

**Regional Consultation on COL's next Three Year Plan  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**December 8, 2004**

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1. *Building awareness campaign through ODL system on the following issues*
  - a. HIV/AIDS, other diseases
  - b. Human Rights
  - c. Education for the prisoners
  - d. Environmental awareness
  - e. Reproductive health
  - f. Women empowerment through skill development
  - g. Education for those living in rural areas
  
2. *Strategies*
  - a. Non-formal education
  - b. Counseling cell in Regional Resource Centre and Coordinating Officers
  - c. Booklet, brochure, poster, broadcast for TV and Radio
  - d. CD for TOT programme
  - e. Support pilot project - e-village
  - f. Technical/vocational education and training
  
3. *Assistance from COL*
  - a. Training for women to overcome IT fears.
  - b. Advocacy for ODL
  - c. Training for teachers through ODL
  - d. Provision of learning materials
  
4. *Educational needs in Bangladesh and how can ODL assist in meeting these?*
  - a. literacy
  - b. female education
  - c. practical/job oriented education/self-employment
  - d. training programmes in ICTs

To meet the above needs, ODL can be an effective medium as it can provide education and training in the most economical and easily acceptable and accessible manner.

5. *Obstacles:*

- a. Illiterate population
- b. Lack of IT literacy and facilities
- c. Gender specific IT fear
- d. inadequate supply and maintenance of technical support from BOU
- e. lack of funding
- f. poor infrastructure
- g. lack of awareness/no acceptance of ODL by stakeholders

6. *Effectiveness*

- a. COL/CEMCA may prepare a list of resource persons including BOU staff
- b. COL can assist in establishing a Training Institute in BOU

7. *Initiatives for COL*

- a. Exchange of experts within Commonwealth countries
- b. Frequent training programmes and follow up seminars, workshops, etc. should be arranged
- c. Establish a regional centre of CEMCA in Bangladesh
- d. Establish an ODL training institute in Bangladesh
- e. Support research in areas related to ODL, such as the high drop-out rate
- f. Special training programme for students that have dropped out of the conventional system
- g. Support the education of more professions in ODL