

IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE - CHENNAI
Promotional Meet for Weavers Community in Tamilnadu

In the pursuance to an MOU between IGNOU and Ministry of Textiles and the letter received from the Registrar, SRD dated 4th November 2016 and the Director (RSD) and VCO, IGNOU, the following Academics of Regional Centre made visit to Arni Taluk, Thiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu and Gudiyattam taluk, Vellore district, Tamil Nadu for publicizing the IGNOU programmes, especially BPP and CLP.

1. Dr. SK. Zareena, Assistant Regional Director
2. Dr. K. Sasicoumar Brumot, Assistant Regional Director

The Regional centre, Chennai also contacted the following officials to arrange a meeting at the village level in both the districts.

Thiruvannamalai District

1. Mr. Karthigeyan, Deputy Director, Weaver Service Centre, Kancheepuram District
2. Mr. Senthil Kumar, Assistant Director, Department of Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvannamalai District

Vellore District

3. Ms. Sasikala, Assistant Director, Weaver Service Centre, Kancheepuram District
4. Mr. Veeramuthu, Assistant Director, Department of Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Vellore District

The ARDs of IGNOU RC Chennai attended the meeting arranged for Managers of Weavers Society on 27-12-2016 at The Arani Silk Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd at Arni, Thiruvannamalai District, Tamilnadu. Around 27 managers from different weaver's societies participated in the meeting. Mr. Senthil Kumar, Assistant Director welcomed the gathering by explaining the MOU between IGNOU and Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi to extend fee waiver to all the candidates belonging to the Weaver Communities for taking Admission in BPP and Computer Literacy Programme (CLP) from January 2017 session onwards. Followed by this, Mr. Karthigeyan, Deputy Director Weaver Service Centre, Kancheepuram Dt. explained the importance of education and encouraged all the participants to motivate the weaver community members to avail the opportunity provided by IGNOU.

The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Mr. Murugesan, Manager Arani Silk Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., Arni, Thiruvannamalai District.

After the meeting, the ARDs of IGNOU RC Chennai visited weavers community villages i.e. Onnapuram village and Atthipurampettai villages in Arni Taluk of Thiruvannamalai District for promoting IGNOU programmes among weavers community.

On 28-12-2016, a meeting was arranged at Sri Balaji Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society, Gudiyattam Taluk, Vellore District. In the meeting, the weavers and the Managers of different handlooms societies participated. Around 37 managers and 49 weavers attended the meeting. Mr. Kapilan, Vice president, Sri Balaji HWCS welcomed the gathering and Mr. Veeramuthu, Assistant Director, Department of Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Vellore District explained the contribution of Ministry of textiles for the weavers community and explained the details of information about digital literacy and bank transaction through online/phone.

Ms. R. Sasikala Assistant Director encouraged the weavers to avail the opportunity extended by Indira Gandhi National Open University and Ministry of Textiles. The officials of IGNOU have explained the Importance of continuing education, and flexibility in open and distance education, variety of programmes offered in IGNOU, duration of study, admission procedure, and benefits of the counseling sessions at study centres. The officials also elaborately explained about the BPP and CLP programmes and motivated the managers to enroll the weavers in BPP and CLP programmes.

Dr. Sk Zareena, Assistant Regional Director and Dr. K. Sasicoumar Brumot, Assistant Regional Director addressed the gathering explained about the programmes offered in IGNOU with special focus on BPP programme in Tamil medium. The ARDs also explained the details about courses offered in BPP programme, medium of Instruction, availability of Tamil Medium material, Counselling sessions, submission of assignments as part of continuous assessment, appearing in term-end examination, opportunities in Higher Education, minimum and Maximum period of study for BPP programme etc., including admission procedure and filling

the Admission Application form. ARDs distributed the brochures for BPP Programme and pamphlets of IGNOU Programmes and clarified the doubts expressed by the weavers/weaving community. In addition, the ARDs explained the future prospects on completion of BPP programme like further possibility of getting admission into Certificate, Diploma and Bachelors Degree Programmes in IGNOU. This is followed by an interactive session between the officials and the members present in the meeting.

As an outcome of the promotional Activities at the village level, in January,2017 session,218 weavers joined BPP programme and 73 weavers joined CLP programme.