

The conference was significant in raising awareness of logic and paradigm shift through Indian reforms initiatives, in particular, National Skill Development Policy and the NVEQF. The NVEQF is crucial for secondary school reforms. It will create opportunity for progression for students who can not join colleges and universities. The conference was successful in highlighting that if the issue of progression is to be addressed than frameworks need to be accompanied by quality trainers and curriculum developments that involves professionals from industry and polytechniques. This is important for integrating academic and technical courses.
Dr. Madhu Singh, UNESCO, Germany



This conference has provided critical lessons for conceptualization, development of TVET framework for sound integration into Secondary education sector. Further lessons have been drawn from a number of contexts both developed and developing contexts. Lessons from Australia and New Zealand were very illuminating and the varied cases studies from India very exciting. The commitment and enthusiasm of presenters and delegates demonstrated passion and optimism that in the next decade or so TVET will be maintained in our Secondary Education. Photo-30
Dr. Godson Gatsha, Malawi College of Distance Education, Malawi



Integration of Academic Courses with Vocational Education in Secondary Schools

February 20, 2012

Conference Venue : It was the last day of the Conference and also the day of fruitful outcome on the theme of the Conference after several deep deliberations, talks and mind blowing sessions. Views of participants on the road map for integration of Academic Courses with Vocational Education were becoming clear day by day. Third day proceeding started with more enthusiasm with a plenary session on “Assessment and Certification Framework” chaired by Prof. Md. Miyan, an eminent educationist and Vice Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. Two learned speakers of the session, Ms. Maria Peters, CEO, Chisholm Institute of TAFE, Australia and Mr. Shailendra Sigdel, Statistical Advisor South Asia (UIS), Canada made presentations on “Working in partnership to engage youth in VET” and “Student Assessment in TVET” respectively. Both the presentations were quite comprehensive, and thought provoking. After presentations, participants interacted with the speakers and clarified their queries in the Indian context.

Prof. Md. Miyan, while giving concluding remarks, stated that assessments should be for assisting the students and not for evaluating them. He was of the opinion that as such industry and academic institutions should come together to benefit the students in imparting vocational education.

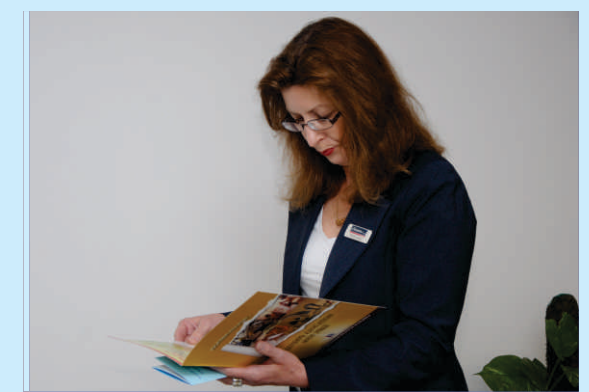


Prof. Mohd. Miyan Chairing the session

Before the start of parallel sessions, participants during tea shared their views on the theme of the conference.



Participants also showed keen interest in the NIOS publications.



After tea break, parallel sessions started on “Vocational skills and training for Empowerment – The Policy Perspective” and “Designing the Curriculum and Quality Framework to Strengthen the Impact of Vocational Education at School level.”

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Following papers were presented during parallel sessions:-

Parallel Session IIIA

Chairperson : Dr Godson Gatsha, Consultant & ODL Technical Advisor, Malawi

Theme-Vocational Skills and Training for Empowerment – The Policy Perspective

Evolving Strategies for Appropriate Vocational Choices among Secondary School Students in the Context of Recent Global Trends and Challenges

Mr. Karnail Singh, J & K

Issues Related to Outsourcing in Open and Distance Learning Institutes

Dr. Ashish Agarwal, Delhi

Vocational Skills and Training to Empower Citizens

Dr Jitendra Tiwari, Uttarakhand

Vocational Skills and Training in Secondary Schools: An International Perspective

Dr. Vetukuri P. S. Raju, Delhi

Skills Assessment Methodology For The Workers already Working In Construction Industry Having Experience

Mr. H. Asgar, Delhi

Integrating Academic Lessons with Vocational Courses

Ms. Smiriti Sharma, Chattisgarh

Challenges of Integrating Academic Courses with Vocational Education in Secondary School

Mr. B.R. Umakant, Karnataka

Parallel Session IIIB

Chairperson: Ms Weddinah Nyangu, P.E.O., Ministry of Education, Science and Vocational Training, Zambia

Theme - Designing the Curriculum and Quality Framework to strengthen the impact of Vocational Education at school level

Integrating Vocational Education with Secondary Education

Mr. J. Inbaraj, Chennai

Quality and Development of Self Learning Material for Integration of Academic Courses with Vocational Life Skills Education in Secondary Schools

Dr G. Ananda, A.P.

Bridging the Employability Gap- Skill Training & Education through ODL by Mentor+ Program – A Case Study

Dr. Sanjay B. Zope, Maharashtra

What is Industry Relevant Curriculum - A Case Study of Toyota In India To Build World Class Technicians

Mr. T. Somanath, Karnataka

A Study on the Attitude of Secondary School Students towards Vocational Education.

Mr. K. Ramakrishna Rao, Bheemunipatnam

Scope of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) System for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) of Vocational Skills

Dr. Asfa M. Yasin, M.P.

Role of Web Application Tools in Education.

Mrs. Rajani Bala, Punjab

Both the sessions were informative and mind blowing. Participants from educational institutions and industries shared their experience to further move a step ahead to achieve the objectives of the conference. Dr. Godson & Ms Weddinah gave the overview on the presentations.



After a hectic schedule of parallel sessions, lunch break was felt necessary to re-energizes once again for another session.



Thereafter, all the participants got ready to witness the last session of the conference i.e. panel discussion. The theme of the discussion was "Pedagogy for Skill Training in Secondary Schools". Prof. C.G. Naidu, IGNOU, Ms. Terry Neal, Flexible Learning OPNZ, New Zealand, Dr. Nalin Jena, World Bank, India were the panelist. Dr. K.P. Wasnik, Director (Vocational Education), NIOS played the role of moderator. Panelist enlightened the participants with their experiences. They were of the view that skill training in secondary school is very much essential to meet the demand of today's world.

Now, it was the time for valedictory session. The Chief Guest, Dr. (Smt.) D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Govt. of India and guest of honour, Shri. Jagmohan Singh Raju J.S. (AE) & DG, NLMA, Govt. of India were received by Dr. S.S. Jena.

While welcoming the guests, Dr. Jena, informed about the extensive deliberations took place during the conference. He opined that perhaps for the first time, vocational education has been looked into more comprehensively. He was of the view that conference has given enough incite to make vocational education more relevant. He thanked UNESCO and Commonwealth of Learning for associating with the conference and making the same a big success.

Dr. Mamta Shrivastava, Conference Secretary presented a comprehensive report on the proceedings of International Conference.

Shri Jagmohan Singh Raju, congratulated NIOS for organising thematic and timely conference on a very vital issue of the interest of a diversified group comprising of policy maker, industry, NGO, educational institutions, students. He expressed the concern of Govt. of India to integrate vocational education with general education. He desired that the outcome of this conference must be shared with other national and state boards.



Dr. (Smt.) D. Purandeswari, while congratulating NIOS on the initiative taken to organize the conference expressed that the conference would have deliberated on the impending challenges and suggested appropriate inputs and responses in this regards. She showed her pleasure from the sizable presence of the foreign delegates in the conference. She reminded that one should not forget the stigma attached to the vocational education and was of the view that with the fast disappearing geographical barrier, experience of other countries be used in building the knowledge society. She expressed that India being the youngest nation in the world and with the augmenting vocational and general education will help in producing skilled work force for the industry which intern would lead to strong economic growth. She favored for robust public private partnership and seen it as win-win situation for Government, industry and the students. At the end, she reiterated that the task of integration of academic and vocational stream is rugged and rocky and to achieve this we should firmly resolve that we must cross the Rubicon, come what may. Dormant forces, faculties and talents should come alive, and should realize that in order to discover new oceans, we must have the courage to lose sight of the shores.

Major recommendations of the conference :

- Competency Standards need to be developed for lower, intermediate and higher levels of skill, keeping in view the occupational structure and classification.
- Academic courses should be made more vocationally relevant, focusing on the workplace skills.
- Revision of all curricula and instructional materials for integration of academic and vocational competencies needs to be done.
- New vocational courses should be introduced to meet the new skill demands.
- Obsolete courses should be phased out of the education system.
- Capacity building of teachers and trainers in best vocational pedagogical practices.
- Promote ICT as a tool for integration of academic and vocational learning.
- Develop the framework for RPL & institutionalize it especially for the non-formal learning.



Dr. K.P. Wasnik presented the vote of thanks



It is commendable initiative organized in unison with NIOS, UNESCO and COL covering the vast area of TVET and its linkages to secondary education. Themes were pertinent when India requires to develop skills of 85% of population under 59 years and government aims to add 85 lakhs skilled workers in 2012. Photo-2

Dr. Huma Masood, UNESCO, India



The conference has widen my understanding about integration of Academic with Vocational Education in Secondary School. I have seen both possibilities and constrains. Experience shared in the conference could be transferred in my own country.

Dr. Wilber Force E. Meena, Institute of Adult Education, Tanzania



She appreciated the "The enormity of challenge, willingness of participants to explore new paradigms, exciting projects that are already in action with excellent results.

Liz Bowen Clewly, Competency International, New Zealand



It appears that the conference is seriously raising key issues and searching for solutions for an emerging and relevant VET sectors. The challenge is how best to achieve this within the Indian context and to ensure employability and technical skills to next emerging industry and develop and are valued as a legitimate education opportunity and pathway.

Maria Peters, Chislon Institute, Australia