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अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद्

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 01 मार्च, 2021

अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद् (मुक्त और दूरस्थ माध्यमों से शिक्षा एवं ऑनलाइन माध्यमों से शिक्षा)  
दिशानिर्देश, 2021

फा.सं. अभातशिप/पी एंड एपी/ओडीएल-ऑनलाइन/2021.-

प्रस्तावना :-

शिक्षा को प्रत्यक्ष एवं अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से प्रदान किया जा सकता है। प्रत्यक्ष रीति से शिक्षा, शिक्षक और शिक्षार्थियों की बातचीत या तो आमने-सामने रीति में या ऑनलाइन रीति का उपयोग करके होती है। शिक्षा की मुक्त और दूरस्थ शिक्षण रीति काफी हद तक अप्रत्यक्ष है जहां, शिक्षार्थी स्व-शिक्षण सामग्री प्राप्त करते हैं और संकाय के साथ ज्यादा बातचीत किए बिना तैयारी करते हैं। अभातशिप ने स्टैंडअलोन संस्थानों और मानित विश्वविद्यालय संस्थानों द्वारा मुक्त और दूरस्थ शिक्षण रीति (ओडीएल) के माध्यम से शिक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए वर्ष 2019 में राजपत्रित अधिसूचना के माध्यम से दिशानिर्देश जारी किए तथा इन दिशानिर्देशों को यूजीसी (मुक्त और दूरस्थ शिक्षण रीति) विनियम, 2017 एवं यूजीसी (मुक्त और दूरस्थ शिक्षण रीति) विनियम, 2018 से पुष्टिकरण हेतु वर्ष 2020 में इनमें संशोधन किए गए। नई राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (एनईपी)-2020 में प्रौद्योगिकी और आईसीटी के उपयोग के माध्यम से सकल नामांकन अनुपात (जीईआर) बढ़ाने पर बल दिया गया है। एनईपी-2020 के उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए ओडीएल और ऑनलाइन शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने हेतु अभातशिप ने ओडीएल रीति और ऑनलाइन रीति के माध्यम से शिक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए व्यापक दिशानिर्देश तैयार किए हैं।

अतः, अब ;

अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद् अधिनियम, 1987 की धारा 10(ख)(छ)(झ)(ञ)(ड)(ढ) तथा (ण) के साथ पठित धारा 23 की उप-धारा (1) के अंतर्गत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए तथा प्रकार्यों एवं कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन करते हुए तथा स्टैंडअलोन संस्थाओं, मानित विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए अधिसूचित अभातशिप (मुक्त और दूरस्थ माध्यम से शिक्षा प्राप्ति (ओडीएल)) दिशानिर्देश, 2019 हेतु अधिसूचित विनियम, अभातशिप (मुक्त और दूरस्थ माध्यमों से शिक्षा प्राप्ति) दिशानिर्देश, स्टैंडअलोन संस्थाओं, मानित विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए अधिसूचित अभातशिप (मुक्त और दूरस्थ माध्यम से शिक्षा

कर सकता है, कि इस तरह के कार्यक्रमों की वास्तविक शुरुआत से पहले, सभी प्रमाणपत्र या डिप्लोमा कार्यक्रमों को संस्थानों और नियामक प्राधिकरण/परिषद् के वैधानिक अधिकारियों द्वारा विधिवत अनुमोदित किया जाना चाहिए तथा शिक्षण तंत्र ओडीएल शिक्षा तथा/अथवा ऑनलाइन शिक्षा जैसा भी मामला हो, के गुणवत्ता मानकों के अनुरूप है। इस तरह की अपेक्षाओं के गैर-अनुपालन से उत्पन्न होने वाले किसी भी कानूनी मुद्दों के लिए संस्थान पूरी तरह से जिम्मेदार होगा :

14. **मुक्त और दूरस्थ शिक्षण रीति तथा/अथवा ऑनलाइन रीति के माध्यम से एकीकृत कार्यक्रम :** ओडीएल रीति तथा/अथवा ऑनलाइन शिक्षण रीति के माध्यम से एकीकृत कार्यक्रम की पेशकश के लिए संस्थाओं से प्राप्त किसी भी प्रस्ताव पर अभातशिप द्वारा तभी विचार किया जाएगा जब वह डिग्रियों के विनिर्देश पर समय-समय पर लागू यूजीसी की अधिसूचना के अनुपालन में हो।
15. **अनिवार्य आवश्यकताएँ:** यूजीसी (ऑनलाइन-ओडीएल) विनियमों में दी गई अनिवार्य आवश्यकताएं जैसे :- (i) आंतरिक गुणवत्ता आश्वासन केंद्र, (ii) परीक्षा का आयोजन और परीक्षा केन्द्रों के लिए न्यूनतम मानक, (iii) मानव संसाधन और अवसंरचनात्मक आवश्यकताएं, (iv) कार्यक्रम परियोजना रिपोर्ट (पीपीआर) पर दिशानिर्देश, (v) मल्टीपल मीडिया एवं पाठ्यचर्या और शिक्षाशास्त्र में शिक्षण सामग्री संबंधी गुणवत्ता आश्वासन दिशानिर्देश, (vi) स्व-शिक्षण सामग्री और ई-शिक्षण सामग्री पर दिशानिर्देश, (vii) शिक्षार्थी सहायता केंद्रों, गैर-स्वयं अधिगम प्लेटफार्म के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन कार्यक्रमों की पेशकश के लिए मूल्यांकन मानदंड, (viii) शिकायत निवारण तंत्र को यूजीसी (ऑनलाइन-ओडीएल) विनियम, 2020 तथा समय-समय पर यथा संशोधित में दिए गए अनुलग्नकों के अनुसार स्थापित करना होगा।
16. **निर्वचन खंड** – इन दिशानिर्देशों के निर्वचन में विचारों में मतभेद होने की स्थिति में, अभातशिप का निर्णय अंतिम एवं बाध्यकारी होगा।
17. **कठिनाईयों का निराकरण** – अभातशिप, शिक्षा मंत्रालय के साथ परामर्श करके इन दिशानिर्देशों के उपबंधों के निर्वचन में कठिनाई को दूर करने के लिए इन दिशानिर्देशों में परिवर्तन कर सकेगी।

प्रो० राजीव कुमार, सदस्य सचिव  
[विज्ञापन -III/4/ असा. /521/2020-21]

## ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 1st March, 2021

### AICTE (Open and Distance Learning Education and Online Education) Guidelines, 2021

#### F. No. AICTE/P&AP/ODL-ONLINE/2021.-

#### Preamble

Education can be delivered in Synchronous and Asynchronous mode. In Synchronous mode the teacher and learners' interaction occurs either in face-to-face mode or using online mode. The ODL mode of education is largely asynchronous where the learners get self-learning materials and prepares without much interaction with the faculty. AICTE has through gazette notifications issued Guidelines in 2019 for imparting education through Open and Distance Learning(ODL) mode by Standalone Institutions and Institutions-Deemed to be Universities and amended the same in 2020 to bring these guidelines in conformity with UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 & UGC Regulations, 2018. As the new National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 has laid emphasis on increasing Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER) through the use of technology and ICT, to fulfil the objectives of NEP-2020 and to promote ODL and Online Education AICTE has framed comprehensive Guidelines for imparting Education through ODL & Online mode.

#### Now, therefore;

In exercise of the powers conferred by and in discharge of its functions and duties under sub-section (1) of section 23 read with section 10(b) (g) (i) (j) (m) (n) and (o) of AICTE Act, 1987, and in supersession of the AICTE (Open and Distance Learning Education) Guidelines, 2019 notified for Standalone Institutions, Deemed to be Universities and AICTE (Open and Distance Learning Education) Guidelines, 2020 notified for Standalone Institutions, Deemed to be Universities, the AICTE notifies these Guidelines applicable for higher educational institutions viz; Standalone Institutions, Institutions-Deemed to be Universities and Universities for conducting courses of technical education in the field of Management and allied areas, Computer Applications, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science in the Engineering & Technology domain, Logistics and Travel & Tourism, through Open and Distance Learning and / or Online (ODL-Online) Education mode in line with the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 as under:-

**PART – I****1. Short title, application and commencement:**

These Guidelines are meant for Open and Distance Learning Education and Online Education for Institutions for offering courses in Management and allied areas, Computer Applications, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science in the Engineering & Technology domain, Logistics and Travel & Tourism titled as “AICTE (Open and Distance Learning Education and Online Education) Guidelines, 2021”.

- 1.1. These Guidelines lay down the minimum norms and standards for programmes, curricula, admissions, physical and instructional facilities, faculty and staff pattern, their qualifications, quality teaching learning, instructions, assessment and examinations for the award of Diploma, Post Diploma Certificate, Post Graduate Certificate, Post Graduate Diploma and Post Graduate Degree Level Programmes (as defined in Approval Process Handbook) through Open and Distance Learning mode and / or Online Mode, and shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other Guidelines, Notifications or Instructions issued by the AICTE from time to time.
- 1.2. These Guidelines shall apply to Institutions viz.; Standalone Institutions, Institutions-Deemed to be Universities and Universities for conducting programmes of specified duration learning at the Diploma, Post Diploma Certificate, Post Graduate Certificate, Post Graduate Diploma and Post Graduate Degree levels in the field of Management and allied areas, Computer Applications, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science in the Engineering & Technology domain, Logistics and Travel & Tourism.
- 1.3. These Guidelines shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

**2. Definitions: In these Guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:**

- 2.1. “Academic Session” means duration of twelve months beginning either in January/ February or in the month of July /August, as the case may be, of every calendar year;
- 2.2. “Act”, means the AICTE Act, 1987;
- 2.3. “APH” means AICTE Approval Process Handbook.
- 2.4. “Centre for Internal Quality Assurance” (CIQA) means a Centre established by an Institution offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode and / or Online mode for ensuring the quality of programmes offered by it through internal quality monitoring mechanism.
- 2.5. “Conventional Mode” means a mode of providing learning opportunities through face-to-face interaction between the teacher and learner in regular class room environment but does not exclude supplementary instructions, if any, for the learner through use of online mode;
- 2.6. “Credit” means the Unit award gained by a learner by study efforts of a minimum number of hours required to acquire the prescribed level of learning in respect of that Unit;
- 2.7. “Diploma / Post Diploma Certificate / Post Graduate Certificate / Post Graduate Diploma / Post Graduate Degree” means an award of a Certificate / Diploma / Degree defined under sub-section 10(i) of the AICTE Act, 1987 (as defined in the Approval Process Handbook).
- 2.8. “Dual Mode Institution” means an institution offering programmes under conventional mode and also under Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode;
- 2.9. “e-Learning Material” means and includes contents in the form of structured course material, as a part of one or more courses in the Online Programme, in digital format delivered through Learning Management System, which is inter-alia self-explanatory, self-contained, self-directed at the learner, and amenable to self-evaluation, and enables the learner to acquire the prescribed level of learning in a course of study, but does not include text-books or guide-books; as defined in these regulations;
- 2.10. “Examination Centre” means a place where examinations are conducted for the Open and Distance Learning mode and / or Online mode learners and is having the requisite infrastructure and adequate manpower for smooth conduct of examinations.
- 2.11. “Franchising” for the purpose of these guidelines, means and includes the practice of allowing, formally or informally, any person or institution or organisation, other than the Institutions recognised under these guidelines for offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode and / or Online mode, to offer such programmes of study on behalf of or in the name of the recognised Institutions, and the terms ‘franchise’ and ‘franchisee’ shall be construed accordingly.
- 2.12. “Information and Communication Technology” means the diverse set of tools and resources used to communicate, create, disseminate, store, manage information and be deployed for realizing the goals of interactive teaching-learning, enhancing access, ensuring knowledge cum information sharing, building capacities and management of the educational system and resources;

- 2.13. “Institutions” means Higher Educational Institutions which include Standalone Institutions, Institutions-Deemed to be Universities and Universities under UGC Act, 1956.
- 2.14. “Integrated Programme” shall have the same meaning as prescribed in AICTE-Approval Process Handbook (APH);
- 2.15. “Learner Support Centre” means a centre established, or recognised by the Institution for advising, counselling, providing interface between the teachers and the learners, and rendering any academic or any other related service and assistance required by the learners;
- 2.16. “Learner Support Services” means and include such services as are provided by an Institution in order to facilitate the teaching-learning experience for the learner to the level prescribed by the AICTE in respect of a programme of study;
- 2.17. “Learning Management System” means a system to keep track of delivery of e-Learning Programmes, learner’s engagement, assessment, results, reporting and other related details in one centralized location;
- 2.18. MOOC shall have the same meaning as assigned to it under AICTE (Credit Framework for Online learning courses through SWAYAM) Regulations, 2016;
- 2.19. “Online Mode” means a mode of providing flexible learning opportunities by overcoming separation of teacher and learner using internet, e-Learning Materials and full-fledged programme delivery through the internet using technology assisted mechanism and resources;
- 2.20. “Open and Distance Learning (ODL)” mode means a mode of providing flexible learning opportunities by overcoming separation of teacher and learner using a variety of media, including print, electronic, MOOC, online and occasional interactive face-to-face meetings arranged by Institution through Learner Support Services to deliver teaching-learning experience, including practical or work experience;
- 2.21. “Programme” means a course or a programme of study leading to the award of a Diploma, Post Diploma Certificate, Post Graduate Certificate, Post-Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Degree in an Institution;
- 2.22. “Prohibited Programmes” means programmes in Engineering and Technology-except mentioned explicitly in these guidelines, Pharmacy, Architecture, Hotel Management, Applied Arts, Crafts and Design as the AICTE does not allow Open and Distance Learning and Online mode education in Engineering, Technology, Pharmacy, Architecture, Hotel Management, Applied Arts, Crafts and Design being laboratory, hands on and practice intensive;
- 2.23. “Prospectus” includes any publication, whether in print or electronic form, issued for providing fair and transparent information, relating to an Institution and Programmes, to the general public (including to those seeking admission in such Institutions) by the management of such Institutions or any authority or person authorized by such Institutions to do so;
- 2.24. “PPR” means Programme Project Report;
- 2.25. “Proctored Examination” means the examination conducted under the supervision of approved person or technology enabled proctoring which ensures the identity of the test taker and the integrity of the test taking environment, either in pen-paper mode or in computer based testing mode or in full-fledged Online mode; as permissible in Open and Distance Learning mode and Online mode under these regulations;
- 2.26. “Regional Centre” means a Centre established or maintained by the Institution for the purpose of coordinating and supervising the work of the Learner Support Centres in the region as per its territorial jurisdiction and for performing such other functions as may be conferred on such Centre by the statutory authorities of the Higher Educational Institution;
- 2.27. “Self-Learning Material for Open and Distance Learning mode” means and includes contents in the form of course material, whether print or electronic, which is inter-alia self-explanatory, self-contained, self-directed at the learner, amenable to self-evaluation, and enables the learner to acquire the prescribed level of learning in a course of study, but does not include text-books or guide-books;
- 2.28. “Self-Learning e-Module for Online mode” means a modular unit of course material in e-learning form which is inter alia self-explanatory, self-contained, self-directed at the learner, and amenable to self-evaluation, and enables the learner to acquire the prescribed level of learning in a course of study and includes contents in the form of a combination of the following e-Learning content, namely:-
  - (a) e-Text Materials;
  - (b) Video Lectures;
  - (c) Audio-Visual interactive material;
  - (d) Virtual Classroom sessions;
  - (e) Audio Podcasts;

- (f) Virtual Simulation; and  
 (g) Self-Assessment Quizzes or Tests;
- 2.29. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) means the learning management system as specified in the AICTE (Credit Framework for online learning courses through SWAYAM) Regulations 2016 or later amendments thereof.
- 2.30. “Technical Education” means such education defined as per the AICTE Act, imparted by means of conducting regular classes or through Open and Distance Learning/Online Learning education systems (only in those areas permitted by the AICTE from time to time), beyond ten years of schooling leading to a three year Diploma; or beyond twelve years of schooling leading to the award of a Degree; or beyond Diploma leading to a Post Diploma Certificate; or beyond Graduation leading to a Post Graduate Certificate; or Post Graduate Diploma or Post Graduate Degree (as defined in the APH).
- 2.31. “UGC” means University Grants Commission;
- 2.32. “UGC (Online-ODL) Regulations” means UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 as amended from time to time.
- 2.33. “Universities/Deemed to be Universities” means Higher Educational Institutions declared to be University under UGC Act 1956.

**PART – II: RECOGNITION OF INSTITUTIONS FOR OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING (ODL) MODE AND ONLINE MODE PROGRAMMES**

**3. Institutional Level Eligibility Criteria:**

Any Institution, may apply for offering programmes through the Open and Distance Learning mode and / or Online mode, which fulfils the following conditions, namely: -

- (a) Institutions having NAAC score of **3.26** and above on a scale of 4 or NBA Score of 700 on a scale of 1000 or having rank in Top-100 in University category of National Institutional Ranking Framework, at least twice in three preceding cycles (at the time of application), shall be permitted to start full-fledged ODL courses and / or Online courses without prior approval of the AICTE only in the NBA accredited programmes, provided it satisfies all the conditions mentioned in these regulations:

Provided also that Institutions shall be required to submit application and desired information, and comply to all the provisions of the Guidelines and shall be required to submit an affidavit to the AICTE.

- (b) Any Institution, may apply for offering programmes through the ODL mode and / or Online mode, which fulfils the following conditions, namely:-

shall be in existence for at least five years; and

- (i) shall be accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council with minimum score of 3.01 on a 4-point scale;

or

- (ii) NBA accreditation with at least 650 points on a scale of 1,000

or

- (iii) shall be in the top-100 in the University category in the National Institutional Ranking Framework for at least twice in last three preceding cycles (at the time of application).

Provided further, Institution has to acquire NBA Accreditation with a minimum score of 650 points on a scale of 1000 in next 2-years from the date of initial approval.

**4. Requirements for Submission of Proposals:-**

The requirements as specified in the UGC (Online-ODL) regulations as thereof and as specified in the Approval Process Handbook of the respective year.

**5. Programmes Approval Process:**

- (1) An Institution intending to offer a programme through ODL mode and/or Online mode for academic session and for subsequent years, shall make an online application, as and when invited by the AICTE in the format notified by AICTE and upload the same on the specified portal along with scanned copy of all the documents specified therein;

These Institutions shall submit an affidavit to the AICTE that they shall comply to provisions of these Guidelines prior to the beginning of next academic session from the notification of these regulations.

- (2) The AICTE shall process the application received as per the guidelines in the following manner, namely:-
- any deficiency or defect in the application shall be communicated by the AICTE to the Institution and the Institution shall be required to remove or rectify such deficiencies or defects with the necessary documents or information, if any, within fifteen days;
  - where the Institution has made an application for offering programme(s) in ODL mode and/ or Online mode, the AICTE may cause an inspection, in respect of such programme(s), of the Institution at its discretion through an Expert Committee;
  - the AICTE shall examine the application with the help of an Expert Committee constituted by the Council and the recommendations of the Committee shall be placed before the EC/Council for its consideration.
- (3) After processing the application in the manner laid down as prescribed in AICTE-APH for offering programme(s) through ODL mode and/or Online mode, the AICTE shall-
- if it is satisfied that such Institution fulfils the conditions laid down and the quality parameters specified under these regulations, pass an order granting approval to such Institution in respect of such programmes either in ODL mode or in Online mode or in both modes, as it may specify in the order, and subject to such conditions as it may specify:  
Provided that while passing an order, where the AICTE does not grant approval in respect of one or more programmes, the AICTE shall specify the grounds of such refusal in the order.
  - If the AICTE is of the opinion that such Institutions do not fulfil the requirements laid down in clause (i) in respect of any of the programme intended to be offered by the Institution either in ODL mode or in Online mode or in both modes, it shall pass an order refusing approval to such Institution for reasons to be recorded in writing.
- (4) Every order granting or refusing approval to the Institution for programme(s) in ODL mode and/or Online mode as prescribed in AICTE-APH shall be communicated in writing for appropriate action to such Institution and to the concerned State Government, UGC and the Central Government.
- (5) Every Institution, in respect of which approval for programme(s) has not been granted by the AICTE, shall discontinue the programme(s) in ODL mode and/or Online mode with immediate effect:  
Provided that the learners already enrolled in the currently approved programmes shall be allowed to complete the Programmes in the laid down manner.  
Every Institution which is accorded approval by the AICTE shall offer programme(s) in ODL mode and/or Online mode from the academic session as mentioned in the AICTE Order.
- (6) NO Institution shall offer any ODL and/or Online programme and admit learners thereto unless it has been granted approval by the AICTE and admission shall not be made in anticipation of the approval.
- (7) **Intake:** The approval of intake is maximum of three times of the sanctioned intake of specific programme in conventional / regular mode.
- (8) Norms for offering programmes through ODL mode and / or Online mode based on a credit system

Level/ Programme	Credits	Duration of the programme
Diploma after Class X	120	3 years
Master Degree in Computer Applications	80	2 years
Post Graduate Degree in Management	80	2 years
Post Graduate Diploma	80	2 years
Post Graduate Certificate	40	More than 1 year but less than 2 years
Post Diploma Certificate	40	More than 1 year but less than 2 years

**Note:**

- One Credit is equivalent to one lecture hour or tutorial hour per week for 14-15 weeks in the conventional mode of education. In case of ODL Mode, one credit is equivalent to 30 hours of learning by a Learner through a combination of synchronous, asynchronous or face-to-face mode.
- The maximum duration for completing the program under ODL mode and / or Online mode shall be double the duration of the respective programmes.

## (9) Approval for conducting programme:

- a) Standalone Institutions conducting PGDM/PGCM or Travel and Tourism programmes shall be given approval after going through the whole process.
- b) As per the UGC (Online-ODL) Regulations 2020, approval of respective regulatory body is necessary for running the programmes of that domain and accordingly institutions which are Institutions Deemed to be Universities and Universities shall take approval of the AICTE and also necessarily shall take the approval of the UGC in order to actually run the programme. None of the affiliated colleges / institutions are allowed to conduct programmes in ODL mode and / or Online mode.

**6. Withdrawal of approval: -**

- (1) Where the AICTE, on its own motion or on any representation received from any person, or any information received from any authority or a statutory body, or on the basis of any enquiry or inspection conducted by it, is satisfied that an Institution has contravened any of the provisions of these Guidelines and orders made or issued there under, or has submitted or produced any information and documentary evidence which is found to be false at any stage or any condition subject to which recognition has been granted, it may withdraw recognition of such Institution in respect of such programme(s) as it may specify, for reasons to be recorded in writing:

Provided that no such order against the Institution shall be passed unless a reasonable opportunity of making a representation against the proposed order has been given to such Institution as per the APH.

Provided further that the order, of withdrawing or refusing approval passed by the AICTE, shall come into force with immediate effect.

The withdrawal of approval for Institutions Deemed to be Universities and Universities shall be communicated to UGC for further necessary action.

- (2) If an Institution offers any programme in ODL mode and / or Online mode after the coming into force of the order withdrawing recognition under these guideline or where an Institution offering a programme in ODL mode and / or Online mode before the commencement of these guidelines, fails to obtain recognition under these guidelines for offering programmes in ODL mode and / or Online mode for academic session immediately after the notification of Guidelines and subsequent academic sessions, the Diploma/ Post Diploma Certificate/ Post Graduate Certificate/ Post Graduate Diploma and Post Graduate Degree obtained pursuant to such programme shall not be treated as a valid qualification.
- (3) In the event of any Institution found offering programmes in ODL mode and / or Online mode without the approval of the AICTE or in violation of any of the provisions of these Guidelines or orders made there under, the AICTE may-
  - (i) Issue Show Cause Notice or withdraw the approval for an academic session or withdraw the approval, maximum up to next five academic sessions or withdraw the approval permanently;
  - (ii) Lodge a First Information Report (FIR) against the officials or management of the errant Institution to take action as per law, if in spite of the above, the Institution is found continuing the violations;
  - (iii) Withdraw approval of programme;
  - (iv) Withhold or debar from receiving funding from the AICTE;
  - (v) Refer the matter to the UGC, State Government concerned or Central Government as the case may be, in case of Universities and Deemed to be Universities; and
  - (vi) Take action as per the provisions of the Act or Guidelines/Instructions/Regulations as applicable for the Institutions.

**7. Appeals: -**

- 7.1 Any Institution aggrieved by an order of withdrawal of approval under Guideline may prefer an appeal to the AICTE within a period of fifteen days.
- 7.2 No appeal after the expiry of the period prescribed, shall be accepted.
- 7.3 Every appeal made under these Guidelines shall be accompanied by a copy of the order appealed against and payment of such fees as may be prescribed by the AICTE from time to time.
- 7.4 The procedure for disposing of an appeal shall be as laid down by the AICTE from time to time in the APH.
- 7.5 The AICTE may confirm or reverse the order appealed against.

### **PART-III : MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURAL, ACADEMIC AND OTHER QUALITY STANDARDS BY INSTITUTIONS**

The institution shall maintain infrastructure, academic and other quality standards as notified in UGC(Online-ODL) Regulations for Higher Educational Institutions, 2020 and updated from time to time and as prescribed in the AICTE-Approval Process Handbook of the respective year.

Provided that the Teachers (and equivalent academic positions) in the Centre of Distance and Online Education or Centre for Online Learning and Learner Support Centres (for ODL only) shall be appointed as per the minimum qualifications laid down by the AICTE and satisfy other guidelines specified in the UGC (Online-ODL) regulations.

### **PART-IV : ADMISSIONS, EXAMINATIONS AND LEARNER SUPPORT**

The Institution shall follow UGC Norms as specified in UGC (Online-ODL) Regulations, 2020.

Provided that the AICTE (Redressal of Grievance of Student) Regulations, 2019 or later amendments and the related Regulations shall be adopted and operationalised by the Institution, and the Institution shall institute a system of Grievance Redressal.

### **PART-V : ASSESSMENT, ACCREDITATION, AUDIT, INSPECTION AND MONITORING**

#### **8. Assessment, Accreditation and Audit: -**

- (1) An Institution offering programmes in ODL mode and/or Online mode shall comply with UGC (Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of Institutions) Regulations, 2012 or norms specified by NBA or NAAC or NIRF and in any case shall apply for assessment and accreditation under those regulations/guidelines for assessment and accreditation of the programmes offered by it in ODL mode and / or Online mode.
- (2) The Institution recognised under these Guidelines for imparting programmes in ODL mode and / or Online mode shall get all its programmes assessed through the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance once in a year in the format prescribed by the AICTE and the report on quality assurance shall, before the end of the academic year, be prominently placed on its website and a copy furnished to the AICTE.
- (3) The Institution recognized under these Guidelines for imparting programmes in ODL mode and / or Online mode shall undergo third party academic audit every five years and internal academic audit by Centre for Internal Quality Assurance every year.

#### **9. Powers to inspect and monitoring: -**

- (1) The AICTE shall periodically review the performance of the Institution and for the purpose may direct the Institution to provide such information as it may require from the viewpoint of ensuring adherence of the Guidelines by the Institution, and the Institution shall be under obligation to provide such information in such time period as may be specified.
- (2) Where the AICTE, either *suo motu* or on the basis of information received by it, considers it necessary, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may cause an inquiry through inspection or otherwise by such body of experts or as it may deem fit, to satisfy itself that all the mandatory requirements under these Guidelines are being complied with by the Institution imparting programmes in ODL mode and / or Online mode and take appropriate action to get compliance enforced against the erring Institution.

### **PART-VI : MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **10. Authority: -**

- (1) The AICTE may authorise the officials of the AICTE to perform various functions for implementing these Guidelines.
- (2) For the purpose of these Regulations, the AICTE may delegate its power to the Chairman of the AICTE, as it may specify in writing.
- (3) For the purposes of Appeal etc., the AICTE may delegate its power to hear and decide appeals to such person or persons, including officials of the AICTE, as it may specify in writing.

**11. Equivalence of qualification acquired through Conventional or Open and Distance Learning and Online modes:** The programme offered by the institutions through ODL mode and / or Online mode is equivalent to the Certificate / Diploma / PG Diploma / PG Degree level programme offered in conventional mode.

#### **12. Learner centric provisions:**



- (i) **Learner's mobility:** A learner enrolled for a programme under ODL mode and/or Online mode in an Institution recognized by the AICTE under these regulations shall be eligible for mobility from one mode of learning to another mode of learning within the Institution as per the provisions stipulated under its Act and with the approval of statutory authorities of the Institution;

Provided that in case a programme is under the domain of regulatory authority / statutory council, the Institution shall take permission from the concerned regulatory authority / statutory council for mobility of learners under such programmes.

- (ii) **Admission taken during recognition period:** Admission taken in a recognized programme under ODL mode and/or Online mode during the recognition period stands recognized till the completion of programme, even if the Institution does not have recognition for further years, provided the programme is offered as per the AICTE norms of territorial jurisdiction and in conformity with the extant guidelines and/or AICTE Guidelines and regulations of respective regulatory bodies.
- (iii) **Learner's enrolment (for Open and Distance Learning mode):** A Learner residing in any part of the Country may enroll in any programme being offered by an Institution recognized by the AICTE for offering programme under ODL mode provided that the Institution shall conduct all activities such as admissions, contact programmes, examinations etc. for learner strictly within the territorial jurisdiction of the Institution as specified in these regulations. The total number of Learners admitted at any Learner Support Centre shall not exceed 1000 at any time, subject to fulfilment of other conditions as prescribed in AICTE-APH. In case the enrolment is higher than 1000 at a Learner Support Centre, the number of positions and Infrastructure shall be increased on pro-rata basis.
- (iv) **Learner's enrolment (for Online mode):** A Learner residing within or outside India may enrol in any course being offered by an Institution recognized by the AICTE for offering programme under Online mode.

13. **Offering of Certificate and Diploma level Programmes:—** An Institution recognized for offering programmes at Post Graduate Degree, Post Graduate Diploma/ Certificate levels in ODL mode and/or Online mode may offer Certificate or Diploma programmes in ODL mode and/or Online mode in the domains other than prohibited programmes subject to the condition that before the actual start of such programmes, all the Certificate or Diploma programmes have to be duly approved by the statutory authorities of the Institutions and the regulatory authority /council, as applicable, and the delivery mechanism conforms to the quality standards of the ODL education and/or Online education. The Institution shall be solely responsible for any legal issues arising out of non-compliance of such requirements:
14. **Integrated programme through Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode:** Any proposal received from the Institutions for offering an integrated programme through ODL mode and/or Online mode shall be considered by the AICTE only if it is in compliance to the UGC notification on Specification of Degrees as applicable from time to time.
15. **Mandatory Requirements:** The mandatory requirements as given in the UGC(Online-ODL) Regulations such as (i).Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (ii).Conduct of examination and minimum standards for examination centres, (iii) Human Resource and Infrastructural Requirements, (iv).Guidelines on Programme Project Report (PPR), (v).Quality Assurance Guidelines of Learning Material in Multiple Media and Curriculum and Pedagogy, (vi).Guidelines on Self-Learning Material and E-Learning Material, (vii).Learner Support Centres, Assessment Criteria for offering Online programmes through Non-SWAYAM learning platform, (viii) Grievance Redress Mechanism have to be met as per the Annexures given in the UGC (Online-ODL) Regulations 2020 and as amended from time to time.
16. **Interpretation Clause:** If any question arises relating to interpretation of these Guidelines, decision of the AICTE shall be final and binding.
17. **Removal of difficulty:** The AICTE may, in consultation with Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of India, make changes in these Guidelines to remove the difficulty in implementation of the provisions of these Guidelines.

Prof. RAJIVE KUMAR, Member Secy.

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