

Institutional Distinctiveness: IGNOU Study Center

Introduction:

Post Graduate Government College, Sector 46, Chandigarh has always strived to put its best foot forward. In our pursuance of excellence we believe in constantly reinventing ourselves in order to take essential steps towards the goal of sustainable educational development. Among various initiatives that we have taken in recent years, there is one that we think truly stands out: the establishment of IGNOU Study Centre. It is a venture that started in 2017 and has been running successfully under the guidance of different principals and the coordinator, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Department of Psychology.

Programme

Our institute understands the importance and need of encouraging and contributing towards the education in the discipline of Psychology. In the current times of competition where everyone is dealing with extreme levels of stress in almost every walk of life, scholarship in the subject becomes all the more pertinent to creating better work and home environments. As a case-in-point, all good organizations give due consideration to this aspect of human nature so that efficiency of the workforce is not hampered. Multinational conglomerates provide services like in-house psychologists to their employees to tackle psychological issues. These are promising career options for students who take up this discipline as a career choice. Education in this discipline and its popularity amongst students has helped in allaying social stigma that has been, for a very long time, associated with psychological disorders. In addition to this, there is a lot of possibility for research in the field that makes Psychology an appealing discipline for research-oriented students.

Under this initiative, the college provides the students, enrolling with the IGNOU, essential infrastructural and instructional facilities on its campus. Over the years, students have benefited from this programme hugely and have been able to chalk out and realize their academic dreams. We, at Post Graduate Government College, Sector 46, Chandigarh, realize that higher education is still a dream for many people and their circumstances do not allow them to pursue their dream of higher education. The college provides specific expert instruction in Psychology programmes offered by IGNOU. For this purpose the college utilizes the services of the faculty of the Department of Psychology. Currently, the college has two faculty members for the Study Center, Dr. Rajesh Kumar and Dr. Beenu Varma who are both qualified and competent professionals with vast experience in the field are providing their services as Coordinator and Co-Coordinator, respectively, for this programme. The institution currently offers:

- MAPC (Master of Arts, Psychology)
- MSCFT (Master of Sciences [Counseling and Family Therapy])
- PGDCGT (Post Graduate Diploma in Counseling and Family Therapy)
- BDP (Bachelor's Degree Program)
- BAPCH (Bachelor of Arts [Hons.] Psychology)

These programmes cover the latest trends in the field of psychology that are aimed at equipping students with skills and knowledge that is extremely relevant in the current scenario. What speaks for the success of this collaboration between IGNOU and PGGC-46 is the fact that as

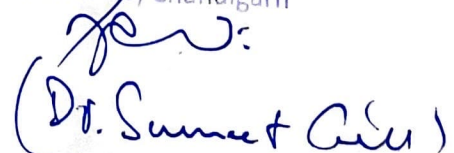
per the latest data provided by the Study Centre, more than 800 students are registered for the programme in the July, 2022 session.

As per the Memorandum Of Understanding between the two institutions, IGNOU and PGGC-46, The host institution provides classrooms and other infrastructural facilities like laboratories and classrooms for teaching. The classes are held on Sundays so that regular functioning of the college does get affected and there are no special infrastructural arrangements that are required to be made. This allows both stakeholders enough leverage and freedom to continue with their functioning without coming in each other's way. IGNOU bears recurring and non-recurring expenditures for the maintenance of the study center. IGNOU also allows for appointing the support staff to run the study center smoothly with the recommendations of the Coordinator. The remuneration to such staff is paid as per the norms set by IGNOU.

This distinct feature of the institution speaks volumes about its commitment to higher education and innovative steps that it is ready to take in the direction of making big strides in the future of higher education with an aim of providing ample opportunities to an aspiring generation of future scholars and professionals.



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Incharge, CRITERIA VII