

M.P. BHOJ (OPEN) UNIVERSITY

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The National Policy of Education (NPE) 1986, emphasized that distance education is an important medium for the development and promotion of higher education. In this context, for the expansion and promotion of distance education the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), Government of India took an important decision that in the VIIIth year plan every state should establish a state open university following the distance education pattern. On this basis Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University (MPBOU) was established under an Act of State Assembly in 1991.

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The University disseminates knowledge and quality education to different target group of learners irrespective of their age, gender, region, status and employment. MPBOU is the main University in the state for providing easily accessible and quality higher education through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system. One of the important objectives of the University, as mentioned in the Act, is the extension and expansion of Higher Education by reaching the unreached through various flexible means suited to the open and distance education mode using emerging Information and Communication Technology. In view of this objective maximum study centres of MPBOU are in those areas where there are no other system of higher education in the vicinity of 30 km. The University also gives due emphasis to special target groups of learners coming from rural/tribal areas and those suffering from the physical disabilities.

The MPBOU has an enrolment of 1.5 lac students and is the second largest Open University in the country. One of the main aims of the University is to develop and provide easily accessible system of higher education and training, by use of different modes of educational inputs such as lessons in print, text books, contact teaching, practical classes, TV/Radio/Video/Audio programmes, using satellite communication, etc. The University has, by now, developed systems which are capable of providing quality higher education and training even in remote and less developed rural and tribal areas. A feature of the system is the orientation to take special care of the requirements, expectations and training needs of interested individuals, practising professionals and students. Thus, the ultimate goal of the University is to provide higher education and training at the doorstep of the professionals, students and other seekers of education. In India, just 6.5% of school leavers go on to higher education, compared to 30% in developed countries, hence the MPBOU is working earnestly for making higher education more accessible.