

# G'chiroli villagers find jobs during campus interviews

## IGNOU's Course Offers Ray Of Hope

Aparna Nair | TNN

**T**rupti Kharbade, a resident of Gadchiroli and mother of two girls, was a personification of her name on Saturday afternoon. In her late 20s, she has nearly fulfilled her late husband's dream of her getting a job.

On Saturday, the Nagpur Regional Centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) put its final step towards fulfilling the dreams of many like Trupti who belonged to Gadchiroli and surrounding areas.

In January 2013, IGNOU started a six-month certificate course in home-based health care. The training for the first batch was imparted at St Joseph's Hospital near Katol. However, the students of this batch, who came from a nearby village, impressed the hospital so much that it offered to absorb them.

Taking strength from this success, the regional centre approached hospitals in the city and finally collaborated with Care Hospital. "We zeroed in on Gadchiroli as it is a place which requires such opportunities. We went there and told that the first batch of students will be sure to get jobs and the only condition would be that they put in their best," said P Sivaswaroop, regional director, IGNOU.

The response the course got was immense. There 30 seats were offered for the course, 64 applications came. Enthused with this, along with running the course at General Hospital, Gadchiroli (GHG), IGNOU began the course at Christanand Hospital,

Bhiwapur too. At the end of six months, 56 students wrote the exam and on Saturday 48 of them appeared for the first campus placement interviews. "It is for the first time that such campus interviews are being held for IGNOU students outside Delhi," informed Sivaswaroop.

## NEW HORIZONS

"It is a great opportunity for those with low qualification as the minimum qualification required is Std X. The students who joined were very eager to learn. Some of them continued to come to the hospital even after the course ended," said Dr Nitin Chauhan, programme in-charge at Christanand Hospital.

His counterpart at GHG, Lalita Dongre said that the flexibility the course gave its students encouraged many to join. "They could manage other things too along with finding this avenue to get a job," she said.

Narrating an instance, Dongre added, "One of the girls stopped attending the classes all of a sudden. When she came back I asked her the reason, she told me that her husband was tested positive for HIV."

In Kharbade's case, it was her husband's insistence that she stand on her feet that led her to sign up for the course. But just days before the course started, her husband passed away

due to a heart ailment. Following the interviews on Saturday, Kharbade is likely to get a job as most of the 48 students will be taken in by Care Hospital.

"I am happy that I have fulfilled my husband's dream. This job will help me become financially strong," she says.

Speaking about the students, chief hospital administrator of Care Hospital, Nagpur, Ravi Mannadiyar, said, "I wasn't expecting such a response. These students seemed sincere. It's encouraging to see such opportunities being provided to students from such difficult backgrounds."



Aspirants being interviewed at General Hospital, Gadchiroli

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