One-Day Awareness Programme on
EDUCATION FOR THE MUSLIM WOMEN
OF THOUBAL DISTRICT: MANIPUR

Sponsored by the Manipur State Minorities Commission,
in collaboration with IGNOU Imphal Regional Centre
held on the 28th September 2009

Dr. R.K. Ranjit Singh
Regional Director, Imphal RC

As a precursor to the establishment of an IGNOU Special Study Centre for the Muslim women of Thoubal District, Manipur, the Manipur State Minorities Commission organized a one-day Awareness Programme at the Lilong Haoreibi College, Lilong, Manipur in collaboration with the IGNOU Imphal Regional Centre. The function was attended nearly by two hundred individuals, mostly educated Muslims of the District and graced it by the Chairman of the State Minorities Commission, Mr. A. Halim Choudhuri, IAS, former Commissioner of Education, Government of Manipur and Srimati Laljan Begum, former Principal, the G.P. Women’s College and Hon’ble Member Manipur State Women’s Commission as the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour respectively. Dr. Md. Maniruddin Sheikh, the former Speaker Manipur State Legislative Assembly was another Guest of Honour. Md. Abdul Nasir, a student leader also attended the function as a special Guest. The meeting was presided over by Janab A. Khalilur Rahman, the Principal of the Lilong Haoreibi College, Lilong. Dr. R.K. Ranjit Singh, RD Imphal RC and Dr. S.A. Latif Shah, Coordinator, IGNOU Study Centre 1707 (D.M. College of Science, Imphal) represented IGNOU.

Dr. Md. Sirajuddin, Reader in History, Lilong Haoreibi College in his welcome speech appreciated the stance of IGNOU for providing educational supports to the disadvantaged Muslim women and housewives who could not continue their studies in higher education due to various reasons. Md. Reheijuddin Sheikh, Secretary, Manipur State Minorities Commission, justified the identification of Thoubal district of Manipur as the Muslim concentrated district of Manipur by the Sachar Committee and the necessity of establishing a Special Study Centre for the Muslim women under Economically and Educationally Backward Blocks (EEBB) Scheme of the IGNOU.

The Regional Director, IGNOU Imphal RC placed before the house a vivid picture of the various programmes offered by IGNOU, right from Ph.D to certificate and awareness programmes. He stressed upon the distinctiveness of ODL from the conventional system of education and the advantages enjoyed by the learners under this system. He elucidated on the specific roles played by counseling and assignments which help in bridging the gap between the teachers and taught under ODL system of education. He also responded to a number of queries ranging from the recognition of the IGNOU certificates to the various courses of the Undergraduate programmes, raised by the participants.
Mr. M.A. Janab Khan, former Additional Director of Education (University and Higher Education), Government of Manipur, in his speech appealed the Muslim women to make use of the advantages which are going to be provided by the upcoming IGNOU Special Study Centre. The educational status of the Muslim women in Manipur is still pitiable, he added.
Dr. Maniruddin Sheikh, former Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly, also noted the backwardness of the Muslim people of the State in the field of education. He appealed the Muslim people to take advantage of the courses being offered by the IGNOU which are not presently available in the Manipur University.

Smt. Laljan Bagum, Hon’ble Member Manipur State Women’s Commission, regretted on the poor attendance of the Muslim women, particularly of the nearby villages of Lilong area. She noted that it is a great opportunity for them. They should make use of these advantages offered by IGNOU in pursuing further studies in various fields.

Halim Choudhury, IAS, the Chief Guest addressing the gathering

Laljan Bagum, Hon’ble Member Manipur State Women’s Commission making appeals to the Muslim women to Join IGNOU for their educational advancement
The Muslim women taking part in the Awareness Programme, Lilong, Manipur