



11 July, 2013

To,
Vice Chancellor,
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi
New Delhi- 110068, INDIA

RANDOM SUSPENSION OF IGNOU COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM....

Choking Alternative route to connect education with employment

Dear Sir,

We are compelled to draw your attention towards the complete disinterest & neglect of our hundreds of students of July 2011 & January 2012 academic cycle, with confirmed IGNOU enrollments, in approved IGNOU programs, under IGNOU CCU Scheme.

It is only critical that IGNOU releases the pending results as well as offers solution to complete qualification transaction of our 500+ students, who were enrolled in the system prior to IGNOU's notification of July 19, 2012 to hold the IGNOU CCU operations in abeyance

There is absolutely no response from IGNOU VCO or IGNOU CCU on the above matter for the last 12 months, despite our repeated meetings, requests, reminders & in spite of our timely compliance of submissions of all academic records pertaining to their unduly & unjustifiably pending results.

It is completely regrettable that IGNOU CCU lies in state of suspension for more than 12 months, with TWO ZERO Academic cycles, resulting in untold damage to investment of time, resources & livelihood aspirations of nearly 4.5 lakhs students enrolled in 540+ IGNOU Community Colleges, across India.

On July 04, 2009, it was on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary that IGNOU- THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY- had launched its **Community College Scheme- a skill development initiative**, in response to the Prime Minister's call to address the most critical concern of the nation, i.e. to skill India & connect the marginalized and left behind millions with adequate employment

Barely after three years of introducing the Community College Scheme, **it was decided in a Board of Management meeting held on May 31, 2012**, that community college scheme be subjected to a **thorough time-bound review**, which may take 6 months & till then all its actions /functions be kept in abeyance. *(It may be noted here that M&RE process does not require stalling of operation without taking adequate measures to support completion of existing students in the system)*



Further, it was only on 19 July 2012 - after nearly 3 months of the aforesaid Board Meeting – that this decision of the Board Members was communicated, by e-mails, the member community colleges.

It is rather strange that neither the members of this Review Committee, nor their findings & reports have been made public till date!! Lack of transparency raises question marks before the intent & credibility of the review for which the IGNOU Community College operations have been “in state of abeyance” since July 2012 till endless time!!

For your reference, we list the context and place on record our repeated consistent efforts to present the concern of existing students, registered for IGNOU CCU approved programs(prior to July 2012 notification) , to no avail & with no concrete response from the IGNOU VCO & IGNOU CCU Nodal Officer:

<p>Context:</p> <p>30 December 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular received from IGNOU CCU – Nodal Officer to announce opening of admission window for Jan2012 Cycle, for already approved programs, as well as for roll-on admissions for NCCPs, with related norms • <u>No talk of suspension of IGNOU CCU Scheme or about its functions to be held in abeyance</u> • Outcome: Students take admissions to already approved Category-3 Programs for skill development in January 2012 Cycle, at IGNOU Community Colleges • Confirmed Admissions to January 2012 • Roll-on Admissions taken for next Academic Cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>As per IGNOU CCU LAID DOWN NORMS, as stated on Page 30 of IGNOU's Manual for Community Colleges – 2011; Original Copy Available with all approved Community Colleges of IGNOU CCU & uploaded on IGNOU Website</i> - <i>Also, as per clarification provided by IGNOU CCU, in IGNOU CCU's Manual of 2011, in response to Q.63:FAQs on General Issues, “Community Colleges may have system of roll-on admissions, where students are admitted “throughout the year” at Community College training location, but their on-line IGNOU registrations/admissions on IGNOU CCU portal are coincided & converged with 2 regular January & July academic cycles” .</i> • Classroom Teaching Learning Transaction begins at all Community College locations for all students in the system
<p>19 July 2012</p>	<p>Sudden E-Mail from IGNOU to communicate to all its registered community colleges that “ <i>the IGNOU community college scheme be subjected to a thorough time-bound review,</i></p>

	<p><i>which may take 6 months & till then all its actions /functions be kept in abeyance”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes: Existing students derailed • The academic year of ALL students in the system (Jan 2012-with confirmed admissions; July 2012- in pipe-line as per IGNOU CCU provision for roll-on admissions) wasted & VOID • With-held : Declaration of Term End Final Results of all students with completed transaction , since IGNOU CCU's on-line EXAMINATION MIS closed down • With-held : Certification of all students with completed transaction ,due to pending declaration of Final Results • <i>Roll on Admissions deprived & shut out of entering the IGNOU Academic Cycle</i>
13 August 2012	Requested to meet VC: NOT GRANTED
21 August 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met IGNOU CCU • Assurance given that Review Committee Report will be submitted & IGNOU CCU Scheme will continue
24 September, 2012	Wrote letter to IGNOU CCU-Nodal Officer, Prof. Sahni, with CC to VCO, for addressing the concerns of students already in system, for declaration of pending results and regularization of roll-on admissions prior to July 19, 2012; No concrete Reply
16 November, 2012	Personal visit to VCO, Requested to meet VC: NOT GRANTED
13 December 2012	<p>Received Circular from Dr. Satish, Asst. Director, IGNOU Community College Unit to submit the soft copy of following by 18 December, (followed by hard copies of all by 22 December) to facilitate the declaration of pending results of students from July 2011 , Jan 2012 & Roll –on Admissions in the system :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Admission data of the students B. Minutes of Academic Committee Meetings C. Minutes of Examination Committee Meetings D. List of Paper setters/Moderators/Evaluators for each of the transacted programs whose results are submitted E. Town School’s Assessment Manual , which provides details of : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assessment Strategy for skill based Category -3 programs of IGNOU Community College Scheme 2) Norms for Conduct of Exams, Evaluation , Internal Assessments & Practical 3) Role & Responsibility of Paper setters/Moderators/Evaluators
17 December 2012	OUR TIMELY COMPLIANCE OF ALL MANDATORY

	SUBMISSIONS , AS DIRECTED BY IGNOU CCU, TOWARDS DECLARATION OF PENDING RESULTS & CERTIFICATIONS STATED ABOVE
29 January, 12 February & 01 March 2013	Follow-up on pending results/ certifications despite our compliance with the mandatory academic/examination related submissions as required & directed by IGNOU CCU : No concrete/committed response by IGNOU CCU Nodal Officer, Prof Pradeep Sahni (Contact No. 011-29572735)
19 March 2013	Meeting with Prof Sahni, Nodal Officer- IGNOU CCU, to find status on the above : No concrete/committed response
April 06 - April 29,2013	Sent 3 written reminders to IGNOU CCU & VCO to remind & follow-up the above pending matter : No concrete/committed response
May 10 , 2013	<p>Received Mail from IGNOU CCU, stating :</p> <p><i>“This is in reference to your e-mail dated 29th April, 2013 it is to mention that, the Community Colleges Review Committee has submitted its report to the University for its Consideration on 19th November, 2012. Considering the report of Review Committee vide notification dated 10th December, 2012 <u>a Screening Committee was constituted to facilitate early finalization of reports of the respective review committees.</u></i></p> <p><u>The committee had convened its first meeting on 27th December, 2012 .The committee had also convened its second, third and fourth meetings on 15th February, 2013 and 15th March, 2013 and 1st May, 2013 respectively. The report of the subsequent meetings is yet to be placed before the Board of Management” . :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It may be noted from the above mail extracts that surprisingly, no details/recommendations of the first meeting were made public – Why?
May 12, 2013	Sent 4th Reminder to IGNOU CCU, VCO to address the matter of pending results, Certification & related concerns of students already in system prior to July 2012...
Till date	Persistent Visits, requests to convey students’ concerns to NO AVAIL: RESULTS & CERTIFICATION OF STUDENTS IN-THE-SYSTEM (prior to July 2012 intimation of IGNOU CCU) STILL PENDING !!



Sir, Town Schools IGNOU Community College is registered with IGNOU CCU (College Code: CTS 1124)

We offer demand driven, skill based training programs, conceived & developed by our core academic team of subject experts. These skill development programs, with modular structure & vertical mobility are offered by us **under "Category-3 programs of IGNOU Community College Scheme, as documented in IGNOU Community College Manual.**

(Ref: Page 30 of IGNOU's Manual for Community Colleges - 2011; Original Copy Available with all approved Community Colleges of IGNOU CCU & also uploaded on IGNOU Website)

It is evident that we have tried repeatedly, earnestly & consistently to represent, before IGNOU VCO & IGNOU CCU, the compelling concerns of students (in the system) pursuing IGNOU approved skill based programs, but we regret to state that they have not been addressed by IGNOU despite lapse of more than 15 months and waste of 2 academic cycles which is causing serious unrest of students, not only at our community college locations but across all community colleges of IGNOU.

In view of the above, henceforth, the concerned students will represent their interests, legally or otherwise, directly to IGNOU VCO & IGNOU CCU and we shall not be held responsible or be party to either.

With hope that IGNOU will keep its spirit alive by seeking student driven solution & thus and living up to its claim of being the PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY!!

Sincerely,

for, TOWN SCHOOLS IGNOU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Copy to:

1. Prof. Pradeep Sahni, Nodal Officer, IGNOU CCU
2. Dr. MM Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD
3. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for HRD
4. Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for HRD
5. Mr. Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Department of Higher Education