

NNI launches 1st Pediatric Nutrition Course in India

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THE PEOPLE'S
UNIVERSITY

Pediatric Nutrition Programme

Modular Distance Learning
Postgraduate Programme in
Pediatric Nutrition

Students who successfully complete the six month online programme are eligible to graduate with the Post Graduate Certificate in Pediatric Nutrition (PGCPDN) (16 credit).

(With option for a Postgraduate Diploma in Pediatric Nutrition (PGDPDN) after completing additional 16 credit course work)

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Background

Efforts to improve nutrition have always been a major focus of India's health and nutrition research scientists. While under-nutrition remains the unfinished agenda, over-nutrition is emerging as a public health problem among children in India. Epidemiological studies show that micronutrient deficiencies continue to be widespread in all income groups and they could have adverse effect on growth and development. NFHS-3 data has revealed that 46% of the children are malnourished and more than half of the children of less than 5 years of age in the country are anemic. It is unfortunate that although nutrition related morbidity and mortality are amongst the highest in our country yet we do not have a single programme of study in the area of Pediatric Nutrition to help in capacity building of healthcare practitioners, nutritionist and other stakeholders who deal with such problems.

Need for the Course

A need was felt for focused course design in the area of Pediatric Nutrition, catering to the needs of a large number of learners - imparting knowledge, upgrading their knowledge, skills and improving their professional competencies. Nestlé Nutrition Institute (NNI) in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) launched the first pediatric nutrition course in India.

Course

The course programmes related to Pediatric Nutrition has been designed on a modular approach, keeping the major thrust of the University of provision of employment/career orientation of programmes in mind and providing opportunities for higher and continuing education to large segments of population. The two programmes are:

1. Post Graduate Certificate in Pediatric Nutrition (PGCPDN)

PGCPDN is a six month distance (online) programme worth 16 credits

2. Post Graduate Diploma in Pediatric Nutrition (PGDPDN) (32 credits)

PGDPDN is worth 32 credits and is of one year duration including three month internship in Pediatric Nutrition in a Pediatric Unit of a hospital

Objectives

The objectives of the courses are:

- To **provide comprehensive and essentially practical guidance on all aspects of pediatric nutrition**, from promotion of nutrition/health to the management of deficiency/diseases
- To **develop a knowledge base in key areas of pediatric nutrition** (such as child growth and development, nutritional needs of healthy and preterm infants and children, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, primary and secondary under nutrition, nutritional status assessment, food hypersensitivity, parenteral and enteral feeding, growth monitoring, micronutrient deficiency disorders, overweight and obesity, nutrition and HIV, chronic diarrheal disease etc.)
- To **cater to the needs of healthcare practitioners, dietitians, diet counselors, paramedical staff employed in government, non-government institutions** engaged in addressing the concerns associated with the health of infants and children.
- To **equip healthcare practitioners, dietitians etc. to start their own pediatric clinics**, leading to entrepreneurship.

IGNOU is an educational organization which contributes significantly to the development of higher education in the country through the open and distance learning mode. A dedicated faculty, trained in distance education methodology, is responsible for planning, designing, developing and delivering academic programmes. IGNOU involves a large number of senior teachers and experts from premier institutions in the country as 'content experts' for developing and delivering its course material.

Target Group

The programme is targeted at:

- Individuals looking for expertise in pediatric nutrition. These could be healthcare practitioners, dietitians, diet counselors, health administrators, paramedical personnel.
- Individuals, government and non-government organization functionaries, who are involved with maternal and child care in hospitals/clinics/community settings etc
- Graduates (with BSc. degree) or the equivalent (MBBS, BHMS etc.) from a variety of background for example, health care, pharmaceutical, food and drink industries, biochemistry, nutrition and dietetics.

- Government and NGO functionaries involved with community development programmes

Registration Details

The details of the course are available from the link <http://pgpn.ignouonline.ac.in/pgpn/>
Currently 63 registrations have been completed for the certificate programme. The programme is scheduled to start from September 2012.