

**Minutes of the Meeting between SOCE and RSD to Discuss Ways of Restructuring
Activities related to Project Work of DECE**

A meeting was held on 18.6.21 between the School of Continuing Education and Regional Services Division in order to restructure the Project Work related activities of the Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education (DECE), in order to maintain the quality of the Programme. The meeting was attended by the following members:

1. Prof. R.P. Singh, Director, SOCE (Chairperson)
2. Dr. Srikant Mohapatra, Director, RSD
3. Prof. Rekha Sharma Sen, Programme Coordinator, DECE

The context of the meeting was as follows:

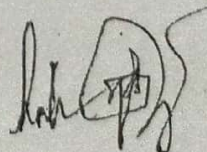
- In the past two years, two significant developments have taken place which have impacted the programme implementation and programme evaluation processes of DECE. Firstly, the lockdown has been enforced and secondly, there has been a high enrolment in the programme. The Lockdown has severely impacted the conduct of Project Work which was done in face-to-face mode in a preschool right from the inception of the programme. The Project Work guidelines have been modified to enable the students to complete the Project Work. These modified guidelines do not require the student to work in a preschool; instead alternative ways have been identified to build the skills of working with young children.
- It was earlier envisaged that the Lockdown situation is temporary. However, three batches of students have enrolled since the Lockdown was first announced and there is no clarity regarding opening of preschools, which is the venue of doing the Project work in the face-to face mode. Due to high enrolment, there has also been a high jump in copy cases of Project work. The authenticity of the Diploma is severely jeopardized which will harm the carefully built reputation over the years.
- In order to ensure that the quality of Project Work is maintained, the Director of the School and Programme Coordinator conducted a brainstorming session with the Director, RSD, in order to think of strategies to restructure certain components of the Project Work and overcome existing challenges. It was felt that we need to suggest strategies for both the possible scenarios:

- ✓ that the Lockdown will be lifted and preschools will open and
- ✓ that Lockdown with regard to schools will continue in the foreseeable future.

Consequently, some decisions were taken which were specific to the doing Project Work in preschools and some decisions were taken which were common to both the situations.

These decisions are being recorded here to be further presented to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for his approval.

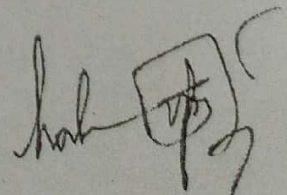
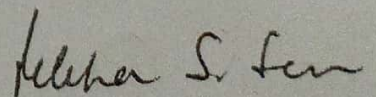
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Rekha S. Sen 29/6/21

S No.	Decisions Common to Conduct of Face-to-face Project Work in Preschool and during Lockdown Period	Advantage	Action to be taken to implement decision
1.	The Regional Centre will implement the 10 approved Counselling sessions for Project Work. The provision for these 10 sessions has been included right from the start of the programme but these sessions are not implemented with consistency across all RCs. (refer page 14 of Programme Guide).	It will reduce poor quality files which are sent for resubmission and reduce copy cases, because counselling will orient the students regarding guidelines for Project work and importance of original Project work.	RCs need to activate and implement this provision of counselling sessions.
2.	<p>In order to introduce more accountability in the Evaluation Methodology of Project Work, IGNOU headquarters will create a online portal on IGNOU website where students upload videos of Activity Sessions they have conducted with children.</p> <p>The details of creation of this portal can be worked out during mutual dialogue between faculty and COE.</p>	<p>a) If Project work is done face-to-face in a preschool, this provides the IGNOU examiner of Project Work with proof of work done by student and reduces temptation for copied work.</p> <p>b) In lockdown situation when it is difficult for students to find a guide, this can completely eliminate the role of the guide. Since a chief role of the guide is to mark the actual conduct of the student's activity, once the video recording of work is available to IGNOU examiner of Project Work, they can directly watch the recordings and give marks. This will make things simpler for students and IGNOU will also enable to ensure the authenticity of work.</p>	Creation of a portal by COE in consultation with faculty.
3.	a) The Weightage of evaluation will be reversed from present 70-30 ratio of Guide and IGNOU centralized evaluation to 30% by Guide and 70% by IGNOU centralized evaluation.	a) Since often guide gives extremely high marks, this will reduce that problem.	Approval by School Board and then communication to SED

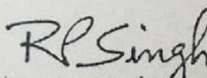
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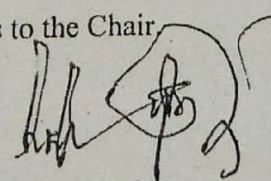



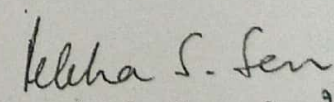
<p>b) The marking scheme for Project Work during Lockdown situation will be modified to 100% centralized evaluation. No role of guide in giving of marks. This will be possible only if the portal is created where the IGNOU examiner can see the work done by the students through uploaded videos.</p> <p>c) If portal is created, then marking scheme can be permanently changed to 100% centralized evaluation, whether Project work is done in nursery school or in Lockdown situation.</p>	<p>b) Since students are finding it difficult to locate guides during Lockdown, this will eliminate delay in doing of Project Work due to not being able to find a guide.</p> <p>c) This will simply Project Work evaluation and make it more authentic as well.</p>	
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S. No.	Decisions to Improve the quality of Project work when Preschools are open	Advantage	Action required
4.	The Regional Director/ Assistant Regional Director / Coordinator of the study centre will certify through the existing Annexure 5 and Annexure 6 of the Project Manual that the nursery school identified by the learner is satisfactory for the purpose of conduct of Project Work. This provision has been there since inception of the Programme but its implementation has not been consistent.	It gets ensured that there is actually a preschool and it is authentic.	RCs needs to be told to implement this action
5.	The Coordinator of the study centre will authenticate / certify that the Nursery Teacher who will be the student's guide has the required qualification as stated in the Project Manual.	This ensures authenticity of guide.	RCs needs to be told to implement this action

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair


Prof. R.P. Singh
 Director, SOCE (Chairperson)


Dr. Srikant Mohapatra
 Director, RSD


Prof. Rekha Sharma Sen 24/6/21
 Prog. Co-ordinator, DECE

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