

Honorable Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
Ministry of Education, GoI

Subject: Regarding Reinstatement of Re-Admission Facility for Students at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)

Respected Sir,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to you today on behalf of the numerous students who have been deeply affected by the recent decision of **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)** to discontinue the re-admission facility during the COVID-19 lockdown. This decision has caused immense distress and uncertainty among thousands of students and warrants urgent attention from your esteemed office.

The re-admission facility allowed students to register again with the university in case of expiration of maximum duration of a course to resume their studies. By discontinuing the re-admission facility, IGNOU has effectively closed the doors of educational opportunity for these individuals. **Many of these students are only a single paper away from obtaining their degrees and have invested years of hard work and dedication into their studies.** Denying them the chance to complete their degrees based on this arbitrary decision is an injustice that affects their academic and professional aspirations.

It is crucial to bring to your attention that the university's decision was not effectively communicated to the students. The communication infrastructure at IGNOU is still in the developing stage, and many students were not made aware of this policy change. Consequently, they were unable to take any measures to mitigate the impact of this decision on their academic pursuits. This lack of communication further exacerbates the grave injustice faced by these students.

In past many such students successfully availed this opportunity and obtained their degrees. Denying the same facility to the current batch of old students is a severe injustice, as these students were also promised re-admission when they initially enrolled in the university. Therefore, it is imperative that their legitimate expectations are fulfilled.

In light of the circumstances, I earnestly request you to consider providing a time window, at the very least, during which the old students can complete their courses and examinations. By offering this opportunity, the university can rectify its decision and allow these students to fulfill the remaining requirements for their degrees. This would not only alleviate the immediate concerns of the affected students but also demonstrate the government's commitment to supporting their educational aspirations.

Additionally, I would like to bring to your attention that IGNOU is still conducting examinations based on the old pattern for students whose admission validity has not expired. Considering this, accommodating the old students within this existing examination framework would be a feasible solution. It would ensure that these students have a fair chance to complete their courses and assessments, without disrupting the ongoing examination process.

Furthermore, this decision is in direct contradiction to the spirit of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which was introduced under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The NEP aims to provide equitable and inclusive education to all students, with a focus on lifelong learning and the empowerment of individuals. By discontinuing re-admission, IGNOU has disregarded the principles laid out in the NEP, hindering the academic progress of countless students and undermining the vision of a robust and accessible education system.

Therefore, I humbly request your immediate intervention in this matter. I urge you to initiate a dialogue with IGNOU authorities to reconsider their decision and reinstate the re-admission facility for the students affected by this policy change, or at least give a chance to these unfortunate students to appear in their exams. Providing them with the opportunity to complete their degrees will not only ensure justice but also demonstrate the government's commitment to the principles of equal access to education and the empowerment of every individual.

Lastly, sir, I implore you to consider the socio-economic background of most IGNOU students. The majority of them come from the working class, who do not have the luxury of pursuing time-bound education. IGNOU's distance learning model has provided them with a valuable opportunity to pursue higher education alongside their professional and personal commitments. Discontinuing the re-admission facility severely hampers their progress and denies them the chance to improve their circumstances through education.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I have utmost confidence in your dedication to the welfare of our students and your commitment to upholding the principles of equitable education. I look forward to a positive resolution that will alleviate the concerns of the affected students and reinstate their faith in the Indian education system.

Yours sincerely,

Shekhar Kumar Sha
PO – Thakurganj
Dist – Kishanganj
Bihar (855116)
7352180328