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**About the Presenter:**

Dr. Anil Kumar (b. 1967) holds Master's and Doctoral degree in Education. He has also done a Diploma in Educational and Vocational Guidance (EVG) from the NCERT, New Delhi and Diploma in Distance Education from the IGNOU, New Delhi. Dr. Anil Kumar has got rich experiences in the field of educational research through the association with the national level organizations such as: the NCERT, NIEPA, NIOS and IGNOU, New Delhi. He has authored 3 books and published more than 20 research papers in the reputed international and national Journals. Besides these, one of his research papers was accepted for presentation in the 12<sup>th</sup> AAOU Conference and received AAOU-UNESCO-PROAP Award. His areas of research includes: Teacher Education; Guidance and Counselling, and Learner Evaluation. Dr. Anil Kumar is presently working as Assistant Professor in the NCERT, New Delhi and posted at the Regional Institute of Education, Mysore. He is the coordinator for the International Diploma in Guidance and Counselling (IDGC) course offered by the NCERT, New Delhi in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (CoL), Canada.

**Title of Paper:** **Teacher Counsellor Preparation Program through Distance Education: The NCERT/RIE Experience**

**Abstract:**

Guidance and counselling is an integral part of the total educational process. It has been felt right from the very beginning. However, there was no concentrated effort made to incorporate the guidance and counselling activities as one of the core activities in the total educational process for overall developments of the students at school or higher education levels in India. One of the major limitations was the availability of professionally qualified Professional Counsellors. Counsellor preparation programme in India is yet to get momentum. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi (the apex organization in the field of school education) has been the forerunner in introducing a nine-month diploma in Educational and Vocational Guidance (EVG) in 1965 for preparing the School Counsellors. Later, the nine-month diploma was renamed as Post Graduate Diploma in Guidance and Counselling (PGDGC) by extending the duration to one year and was offered by the Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs) (a constituent unit of the NCERT) till 2008-09.



Though there are plenty of courses in the area of Guidance and Counselling offered by the many Indian Universities and other organisations such as MA/MSc in Guidance and Counselling, Post Graduate Diploma in Guidance and Counselling, Certificate and Diploma course in Guidance/Career guidance offered through face-to-face and distance education mode, the diploma offered by the NCERT stands different in terms of the professional inputs provided under the experienced faculty. As there were only limited intakes available through face-to-face mode, the NCERT has launched a one year 'International Diploma in Guidance and Counselling (IDGC)' program through distance and online mode in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (CoL), Canada from the year 2009 to reach to a large number of Indian and International participants. Presently the NCERT is running its second batch of the International Diploma course where in many International students are also enrolled. The present paper highlights the course structure, delivery mode and the learner experiences and the reflections about the IDGC program more specific to the Southern Region of India in the preparation of professional counsellors through distance cum face-to face-mode.