This project will link commonwealth member states universities with students in Pakistani universities through courses delivered by video conferencing and other distance learning techniques.

iii. Speaker Arrangements/Funding needs for VEPP project

The payment of honoraria to the speakers and eminent scientists participating from commonwealth member states for lectures to be delivered in the fields of Health Sciences, Veterinary Sciences, Genomics and other such important fields. A contribution of yearly \$72,500 would allow to solicit and broadcast around 500 lectures, equal to 33 one credit hour courses. With enrollments in courses ranging between 100 and 300 students nationwide.

iv. Capacity building opportunities from COL

Prof. Majed Rashid of AIOU participated in the case method workshop was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from Sept 28-Oct 2, 2009.

Dr. Rubina Bhatti of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and Ms. Nazia Iqbal of Khuldunia Public School attended the 3rd International Conference on Digital Libraries held in Delhi from Feb 23-26, 2010 supported by CEMCA.

Mr. Muhammad Ismail of the National University of Sciences and Technology attended the OER Capacity Building Workshops 28 April 2010 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr. Irfanullah of Peshawar University attended a multi-media content development workshop held at Bangladesh Open University from Feb 5-9, 2011 conducted by CEMCA.

Ms. Azra Naseem of Aga Khan University attended the OER Capacity Building Workshops held on 25 May 2011 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

v. Training through e-learning

One learner from IADB signed up for the Nov 2009-Feb 2010 course on Writing Emails, Memos and Letters.

Two learners from UNHCR signed up for the Nov 2009-April 2010 courses on Operational Data Management Learning Programme – Self Study and Graduate Programme.

Two learners from ILO signed up for the April-August 2010 course on Writing Effectively.

One learner from the World Bank signed up for the August-December 2010 course on Report Writing Distance Learning.

TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2012–2015 (NOT MORE THAN FIVE)

1. Professional development of practitioners and development of open educational resources for open schooling.
2. Support in the Virtual Education Project Pakistan (VEPP) through the arranging of the experts/speakers from Commonwealth member countries to deliver lecturers in the various fields of Higher Education.
3. Support the training of trainers in both curriculum and instructional design in higher education institutions using technologies that are appropriate for formal and non-formal settings.
4. Support conventional educational institutions to make the transition to dual mode: formal and ODL.
5. Build capacity among educators to develop e-learning material for the ODL courses and development and use of open educational resources.