

**-Will offer skill based courses through these Community Colleges-**

NIS Sparta, Asia's leading Training, Education and Learning Solutions Provider has been selected as a leading partner by IGNOU, India's leading Open University to offer Education through Community Colleges in India. As a part of this collaboration, over 50 NIS Community Colleges will be opened across the country. The concept of providing skill based courses through community colleges is new in India and is all set to take Education to new Mile. NIS Sparta will offer Certificate courses, Diploma Courses and Associate Degree programs under this initiative.

Both IGNOU and NIS Academy are known for the roles they have played in the education sector. This new initiative will further their visions to provide affordable employability linked education to the local communities.

"We are very happy to be a part of this fantastic initiative by IGNOU. NIS Community Colleges will serve as an alternative system of education and aim to empower individuals through appropriate skill development leading to gainful employment. This collaboration will create a bridge between the local industries and the community and ensure the reach of education to the last mile," said Mr. Muralidhar Rao, President & COO, NIS Sparta.

"The focus will be to help individuals in developing skills for employment in the burgeoning service industries such as Retail, Finance & Telecom amongst others," said Mr. Manoj Chawla, Senior VP and Head Employability Solutions Group, NIS Sparta.

"The 2-year curriculum will lead to an Associate degree for transfer to an undergraduate college or lead to the students' direct entry into any occupation or trade. These colleges are a source of economic growth because they provide an educated and skilled workforce that improves the quality of life for individual students, communities, and the nation, said Prof V N Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor IGNOU.

Students after completing their 10th standard can also join for a two year Associate degree course after completing the 6 months "Basic Preparatory Program" (BPP) of IGNOU. This two year Associate Degree programme will be available to more than 2000 students initially.

NIS Sparta, under the agreement will provide the out-reach network, make available classrooms in over 50 cities and deliver the program through certified faculty. IGNOU, in turn, shall conduct the examinations and award the Certificate, Diploma or Associate Degree as the case may be. The fees of the program which is outlined on making it affordable will be determined jointly by NIS Sparta and IGNOU.

The beneficiaries under this NIS Community College initiative will be, be school drop-outs, late entrants into higher education, and working people who find entry into the formal system rigid. The students would be allowed to pursue continuing education through all meaningful formats – face-to-face, online, full-time and part-time.

## About NIS Sparta

NIS Sparta is Asia's leading training, education and learning solutions and a Reliance ADA Group company. The company partners organisations in achieving their mission critical goals through enhanced effectiveness of their people and processes, using proven methodologies. In the education domain, through platforms such as NIS Academy and NIS L.I.V.E., NIS Sparta offers employability linked programmes, to students, first time employment seekers and working executives. NIS Academy has already shaped careers of over 55,000 students, through over 50 centres, spread across the country. NIS Community College is one more educational initiative by NIS Sparta to take education to the last mile.

During past 17 years NIS Sparta has provided training and consulting solutions to over 10,00,000 professionals, in over 550 organisations, across 10 countries in 18 languages. A recent report by The Franchisee World Magazine has rated NIS Sparta among the Top 100 Business Opportunities for the year 2009 [www.nissparta.com](http://www.nissparta.com)