

Report on the Career Counselling

Participants: 60 learners (Vocational Studies and In-charge(s) of different Vocational Study Centre(s)
Platform: Blended Mode (Physical, ZOOM & Youtube).

The School of Vocational Studies (SVS)), Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), organised a Career Counselling Programme for the admitted learners of the July 2026 batch and prospective learners interested in enrolling in the vocational programmes offered by the University on 23rd November 2026 at the Board Room of the University. The programme also served as an orientation and promotional initiative for prospective applicants following the publication of the January 2027 admission notification.

The programme was presided over by Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, School of Vocational Studies. Among those present were Prof. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS), along with the coordinators of various Vocational Centres.

At the outset, Prof. Ghosh warmly welcomed the newly admitted learners and the coordinators of the different Vocational Centres. He provided an overview of the objectives and activities of the School of Vocational Studies and highlighted its significant role in extending skill-based and employment-oriented educational opportunities to learners across the State of West Bengal.

He subsequently familiarised the learners with the teaching-learning pedagogy of the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system. Emphasising the importance of regular academic interaction, he encouraged the learners to maintain effective communication with the faculty members and coordinators of their respective Vocational Centres to make the best use of the learning opportunities offered by the University.

Prof. Ghosh also drew attention to the admission notification for the January 2027 session of the Blended Vocational Education and Training (VET) programmes offered by the School of Vocational Studies, published vide Memo No. Reg/445 dated 13 November 2026. He informed the participants about the various programmes available for admission, including:

- Diploma in Pre-Primary Teachers' Education (Montessori)
- Advanced Diploma in Hospital Front Office Management
- Advanced Diploma in Needle Work and Knitting

- Advanced Diploma in Applied Yoga and Naturopathy
- Diploma in Fire Safety and Security Management
- Tailoring and Dress Designing (Advanced Certificate Course)
- Tailoring and Dress Designing (Advanced Diploma Course)
- Diploma in Visual Arts (DVA)
- Advanced Diploma in Visual Arts (Advanced DVA), with specializations in Painting, Applied Art and Graphic Design.

Highlighting the achievements of the University's vocational education initiatives, Prof. Ghosh explained how these skill-development programmes have positively influenced the lives and career prospects of learners. He mentioned that a considerable number of learners who had completed such programmes had secured employment in various government and non-government organisations.



He also elaborated on the range of other vocational and skill-development programmes offered through different centres. These include Fire and Safety Skills; Beauty Therapy and Hair Dressing; Land Survey; Disaster Risk Management; Yoga Education; Stress Management with Meditation; Naturopathy; Art and Craft; Sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture; Human Rights; E-Accounting and Taxation with GST; Cyber Laws; Entrepreneurship Development and Small Business Management; Travel and Tourism; Export-Import Management; Solar Electric Installation; Digital Marketing; Packaging Management; Health Care Management; Community Respiratory Care Assistance; Pulmonary Care Assistance; Graphic Design; Video Editing and VFX; and Digital Media and Marketing.

He highlighted the varying durations of these programmes, ranging from short-term certificate courses to diploma and advanced diploma programmes. He advised the learners and coordinators to visit the official NSOU website for detailed information regarding the courses, study centres, programme duration, admission requirements and course fees etc.

Thereafter, Prof. Ghosh invited Prof. Arun Kumar Chakraborty to address the participants. Addressing the participants, Prof. Arun Kumar Chakraborty referred to the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, who has emphasized that **'Skills Will Matter More Than Degrees in the Future.'** Connecting this perspective with the national vision of ***Viksit Bharat 2047,*** Prof. Chakraborty highlighted the growing importance of practical knowledge and skill development in building a skilled and self-reliant nation. He encouraged learners to acquire additional vocational skills alongside their undergraduate and postgraduate studies to enhance their employability and explore opportunities for entrepreneurship.



Prof. Chakraborty viewed that NSOU provides learners with valuable opportunities to acquire additional vocational skills alongside their undergraduate and postgraduate studies. He appealed to the learners to identify and acquire at least a few skills according to their interests and aptitude, thereby enhancing their employability and career prospects. He further emphasised that the Vocational Centre Coordinators were making efforts to provide appropriate training and practical exposure to learners so that they could not only secure employment but also explore opportunities for entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Subsequently, Prof. Ghosh invited the coordinators of the different Vocational Centres to share their views on the relevance and benefits of the respective programmes. The coordinators highlighted the practical applications of the courses and their potential to create diverse employment and self-employment opportunities. Shri Aninda Das, Coordinator of the Yoga Centre, particularly highlighted the importance of yoga education in promoting a healthy lifestyle and overall well-being. He also pointed out the growing demand for trained yoga instructors in the country and observed that learners completing these programmes could explore opportunities to work as professional yoga trainers.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Ghosh expressed the University's aspiration to encourage greater enrolment in its diverse vocational programmes. He reiterated that the School of Vocational Studies is committed to providing accessible, skill-oriented education to learners and enhancing their employability through appropriate vocational training.

Prof. Chakraborty, in his concluding observations, underscored the wider societal significance of vocational and skill-development initiatives. He stated that such programmes would contribute not only to individual career advancement but also to social well-being, entrepreneurship and the larger goal of building a self-reliant society.

The programme concluded with an appeal to all newly admitted learners to actively participate in the vocational learning opportunities offered by NSOU and make effective use of these programmes for their personal, professional and social development. The programme also highlighted NSOU's commitment to integrating vocational skills with academic learning and creating wider opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning.

---Report prepared by Prof. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Professor, DLIS