

Rabindra Mukta Vidyalaya

As formal education could not reach out to all sections of the society covering all categories of people, Open Learning System makes it possible to include different sections of men and women of different age group. To meet the need for Open Learning System State Open School came up as a wing of the School Education Department in 1997. Renamed as Rabindra Mukta Vidyalaya (RMV) in 1998, it grew into a Statutory Organization with effect from 1st August, 2001 on the basis of Rabindra Mukta Vidyalaya Act, 2001, passed by the West Bengal State Legislature. The Act has been amended first in 2002 and next in February 2006. The amended Act has come into effect from the 1st January, 2007. According to the amendment of February, 2006 the Rabindra Mukta Vidyalaya has been renamed as the West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling (WBCROS). The West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling imparts open learning through self-study materials and personal contact programmers. More flexible and less rigid rules and procedures have been formulated taking into account the special need and circumstances of the target group of learners for whom the WBCROS is conducting study, examination and certification at the Secondary (class X) and Higher Secondary (class XII) levels. From the point of view of its constitution and responsibilities, this Council is analogous to other State Boards, Councils like the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education or the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education. The West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling is recognized by the Government of West Bengal as well as the Government of India, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), other Boards etc. and it is a member of the Council of Boards of School in India (COBSE). The West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling is aimed at providing Secondary (Madhyamik) and Higher Secondary levels of education to the millions of disadvantaged learners, school drop-outs, unemployed and self-employed young men and women, whole time or part time workers in different establishments, peasants and elderly men and women, unsuccessful learners of formal system, physically and mentally challenged, slow learners and other weaker sections of the people. The Prisoners in some of the major Correctional Homes of West Bengal can also be admitted & enrolled as learners of WBCROS. The study Centres of WBCROS are located mostly in Government aided Secondary, Higher Secondary Schools, and Madrasahs spread over all the districts of West Bengal. The learners are admitted & enrolled through online system in the Study Centres, spread all over the State. Minimum age of admission in the Madhyamik Course is 14 years and educational qualification must be class VIII passed from any Govt. recognized school who are under the COBSE. There is no upper age limit. A learner can take admission to Higher Secondary level if he or she has passed out Secondary Examination from WBCROS, WBBSE or any other recognized Board or Council under COBSE. Enrollments or admissions are made twice for the Secondary level and once for the Higher Secondary level in a year through online system by the respective study centre. The learners are provided with study materials by this Council, prepared specially for self and open-distance learning mode of study. Once enrolled, a learner gets five years of time for sitting in the examinations. Thus he/she gets nine chances to appear in the Madhyamik Examination and five chances to appear in the Higher Secondary Examination. There is provision for transfer of credit for students coming out unsuccessful from other

Boards/Councils with partial success in some of the subjects. Also there is provision for accumulation of credit, so that a learner may sit in the examination of this Council several times with limited number of subjects finally to clear all the subjects thereby becoming successful in the concerned level of study through credit accumulation. The West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling conducts three examinations in a year- two for Madhyamik and one for Higher Secondary .Madhyamik Examinations are held twice a year- once in June and the other in December. Higher Secondary Examination is scheduled to be held once in a year. It is to be mentioned here that the WBCROS has many aspects common in its aims and objectives, procedures, methodology, ways and means with those of the national counterpart, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The WBCROS has its own curriculum or curricula for in the Madhyamik (Secondary)& Uchcha Madhyamik (Higher Secondary) Level and has own syllabi or syllabus for the different subjects offered in this course . These are very similar to the syllabi & curriculum offered by the formal system of education in West Bengal. Based on these, Self Learning Study Materials (books) have been developed by this Council with assistance from subject expert committees, especially for study in the Self Learning mode. The required numbers of various volumes of these Self Learning Study Materials (books) are printed and prepared which are then distributed by this Council amongst the enrolled learners through the Study Centres. The Self Learning Study Materials (books) distribution exercise has to be undertaken by the WBCROS thrice every year, twice after Registration /Enrolment of learners for the Secondary level in June & December for Madhyamik (Secondary) level and once after Enrolment/Registration of learners for the Uchcha Madhyamik (Higher Secondary) level .Personal Contact programme (PCP) are arranged free of cost at the study Centres for the learners. Attendance at the Personal Contact programme (PCP) is not compulsory for the learners. But for laboratory based subjects for the Uchcha Madhyamik (Higher Secondary) course, the attendance of learners at the practical classes is compulsory. Since its inception The West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling (erstwhile State Open School) has been discharging its mission to promote the cause of education among older section of people of the society and school drop-outs. It is also inspiring to know that female members even from weaker sections are coming out of all social barriers to take the unique opportunities offered by the West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling and are getting themselves educated. The enrolment figures of students/learners as well as the figures for examinees show that the female candidates from all categories of the population participate in larger numbers.

Vision & Mission

THE VISION OF WBCROS

1. To provide “Sustainable inclusive learning with universal and flexible access to quality school education and skill development”.
2. Since free & compulsory Elementary Education has become a constitutional Right of Children & All Section’s people of our society in India, it is absolutely essential to push this vision forward to move towards universalisation of Secondary Education ,

which has already been achieved in a large number of developed & several developing countries. In this context, the vision of Secondary Education as follows: The vision for Secondary Education is to make good quality education available, accessible and affordable to all sections of students in the age of 14 years & above. Secondary Education provides the foundation for nation-building; it helps the developing attitudes, interests and qualities of all sections of people, who are not in formal education to enable them to take an active part in national development activities. Secondary Education serves as a link between the Elementary and Higher Education, and plays a very important role in this respect. A student's future can depend a lot on the type of education he/she receives at Secondary Level. Apart from grounding the roots of education of a student, Secondary Education can be instrumental in shaping and directing the student to a bright future.

Higher Secondary Education imparts in-depth knowledge and understanding so as to advance the students to new frontiers of knowledge. Higher Secondary Education also provides opportunities for lifelong learning, allowing people to upgrade their knowledge and skills from time to time based on social needs.

THE MISSION OF WBCROS

1. To provide relevant, continuing and holistic education upto Pre-Degree level through Open & Distance Learning (ODL) system.
2. To contribute to the universalisation of School Education.
3. To cater to the educational needs of the prioritized target groups for equity and social justice.
4. To make all the stakeholder committed to their respective assignment to materialize the goal of Secondary Education in the state of West Bengal consistent with the national goals; to instill "Indian Ethos" in minds of the Children & All Section of people of the society, empowering them to contribute towards a humane, just and pluralistic society through the Open & Distance Learning (ODL) system. WBCROS are also responsible for development, enhancement, regulation and promotion of Higher Secondary Education in the state of West Bengal through the various polices & regulations of the Open & Distance Learning (ODL) system.

THE QUALITY POLICY OF WBCROS

“ We at the West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling (WBCROS) are committed to provide Excellent, Sustainable, Inclusive & Flexible Education upto Pre-Degree Level through Open & Distance Learning (ODL)mode & compliance of requirements to ensure satisfaction of Learners and continual improvement of our Quality Management System.”

Reference:

<https://wbcros.ac.in/>