



Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik – 422 222

5.1.2 Pre-admission Counseling Services

The University provides pre-admission counseling services for prospective Learners from the Headquarter, Regional Centers and Learner Support Centers.

1. From the Headquarter:

At the Headquarter the University provides pre-admission counseling services for Bachelor and Post Graduate learners. This counseling is provided in the following manner.

- **Through Audio and Video Aids:**

Audio and Video Programs are especially prepared for providing pre-admission counseling. These programs give emphasis on open and distance education system, Self Learning Material (SLM), academic counseling, assessment, evaluation and certification of learners.

- **Through Faculty Members:**

Pre-admission counseling by the faculty members is provided at the time of identification of new learner support centers through the interaction with the prospective learners and teachers in the college. The faculty members through their interactions give complete information about the distance education system and how one can progress in his job or profession after successful completion of the program. They clear the doubts in the mind of people about the DE system and explain them how the system is capable enough to cater to their academic and professional needs with the help of flexibility, adaptability and use of modern technology.

- **Through Printed Material:**

The University has provided printed program prospectus and self-learning material to every learner after admission in the program. The prospectus and the learning material provide information about courses and program to learners. The prospectus, folder and the printed material are helping learners in pre-admission counseling. The prospectus and print material provide information about the:

- The University, the recognition to university by the Government, methods of imparting education, recognition to the academic programs offered by the University, list of Regional Centers and learner support centers.
- Eligibility for admission, number of courses to be completed, fees structure and mode of payment.

- **Through university Website:**

YCMOU website provides detail information to learners about the academic program regarding: Name of the Program, Number of courses in the program, details of syllabus, Number of counseling sessions, Method of handling practical component, upward mobility in the program and examination and certification.

2. From the Regional Centers:

YCMOU has 8 Regional Centers spread over 36 district in Maharashtra. There are 1711 learner support centers operational under these 8 Regional Centers. The regional centers provide Pre-admission counseling services in the following manner.

- **Publicity Material and Publicity Drive:**

Publication of information about the education programs in the form of pamphlets, handouts audio video films, articles in newspaper and interviews on all India radio and Television reaching out to maximum number of distance learners.

- **Interactions with prospective learners:**

All Regional Centers have facilitated Help Desk to provide information services to prospective learners as well as current learners. The help desk is operated by separate assistant under the supervision of Regional Director. Help Desk Person provide complete information to the visiting learners to their satisfaction. The teacher Counselor working in Learner Support Centers provides information about various programs to prospective learners.

- **Field Visits:**

The Regional Directors are equipped with a vehicle for undertaking visits in their area of jurisdiction for visiting current learner support centers and identification of study centers. The Regional Director visits local higher education institutions / colleges and inform the student, teachers and local people about the Open University and its programs offered through distance education. This helps prospective learners to get information and motivates for enrolling in ODL program which suits best to their academic and professional needs.

- **The Regional Director and the Staff:**

The Regional Director and the regional center staff visit the existing study centers in their region in order to check whether the counseling sessions are conducted as per the schedule, difficulties faced by learners in the study centers, etc. In such visits the Regional Director interacts with the existing students as well as prospective students and guides them about various academic programs available through distance education, Importance of attending Counseling sessions, importance of self-study, importance of continuous evaluation etc.

- **Association with NGOs and Social groups:**

The Regional Directors establish contact and association with NGOs and social groups. These groups work in the fields like agriculture, health, education, women empowerment, self-help groups etc. Association with such groups helps a lot to identify, locate and contact the prospective learners. The Regional Director organizes meeting with the Authorities of these NGOs and advocate scope and importance of distance education to working population and house wives.

3. Through Learner Support Centers:

The study centers are very important component in Distance Education system and an active, and efficient study center contributes a lot in achieving the goal of the University. The YCMOU aims at becoming a Mass Varsity by reaching last mile learners from rural, tribal and remote areas in the state of Maharashtra. The study centers provide pre-admission counseling to prospective distance learners and address their queries.

- **Students Meetings:**

The Coordinator of the local college / Learner support center calls meeting of their conventional students and explain how one can complete education through distance mode without leaving their current job. They also explain the future prospects after completion of course through distance education and motivate them to spread this information in their villages for others to take admission.

- **Induction Program:**

The LSC Co-ordinator organizes Induction Program for newly admitted learners and addresses the queries raised by the learners. Learners get opportunity to interact with the teacher counselors to know and understand the scope and prospectus of the course in their life. The learners can get an idea as to how to undertake self-study with the help of Self Instructional Material, how counseling sessions are conducted and importance of Continuous Assessment etc.

- **Interactions with Industries and workers:** The LSC Co-ordinator holds meeting with the workers, management of industries, self-employed people particularly women who could not complete their education. This interaction helps learners as well as the industries about the scope of learning to their employees while on job as their workers get knowledge and skills to enhance their productivity.

The Self Help Group movement in Maharashtra is well nourished and working for empowerment of rural people including farmers and farm women. SHG are very effective way of achieving Women Empowerment, enabling women to stand on their own feet and give them social, economic and political freedom. The LSC arrange interactions with SHG and motivate them to take admission in distance education programs for their educational empowerment.

The Learner support center network of 1711 centers spread all over the Maharashtra are actively engaged in Pre-admission Counseling Services to more than 5,73,925 distance learners in the academic year 2020-21.

Web links:

Pre-admission Counseling Services (Pictures)

http://ycmou.digitaluniversity.ac/WebFiles/Induction%20Programme%205_1_2.pdf

Informative Services to students on portal

<http://ycmou.digitaluniversity.ac/Content.aspx?ID=26651>

Any other relevant information

University Website

<http://ycmou.digitaluniversity.ac/>

Regional Centre Information

<http://ycmou.digitaluniversity.ac/Content.aspx?ID=787>

Regional Directors email details

<http://ycmou.digitaluniversity.ac/WebFiles/Regional%20Directors%20Email.pdf>

Study Centre

<http://ycmou.digitaluniversity.ac/frnCourseWiseColleges.aspx?ID=648>

Facebook Account of University

<https://www.facebook.com/ycmouniversity>

Informative Services to students on portal

<http://ycmou.digitaluniversity.ac/Content.aspx?ID=26651>




Director
 Student Services Division,
 Y.C.M. Open University, Nashik.