वार्षिक रिपोर्ट
Annual Report
2007- 08

विद्याधनम् सर्वधनं प्रधा...

राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विद्यालयी शिक्षा संस्था...
National Institute of Open Schoolin...

From the Chairman's Desk

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), set up as an autonomous body by the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in 1989, has been marching ahead steadily. It has been vested with the authority to enroll, examine and certify student upto predegree level. With current enrolment of 15 lakh students in Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational Education Courses, NIOS has emerged as the largest open schooling organization in the world.

NIOS, with international recognition and presence, provides access to sustainable and learner centric quality school education, skill up gradation and training through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode of education. The Open Schooling programmes of NIOS are meant for all with special focus an school drop-outs and students from disadvantaged sections of society.

NIOS is a unique ODL organization that develops its own curriculum, self –learning material and media support programmes utilizing expertise of faculty from various academic and vocational education institutions / organizations. In order to put the open schooling programme on a sound pedestal, NIOS strives to ensure quality in curriculum, material and methods. It provides opportunities for inter-twining of general education and vocational education programmes. Knowledge, skills and qualities of entrepreneurship are essential components of the Open Vocational Education programme. Several steps have been taken to apprise prospective learners and their parents about inherent flexibilities in the Open Schooling programmes of NIOS, such as choice of subjects, pace and place of learning and provision of print and non-print (technology aided) quality inputs. Through sustained efforts to ensure quality in various developmental programmes delivery and examination activities, NIOS has come a long way to ensure parity of esteem with the Formal Schooling system. Multiple uses of ICT in various areas of operation of NIOS programmes (admission, programme delivery, training of functionaries, examinations etc) have contributed to cost effectives and sustainability.

During 2007-08, NIOS introduced the facility of On-line admission for learners. This new beginning enabled the organization to widen access to its programmes even in remote areas. This innovative Ni-On project was launched on 4 July 2007 by Shri Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India. A significant fall out of this was remarkable increase in admissions in some Regional Centres like Jaipur, Kolkata, Guwahati, Allahabad and Kochi in 2007-08. Through this project, NIOS is able to "reach the unreached" and thus taking a significant step towards assisting the Government of India in its efforts for Universalisation of Secondary Education.

The enrolment in academic and vocational education courses increased from 3,13,149 in 2006-07 to 3,63,686 in 2007-08. During this period, the number of Study Centres for these courses increased from 2904 to 3184.

During 2007-08, NIOS prepared revised versions of its Study Material for Senior Secondary Education Course. The provisions of the National Curriculum Framework (2005) were kept in view while finalizing the material for introduction from the session 2008-09. Vocational Education and Training has dominated the education policy literature during the last six decades of independent India. In spite of cyclic repetition of the concerns and imperatives as well as the recommendations of one body or another, implementation has received only marginal attention with the results falling short of expectations. The NIOS undertook addressing the concern by revisiting the exiting domain of Vocational Education, especially the modality of Open and Distance Learning. Through a series of Regional and National Seminars, the draft versions were discussed and debated upon and consequently the document "Vocational Education and Training: A Framework on Curriculum Imperatives and Focus on Knowledge Acquisition and Skills Development: Initiative through Open and Distance learning" was finalized and got ready for printing.

Another significant document which was brought out in 2007-08 was the material for the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) Project. The printed material was launched during the UNESCO Regional

Conference in support of global literacy held in November, 2007.

Based on the assessment of training needs of ODL functionaries across the country, NIOS developed a Training Package (comprising six Modules). NIOS has envisaged training of ODL functionaries at national level as well as at international level. NIOS has been providing assistance to the State Education Departments in setting up or upscaling their open schooling programmes. The "National Consortium for Open Schooling" (NCOS) provides forum for discussion on matters related to promotion of Open Schooling in the States. The Secretariat of NCOS is located in NIOS. Besides existing 10 State Open Schools (SOSs), four more States were ready to announce setting up of SOSs.

NIOS has been sharing its experiences and expertise in Open Schooling with other countries also. It functions as the Secretariat of the Open Schooling Association of Commonwealth (OSAC). In collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and the UNESCO, the NIOS has set up an International Centre for Training in Open Schooling (ICTOS). Under the aegis of OSAC, NIOS has been publishing since November 2001 the half yearly OSAC Journal of Open Schooling of international standard.

There have been several significant developments in NIOS during the year 2007-08. These are the contents of this Annual Report.

In planning and operationalisation of its programmes and activities, NIOS collaborates with several national and international organizations. During 2007-08, NIOS had mutually beneficial collaboration with COL, UNESCO and UNFPA in areas such as preparation of Training Package for Open Schooling Functionaries, preparation of LIFE Kit, and operationalisation of Adolescence Education Programme. NIOS continued

receiving guidance and support from the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development in planning and implementation of Open Schooling Programmes. At their instance, NIOS submitted a precise proposal about Promotion of Open Schooling at national and state level for inclusion in the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12).

The year 2007-2008 has been a historic one for NIOS. In the eighteenth year of its existence, NIOS was finally able to begin its operations from a permanent campus at NOIDA. This new, big and modern office complex located at A-24/25, Sector 62, NOIDA is now the new home for all Departments of NIOS. The construction of the new office in record time and the shifting of NIOS Headquarters from the rented buildings in New Delhi to the new campus were a mammoth task and a major achievement for NIOS. Moreover, recognizing the hardships in traveling to the new location, NIOS introduced a subsidized Transport Facility. All this was possible due to the personal efforts of Secretary, NIOS and I congratulate him and his team for this new environment of NIOS.

I acknowledge with thanks the inputs received by NIOS from individuals, institutions and organizations at national and international level. I am grateful for the contribution made by faculty and staff of NIOS during 2007-08.

The publication of the annual Report by an organization is the fruit of team work. All Departments/Sections contributed to bringing out of this document. However, the end product is the result of the hard work of a core team. I take this opportunity to record my appreciation for the efforts put in by Shri D.S. Bist, Secretary, NIOS, and Dr. K.R. Chandrasekaran, Director (Academic) who were assisted by Dr Anita Priyadarshini, Deputy Director (Personnel) and Mrs.Gopa Biswas, Deputy Director (Academic) for bringing out this publication.

M.C. Pant
Chairman, NIOS

Contents

1. Introduction

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), formerly known as the National Open School (NOS), was established by the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, in November 1989 as an autonomous organization (in pursuance of the National Policy on Education, 1986) and registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

NIOS occupies an important place in the national system of education and it has its own distinct character.

The main objectives of the NIOS are:

- To provide opportunities for continuing and developmental education at the school stage;

- To provide consultancy services to the Government of India and States;

- To serve as an agency for effective dissemination of information related to distance education and open learning;

- To identify and promote standards of learning in distance education system and state open schools; and

- To exercise normative and coordinating functions while promoting standards in distance and open learning system in the country.

In order to fulfil its mission of (i) universalizing education, (ii) enhancing social equity and justice, and (iii) creating a learning society, the NIOS has been endeavouring for education of the marginalized groups, namely, rural youth, girls and women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, handicapped and ex-servicemen, among others.

NIOS was vested, in October 1990, with the authority to examine and certify students registered with it up to pre-degree level courses. The NIOS conducted its first Secondary and Senior Secondary Examinations in January 1991. Certificates issued by NIOS are recognized by the Association of Indian Universities, the University Grants Commission (UGC), several Universities and Institutes of Higher Learning, several Boards of Education, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

NIOS offers academic, vocational and life-enrichment courses. The academic courses offered include Open Basic Education (OBE), Secondary and Senior Secondary Courses. NIOS is developing course materials for the Open Basic Education at A, B and C levels that are equivalent to classes III, V and VIII respectively. As regards, academic courses, students are given freedom to select subjects according to their needs, interests and abilities. Students are also encouraged to choose vocational subjects, which is something unique recognizing the value of work and skills at par with knowledge.

The NIOS network of study centres consists of Accredited Institutions (AIs) for academic courses and Accredited Vocational Institutions (AVIs) for vocational education courses. Several Special Accredited Institutions for the Education of the Disadvantaged (SAIED) have been recognized as study centres of NIOS to meet the educational needs of the differently abled and other disadvantaged children. The accredited institutions of NIOS are located in various States of the country. At the close of the twentieth century, the NIOS took a major initiative of launching the Open Basic Education (OBE) programme in partnership with dedicated and experienced NGOs and Zila Saksharta Samitis (ZSSs). This programme is meant for children below 14 years and adults above 14 years with separate focus. Starting of Open Basic Education Programme completes the chain of Open Schooling system from primary to pre-degree level.

1.1 Management and Organisational Structure

The policy perspective for the National Institute of Open Schooling is provided by the General Body of

the organization. The execution and monitoring of programmes is overviewed by the Executive Board of the Organisation. The constitution, roles and functions of the apex bodies of NIOS are as follows:

Diagrams :- Pages 4-8

The authorities specified for the management of the National Open School Society are the (i) General Body, (ii) Executive Board, and (iii) Finance Committee

◆ **General Body of the NOS Society**

This apex body, vested with the responsibility to assist the society by providing sound and professional advice and counsel, generates a vision and gives broad policy directions. It ensures that the Organisation remains publicly accountable, exercising its powers and functions in consonance with the mission and objectives of the Society. The Union Minister for Human Resource Development is the President of the Society and chairs the General Body meetings. In his absence, the Minister of State of HRD, who is the Vice President of the society, chairs the General Body meetings. The Secretary of the National Institute of Open Schooling is the ex-officio member Secretary of the General Body of the Society.

A list of members of the General Body as on 31st March, 2008 is given in Appendix – A.

◆ **Executive Board of the NOS Society**

In general, the Executive Board has been vested with all the powers of the Society to manage its affairs enabling it to function smoothly and effectively. Specifically the Executive Board does forward planning for preparation of policies and programme of action, takes appropriate decisions to ensure effective implementation of the programmes and exercises review function. The Chairman NIOS is the Chairman of the Executive Board of NIOS and the Secretary NIOS is its Member Secretary.

Other members of the Executive Board include the Heads of the Departments of NIOS; nominees of the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development and its Finance Division; and one specialist from each of the following areas:

– Distance Education

– Developmental Education

– Industry

– Media

– Technology

– Vocational/Technical Education

The Executive Board was reconstituted in February 2004 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education). A list of members of the Executive Board, as on 31st March 2008, is given in Appendix-B.

◆ **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee of the NIOS scrutinizes the accounts and budget estimates and makes recommendations on proposals for new financial outlays and other financial matters. The Chairman, NIOS is the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. The Secretary, NIOS is the Member Secretary of the Committee.

The Finance Committee is composed of the Heads of the Departments of NIOS, nominees of the Department of Education and its Integrated Finance Division and financial and management experts.

A list of members of the Finance Committee as on 31st March, 2008, is given in Appendix – C.

◆ **Organisational Structure**

The Chairman of the National Institute of Open Schooling appointed by the Government of India is the Chief Executive of the Organisation. He is assisted by five Heads of Departments, namely, Secretary, Director (Academic), NIOS, Director (Vocational Education), Director (Evaluation) and Director (Student Support Services). The Organizational Structure of NIOS in depicted in Diagram.

◆ **Regional Centres**

For effective implementation of the NIOS programmes throughout the country, eleven Regional Centres have been established at Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Chandigarh, Allahabad, Patna,

Jaipur, Bhopal and Delhi. Three Sub-Centres of the Regional Centres have been set up at Dehradun, Bhubaneswar and Darbhanga.

A Statement showing the category-wise sanctioned staff strength of the NIOS as on 31.03.08 is given in Appendix-E.

1.2 Meetings of General Body, Executive Board and Finance Committee of NIOS held during the year 2007-08.

(a)   General Body

The 14th Meeting of General Body was held through circulation in May 2007.

The 15th Meeting of General Body was held through circulation in November 2007.

(b)   Executive Board

The 44th meeting of Executive Board was held through circulation in May 2007.

The 45th meeting of the Executive Board was held on 30th July 2007.

The 46th meeting of Executive Board was through circulation held in November 2007.

The 47th meeting of the Executive Board was held on 18th March 2008.

(c)   Finance Committee

The 29th meeting of Finance Committee was held on through circulation in May 2007.

The 30th meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 27th July 2007.

The 31st meeting of Finance Committee was held through circulation in November 2007.

The 32nd meeting of Finance Committee was held on 16th January 2008.

1.3   Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of Open Schooling Programmes

Realizing the need for the preparation of a long-term perspective of the Open Schooling programme of NIOS, a Vision Document was prepared. The long term, medium term and short-term plans of NIOS are based on the Vision document.

The NIOS has formulated a detailed programme processing mechanism. The Programmes Processing Committee envisaged are as follows.

(I)   Advisory Committees of the Regional Centres of NIOS (RCACs)
Convener :   Head, Regional Centre, NIOS

(II)   Advisory Boards of the Departments of NIOS (DABs)
Chairperson :   Head of the Department
Convener   :   One faculty member

(III) Research Advisory Committee (RAC)
Chairperson :   Chairman, NIOS
Convener   :   Director (Academic), NIOS

(IV) Academic Council (AC)
Chairperson :   Chairman, NIOS
Convener   :   Director (Academic), NIOS

The following Programme Processing Committees have already been constituted.

(i)   Academic Council (AC)

(ii)   Advisory Boards (DABs) of the following Departments

◆   Academic Department

◆   Department of Vocational Education

◆   Department of Evaluation

◆   Administration Department

◆   Department of Student Support Services

The Departments organized meetings of the DABs in which Annual Plans 2007-08 were considered.

(iii)   Advisory Committees of the Regional Centers, (RCACs): The Regional Centers organized meetings of RACs during 2007-08.

(iv)   Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

(v) The Open Schooling State Coordination Committees (OSSCCs) have also been proposed for the identification of needs of the states requiring inputs from NIOS. However, these committees in different states have not yet been set up.

The Programmes for 2007-08 recommended by the Advisory Boards and the Advisory Committees were considered and approved by the Academic Council.

A diagrammatic presentation of the Programmes Processing Mechanism of NIOS is as follows.

Diagrammatic Presentation of Programmes Formulation and Processing Mechanism in NIOS

| Regional Centres (RCs) of NIOS identify the educational needs of the States requiring inputs from NIOS | **Educational Needs identified by RCS are conveyed to the** **Concerned Constituents of NIOS** | Each Department, Division, RC of NIOS prepares its Academic Programmes based on the needs identified through various ways (Actual and Perceived Needs) and discusses these in the Meetings of its Advisory Board (DAV)/ Advocacy Committee. |

| Each RC prepares its programmes based on the needs identified through various ways and discusses these in the meetings of its Advisory Committee (RCAC) | The Academic Programmes of all the Constituents of NIOS with recommendations of the Advisory Board (DAV) / Advocacy Committees are considered by the Academic Council (AC). | **RAC** **Reports to** | The Research Programmes of all the Constituents of NIOS and from outside Organizations are considered by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) |

The Academic Programmes approved by AC are conducted by the concerned constituents of NIOS. Administrative-cum-Financial Approval of the Competent Authority needs to be taken for activities involving financial outlay.

NIOS releases grant-in-aid for the research projects approved by RAC and monitors implementation of projects.

The Programmes approved by AC and RAC are reported to the Executive Boards (EB) of NIOS.

1.4 Framework and Networking System for Educational Programmes

The NIOS brought out the Report of the Study titled, "Framework and Networking System for Formulation of Educational Programmes, Monitoring of their implementation and Evaluation in the Context of Open Schooling." The report was widely disseminated to apex educational organizations, the State Education Departments and Universities etc. It is hoped that this Report will prove useful for the constituents of NIOS and the State Open Schools in their endeavours to streamline the process of formulation and implementation of the Open Schooling programmes and making their communication channels viable and effective.

1.5 Documents titled, "Formulation and Implementation of the Programmes of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)."

In this document, guidelines for Programmes Formulation and Implementation and proposed scheduled of meetings of the Programmes Processing Committees were suggested. This was sent to all the constituents of NIOS.

1.6 Preparation of documents titled "Reaching the Unreached NIOS 1989-90 to 2007-08"

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has been progressing steadily since its inception. It has made significant strides in Open Schooling during the period 1989-90 to 2007-08. The work done during this period is being documented. A draft compendium titled, "Reaching the Unreached, NIOS 1989-90 to 2007-08" has been prepared. The document is being finalized for publication.

Organisational Structure of National Institute of Open Schooling

National Open School (NOS) Society

General Body of NIOS

Executive Board of NIOS

Chairman, NIOS

Finance Committee

Academic Council

Establishment Committee

Departments

Administration Department

Academic Department

Department of Evaluation

Department of Student Support Services

Department of Vocational Education

Printing Unit

MD Unit

Computer Unit

Media Unit

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

Regional Centres
- Allahabad
- Bhopal
- Chandigarh
- Delhi
- Guwahati
- Hyderabad
- Jaipur
- Kolkata
- Kochi
- Patana
- Pune

Sub-Centres
- Dehradun
- Bhubaneswar
- Darbhanga

Organisation Set up of NIOS

(with Role and Functions of the Constituents of NIOS)

Chairman

→ Chairman's Secretariat

Administration Department
(Secretary)

Academic Department
(Director)

1. Management of NIOS Affairs
   1.1 Conducting Board Level meetings of National Institute of Open Schooling
   1.2 Members -Secretary of decision making bodies of NIOS
   1.3 Implementation of all Board decisions
2. Management of Human Resources
   2.1 Handling of all personnel and establishment matters
   2.2 Planning of recruitment on direct recruitment and deputation basis
   2.3 Career progression through promotion
   2.4 Planning and implementation of transfers
   2.5 Conducting performance appraisals on regular basis
   2.6 Undertaking disciplinary matters
   2.7 Maintenance of service records
   2.8 Engagement of contractual staff as per requirement
   2.9 Planning training programmes for staff development
3. Management of Financial Affairs
   3.1 Head of finance (audit and accounts) of NIOS.
   3.2 Preparation of budget, allocation of funds etc., for all NIOS activities
   3.3 Managing financial assets of NIOS to ensure long term viability
   3.4 Controlling the expenditure of NIOS as per Board decisions and Govt. of India norms
4. Legal affairs
   4.1 Management of all court cases in all courts of law
   4.2 Representing NIOS as entity at all forums
5. Land and Building
   5.1 Managing all fixed assets of NIOS like land, building
   5.2 Controlling all construction work related to NIOS
6. Material production and distribution
   6.1 Designing of policy for material production and material distribution
   6.2 Making assessment of paper requirement and raw materials
   6.3 Purchase of paper as per rules
   6.4 Empanelment of printing presses and distribution of work to them
   6.5 Distribution of materials to NIOS learners
7. Maintenance and Purchase
   7.1 Formulation of purchase policy
   7.2 Maintenance of all assets of NIOS
   7.3 Sourcing of all requirement of National Institute of Open Schooling
   7.4 Controlling the purchase procedures as per govt. norms
8. Minority Cell
   8.1 Incharge of Minority cell
   8.2 Formulation of innovative policies for improving educational access
   8.3 Responsible for advocacy and publicity of minority education programme
   8.4 Fast track of applications for accreditation of minority institution
9. Management of Public Relations
   9.1 Representing NIOS vis-à-vis all Govt., Semi-govt., NGOs, sister organizations
   9.2 Managing & coordinating affairs of NIOS at national and international level
   9.3 Interface with print and electronic media
10. Public grievances
    10.1 Head of Public grievances
    10.2 Implementation of policy for redressal of public grievances
11. Coordination with MHRD, State governments and International bodies
    11.1 Nodal officer for coordinating with central and state government offices on behalf of National Institute of Open Schooling
    11.2 Incharge of Parliament Cell
    11.3 Interface with all International bodies
12. Implementation of RTI Act
    12.1 Ensuring the timely implementation of RTI Act
    12.2 Acting as appellate authority for NIOS
    12.3 Coordinating with CIC and MHRD for monitoring of RTI
13. Promotion of Hindi
    13.1 Implementation of government schemes for promotion of Hindi
14. Inter Departmental Coordination
    14.1 Coordination between all Departments of NIOS
15. Mal Practice Cell
    15.1 Monitoring of all activities for prevention of mal practice

1. Planning and Policy Perspectives
   1.1 Preparation of Long Term, Medium Term and Annual Plans of NIOS related to academic work.
   1.2 Constitution of Academic Committee and its conduct
   1.3 Monitoring of implementation of Academic Programmes of the Academic Department
   1.4 Research and Surveys
2. Curriculum and Learning Materials (Secondary and Sr. Secondary)
   2.1 Identification of courses of study and development of Curriculum and Learning Materials
   2.2 Preparation of Question Paper Designs Blue Prints, Marking Schemes etc.
   2.3 Graphics
   2.4 Evaluation of Curriculum and Learning Materials etc.
3. Open Basic Education Programme
   3.1 Development of Curriculum and Learning Materials
   3.2 Identification and Accreditation of Agencies as partners of NIOS Open Basic Education Programme
   3.3 Development and Dissemination of Standards in Open Basic Education
   3.4 Joint Certification (NIOS-Accredited Agencies collaboration)
   3.5 Monitoring of implementation of Open Basic Education Programme
4. Regional Language Programme
   4.1 Offering Regional Languages as subjects and mediums
   4.2 Development /translation of materials in Regional Languages
5. Adolescence Education Programme: A project in Collaboration with UNFPA
6. Life Enrichment Programmes
   6.1 Indian Culture and Heritage
   6.2 Performing Arts (Music, Dance, Painting)
7. Human Resource Development
   7.1 Setting up and operationalisation of International Centre for Training in Open Schooling (ICTOS)
   7.2 Development of Training Packages
   7.3 Organisation of short term and long term training programmes for Open Schooling functionaries at national and international level.
8. National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS)
   8.1 Constitution and operationalisation of NCOS
   8.2 Promotion of Open Schooling in States
   8.3 Consultancy and assistance to States for setting up/upscaling of State Open Schools (SOSs)
   8.4 Coordination and clearing house functions related to promotion of Open Schooling
   8.5 Organisation of meetings of NCOS and follow up action
9. International Relations
   9.1 Interaction/Liaison with international agencies like UNESCO, COL, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank in the context of Open Schooling Programmes.
   9.2 Interaction, liaison with other countries in the context of Open Schooling Programmes
   9.3 Operationalisation of Open Schooling Association of Commonwealth (OSAC)
   9.4 Advocacy/consultancy programmes for promotion of Open Schooling in other countries
10. Journals, Magazines and News Bulletins
    10.1 OSAC Journal of Open Schooling
    10.2 Open Learning (Magazine)
    10.3 NIOS News Bulletin "Open Schooling"
    10.4 Preparation of other Journals, Magazines and New Bulletins as per need
11. Vigilance and Grievances
12. Coordination and Clearing House Functions
13. Library and Documentation

ORGANISATION SET UP OF NIOS (Continued)

Department of Vocational Education
(Director)

1. **Planning and Policy Perspective in Vocational Education**
   1.1 Preparation of Long Term, Medium Term and Annual Plans in Vocational Education.
   1.2 Networking in the context of Vocational Education programmes.
   1.3 Monitoring of implementation of Vocational Education Programmes
   1.4 Research and Surveys
   1.5 Matters related to maintenance of quality in Vocational Education
2. **Curriculum and Learning Materials**
   2.1 Identification of courses of study
   2.2 Development of Curriculum and Learning Materials
   2.3 Preparation of Question Paper Designs, Blue Prints and Marking Schemes
   2.4 Development of Media support to Vocational Education Programmes
   2.5 Development of Vocational Education courses in Regional languages as per needs and demand
   2.6 Evaluation of curriculum and learning materials etc.
   2.7 Development of modes and models to offer Vocational Education Programmes, and matters related to recognition and equivalence
3. **Accreditation of Institutions**
   3.1 Identification and accreditation of Institutions for implementation of Vocational Education Programmes
   3.2 Identification and accreditation of Rural Community Workshops within the framework of Vocational Education Programme of NIOS
4. **Admission**
   4.1 Preparation of Prospectus for Vocational Education and dissemination
   4.2 Organisational matters related to admission in Vocational Education courses.
5. **Examinations**
   5.1 Preparation of Examination Framework for Vocational Education courses and its operationalisation
   5.2 Monitoring of implementation of Examinations
   5.3 Follow up of Vocational Education pass outs
6. **Training**
   6.1 Development of Training packages
   6.2 Organisation of Orientation/Training Programmes for functionaries handling Open Vocational Education Programmes
7. **Advocacy**
   7.1 Organising advocacy programmes in Vocational Education
   7.2 Publicity to Vocational Education Programmes
8. **Coordination and clearing house functions in the area of Vocational Education**
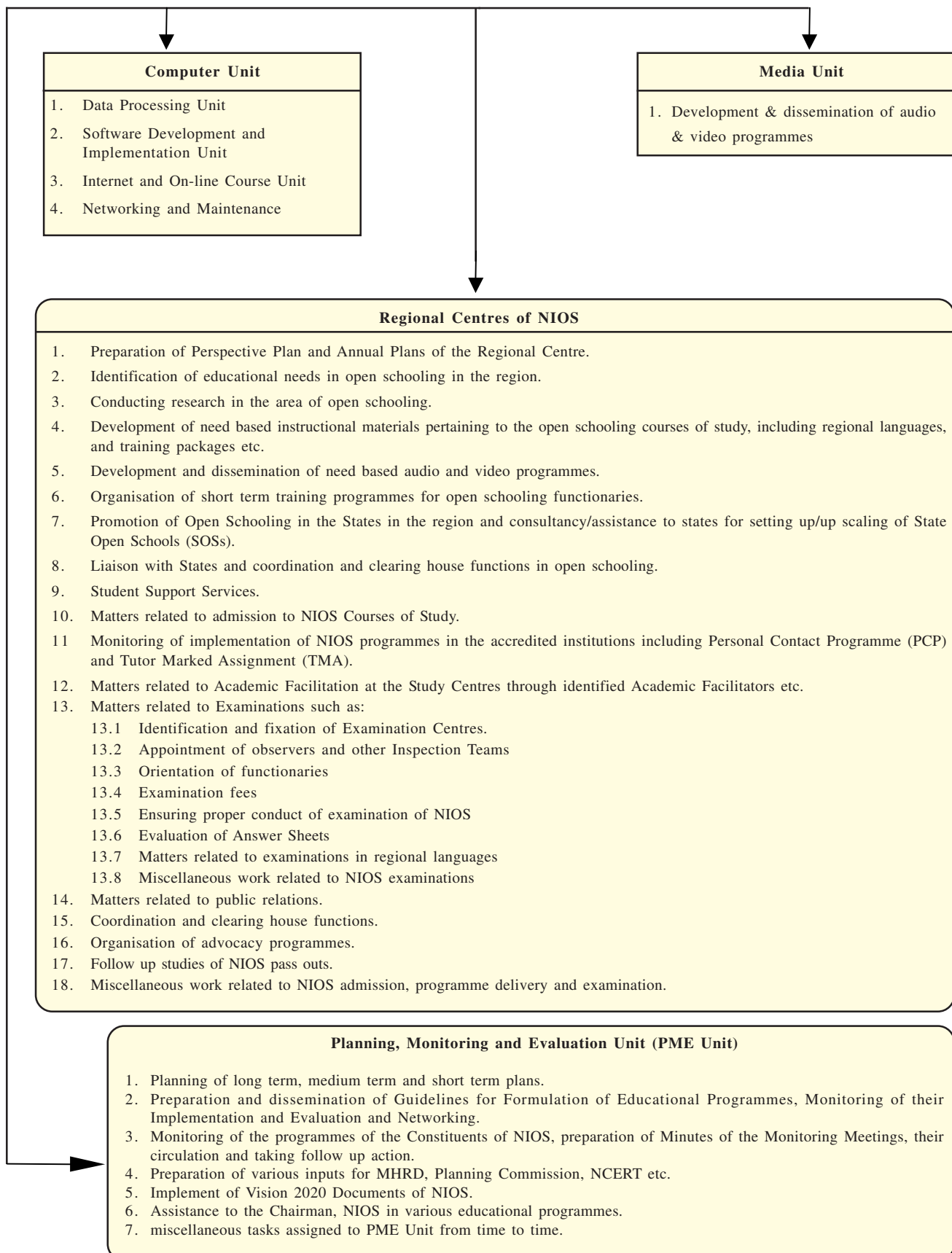
ORGANISATION SET UP OF NIOS (Continued)

Department of Evaluation
(Director)

1. Matters related to Examinations

1.1 Pre-Examination activities
- Preparation of Question Papers and Answer Booklets
- Preparation and maintenance of Examination Data
- Preparation and notification of date sheet for Examination
- Coordination with Regional Centres of NIOS in the context of NIOS Examinations
- Identification and fixation of Examination Centres
- Appointment of Nodal Officers/Observers and other Inspection Teams
- Preparation and dissemination of Guidelines for Centre Superintendents and other functionaries for NIOS Examinations.
- Approval to the appointment of external examiners for Practical Examination
- Approval to the appointment of Team Leaders/Evaluators for Spot Evaluation
- Appointment of Chief Secrecy Officers, Secrecy Officers and S.O.-in-Chief for H.Q.

1.2 Activities related to conduct of Examinations
- Preparation of guidelines for Centre Supdt. for theory and practical Examination
- Preparation of guidelines for Spot Evaluation
- Preparation of guidelines for Secrecy work
- Monitoring of law and order during Examination through Police Authorities

1.3 Evaluation and Certification
- Evaluation of Answer Scripts
- Organisation of meetings of Evaluation Committee
- Preparation and declaration of results
- Processing of Unfair means Cases
- Preparation and issue of Marksheets, Provisional Certificates, Migration Certificates etc

1.4 Activities related to Post Conduct of Examination
- Use of Internet for result declaration
- Use of Internet for Marking Schemes and questions asked in the Examination
- Holding Press Conferences relating to Examination

2. Policy perspectives related to Measurement and Evaluation
   2.1 Research studies related to Measurement and Evaluation
   2.2 Preparation and implementation of Examination Frameworks
   2.3 Maintenance of Statistical Data related to Examinations
3. Implementation of On Demand Examination System
4. Matters related to Examination in Regional Languages
5. Matters related to Evaluation and Certification under Open Basic Education Programme
6. Coordination and Clearing House Functions
7. Miscellaneous work related to NIOS Examinations.

Department Student Support Services
(Director)

1. Planning and Policy Perspective

   1.1. Preparation of Long Term, Medium Term and Annual Plans and Policy Perspectives related to Students Support Services
   1.2. Research studies and maintenance of statistical data
2. Accreditation of Institutions
   2.1 Identification and accreditation of institutions through Accreditation Advisory Committee (AAC) following due process
3. Students' Registration
   3.1 Preparation and dissemination of Prospectus for Academic Courses
   3.2 Publicity / Advertisements about admission etc.
   3.3 Matters related to admissions in Accredited Institutions (AIs) and for direct admissions in Regional Centres of NIOS
   3.4 Handling requests for (1) change of Date of Birth (2) change of subjects / additional subjects, and (3) transfer of credits (TOC)
4. Monitoring and Coordination
   4.1 Liaison with State Governments/NGOs /Private Organisations
   4.2 Development and operationalisation of mechanism for responding to needs and grievances of students.
5. Equivalence /recognition of NIOS Academic Programmes from Boards of School Education, Universities and other statutory bodies and Employment Agencies
6. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for various activities of the Regional Centres of NIOS and for the Students Support Services Department.
7. PCP, TMA and Facilitation
   7.1 Matters related to Personal Contact Programme (PCP)
   7.2 Matters related to preparation and implementation of Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)
   7.3 Matters related to Academic Facilitation through identified Academic Facilitators.
8. Coordination and clearing house functions

ORGANISATION SET UP OF NIOS (Continued)

Computer Unit

1. Data Processing Unit
2. Software Development and Implementation Unit
3. Internet and On-line Course Unit
4. Networking and Maintenance

Media Unit

1. Development & dissemination of audio & video programmes

Regional Centres of NIOS

1. Preparation of Perspective Plan and Annual Plans of the Regional Centre.
2. Identification of educational needs in open schooling in the region.
3. Conducting research in the area of open schooling.
4. Development of need based instructional materials pertaining to the open schooling courses of study, including regional languages, and training packages etc.
5. Development and dissemination of need based audio and video programmes.
6. Organisation of short term training programmes for open schooling functionaries.
7. Promotion of Open Schooling in the States in the region and consultancy/assistance to states for setting up/up scaling of State Open Schools (SOSs).
8. Liaison with States and coordination and clearing house functions in open schooling.
9. Student Support Services.
10. Matters related to admission to NIOS Courses of Study.
11 Monitoring of implementation of NIOS programmes in the accredited institutions including Personal Contact Programme (PCP) and Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA).
12. Matters related to Academic Facilitation at the Study Centres through identified Academic Facilitators etc.
13. Matters related to Examinations such as:
    13.1 Identification and fixation of Examination Centres.
    13.2 Appointment of observers and other Inspection Teams
    13.3 Orientation of functionaries
    13.4 Examination fees
    13.5 Ensuring proper conduct of examination of NIOS
    13.6 Evaluation of Answer Sheets
    13.7 Matters related to examinations in regional languages
    13.8 Miscellaneous work related to NIOS examinations
14. Matters related to public relations.
15. Coordination and clearing house functions.
16. Organisation of advocacy programmes.
17. Follow up studies of NIOS pass outs.
18. Miscellaneous work related to NIOS admission, programme delivery and examination.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (PME Unit)

1. Planning of long term, medium term and short term plans.
2. Preparation and dissemination of Guidelines for Formulation of Educational Programmes, Monitoring of their Implementation and Evaluation and Networking.
3. Monitoring of the programmes of the Constituents of NIOS, preparation of Minutes of the Monitoring Meetings, their circulation and taking follow up action.
4. Preparation of various inputs for MHRD, Planning Commission, NCERT etc.
5. Implement of Vision 2020 Documents of NIOS.
6. Assistance to the Chairman, NIOS in various educational programmes.
7. miscellaneous tasks assigned to PME Unit from time to time.

10. Media in Open Schooling

10.0　Media Programmes: An Overview

One of the major activities of the NIOS is to make use of modern means of Communication and Educational Technology in distance learning. Audio and Video programmes are significant components of the multi-media packages offered by NIOS by its various courses of study. The Audio-Video programmes supplement and complement the other channels of learning such as printed self learning materials and personal contact programmes. NIOS has developed Audio and Video programmes for Open Basic Education, Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational Education Courses.

10.1　Functions of Media Unit are as follows:

◆　Production of Audio-Video programmes for NIOS learners.

◆　Broadcast and Telecast of Audio-Video programmes on different channels.

◆　Duplication of Audio-Video programmes to Audio Cassettes, VCDs etc., to enrich and reinforce the subject matter given in the study material.

◆　To produce Audio-Video Spots for publicity purposes.

◆　Video coverage of important functions, seminars, workshops, etc., for reference.

10.2　Production strategy

Media Programmes production strategy in NIOS is based on the academic requirement. Content briefs on identified topics are prepared by academic faculty of NIOS. Participation of Subject experts and Media experts at various production stages (Review of Script and Preview of Rough and Final Cuts etc. of programmes) helps in ensuring accuracy of content of Media programmes and presentation of concepts/topics

in such manner that learners gain clear understanding and insight into the subject matter. The Media Unit has adopted a two pronged approach towards development of Media Programmes: (i) outsourcing of media programmes to outside pro-ducers, and (ii) in-house production of Audio-Video programmes. In order to give boost to the in-house productions. NIOS is taking steps to set up a Studio in the new Office building at NOIDA.

10.3　Work done during 2007-08

10.3.1　Video Programmes

10 Video programmes were completed. Of these, 8 Video programmes were both in Hindi-English versions. 10 Video programmes were at various stages of production. In order to feed the available time slots for telecast of NIOS programmes on Gyan Darshan and DD-I Channels, 78 capsules of the Video Programmes were also produced.

10.3.2　Audio Programmes

NIOS has produced Audio programmes and Tutorial on several topics/themes in curriculum, including Hindi, English and Urdu languages courses. 10 Audio Programmes on Adolescent Education Programmes (AEP) with funding from UNFPA were also produced.

During 2007-08 14 Audio Programmes were completed and 26 Audio Programmes were under production.

10.3.3　Multimedia Programmes

Four Multimedia programmes were produced for the Educational Portal of MHRD-"Sakshat". Four more programmes were under production.

10.3.4　EDUSAT

The Education Satellite (EDUSAT) facility being set up at NIOS is specially configured towards providing two way Audio and Video Conferencing.

Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs) have been installed at all the RCs of NIOS except Guwahati. The EDUSAT equipment has been re-installed at NIOS, Headquarter and RC, Delhi, after shifting of NIOS Office to NOIDA. The CIET, NCERT is going to upgrade the existing Video Conferencing Software of EDUSAT in NIOS. NIOS is planning to utilize EDUSAT for live interactive sessions. For this, the studio of NIOS will be connected with the 11 Regional Centers to facilitate face to face interaction with the Regional Directors, Coordinators, Teachers and Learners in the first phase.

10.3.5 Training

The Media Unit, NIOS has been organizing training programmes and workshops from time to time to orient the concerned NIOS officials in applications of Media technology. During 2007-08, NIOS, in collaboration with CIET, NCERT, arranged technical training of NIOS officials in handling the operation of EDUSAT. NIOS staff from the Regional Centres Patna, Hyderabad, Delhi and NIOS Headquarter participated.

10.3.6 Duplication of Programmes

68296 VCDs of Video programmes for Academic and Vocational courses and 13371 Audio CDs were duplicated and sent to the Study Centers of NIOS.

10.3.7 Video Coverage

The Media Unit did Video Coverage of about 25 National and International programmes organized by NIOS.

10.3.8 Delivery Mechanism of Audio-Video Programmes

1. The Video programmes were telecast on the National Channel of Doordarshan (DD-I) every Friday from 5.02 AM to 5.25 AM and on the Educational Channel Gyan Darshan everyday from 6.30 PM to 7.00 PM.

2. The Audio programmes were broadcast on GyanVani (FM Channel) at 106.5 MHz every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 8.30 AM to 9.00 AM and repeat broadcast from 4.30 PM to 5.00 PM.

3. The Audio-Video programmes produced by NIOS are sent to the Study Centres of NIOS for use in Personal Contact Programme (PCP).

4. The NIOS learners can take the CDs of Audio-Video programmes on loan for a week from their study centres.

5. The Audio cassettes and VCDs of Media programmes are available for sale. A comprehensive List of the Audio Cassettes and VCDs is placed on NIOS Website – www.nos.org, for the benefit of NIOS learners and others.

10.4   Award and Achievements

NIOS participated in the 13th All India Children's Educational Audio-Video Festival organized by the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), NCERT. NIOS Video Programme titled "Pate Ki Baat" got two awards: (i) Best Script and (ii) Best Video Programme along with a Cash prize of Rs.15000/- in the category of Secondary Education. The Trophies for the Best Script and the Best Video Programme were received by Dr. R.K. Arya, Joint Director (Media) on behalf of NIOS from the eminent Filmmaker and Actor Shri. Amol Palekar.

11. Promotion of Education amongst Special Groups through Open Schooling

11.0   Introduction

The mandate of NIOS is to provide education for the educationally backward groups. The Memorandum of Association as per Section 3 (xxxiii) enumerates the mission of NIOS "to provide relevant, continuing and developmental education, at the school stage, upto the pre-degree level through the Open Learning System, to prioritized client groups."

NIOS contributes to the national commitment made by India towards Education For All at Dakar in 2000 as well as the Millennium Developed Goals (MDGs). Accordingly, NIOS has been implementing various programmes for prioritized client groups-school drop-outs and marginalized groups such as rural youth, urban poor, girls and women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes, minorities, differently abled and ex-servicemen.

NIOS is also committed to follow the Government Policy for universalisation of Secondary Education. NIOS has been working towards the goals set up by the Government of India with respect to the North Eastern Region (NER) and Jammu & Kashmir.

11.1   Promotion of Education amongst SCs and STs

During the year 2007-08, NIOS continued its policy of granting fee concession to SCs/STs students for pursuing Secondary and Senior Secondary Education Courses. A special scholarship scheme continued based upon the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation for meritorious students. Under this scheme, a student belonging to SC/ST category and having family income of less than Rupees One lakh per annum in the preceding financial year and scoring not less than 50% marks in the aggregate in the secondary level examination would be eligible for Scholarship.

11.2   Promotion of Education of Girls and Women

As per NIOS mandate, girls and women have been designated as a priority group for Open Schooling. This has been done because education is regarded as very significant instrument for changing women's position in the society. Education is fundamental for economic, political and social empowerment of women.

NIOS has developed a number of Vocational courses which are targeted at empowerment of women. These courses aim at improving the economic status of women as well as providing them with vocational and technical skills. Courses such as Cutting, Tailoring, Beauty Culture, Indian Embroidery & Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables are aimed to providing wage employment and self employment to girls and women.

NIOS developed courses focusing on improving women health especially in rural areas, these includes Gram Sakhi and Gram Sahyogini. Courses such as Paripurna Mahila are aimed at improving of self esteem and self confidence of women.

During 2007-08, total number of female students admitted to Academic courses was 1,04,574 which was 30.76% of the total enrolment. In Vocational courses, 10,368 female students were enrolled which is 52.30% of the total enrolment in Vocational courses. This is indeed an encouraging sign and speaks of the popularity of Vocational courses of NIOS among women.

NIOS offers special concession to girls and women in fee as well as in providing Accredited Institutions for girls and women only.

11.3   Education of Differently Abled

NIOS is committed to promotion of education of differently abled persons. NIOS offers fee concession to such learners. It has initiated a special scheme for accrediting study centres for such persons. Under this scheme, 'Special Accredited Institutions for Education of the Disadvantaged' (SAIEDs), have been set up.

NIOS has entered into an MOU with the Rehabilitation Council's of India (RCI) for development of human resource in the area of visual and hearing impairment. Under this MOU, the two courses, under development are (i) Indian sign language for hearing impaired, and (ii) development of Braille and Independent living for visually handicapped.

11.4   Special Initiatives of NIOS to promote Education amongst Minority Groups

Following the directive of the Government of India, NIOS set up a Minority Cell in June 2006, under the overall supervision of the Secretary, NIOS. The objective of the Minority Education Programme of NIOS is to expand the out reach and impact of NIOS programmes and policies amongst the minority communities, especially girls and women, by undertaking active advocacy programmes to establish linkages with existing Minority Educational Institutions.

NIOS has been identified as a lead institution for providing a linkage between traditional educational institutions, like Madrasas, with mainstream education. NIOS attended several meetings held in Minority dominated areas and initiated advocacy programmes for their awareness about NIOS.

Some of the special initiatives taken by NIOS to expand the number of schools in remote as well as Muslim dominated areas are as follows

- Granting accreditation to institutions affiliated to/ recognized by various Madrasa Boards.

- Relaxation in conditions regarding infrastructural requirements on need basis.

- Engagement of Project Coordinators for different regions (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Delhi.)

- Presentations by the Chairman, NIOS and the Secretary, NIOS on Minority issues before leaders from minority groups

- Proactive advocacy programmes like meetings, seminars, surveys, mass sensitization and awareness programmes in remote/hilly and backward areas for increasing awareness among downtrodden and unprivileged sections of the society regarding utility of NIOS programmes in the field of school education.

- Regional Conference (Eastern Region) of the NIOS Co-ordinators and Leaders of Minority Institutions/Madrasas of Orissa, organized for promotion of minority education (2007).

- Seminars organized at Munger in collaboration with Rahmani Foundation, Munger, Bihar (2007).

- Another advocacy meeting was organised in District Kannauj (UP) on 19th March 2008. About 25 Minority Institutions and Madrasas attended the programme.

To establish partnership with Minority educational institutions the following steps were taken

- Translation of Academic and Vocational courses in Urdu Medium.

- Development of Multimedia programme for Urdu Medium (ICT interventions).

- NIOS has introduced a language course in Arabic at the Secondary level. It has also taken initiative to introduce Persian as a language at the Secondary level.

- To promote Minority Education, NIOS has made special efforts to set question papers in Urdu, has permitted the learners to answer question papers in Urdu and has made arrangements for getting the Urdu answer scripts evaluated.

Due to the initiative taken by NIOS, the number of AIs, AVIs and OBE AAs in minority institutions has increased. State wise and year wise data of accredited institutions and enrolment trends as on 31.03.2008 in respect of minority institutions was as under:

State wise List of Accredited AIs, AVIs and OBE Centres up to March 2008.

State	AIs	AVIs	OBE AAs
Madhya Pradesh	12	08	02
Utter Pradesh	42	15	05
Haryana	07	04	-
Bihar	10	06	03
Gujarat	02	02	01
Karnataka	07	10	02
Maharashtra	24	06	02
West Bengal	21	06	-
Andhra Pradesh	03	03	-
Kerala	11	20	-
Rajasthan	06	02	-
Manipur	01	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	-
Punjab	16	05	-
Delhi	11	20	02
Chhattishgarh	01	-	01
Meghalaya	02	-	-
Goa	02	01	-
J&K	-	-	-
Uttranchal (Uttarakhand)	04	02	-
Assam	03	-	-
Jharkhand	04	02	-
Orissa	-	01	-
Tamil Nadu	01	10	-
Nagaland	02	-	-
U.A.E.	03	01	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-
Chandigarh	01	01	-
Total	**196**	**124**	**18**

Year wise list of Accredited AIs Centres

Period	No. of AIs
Before January 2004	93
January 2004 to December 2004	18
January 2005 to December 2005	24
January 2006 to December 2006	30
January 2007 to December 2007	12
Total	**277**

Nineteen more AIs were added to the list between January 2008 and March 2008 bringing the Total to 296

Year wise list of Accredited AVIs

Period	No. of AIs
Before January 2004	86
January 2004 to December 2004	05
January 2005 to December 2005	11
January 2006 to December 2006	12
January 2007 to December 2007	08
Total	**122**

Two more AVIs were added and thus there are 124 AVIs.

Year wise list of OBEAccredited Agencies

Period	No. of AIs
Before January 2004	Data not available
January 2004 to December 2004	Nil
January 2005 to December 2006	01
January 2007 to December 2007	12
Total	**13**

Between January and March 2008, five more agencies were accredited. There are thus 18 Accredited OBE Agencies.

Community wise list of Accredited AIs, AVIs & OBE Centres, (before & after 2004) up to March. 2008.

Community	AIs	AVIs	OBE AAs
Muslims	78	38	18
Christian	88	76	-
Sikh	30	10	-
Total	**196**	**124**	**18**

Enrolment Trends of Minority students

Year	Secondary			Senior Secondary			Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
2001-02	563	288	**851**	149	99	**248**	**1099**
2002-03	998	608	**1606**	165	179	**344**	**1950**
2003-04	1101	894	**1995**	114	164	**278**	**2273**
2004-05	406	316	**722**	157	147	**304**	**1026**
2005-06	558	391	**949**	188	195	**383**	**1332**
2006-07	557	390	**947**	144	190	**334**	**1281**
2007-08	618	363	**981**	221	174	**395**	**1376**

Certification Status of Minority Students

Year	Secondary			Senior Secondary			Total
	May	Nov.	Total	May	Nov.	Total	
2001	176	294	**470**	0	0	**0**	470
2002	379	169	**548**	57	70	**127**	675
2003	1102	178	**1280**	73	83	**156**	1436
2004	909	193	**1102**	134	60	**194**	1296
2005	380	125	**505**	96	46	**142**	647
2006	272	197	**469**	159	92	**251**	720
2007	320	156	**476**	145	61	**206**	682
Total			**4850**			**1076**	**5926**

NIOS Participation in Minority Education Meetings

- The Chairman NIOS attended a meeting of the Sub-Committee of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities Education on 24th October 2007.

- The Chairman NIOS and the Secretary NIOS participated in a meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities Education, MHRD on 20th February 2008 at NUEPA. The Committee considered the matter regarding inclusion of subjects taught in NIOS in the Curriculum for Madrasas.

12. International Collaboration

12.0   Introduction

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) interacts and collaborates with international organizations like COL, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, and UNFPA. The collaboration programmes are in area such as:

- Capacity building
- Resource sharing
- Information and experience sharing

12.1   Open Schooling Association of the Commonwealth (OSAC)

The Open Schooling Association of the Commonwealth (OSAC) was set up in 2001 with support from the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada. It fosters consultation, information exchange and sharing of resources among members. It performs clearing house functions, facilitates research and exchange of database in open learning, in addition to publishing a half yearly journal titled OSAC Journal of Open Schooling. Till March 2008, ten issues of the journal were published and circulated.

12.2   Training through International Centre for Training in Open Schooling (ICTOS)

NIOS has set up the International Centre of Training in Open Schooling (ICTOS) with the specific objective of providing quality training in Open Schooling. By virtue of being the largest Open Schooling Organization in the world, and with a vast fund of experience, it was thought appropriate NIOS organize advocacy and training programmes in Open Schooling for developing countries. A Training Centre, with facility of an international hostel, has been designed at the new campus of NIOS at NOIDA. Training is imparted through face-to-face, interactive training sessions and through certificate/diploma courses through distance education. The Regional Centre, Pune enrolled 20 Coordinators for the Certificate Course of Open Schooling in the year 2007-08.

12.3   NIOS Staff Training at NIOS in collaboration with International Agencies

A ten-day International Workshop was organized at Randburg, Johannesburg, South Africa from 3 to 14 September 2007 for Design and Production of Digital Material. Sixteen participants from eight countries viz., India, Bangladesh, Kenya, Namibia, Zambia, Lesotho, Malawi and Tanzania attended the programme. Two Officers from NIOS, Shri Aditi Ranjan Rout, Academic Officer (Commerce) and Dr (Mrs.) Savita Kaushal, Academic Officer (Teacher Education) attended the 10-day workshop. The Mindset Network facilitated this workshop in partnership with the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada.

During the workshop, the participating countries designed and developed scripts for video, print and multimedia programmes. They also developed the content of print support material and designed the layout by using 'in print' software. Each country also produced the multimedia project in the area selected by them. At the end, each country presented their products and shared their experience. Ms. Frances Ferreira, Education Specialist, Commonwealth of Learning, Canada guided the participants and gave certificates.

12.4   Foreign Visits

Two members of the faculty of NIOS, namely, Dr. Oum Prakash Sharma, Assistant Director (Evaluation) and Ms. Koushalya Barik, Academic Officer (Computer Science) were nominated by, NIOS to visit Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. The Programme was conceptualized and funded by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Vancouver, Canada. The visit was organized from 3rd to 7th December 2007. NIOS faculty interacted with their faculty and other staff members in the areas of Digital Material Development, Video

streaming, System Integration and E-learning. They visited the following organizations-

- Campbell Collegiate
- Saskatchewan Communication Network Television
- Saskatchewan Learning
- Campus Saskatchewan
- Credenda Virtual School
- Centre for Academic Technologies and Distance Learning Division Technology
- University of Regina

On the basis of the experience gained during the Regina Visit, it was proposed that with the support of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), NIOS may think of the enhanced use of modern technology for providing education through open and distance mode. The following measures were proposed

1. Developing Digital Material for E-learning Course
2. Training of the staff on E-learning course development
3. Setting up of E-learning cell in NIOS
4. Setting up of Digital Classroom (Classroom Studio)

12.5 International Conferences hosted by NIOS

12.5.1 International Conference on Adolescence Education through Open Schooling- The SAARC Experience NIOS- UNFPA Collaboration October 2007

With a view to provide a platform to discuss and share common concerns related to Adolescence Education Programmes (AEP) as being implemented in the member countries of SAARC with a special focus on use of Open and Distance Learning System (ODLS) as a viable intervention, a two day "International Conference on Adolescence Education through Open Schooling- The SAARC Experience" was organized by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) under the Adolescence

Education Programme supported by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Government of India at Goa from 30th to 31st October, 2007. The main objectives of the conference were to share the experiences, identify bottlenecks, share good practices, evolve strategies for effective implementation of AEP and explore possibilities of mutually beneficial national and international networking. Sh. Luizinaho Falerio, former Chief Minister and Education Minister, Government of Goa, inaugurated the conference. Sh. S.C. Khuntia, Joint Secretary (School Education), MHRD Government of India was also present on the occasion. Mr. Tumkaya, UNFPA, Representative for India and Bhutan presided over the valedictory session. As an outcome of the conference recommendations were made to national governments and UNFPA for strengthening the advocacy efforts, documenting best practices, building a supportive environment through capacity building of various stakeholders and increasing outreach by involving non-formal systems of education and using information technology. The Conference suggested the need for promoting South-South collaboration for addressing common concerns of adolescents in the region by organizing periodic conferences and exchange programmes among SAARC nations.

12.6 NIOS Representation in International Events

Mr. M.C. Pant, Chairman, NIOS, attended the Conference of E-9 Countries organized by MHRD and cohosted by UNESCO from 4 to 6 October 2007 at Bangalore. Mr. Pant also attended the International Conference on "Environmental Education toward a Sustainable Future" organized by Thilisi+30 from 26 to 28 November 2007 at Ahmedabad. He also attended the workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation organized by COL at ICSSR, New Delhi from 29 to 1 December 2007. In addition, Mr. Pant is a member to the Advisory Council of Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA).

Dr. Mamta Srivastava, Assistant Director (Vocational Education) participated in the

13. Projects

13.0 Introduction

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has taken up some projects in collaboration with different national and international partners. These projects are innovative in nature and have focus on a particular area of study. In some cases, the work done is exemplar in nature and serves as a model for other institutions working in Open Schooling.

During the year 2007-08, the following projects were taken up:

13.1 Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) A MHRD, UNFPA, NIOS Collaboration

The Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) supported by UNFPA has been implemented by 5 national agencies during the VI Country Programme including the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The AEP launched in 2005 has been the extended version of the Project on "Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) in Schools" that was initiated in October 2004 primarily as an experimental Project. During 2005, the Project was re-considered and the "Project on ARSH in Schools" was converted into Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) expanding its coverage as well as objectives. Ministry of Human Resource Deve-lopment (MHRD), Government of India, which is the Executing Agency, transferred the AEP along with other Quality Improvement in Schools (QIS) Schemes, to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in April 2006.

During 2006, NIOS took initiative to conduct different activities to facilitate and promote integration of adolescence education elements in curricula, study materials and Interactive Voicemail Response System (IVRS). During 2007-08, the CRC (Camera Ready Copies) of the updated and integrated course at secondary level were completed for printing. Integration was carried out in Urdu, Hindi, English, Biology, Home Science, Geography and Psychology books at senior secondary level and Arabic and Tamil at secondary level. In subjects like Accountancy and Political Science, information on adolescence education integrated using innovative techniques. Approximately 2 lakh learners are expected to use this material during academic year 2008-09. For each subject, a project type question integrated with Adolescence Education content was developed for Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA).

The need to train the tutors on Life Skills and appropriate usage of the integrated course material was envisaged. The Tutors Training Manual has been prepared in collaboration with COL.

The need to build capacity of lesson writers for future use emerged during 2006. An intensive Capacity Building workshop for Lesson Writers was organized at Mussourie from 17 to 20 January; 2007 with support from UNFPA consultants. 22 lesson writers drawn from the states of Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal and Uttarakhand participated in a four day residential workshop. A Directory of the trained lesson writers is available with AEP Unit, NIOS.

The materials used for advocacy, WebPages, IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System) Posters, Planner etc. were scrutinized from the standpoint of cultural and social sensitivity by a panel of experts at National level. The material produced was appreciated by the committee. The Planner was printed in Hindi and English and made available to nearly three lakh learner at secondary and senior secondary level with the study material. The stake holders were also provided with 'Almanac 2007' and 'NIOS at a Glance'. AE information using Life Skills approach was also prominently placed in Prospectus 2007.

Interactive WebPages dedicated to AE were uploaded on NIOS website. The hyperlink shall be established after a formal opening.

IVRS was made operational with an all India Toll Free number 1800 180 9393 with menu driven information on issues and concerns of adolescents. A UAT (User Acceptance Test) was conducted on a limited sample of NIOS learners and tutors. The feed back received was extremely encouraging. Making the facility available at a Toll Free number was highly appreciated both by learners and tutors. The respondents felt that with the boom in telecommunication sector even remotest places had telephone facility. By providing the facility of a Toll Free number IVRS has made inroads in every nook and corner of the country. Any learner desirous of seeking guidance shall face no problem.

The year 2007-08 saw production of ten audio programmes on 'Rights of Adolescents' and two video programmes on 'Substance Abuse' and internalization of life skills. The Film 'Pate ki Baat' produced by NIOS was adjudged as the best educational film in the 13th All India Children's Educational Audio-Video Festival 2008. It was also awarded the best script award.

13.2 International Conference on Adolescence Education through Open Learning – The SAARC Experience.

An International Conference was organized to provide a platform to discuss and share common concerns related to Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) as being implemented in the member countries of SAARC with a special focus on use of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) System as a viable intervention. This conference ws held at Goa from 30th to 31st October 2007.

This conference had the following objectives:

- Sharing the experience, identifying bottlenecks, sharing good practices and evolving strategies for effective implementation of AEP.

- Exploring possibilities of mutually beneficial national and international networking

The theme of the Conference was Adolescence Education: Exploring strategies for educational interventions through open learning in context of SAARC nations

> The major areas focused upon during the Conference were:
> - Creating awareness and changing attitudes towards AE within communities.
> - Education and training of stakeholders in Adolescences Education
> - Empowering Adolescents through life skills
> - Sharing of experience on Adolescence issues through educational interventions
> - Strategies for reaching out to marginalized adolescent groups within communities.
> - Use of ICT for Adolescence Education.

The participants in this International Conference included reputed educational planners and administrators; UNFPA focal officers on adolescent issues and representatives from partner agencies and NGOs from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India. The MHRD was represented by Sh. S.C. Kuntia, Joint Secretary, while Mr. Nissim Tumkaya, Representative India, UNFPA was also present at this Conference.

The conference was a combination of presentations of a status paper by each SAARC country, open house discussions and group work sessions. The recommendations of the conference were presented and discussed in the penultimate session. A plan of action and the possibilities of collaboration among SAARC nations in the field of Adolescence Education were some of the outcomes.

13.1.3 Literacy Initiative For Empowerment (LIFE) Project: (A UNESCO - NIOS Collaboration)

The Literacy Initiative for Empowerment Project (LIFE) is a project being implemented in collaboration with UNESCO. This LIFE project is part of the strategy developed by UNESCO for the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals. The immediate objectives of LIFE are as follows:

- To reinforce the national and international commitment to literacy through advocacy and communication.
- To support the articulation of policies for sustainable literacy within sector-wise and national development frameworks.
- To strengthen national capacities for programme design, management and implementation.
- To enhance countries innovative initiatives and practices in providing literacy learning opportunities.

The LIFE project was assigned by UNESCO to NIOS in 2006-07. The objective of this project was to develop a Literacy Initiative For Empowerment (LIFE) Distance Education Training Kit for facilitators. This kit aims at sustaining literacy through development of materials which addresses the day-to-day needs of adult neo-literates and the empowerment issues of women especially in rural areas. The LIFE kit modules encourage the learning needs of neo-literates who aspire to continue their education through lifelong learning.

The Modules developed and produced under the LIFE Kit are as follows:

Module I   Literacy for Harmonious Living

Module II   Literacy for Safe Motherhood

Module III   Literacy for Healthy Childhood and Adolescence

Module IV   Literacy for Economic Empowerment and Responsible Citizenship

Module V   Literacy for Enhancing Life Skills

In addition, the LIFE kit has vocational modules that promote livelihood skills.
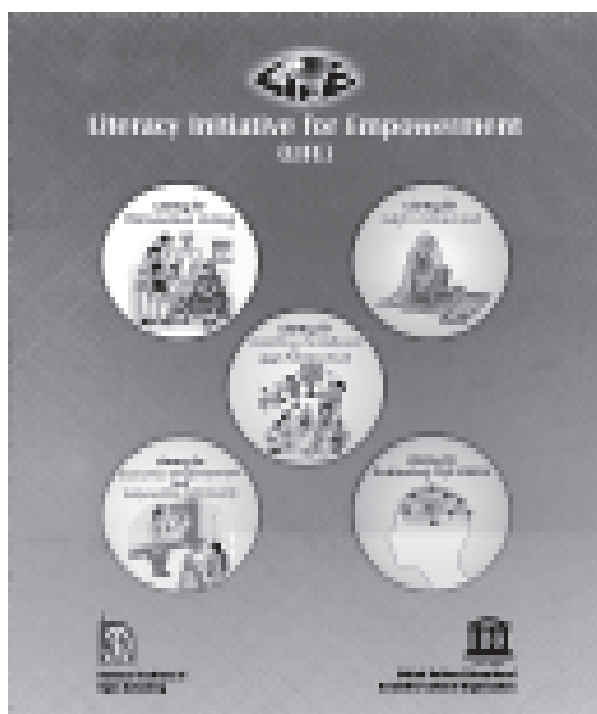
During 2007-08, a series of meeting were held for writing and editing of the LIFE Kit. The Kit was reviewed by subject experts and practitioners from the field of literacy. The material for the LIFE kit was prepared in print as well as in CD version. It was also prepared for uploading on the website. In addition to the development of materials, the LIFE project has also led to the initiation of a LIFE partnership amongst various NGOs, government agencies and institutions. In order to obtain feedback, the draft LIFE kit was presented before a gathering of international experts at the International Conference of E9 Countries on ICT for Literacy organized by UNESCO & NLM, from October 4 to 6, 2007, at Bangalore. It is notable that this LIFE kit is the first of its kind to be developed by any of the 35 LIFE countries and the efforts made by NIOS were greatly appreciated. It is significant that the LIFE Kit was launched by Mr. Koichiru Matsuura, Director General, UNESCO, Paris at the UNESCO Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy held in November 2007.

14. National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS)

14.0   Introduction

The National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS) was set up in 1997 (with its Secretariat located in NIOS) with the objective of facilitating Apex Body functions of NIOS and to promote better cooperation and collaboration among State agencies / Institutions involved / engaged in Open Schooling (Distance / Correspondence Education at School stage). The consortium aims at providing a common forum for exchange of ideas and resources and facilitates better cooperation, collaboration and expansion of activities in Open Learning System. As per the Constitution of NCOS and operationalisation strategies, its broad functions are:

● Promotion of Open Schooling in the States.

● Consultancy, advice and assistance to States for setting up/upscaling/strengthening of State Open Schools (SOSs).

● Coordination/Collaboration and clearing house functions on Promotion of Open Schooling and Setting up of State Open Schools.

● Organization of Meetings of the NCOS and follow up action.

● Liaison with the States in matters pertaining to various aspects of Open Schooling and Distance Education at school stage (upto Pre-degree level).

14.1   Promotion of Open Schooling during 2007-08.

14.1.1   Existing State Open Schools (SOSs)

(i) West Bengal, (ii) Andhra Pradesh, (iii) Tamil Nadu, (iv) Karnataka, (v) Kerala, (vi) Madhya Pradesh, (vii) Rajasthan, (viii) Haryana, (ix) Punjab, (x) Jammu & Kashmir.

These SOSs need further qualitative improvement and upscaling of Open Schooling Programmes. Under the aegis of NCOS, NIOS continued interacting with the State Open Schools (SOSs) and the State Education Departments:

(i) Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu State Open Schools are being upscaled/upgraded to Secondary and Senior Secondary with Vocational Component from 2008-09 session.

(ii) Revival of Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi SOSs is being pursued vigorously.

14.1.2   State Open Schools in Pipeline

A few States are planning to introduce the Open Schooling Programmes from ensuing session (2008-09) with professional, technical and resource support from NIOS. Some envisage adopting/adapting NIOS Curriculum, Syllabi and Courses, Self-Instructional Materials, Audio, Video Cassettes, etc. The States of (i) Andhra Pradesh, (ii) Bihar, (iii) Uttar Pradesh, (iv) Delhi, (v) Goa, (vi) Jharkhand, (vii) Tamil Nadu, (viii) Chhattisgarh, (ix) Assam, and (x) Tripura, are expected to start SOSs from 2008-09 session. The Project Proposals for setting up the SOS in each of these States have been formulated in collaboration with the NCOS Secretarial (NIOS) and considered by the respective State Governments. Assam, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Delhi are in the process of notifying admissions from the next session. With setting up of a State Open School in each of the above States, there would be 18 SOSs in the country.

14.1.3   Position of Open Schooling in Remaining States:

The potential States which have earlier contemplated/initiated the steps for setting up SOSs are :

(i) Gujarat, (ii) Himachal Pradesh, (iii) Maharashtra, (iv) Orissa and (v) Uttarakhand, etc. In North-Eastern Region, (i) Arunachal Pradesh, (ii) Manipur, (iii) Nagaland, (iv) Mizoram and (v) Sikkim, at one stage or the other, initiated drafting of the Proposals for setting up either a State Open School (SOS) or an Open Schooling Cell (OSC). However, the latest position is awaited. Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are trying to establish an Open Schooling Centre / Cell in their Education Departments as the Schools of these States are affiliated to CBSE and they will operate in colla-boration with respective Regional Centres of NIOS. Meghalaya and Mizoram are yet to decide to set up the SOSs. Open Schooling Cells (OSCs) have been set up in the UTs of (i) Andaman & Nicobar, (ii) Dadra & Nagar Haveli, (iii) Daman & Diu, while the remaining UTs namely; Chandigarh, Lakshwadeep and Pondicherry, etc., would be linked to the concerned Regional Centres for promotion/introduction of Open Schooling Programmes through NIOS.

14.2 Open Schooling State Coordination Committees (OSSCCs)

As per the Order No. NIOS/Admn./4/306/04, dated 19th November, 2004, NIOS, an Open Schooling State Coordination Committee (OSSCC) is to be constituted in each State under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (School Education) of each State in order to streamline the mechanism for identification of educational needs for Open Schooling Programme of NIOS and processing the programmes. The NCOS Secretarial (NIOS) alongwith the Regional Centres concerned continued making efforts, wherever possible, to tentatively constitute the OSSCC with the consent of State Education Secretary. The exercise is being accorded priority.

14.3 Annual Meeting of NCOS

The Eighth Meeting of the National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS) was organized by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), in collaboration with the Punjab State Open School, at Mohali (near Chandigarh) from 4 to 5

December, 2007. The Meeting was inaugurated by Shri. M.C. Pant, Chairman, NIOS. He mentioned: -

- Flexibilities of Open Learning System and the requirements of different Stakeholders.

- Efforts of the State Open Schools,

- Need for Training of Open Schooling functionaries.

Recommendations

(1) Promotion of Open Schooling: Setting up/ upscaling of State Open Schools.

(2) Organizing Popularization, Advocacy, Need Assessment, Project Designing and Development Programmes in the States.

(3) State Open Schools to prepare and provide to NIOS comprehensive / up-to-date status and profile and a booklet titled "SOS at a Glance" by the end of 2007-08, Action Taken Report and filled up proformas on 'Profile and Enrolment Data of SOS', 'Action Plan for 2008-09'.

(4) Each SOS to offer courses of Open Basic Education (OBE), Open Secondary and Senior Secondary (Classes X and XII), Open Vocational Education (OVE) in Hindi/English/Urdu/Regional mediums.

(5) NIOS to provide professional and technical support and Training to Open Schooling functionaries.

(6) Translation of Self-Instructional materials, Life Skills Education, SOS-COL linkages, etc.

14.4 Developmental Efforts and Communication with States to set up State Open Schools.

During the year, a lot of correspondence took place in the context of setting up SOSs. The Chairman, NIOS wrote to the Education Secretary of each States emphasizing the need of promoting Open Schooling and setting up/upscaling State Open School with technical, professional and re-

source support from NIOS. The matter has also been discussed by Chairman, NIOS during the Meetings of State Education Secretaries a number of times. As a consequence, some of the States responded positively, identified their Nodal Officers (Open Schooling) and contemplated to have links with NIOS for developing the Project Proposals for setting up the State Open Schools and thus introducing the Open Learning System at the school stage with utmost priority in conformity with the National Policy Perspectives and new dimensions in School Education.

14.5 Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).

A Draft Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Promotion of Open Schooling and Setting up/Upscaling of State Open Schools across the country and to step up the financial assistance being provided to the State Governments was formulated by NIOS and sent to the MHRD for consideration and for approval for implementation during the XI Five Year Plan.

15. Capacity Building Programmes at National Level

15.0 Introduction

The objective of Capacity Building Programmes is to develop effective manpower resources for Open Schooling. This is crucial for effective functioning of Open Schooling System because nurturing the personnel association with Open Schooling is as important as nurturing the learners of Open Schools. Towards this end, NIOS not only undertakes the conduct of National/ Regional Conferences/Seminars and Training Programmes but also encourages participation of its personnel in the programmes organized by other organizations.

15.1 Workshops/Conferences/ Seminars/Programmes organized by NIOS

15.1.1 Capacity Building Workshop for Lesson Writers

A five-day Capacity Building workshop for lessons writers was organized by NIOS on integration of Life Skills and Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) issues in the study materials from 16 to 20 January 2007 at Mussorie. The workshop was organized in collaboration with UNFPA. The parti-cipants were drawn form the states of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. The lesson writers were introduced to the concept of Life Skills and ARSH. The main objective of the workshop was internalization of the concept of Life Skills, a deeper insight in to issues and concerns of adolescents and developing a strategy of integrating the information into lessons. A number of lessons were integrated and presented.

15.1.2 Mainstreaming Learners with Specific Learning Disability

A workshop to sensitize the Academic and Vocational officers in NIOS towards the needs of learners with learning disability was organized by the UNFPA/MHRD supported Adolescence Education Programme Unit on 29th January, 2008 at National Institute of Open Schooling, A-31, Sector-62, NOIDA. A lecture was delivered by Ms. Hena Akhtar, Incharge, Educare Centre, New Delhi on identification of Learning, Behavioral and General Symptoms of learning disabled. This was followed up with a Lecture by Dr. Jatinder Nagpal, Consultant Adolescent Mental Health Clinic, VIMHANS on Symptoms and Detection of Specific Development Dyslexia The feedback analysis of the sensitization workshop revealed that the workshop was successful in clarifying the doubts of participants and removing misconceptions regarding dyslexia. The workshop successfully pointed out the suggestions from the experts, which helped as a guide for the NIOS officials in charting the future course of action. The workshop also helped in identifying new avenues and future prospects related to addressing effectively the difficulties faced by learning disabled.

15.1.3 Annual Meeting of NCOS

The Eighth Meeting of the National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS) was organized by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in collaboration with the Punjab State Open School of Punjab School Education Board at Mohali (near Chandigarh) on 4th & 5th December, 2007. The Meeting was presided over by Prof. M.C. Pant, Chairman, NIOS.

15.1.4 Sensitization workshop on the School Drug Awareness Programme (26th September, 2007)

The AEP Unit organized a one-day workshop for NIOS officials and adolescent learners on School Drug Awareness Programme in collaboration with

UNODC for the Hindi Pakhwara on 26thSeptember 2007 at National Institute of Open Schooling, A-31, Sector-62, NOIDA. Since the target group was out of school adolescent learners and NIOS officials, the methodology and activities were tailored according to their needs by Dr. Sudha Sood, consultant UNODC. The programme was specially made in Hindi to suit the language of the audience. A special quiz on Drugs was conducted in Hindi. Situations for role-plays were given to groups of students to encourage development of Life Skills, and help them to say 'I Decide'. A 'Candy Game' was organized to help them learn various ways of saying 'No'. All participants then took the pledge not to take drugs. The feedback analysis of the activity revealed that knowledge about Substance Abuse was very limited. Most participants do not consider Beer, bidi and ghutka as drugs. The role-plays showed positive and negative ways to handle situations.

15.1.5 Programme for Principals of Minority Managed Schools

An important part of training of school Principals attending the training programme at National University of Educational Planning and Administration was visit to various educational institutes. A delegation of 47 minority managed school principals from different parts of India visited NIOS on 15 January, 2008. Prof. K.R. Chandrasekaran, Director (Academic) welcomed the guests. Shri M.C. Pant, Chairman, NIOS, gave an overview of NIOS, programmes. Presentations were made on Academic and Vocational courses in NIOS, working of the Department of Student Support Services, Examination system in NIOS, and ICT interventions in NIOS.

Shri D.S. Bist, IPS, Secretary, NIOS apprised the guests about the initiatives taken by the NIOS for minority schools and invited suggestions from the delegates for improvement of what was already being done. The queries made by the principals were answered.

15.1.6 Programme for the Students of SNDT Women's University

Sixteen students accompanied by Prof. Vasudha Kamath and Dr. Jayashree Shinde of the Department of Educational Technology, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai visited NIOS on 31st January, 2008. Prof. K.R. Chandrasekaran, Director (Academic) welcomed the learners and briefed them about NIOS and its functioning. The presentations made by NIOS faculty members included (i) use of printed material and audio video support provided by NIOS, and (ii) use of ICT for NIOS learners. The Chairman, NIOS, Shri M.C. Pant gave and overview of NIOS. During the Open House session, the students showed interest in the NIOS website, specially the process of online admission and the Educational Portal of MHRD "Sakshat".

15.2 Regional Seminars

15.2.1 Curriculum Framework for Open Vocational Education

A Regional Meeting on "Curriculum Framework for Open Vocational Education" was hosted by the Regional Centre, Guwahati on 5th July 2007 at National Institute of Rural Development, Jawahar Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati. 17 experts participated in the meet representing PSSIVE, Bhopal and some important Vocational and Technical Education Institutes in the region.

The Chairman, NIOS, in his keynote address, reiterated NIOS commitment to expand Vocational Education in the North East both in terms of access and opportunity. He highlighted the importance of having a national curriculum framework for sustained growth of vocational education. He also reiterated the need of having local specific courses for their utility and demand and emphasized the need of having large number of Vocational Education Centers for extension of Programmes. He also outlined NIOS efforts in making Vocational Education more accessible and useful.

The Director (Vocational Education) highlighted efforts of NIOS for consolidation of Vocational Education programmes and importance of a consensus approach in this regard. He informed that the present curriculum framework was first of its kind in the country and would provide guidelines in this field for growth and development of Vocational Programmes.

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Regional Director, gave an overview of NIOS and its Vocational Education Programmes. Shri. C.K. Mishra presented the overview of NIOS curriculum framework on vocational education. It was followed by group work under the guidance of Prof. A.P. Verma. The groups dwelt upon the issues related to vocational Education and presented their suggestions specifically concerning the people of North East.

16. Library, Documentation and Information Services

16.0   Introduction

The Library of the National Institute of Open Schooling houses a print collection of 15,987 books, 13,200 loose issues of journals and non-print collection of 689 audio/video cassettes particularly on education, distance education, and the subjects offered by the NIOS at different levels. It receives more than 80 National/ International Journals on subscription/ complimentary basis and 23 magazines, 19 Daily and 2 Weekly newspapers on subscription basis. It also receives newsletters of CBSE, COBSE, COL, DELNET, ICDL, IGNOU, NUEPA, NCERT, and NCSTC on complimentary basis. The Archival Section of NIOS has a collection of the NIOS publications, which includes study material of the NIOS courses at different level such as Open Basic Education, Secondary, Senior Secondary Education and Annual Reports, Newsletters, Conference Reports, Magazine, Journal and other NIOS publications.

The main objective of the NIOS library is to cater to the needs of academic, non-academic staff and other educational experts who are engaged in research and development of curriculum, study material for the NIOS learners of various courses

16.1   The NIOS Library and Archival section performs the following tasks to provide library services

16.1.1 Technical Processing

The NIOS Library uses Dewey Decimal classification 20th Edition Scheme for classification and Anglo-American cataloguing rules for cataloguing of procured books. During 2007-08, 340 books were   classified and catalogued.

16.1.2 Up-dation of Library Database

The library database was up-dated by making entries of all procured books and subscribed journals, for the Library. Data relating to issue/ return of books and journals were also entered.

16.1.3 Scanning for Educational News

During 2007-2008, about 4200 newspapers/ magazines/journals were scanned for identifying news items and articles on Education, Distance Education and particularly on NIOS.

16.1.4 Appointment of Archival Officer

The NIOS has developed and produced many valuable documents that have a significant academic and archival value for other ODL Systems in the country and abroad. However, it has been observed that many such documents are not traceable and have been lost due to lack of system of preserving such documents/records. In a meeting held by the Secretary, NIOS with Academic Department on 6th July, 2007, the entire issue of appointment of Archival Officer was discussed and deliberated at length. Based upon this, it was decided that Librarian will be appointed as Archival Officer in NIOS. The Archival Officer would maintain all copies of printed materials both in hard and soft versions and would also maintain non-print materials.

16.2 Services provided by NIOS Library

16.2.1 Circulation Service

It includes issue/return of books, journals, magazines, audio/video cassettes and cds, registration of new members and issue of 'No Demand Certificate'.   During the year, about 7,100 documents were issued and returned. Thirty

library tickets were issued to five staff members and 'No Demand Certificates' were issued to eight staff members. Seventy-Five reminders were sent to some library members to recover the overdue books.

16.2.2 Inter-Library Loan

Under this service, documents are made available on Inter-Library Loan to the users from other Libraries, in case of non-availability of required documents in the NIOS Library. More than 40 documents were made available from different Libraries.

16.2.3 Reference Service

It is provided in anticipation and on demand. It includes answering of queries and searches for reference. During the year, 210 queries were answered and 250 searches for documents were made for providing required information to the users. Forty-one people other than registered library members, visited the NIOS library for reference purpose and searches for references.

16.2.4 Referral Service

Under this service, the user is referred to other Libraries if the required document is not available in the NIOS Library and cannot be made available on Inter-Library Loan.

16.2.5 Reprographic Service

The NIOS Library provides on demand xerox copies of reference material to the library users. Copies of reference material were provided to library members as an when demanded.

16.3 Addition to the NIOS library

During the year, 679 books on various subjects were added in the NIOS Library. These included education and distance education 41, science and allied sciences 48, general and fictions 50, reference 10 social sciences 20, NCERT 330, Hindi 180 books. Subscription in respect of sixty nine journals, 23 magazines, 19 daily and 2 weekly newspapers was renewed for a further period of one year.

16.4 Information Technology

Keeping pace with modern technology in information and technology, the NIOS library provides facilities of INTERNET and DELNET (Developing Library Network) to its members. DELNET, with more than 1290 institutions as its members, promotes resource sharing among the member libraries. The NIOS and other libraries catalogue of books can be accessed by member libraries of DELNET and their users at www.delnet.nic.in through union catalogue.

The NIOS Library uses **"LIBSYS"** software**.** It is fully integrated library system, which supports all activities relating to acquisition, cataloguing, circulation and serials.

16.5 Setting up libraries at Regional Centers

It was planned to establish libraries at Chandigarh, Kolkatta and Pune Regional Centre in the first phase. A budget of Rs.50,000/- to each regional centre was allocated and guidelines sent to establish libraries. The Regional Centre, Kolkata has established its Library by procuring some books and furniture

17. Right to Information

17.0 Introduction

In view of the direction of Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the Right to Information Act, 2005 has been implemented in NIOS from October, 2005. The Act envisages that every Public Authority shall designate as many officers as Public information Officers (PIOs) in all administrative units or offices under it as may be necessary to provide information to persons requesting for the information. Accordingly, NIOS assigned this work of keeping and collating the information from all constituents of NIOS to be performed by the Administration Wing.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Act, the Deputy Director (Pers) was designated as Public Information Officer-I and the System Analyst and Programmer as Public Information Officer-II for NIOS Head Quarters. In the Regional Centres of NIOS, the Joint Directors/Deputy Directors,

At NIOS Headquarter

Appellate Authority	Shri D.S. Bist Secretary, NIOS	All Appeals
Public Information Officer-I	Dr. Anita Priyadarshini Deputy Director (Pers)	1. PIO for the Administration Department 2. Appellate Authority for Regional Heads of the rank of Assistant Director in the Regional Office who have been designated as APIOs.

Public Information Officer-II	Shri S.K. Prasad System Analyst/ Programmer	1. PIO for the following Departments/ Units of NIOS:
		  (i) Academic Department
		  (ii) Student Support Services Department
		  (iii) Vocational Education Department
		  (iv) Evaluation Department
		  (v) Computer Unit
		
		2. Responsible for ensuring that all the required information, under the Act, and also otherwise, is made available on the NIOS Website and is updated as and when required, so that public can access it at any time.
		
		3. Responsible for maintaining the required information under the Act, and otherwise also, in print and electronic form, at all required places.

At the Regional Centres of National Institute of Open Schooling

Public Information Officer	Joint Director/Deputy Director working as Regional Head	1. PIO for all information related to the concerned Regional Centre 2. Appellate Authority for APIO in the Regional Centre, if any
Assistant Public Information Officer (for the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned Regional Centre)	Assistant Director working as Regional Head	APIO for all information related to the concerned Regional Centre

working as Regional Heads were designated as Public Information Officers. The Assistant Directors working as Regional Heads at Regional Centre and those reporting to Regional Heads have been designated as Assistant Public Information Officers.

Secretary NIOS was designated as the Appellate Authority for the NIOS Headquarter. and the Regional Centres.

17.1 Structure of RTI as adopted by NIOS

Assistant Public Information Officer(for the concerned Regional Centres) Assistant Director at Regional Centre reporting to Regional Heads APIO for all information related to the concerned Regional Centre

The NIOS, in keeping with the spirit of the Act, has made provisions to provide information to all applicants in the specified time frame. NIOS has uploaded the following information related to the obligation of Public Authority under Section 4 of the Act on its official website.

1. NIOS at a Glance

2. Memorandum of Association (MOA) of NOS Society

3. Guideline for Accreditation of AIs, AVIs and AAs

4. Admission Process

5. Vocational Education Programmes

6. Recruitment Rules of NIOS

7. Guidelines for Centre Superintendents for External Examinations

8. Information about Courses and Materials for OBE, Secondary and Senior Secondary Education

9. List of Members of RCACs

10. NIOS Budget at a Glance, Annual Accounts and Audit Report

11. Notifications regarding Tender Notice, Examination Hall Tickets, Results, National Talent Promotion Scheme, Student Centre Address Book

12. Office Orders for PIO, APIO, Regional Heads, SA/P

The System Analyst/Programmer has been assigned the work of preparing and maintaining the documents as mentioned in Section 4 of the RTI Act.

NIOS has computerized all records of applications received and disposed off under the RTI Act. It has also been sending necessary reports as per the Act to the CIC and the MHRD. During the year 2007-08, 118 requests were received and processed by NIOS.

18. Promoting Use of Hindi

18.0   Introduction

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has been taking steps for progressive use of Hindi (as the Official Language) in order to implement the provisions of the official languages as per guidelines issued from time to time by the Government on India, Ministry of Home Affairs. The Rajbhasha Section at the NIOS Headquarter looks after matters related to progressive use of Hindi in academic and administrative work. This section develops and disseminates guidelines for progressive use of Hindi, monitors implementation of the programme and assists various constituents of NIOS in matters related to the official language.

18.1   Activities of Rajbhasha Section

During 2007-08, the Rajbhasha Section took steps to implement the official language rules as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The main activities performed were as follows:

18.1.1 Translation

▪ During 2007-08, Press Releases related to different seminars, conferences and other programmes conducted by NIOS were translated into Hindi and published in all leading Hindi and English newspapers all over the country.

▪ The Annual Report of NIOS for the year 2006-07 was translated in Hindi.

▪ The Prospectus (Academic Courses) as well as the Prospectus (Vocational Education Courses) was translated in Hindi.

▪ Annual Accounts of NIOS and Annual Audit Report were prepared bilingually.

▪ Different official forms were translated in Hindi.

▪ "NIOS-At a Glance" was prepared in Hindi as well as in English.

18.1.2 Implementation Activities

Hindi Fortnight

The Hindi Fortnight was celebrated from 14 to 28 September 2007 with enthusiasm. During this fortnight, the staff of NIOS participates on the following competitions:

(i)   Official Language Competition

(ii)   Computer based Hindi Knowledge Competition

(iii) Presentation of essay through Computer Competition

(iv)   Quiz Competition

(v)   Essay Writing Competition

(vi)   AEP based Competition

About 125 NIOS officials participated in different competitions, and prizes of Rs.500, Rs.400, Rs.300 and Rs.200 were given to I, II and III winners. The Regional Centers of NIOS also participated in the competitions. AEP based competition was conducted with AEP Project of Academic Department.

18.2 Meetings

During 2007-08, several important decisions were taken regarding correspondence and noting in Hindi and about overall use of Hindi. These included:

(i) Reply of letters in Hindi were sent in Hindi

(ii) More Noting and Drafting were done in Hindi

(iii) Most of the Headings on the file covers were made in Hindi

(iv) Hindi software was put in every computer.

(v) Many Nameplates, Signboards, Rubber Stamps were prepared bilingually.

(vi) Quarterly reports are being sent to MHRD regularly.

18.3 Training

18.3.1 Computer Training

The new Hindi Computer Software developed by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry was made available and provided to the Departments at NIOS Head Quarter and the Regional Centre of NIOS.

18.3.2 Inspection

Several Sections in the constituents of NIOS were inspected to ascertain the actual position of use of Hindi and finding possibilities of promotion of Hindi at different levels.

18.4 Publications

During 2007-08, several study materials as well as other documents in Hindi language were printed in Hindi and supplied to the students enrolled for Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational Education courses. Certain other important publications, reports and journals printed in Hindi are as follows:

♦ Annual Report, Prospectus (Academic Courses), Prospectus (Vocational Education Courses), 'Open Learning Magazine (Bilingual), 'Open Schooling' News Bulletin (Bilingual), Almanac, Annual Accounts and Audit Report, Answer Books, Certificates and Mark Statements.
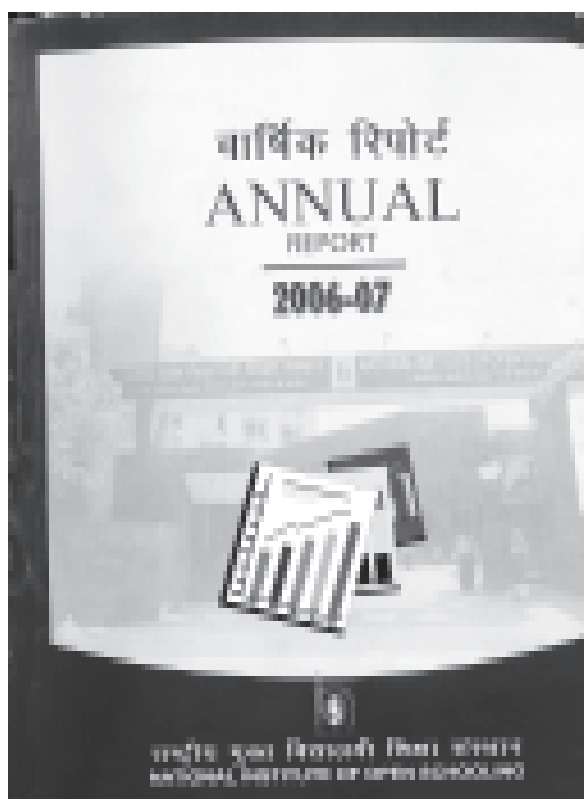
NIOS purchased bilingual computers only and Hindi software was installed in all computers in various constituents of NIOS.

Several programmes related to incentives for promotion of Hindi were initiated and facilitation material was distributed. Books in Hindi were also purchased for the NIOS Library. Steps were taken to get Quarterly Progress Reports on Progressive Use of Hindi prepared, continued Name Plates were prepared bilingually. Writing of selected words and thoughts on the Notice Boards. All official language rules and regulations were distributed to staff members for the implementation in day-to-day work. Steps were taken to implement the Annual Report of Rajbhasha.

19. Programme undertaken in North Eastern Region and Jammu &Kashmir

19.0   Academic

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) with International recognition and presence and provides access to sustainable and learner centric quality school education, skill upgradation, training through Open and Distance Learning.

During the year 2007-08, NIOS continued offering all its Course / Programmes of Open Basic Education, Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational Education and Training in almost all the North Eastern States (including Sikkim and Assam) and Jammu & Kashmir through its own Study Centres called Accredited Institutes (AIs) and Regional Centres at Guwahati and Chandigarh. With a view to promote and extend Open Schooling in States, especially to offer courses in regional mediums, a forum known as National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS) has already been established with NIOS as its Secretariat. It facilitate cooperation and interaction among NIOS and States by setting up State Open Schools (SOSs) in each of the States. During year, special efforts were made through NCOS Secretariat.

Efforts for setting up a State Open School (SOS) or a Cell in the School Education Board of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram. They were at the advanced stage of preparing their Techno-economic Feasibility Project Proposals. Other States in NER are in the process of exploring the possibilities of establishing their own system of Open Schooling. The NCOS Secretariat with the help of Regional Centre of NIOS at Guwahati is, however, pursuing the matter with each State and planning to organise advocacy / persuasive meetings in order to prepare the Project Proposal for SOS.

19.1   Student Support Services in North Eastern Region

The mission of NIOS is to provide relevant, continuing and development education at school stage, making contribution towards universalisation of education in the country. The NIOS is offering Open Schooling programmes in the North-Eastern States through 118 Academic Study Centres. During the session 2007-08, **26,529** students were enrolled in NE Region. Of this **15,926** students were in Secondary courses and **10,603** students were in Senior Secondary courses.

Establishment of Study Centres

The NIOS performs an important role with other pioneer institutions for universalisation of education in NE Region. For this NIOS needs the support and coopereation of all States of NE Region in terms of establishing Study Centres for effective implementation of Secondary and Senior Secondary education programmes through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. NIOS has set up its Regional Centre at Guwahati for NE Region in the year 1999. State-wise distribution of AIs in North-Eastern States is given below

Admission

Enrolment of Secondary and Senior Secondary courses in the North-Eastern States for last three Academic sessions is as stated below:-

Vocational Education

Fourteen AVIs in North-Eastern Region Centre (Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh) offer various Vocational Courses.

Table 1: State-wise distribution of AIs in North-Eastern States.

S.No	State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Assam	15	15	16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	15	17
3.	Manipur	47	46	45
4.	Meghalaya	08	09	09
5.	Mizoram	11	11	11
6.	Nagaland	16	16	17
7.	Tripura	06	06	03

Table 2: State-wise enrolment in Academic Courses in North-Eastern States

S.No.	State	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
		Sec.	Sr.Sec	Total	Sec.	Sr.Sec	Total	Sec.	Sr.Sec	Total
1.	Assam	1304	1247	2551	1396	1368	2764	1458	1747	3205
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2225	881	3106	4949	3952	8901	2256	1121	3377
3.	Manipur	5062	4282	9344	1363	31	1394	4886	4322	9208
4.	Meghalaya	1174	18	1192	2476	1049	3525	1564	69	1633
5.	Mizoram	2184	990	3174	2019	870	2889	2648	1566	4214
6.	Nagaland	2463	969	3432	340	248	588	2489	1318	3807
7.	Tripura	382	219	601	2269	1119	3388	625	460	1085

19.2 Student Support Services in Jammu & Kashmir

The NIOS has covered Jammu & Kashmir State with 21 Study Centres. In Jammu & Kashmir State 2,003 students were enrolled during the Academic Session 2007-08.

Establishment of Study Centres

The NIOS performs an important role with other pioneer institutions for universalisation of education in Jammu & Kashmir. For this NIOS needs the support and cooperation of the State Education Departments in terms of establishing Study Centre for effective implementation of Secondary and Senior Secondary education programmes through Open and Distance Learning mode (ODL). For the State of Jammu & Kashmir and four other northern States a Regional Centre was established in Chandigarh during 1999. Distribution of AIs in Jammu & Kashmir State is given below

Table 1: State-wise distribution of AIs in Jammu & Kashmir

S.No	State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	24	24	21

Admission

Enrolment of Secondary and Senior Secondary Courses in Jammu & Kashmir State for last 3 Academic Session is as stated below

Table 2: Enrolment in Academic Courses in Jammu & Kashmir

S.No.	States	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
		Sec.	Sr.Sec	Total	Sec.	Sr.Sec	Total	Sec.	Sr.Sec	Total
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	430	609	1039	420	675	1095	737	1266	2003

Vocational Education

Six AVIs in Jammu & Kashmir were Accredited in Vocational Education Courses. 11 Vocational Courses are being offered in these Institutions.

2. Overview

2.0 Introduction

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has been pursuing its mission to provide opportunity for continuing education to those who have missed the opportunity to complete school and developmental education through courses and programmes of general, life enrichment and vocational education from primary to pre-degree level. This unique organization in the area of open schooling encompasses (i) the functions of a teaching institution, adopting open and distance learning (ODL) methodology, (ii) a National Board of Examination, and (iii) an apex agency at national level for quality assurance and resource support for planning, implementation and monitoring of its programmes and activities. The NIOS works through a network of five Departments viz., Academic Department, Department of Evaluation, Department of Student Support Services, Department of Vocational Education and Adminitration Department), three units viz., Computer Unit, Media Unit and Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Eleven Regional Centres and two Sub-Centres. Highlights of programmes and activities of NIOS during the year 2007-08 are mentioned below.

2.1 Enrolment in Academic and Vocational Courses

- During 2007-08, the overall enrolment at Secondary and Senior Secondary stage was 3,40,012.

- During 2007-08, the overall enrolment in various Vocational Courses was 23,674.

- The total new enrollment in Academic and Vocational courses during 2007-08 was 3,63,686.

- For the first time, **online admission was introduced** and approximately 31,000 students took admission online. The NIOS On-Line Admission facility (NI-On) Project for online admission and examination was

launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh, on 4th July 2007.

2.2 Accreditation of Institution

As on 31st March 2008, the total number of accredited institutes (AIs) established in different parts of the country to conduct Academic courses was 2076, which include 38 special Accredited Institutions for Education of the Disadvantaged. Under the Open Basic Education programme, about 341 organizations had been accredited as on 31st March 2008. As on 31st March 2008, the total member of Accredited Vocational Institutions (AVIs) established in different parts of the country was 1108 which included 37 Special Accredited Institutions for Education of the Disadvantaged (SAIEDs).

2.3 Recognition of NIOS Courses

As on 31st March 2008, 24 Boards, 111 Universities and 9 other Certifying Institutions had recognized the NIOS courses.

2.4 Student Support Services

The student support services programmes included (i) publicity about NIOS programmes, (ii) facilitating admission, (iii) timely supply of study materials through the study centres, (iv) organization of Personal Contact Programmes (PCP) and Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs) at the study centres, and (v) media support to the teaching learning programme. On the basis of district wise mapping of the Study Centres, NIOS has identified unreached and educationally backward districts for enhancing coverage. NIOS continued giving Transfer of Credits (TOC) to ex-students of CBSE, CISCE, UP Board, Uttaranchal Board, and State Open Schools (SOSs). For monitoring of implementation of the open schooling programme, the services of experienced educationists were utilized as Academic Facilitators at the study centres. They oversaw the process of admission, implementation of

programmes, conduct of PCP and TMA and examinations at the study centres. Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS), installed at NIOS Headquarters as well as the Regional Centres, provide response to day-to-day queries regarding admission, examinations, procedure of issuing duplicate Identity Cards, change/addition of subjects etc.

2.5 Promotion of Education amongst Minority groups

The National Policy on Education commits itself to provide all possible means for the upliftment of the educationally backward minorities; NIOS has been identified by the Government of India as a lead organization to implement the programmes of mainstreaming learners from Madrassas. Accordingly, NIOS organized a series of advocacy programmes and attended several meetings held in minority dominated areas. NIOS has also taken special initiatives to increase the number of schools in remote as well as Muslim dominated areas by relaxing its accreditation norms.

2.6 Material Production and Distribution

During the year 2007-08, NIOS printed around 50 lakh copies of Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational Education Courses study materials in Hindi, English, Urdu, Telugu, Marathi, Malayalam and Gujarati. In addition, NIOS printed and supplied study materials for the students of the Rajasthan State Open School. The bulk purchase of good quality of paper required for printing these study materials was done from the Hindustan Paper Corporation, a public sector undertaking. The study material was delivered to the NIOS students through the Study Centres. In certain special cases, the study material was sent directly to the enrolled students.

2.7 Regional Level Inputs

Eleven Regional Centres of NIOS at Kolkata, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Pune, Delhi, Chandigarh, Allahabad, Patna, Jaipur, Bhopal and Kochi and three Sub Centres at Dehradun, Bhubaneshwar and Darbhanga continued performing tasks such as admission, examinations, advertisement and

publicity, liaison, orientation of personnel attached to study centres, public relations and responding to students' grievances, etc. The Regional Centres also looked after matters related to inspection of institutions for accreditation as Study Centres.

2.8 Publicity

NIOS is pursuing an active publicity campaign to generate interest and awareness about its programmes throughout the country. Major initiatives of NIOS – like admission, examinations, collection of fees and results are highlighted in National and Regional dailies. The electronic media is also used to highlight significant programmes and events.

2.9 Courses of Study

The NIOS continued offering a wide variety of courses of study (academic and vocational) to meet the requirement of learners. The Academic Courses include (i) Open Basic Education (OBE) Programme for children below 14 years and for adults above 14 years, (ii) Secondary Education Courses, and (iii) Senior Secondary Education Courses. Vocational Education Courses are also offered for the benefit of the learners.

For implementation of OBE programme, the NIOS is partnering with 341 agencies, which are running their study centres for students. The curriculum related activities included (i) development of materials for academic and vocational education courses, and (ii) support to States for OBE material development. Detailed guidelines have been prepared for conduct of OBE examinations. A computerized format for OBE results was prepared and made available to OBE accredited agencies. During the year 2007-08, the OBE enrolment was 44889. Between April 2007 to March 2008, 52913 OBE learners were certified (at levels A, B and C).

At the Secondary and Senior Secondary stage, NIOS follows the cafeteria approach while offering various courses of study. The students have been given full freedom in selection of subjects. Only one language is compulsory. At the Secondary level, NIOS offers 27 subjects of which eight subjects are offered in eight mediums. Of the 27 subjects, 15 are languages. At the Senior Secondary level, 26 subjects are offered, of which

most are available in three mediums – Hindi, English and Urdu. During 2007-08, revision of course materials in different subjects at senior secondary level was in progress. During 2007-08, development of course material in new subjects like Fashion Studies, Mass Communication, Functional Hindi, Environmental Science and Sanskrit at Senior Secondary level was under process.

Under the Regional Language Programme, Tamil as a new subject at Secondary level was under development. The material was printed by March 2008 and would be introduced in the 2008-09 session. The preparation of Senior Secondary Curriculum in Tamil was initiated. The development of learning material in Persian was also undertaken and completed. This subject also would be introduced in the academic session of 2008– 09.

As a measure of continuous assessment of learners, Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs) were developed in all subjects, both in Hindi and English, for Secondary and Senior Secondary Education Courses for the year 2007-08. They were also made available in the regional mediums.

Admission to Vocational Education Courses continued during 2007-08. Some Vocational Education Courses such as Early Childhood Care and Education, Cutting, Tailoring and Dress Making, Computer Application, Jan Swasthya, Electrical Technician and Beauty Culture are very popular. The future thrust of NIOS Vocational Education Courses is on training of educated unemployed youth for meaningful and skill oriented employment. NIOS has planned to launch traditional and non-traditional technology oriented and competency based courses, rural oriented courses, courses for girls/women and disadvantaged, and linkages with industries, market and service sectors.

The Curriculum Framework for Open Vocational Education has been prepared and printed.

2.10 Media Support to Open Schooling Programme

During 2007-08, 10 video programmes were produced and 10 video programmes were at various stages of production. In order to feed the time slots for telecast of NIOS programmes on Gyan Darshan and DD-1 Channels, Capsules of NIOS video programmes were prepared in-house. These capsules were sent for telecast on Gyan Darshan and DD-1 channels.

During 2007-08, four multimedia programmes were produced for 'Sakshat', the Educational Portal of MHRD and four more programmes were under production. 10 Audio Programmes related to Adolescent Education were produced with funding from UNFPA. 14 other audio programmes were completed while 26 more were under production.

2.11 Examinations

The National Institute of Open Schooling is the only Board in the country which conducts two full-fledged examinations every year. In order to provide reliability, validity and credibility to examinations, several in-built checks and balances have been incorporated into the examination system. The question papers are developed in such a manner that they test not merely the knowledge of the candidate but also the ability to apply knowledge. After administration of the question paper, marking schemes were finalized.

The system of assigning fictitious rolls numbers on the answer scripts of students was started from October/November 2001 examination to ensure enhanced secrecy in the evaluation system. This system continued during 2007-08 also. From Oct/Nov. 2001 examination, the system of outdoor evaluation was replaced by spot evaluation in order to maintain uniformity in evaluation and early declaration of results. To ensure transparency in the examination system of NIOS, the question papers and marking schemes were placed on the Internet immediately after the examinations were over. Date Sheets of the Secondary and Senior Secondary examinations were published in all important national dailies. The results of NIOS examinations were also made available on the IVRS of NIOS. The Unfair Means (UFM) Committee considered the cases of unfair means in examinations.

2007-08, 5,42,939 candidates appeared in the Academic and Vocational Education streams. In

order to promote distance education in the States, NIOS has introduced the use of several vernacular mediums for its Secondary Education Course (Urdu, Malayalam, Telugu, Gujarati, Marathi).

2.12 On Demand Examination

The NIOS has developed an innovative On Demand Examination System (ODES) which gives freedom to the learner to appear in examination in the subject(s) of his/her choice whenever he/she feels confident of taking an examination. Under ODES, the NIOS has designed a software to generate a test paper out of the test items in the Item Bank stored in computer. The software has been so designed that each student gets a different question paper. In this system, there is no possibility of leakage of question paper and copying, and there is no need to set up raid parties to oversee the conduct of examinations. The ODE System has been implemented at Secondary stage by establishing an examination centre at NIOS Headquarters with effect from 8th February 2005. Another ODES testing center was set up in the Regional Centre, Pune. The On Demand Examination has been introduced at the Senior Secondary level also in six subjects.

2.13 National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS)

NIOS remained in touch with the States for setting up/upscaling of the State Open Schools (SOSs). The NCOS Secretariat located in NIOS continued taking follow up action on the recommendations of the conferences on Promotion of Open Schooling organized during 2007-08. A meeting of the National Consortium of Open Schooling (NCOS) was organized by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in collaboration with Punjab State Open School at Mohali, Chandigarh on 4th and 5th December, 2007. The recommendations emphasized to intensify efforts to substantially upscale the open schooling programme in the country on priority basis, particularly to meet the educational needs of students for secondary education.

2.14 International Relations

International visits by NIOS officials and by visitors from other countries to NIOS contributed to the exchange of ideas and information. Not only have the NIOS officials benefited from the enrichment of ideas and exposure to ICT interventions in Open and Distance Learning in other parts of the world, NIOS could also contribute to the promotion of open schooling in different developing countries.

2.15 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The Computer Unit of NIOS maintained database about admission, examination and certification. The admission data of 356 thousand students was processed. Pre-exam processing of data of 542 thousand students and processing of their result was done.

2.16 Library, Documentation and Information Services

The NIOS Library has a collection of 15,987 books, 13,200 loose issues of journals and 689 audio-video cassettes/compact discs. The Library continued providing services such as (i) Reference Service, (ii) Circulation Service, (iii) Inter-Library Loan, (iv) Referral Service, (v) Reprographic Service, and (vi) Scanning of newspapers, magazines and journals for news related to education. During 2007-08, more than 679 books were added to the NIOS Library.

In September 2007, a decision was taken to appoint an Archival Officer in NIOS, so that all valuable documents developed by NIOS over a period of time having archival significance for ODL system in the country and abroad may be kept in the Archives of NIOS. As a part of this effort, all copies of printed materials both in hard and soft versions are to be maintained by the Archival Officer. The responsibility of maintaining the Archival Section was given to the Librarian.

2.17 Promoting Use of Hindi

Besides taking various measures to promote the use of Hindi in its constituents, the NIOS celebrated the Hindi Fortnight from 14 to 28 September 2007. Various competitions for promotion of Hindi were organized. These included (i) Official Language Competition (ii) Computer based Hindi Knowledge Competition (iii) Presentation of Essay through Computer Competition (iv) Quiz Competition (v) Essay Writing and (vi) Competition based on the Adolescence Education Programme.

3. Academic Courses

3.0 Introduction

In response to the diverse learning needs of its geographically spread and unreached client group, NIOS develops multi channel learning packages for different levels. The learning packages include both print and non-print mediums. The print and non-print mediums are further supported by open learning magazine, teleconferencing, audio video programmes, Personal Contact Programmes, etc. The expansion and extension of academic activities are carried out through the projects like Regional Language programme, Open Basic Education programme, etc. The faculty undertakes action and promotive research in the areas of instructional strategies, Student Support Services etc. Efforts are made to determine and control the quality of education at several points such as framing of curriculum, development of self instructional material, designing evaluation strategies, monitoring, supervision, etc. Courses have been designed at Open Basic Education (OBE), Secondary and Senior Secondary levels.

3.1 Open Basic Education Programme

In response to the imperatives of joint initiatives in Distance Education of the E-9 summit held in December 1993, the Open Basic Education (OBE)) Project was initiated in June 1994 in the National Institute of Open Schooling. The objective of the project in its first phase was continuing education for the neo-literates along with a proposal to link the neo-iterates to the pre-secondary level education through open and distance learning. The Foundation Course that was prerequisite qualification for getting admission in NIOS Secondary course was clubbed with OBE programme. In the year 2000 OBE programme was implemented in collaboration with accredited governmental and non-governmental agencies and the process of joint certification between NIOS and Accredited Agencies (AAs) was initiated. The Open Basic Education Programme is recognized by the Government of India as equivalent education to the elementary education programme of formal schools and for pursuing higher education.

The target group for the OBE Programme consists of neo-literates under the National Literacy Mission's Equivalency Programme of the Continuing Education Scheme, school dropouts, dropouts of NFE programmes, girls and women, marginalized groups, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, persons below poverty line (BPL), first-generation learners, and out of school children and adults.

The OBE programme is conducted for both children and adult learners. These learners fall under two categories – (i) Children of 6-14 years, and (ii) Adults of 15 years and above.

The OBE programme has three levels- A, B and C. Level 'A' is equivalent to Standard III, Level 'B' is equivalent to Standard 'V' and Level 'C' is equivalent to Standard VIII of the formal school system.

3.1.1 Activities Under OBE Programme during 2007-08

(i) Accreditation and Programme Implementation

The OBE Programme is implemented through the accredited agencies at the grassroots level. The agencies may be non-government organizations, government bodies or government-aided institutions. The accredited agencies (AAs) are responsible for registering learners, conducting personal contact classes and examinations, and maintaining record about the learners. The AAs are selected by NIOS after screening the applications and inspecting the short listed organizations.

During the year 2007-08 five meetings of Screening Committee were held in which 92 applications were discussed and scrutinized. Of these, 43 applications were considered for inspection. Four Accreditation Advisory Committee (AAC) meetings were held in which 64 inspection reports were placed for accreditation and disaccreditation. Out

of that 47 institutions were granted accreditation, 4 OBE agencies were disaccredited, remaining were asked for some clarification. Efforts were made to ensure that agencies working in difficult regions in different states might be accredited. Most of these agencies are those that are supported under different schemes of the Government of India, welfare organizations, by international donors, and corporate bodies. Besides well-established NGOs, these Accredited Agencies include Zila Saksharta Samities (ZSS), Jan Shikshan Sansthans (JSS), Mahila Samakhya (MS) and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs).

During the year 2007-08, the number of Accredited Agencies under OBE Programme stood at 341. The State wise list of OBE agencies accredited as on 31st March 2008 was as follows:

Table 3.1 State wise Accredited Agencies under OBE Programme

Sl.No.	Name of State / Union Territory	No. of Accredited Agencies
1	Andhra Pradesh	06
2.	Assam	01
3.	Bihar	21
4.	Jharkhand	11
5.	Gujarat	05
6.	Haryana	34
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	03
9.	Karnataka	13
10.	Kerala	12
11.	Madhya Pradesh	16
12.	Chattisgarh	02
13.	Maharashtra	18
14.	Manipur	01
15.	Orissa	10
16.	Punjab	04
17.	Rajasthan	47
18.	Tamil Nadu	40
19.	Uttar Pradesh	46
20.	Uttarakhand	08
21.	West Bengal	10
22.	Chandigarh	02
23.	Delhi	26
24.	Goa	01
25.	Tripura	01
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	01
27.	Puducherry	01
	Total	**341**

NIOS is looking for partner agencies of the State Governments, which would monitor the OBE Programme in the State(s). In Rajasthan and West Bengal, the State Literacy Mission Authority (SLMA) has been designated as the state nodal agency. In Tamil Nadu, the Directorate of Non-formal Education as a functionary of SLMA is monitoring the OBE Agencies in collaboration with the State Resource Centre (SRC).

Table 3.2 Types of Agencies Acting as Accredited Agencies Under OBE Programme

Sl.No.	Type of Agency	No. of Agencies
1.	Zila Saksharta Samiti	35
2.	Jan Shikshan Sansthan	69
3.	District Institute of Education and Training	20
4.	Madrasa/Minority Institutions	15
5.	Mahila Samakhya	01
6.	State Resource Centre	04
7.	Government Organization	30
8.	Other NGOs	167
	Total	341

(ii) Review of Accreditation of OBE Agencies

For effective implementation of OBE Programme, there is a provision to review the accredited agencies and if they are not implementing the programmes as per OBE guidelines, they may be disaccredited. The agencies accredited under the OBE Programme were reviewed in the light of various concerns including societal concerns.

During 2007-08, 23 agencies were identified for intensive reinspection. As a result of review, five agencies were disaccredited since they were found deficient in infrastructural and other requirements.

(iii) Training and Orientation Programmes

In order to make the OBE programme successful and to implement it effectively, NIOS organizes Training and Orientation Programmes for the Coordinators of OBE agencies.

A Training-cum-Orientation Programme was organized for the OBE Coordinators of Delhi and adjacent areas of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana at NIOS Conference Hall of Academic Department, A-24/25, Sector-62, NOIDA on 25.3.2008. The programme was presided over by the Chairman, NIOS. The Programme was very much appreciated by the coordinators.

(iv) Admission and Enrolment of OBE Learners

The admission to the OBE Programme is done by the Accredited Agencies. They admit/enroll learners and arrange teaching learning programmes. A computerized database format was prepared and sent to the OBE accredited agencies for enrolment of OBE learners. NIOS has developed a unique 15-digit Enrolment Number for every learner. The Accredited Agencies have been directed to give enrolment number to each learner. Detailed guidelines were developed by NIOS to make implementation of the programme simpler and effective. Consolidated Enrolment Proforma has been developed and sent to all OBE agencies to get the details of learners.

During 2007-08, the number of the learners under OBE Programme increased. The total enrolment under OBE programme as on 31.3.2008 was 44889. The level wise enrollment figures are given below:

Table 3.3: Enrolment in OBE during 2007-08

'A' Level		'B' Level		'C' Level		Total	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
9401	19294	4915	5468	17746	27276	17746	27276
28695	10283	5911	44889				

The increase in Enrolment and number of female candidates in OBE Programme is a good symptom, i.e. the education goal of 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' of the Govt. of India is being achieved.

(v) Academic Activities

(a) Curriculum

The OBE Programme is based upon academic freedom of the learner. Openness is reflected in the fact that AAs have the freedom to choose their own books and methods of teaching. The OBE curriculum for A, B and C levels has been reviewed and modified in the light of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 developed by NCERT and the same is under print.

The learners are offered a learning package of their choice comprising academic and vocational subjects. Four subjects are offered at Level A, and five subjects are offered at Levels B and C.

(b) Material Development: Academic and Vocational Courses

While NIOS sets a minimum standard through the curriculum. The curriculum transaction is carried out by the accredited agencies themselves. The exemplar material for OBE 'C' Level has been developed and printed and the materials for 'A' and 'B' levels are under development. OBE 'A' Level Mathematics book has been developed and now it is under the process of printing. Some agencies choose to use NCERT/SCERT books. Some others use the books of the State Education Departments. Some Agencies have developed their own books. Some Agencies seek resource support from NIOS to develop their books. The books 'Kechuwa Palan' and 'Gulab ki Kheti' developed by the SRC Rajasthan were reviewed and printed by NIOS for the OBE learners of Rajasthan. Tamil

Language text book and Social Science text book in Tamil Medium developed by SRC Chennai were reviewed by the OBE Unit of NIOS and sent to SRC Chennai for printing offer incorporating comments and suggestions.
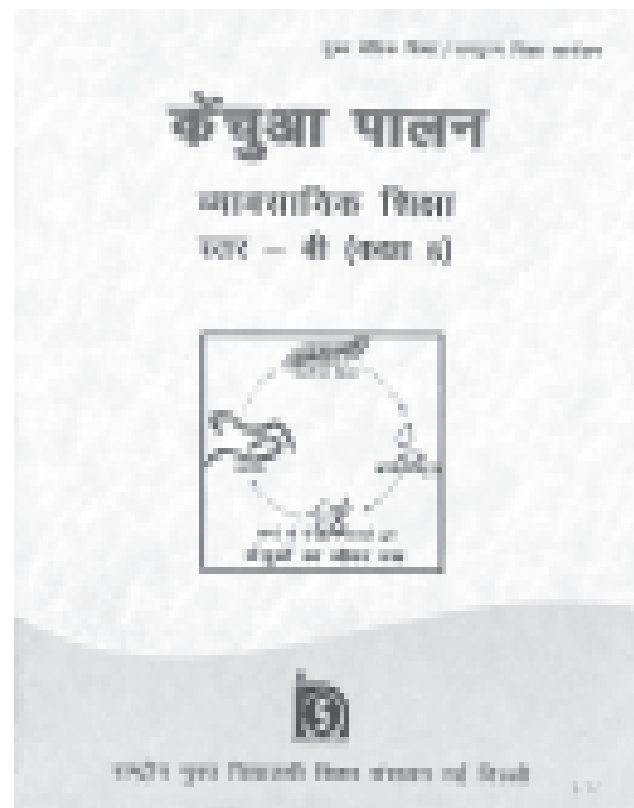
(vi) Examination Process

In order to strengthen the OBE examination process, NIOS has developed detailed guidelines for conduct of examinations. These guidelines contain instructions about question paper setting, seating plan, invigilation and result preparation.

To ensure proper and fair conduct of OBE examinations, NIOS sent inspection teams to various OBE Agencies to monitor and observe the examination centres. The Regional Directors of NIOS also monitered the OBE examination centres.
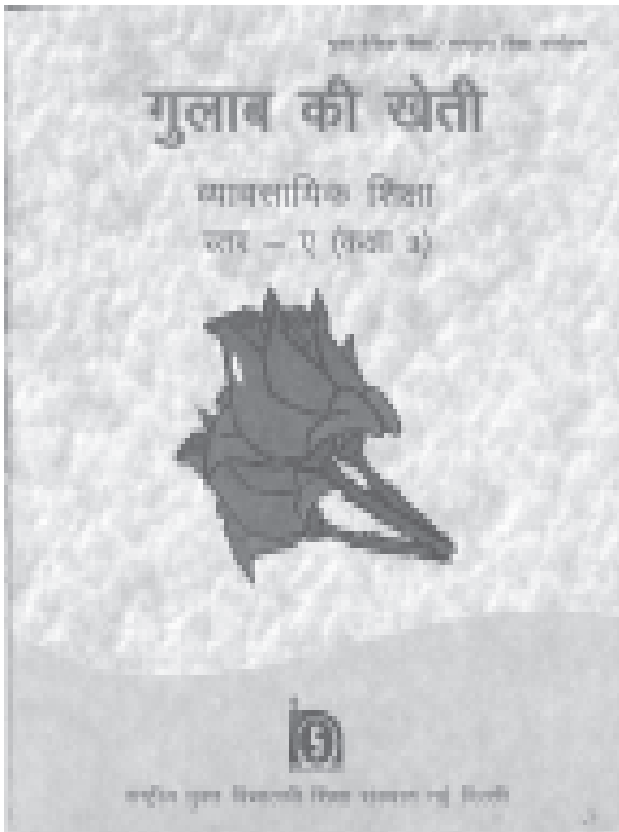
In order to streamline the processing of examination result, a computerized format for the OBE result was prepared by NIOS. This format along with the programme software was made available on the NIOS website in English and Hindi, which can be downloaded by the accredited agencies.

(vii) Certification

NIOS provides joint certificates as per the result data sent by Accredited Agencies. Before printing of certificates, five percent answer books, question papers in each subject, attendance sheets as well as result data were evaluated at NIOS Headquarter in four workshops of subject experts to ensure validity of the evaluation pursued by the agencies. During April 2007 to March 2008, 52913 OBE learners were issued Certificates of different levels.

Table 3.4 Number of Certificates issued under OBE Programme during 2007-08

Level	A	B	C	Total
No. of Learners	35289	12752	4872	52913

(viii) Networking with States and Government Agencies

In order to ensure participation of the State Governments in the OBE programme, NIOS had decided that a state level Nodal Agency would be identified in each State and the Programme would be run in collaboration with the concerned agency. The Government of Rajasthan identified the State Literacy Mission Authority as the Nodal Agency with Zilla Saksharta Samiti as the district level agency. In West Bengal, the State Government through the Department of Mass Education identified the State Literacy Mission Authority as the Nodal Agency for running the OBE Programme.

(ix) Future Thrust

The NIOS plans to work closely with the National Literacy Mission for the promotion of a sustainable Continuing Education Programme. The OBE as an equivalency programme would be strengthened and SLMAs and other NLM supported bodies would be involved in the OBE Programme. The NIOS would provide academic and technical support for implementation of the programme.

3.2 Secondary and Senior Secondary Education

For the secondary education course, NIOS offers a choice of fifteen languages and other subjects like Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Typewriting, etc. The secondary certificate of NIOS is equivalent to class X of formal school. As far as medium is concerned, in addition to Hindi, English and Urdu the secondary course is offered in four regional mediums, namely, Marathi, Telugu, Gujarati and Malayalam.

The Senior Secondary course/programme is designed for those who have passed the secondary or equivalent examination and would like to continue their education to senior secondary certificate through open schooling. This programme is offered in English, Hindi and Urdu mediums. At senior secondary level the subjects offered are Hindi, English, Urdu, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Political Science, Economics, Accountancy, Home Science, Psychology, Sociology, etc.

3.2.1 Revision of Course Materials

During the year 2007-08, revision of course materials in different subjects at Senior Secondary level was in progress. A number of lessons were translated, edited, proof read and were at finalization stage in Hindi version. In some subjects translation work in Urdu version was also taken up.

3.2.2 New Courses at Senior Secondary Level

NIOS follows the cafeteria approach and offers a number of subjects at senior secondary level so that the learners may have the freedom to choose subjects according to their interest. NIOS keeps adding subjects on offer so that learners have more and more options. During 2007-08, development of course material in new courses like Fashion Studies, Mass Communication, Functional Hindi, Environ-mental Science and Sanskrit at senior secondary level was in progress.

3.2.3 Course Material of NIOS on the Website

The NIOS Course material at Secondary and Senior Secondary level are available on the NIOS website – www.nos.org and www.nios.ac.in . Learners can easily access the course material and can download as per their requirements.

3.2.4 Development of Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA)

As a measure of continuous assessment of learners, Tutor Marked Assignments are developed. During the year 2007-08, TMAs were developed in Hindi and English mediums in different subjects at secondary and senior secondary level for use by NIOS learners. TMAs were also developed in regional mediums and for Regional Languages.

3.2.5 Marking Schemes

NIOS usually prepares three sets of question papers for evaluation. To reduce subjectivity, marking schemes are developed and standardized in different subjects at secondary and senior secondary level. During 2007-08 meetings for standardization of marking schemes in different subjects at secondary and senior secondary level were organized for April 2007 and October 2007 Examinations.

3.2.6 National Science Popularisation Programme

In order to popularise science and develop scientific temper among the NIOS staff and learners, the National Science Day is organized every year in the last week of February. The National Science Day 2008 was celebrated in Study Centres and at the Headquarter of NIOS.

3.2.7 Regional Language Programmes

The objective of the regional language programmes is to reach the unreached through vernacular in those states where there is no State Open School. Under this programme, NIOS offers regional languages as subjects in Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Kannada, Tamil, etc. The learning materials are revised and updated periodically. TMAs in regional languages are also developed. Under the Regional Language programme, NIOS conducted the following programmes and activities during the year 2007-08.

● Persian and Tamil language would be offered from the academic session 2008-09.

● In the subject of Kannada language at secondary level, review and lesson writing was completed.

● Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs) in regional languages were developed.

● Translation of TMAs in five regional mediums i.e. Gujarati, Marathi, Oriya, Telugu and Malayalam was completed.

● CRCs of the Indian Culture and Heritage,

Psychology Book-2, Home Science Book 1, 2 and Practical Manual were submitted in Malayalam medium for printing.

- All course material had been translated and CRCs were submitted in Gujarati medium, except Home Science and Social Science.

- All course material except social science had been translated in Oriya medium and CRCs were submitted for printing.

3.2.8 Special Initiatives taken for Promotion of Education amongst Minority Groups

The Secondary Courses are offered not only in Hindi and English but also in Urdu medium. The Senior Secondary courses are offered in Hindi, English and Urdu medium. NIOS is also offering Urdu as a subject at Secondary and Senior Secondary level.

3.2.9 Meeting of the Academic Council

The Academic Council considers and approves the programmes of all the constituents of the NIOS. The Eighth meeting of the Academic Council was held on 21st August 2007 at NIOS. The programmes approved by the Departmental Advisory Boards (DABs) of different Departments were further considered and decisions were taken about the programmes to be taken up by the different constituents of the NIOS in the year 2007-08.

3.2.10 Open Learning -A Half Yearly Magazine of NIOS

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has been bringing out a half yearly magazine titled 'Open learning" which is generally meant for its newly enrolled students. The 'open learning'

magazine includes articles in Hindi and English, which create awareness of the Cultural Heritage in the country, socio-economic environment prevalent, advancements in Science and Technology and other fields etc. Articles on Science, Health, Career Planning, Population Education, Gender issues etc. are also published.

3.2.11 Human Rights Awareness Programmes

To create awareness among learners about various aspects of Human Rights, the National Institute of Open Schooling organized a programme on 10th December 2007 in which the Chairman of NIOS delivered the keynote address followed by lectures of eminent scholars in the field. In addition to this, a Quiz Competition was organized for NIOS learners and the winners were given prizes.

4. Vocational Education

4.0 Introduction

India's transition to a knowledge-based economy requires a new generation of educated and skilled people. There is a growing demand for skilled workers but data suggest that this demand is not met by the existing system. As a result, there is a mismatch between the skilled manpower required and the skilled manpower available. For the system to become more relevant in the changing context, there is a need to create a model of imparting vocational education that is flexible, sustainable, inclusive and creative. The Knowledge Commission has recommended for the flexible vocational education system in the country. The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) with its inbuilt flexibilities and openness is the key institution for fulfilling this demand and also ensuring proper certification.

One of the objectives of the Vocational Education Programme of NIOS is to meet the need for skilled and middle-level manpower for. The growing sectors of economy, both organized and unorganized. Other objectives are: to prepare students for self-reliance and gainful self-employment, to attract sizeable segments of population to varied vocational education courses

and to enhance individual employability by providing professional skills in various vocations. The same are also envisaged in the curriculum framework for vocational education through open and distance learning prepared by NIOS. The range of Vocational Education courses has been expanding over the years depending upon needs of learners and market demands. The present Vocational Education courses of NIOS relate are meant for both urban and rural sectors.

4.1 Networking

NIOS functions through a network of Accredited Vocational Institutes (AVIs) for imparting skill based Vocational Education and training to learners. The existing institutions like ITIs, Jan Shikshan Sansthans, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Schools, Colleges, District Institutes of Education and Training(DIETs), Universities, Paramedical Training Centres, NGOs and several other Voluntary Agencies are partnering with NIOS in imparting Vocational Education. In the last few years, there has been substantial increase in the number of AVIs (Refer Table 4.1). With accreditation of 119 AVIs during the year 2007-08, the total number AVIs as on 31.3.2008 was 1108**.**

Table 4.1 List of AVIs of NIOS State wise
As on 31st March 08

S. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of AVIs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	01
3.	Assam	09
4.	Bihar	42
5.	Chhattishgarh	19
6.	Goa	05
7.	Gujarat	12
8.	Haryana	50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	23

11.	Jharkhand	20
12.	Karnataka	24
13.	Kerala	101
14.	Madhya Pradesh	89
15.	Maharashtra	51
16.	Manipur	02
17.	Meghalaya	0
18.	Mizoram	0
19.	Nagaland	02
20.	Orissa	28
21.	Punjab	30
22.	Rajasthan	40
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	56
25.	Tripura	01
26.	Uttarakhand	27
27.	Uttar Pradesh	138
28.	West Bengal	25
	Union Territories	
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	01
30.	Chandigarh	06
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0
33.	Lakshadweeep	0
34.	Pondicherry	02
35.	Delhi	233
36.	Overseas (UAE)	3
	Total	**1108**

4.2 Admission

The enrollment of students in Vocational Education Courses has been increasing progressively. Table 4.2 shows year-wise enrollment in Vocational Education Courses. During the year 2007-08, the enrollment of students in various Vocational Education Courses was 23,674.
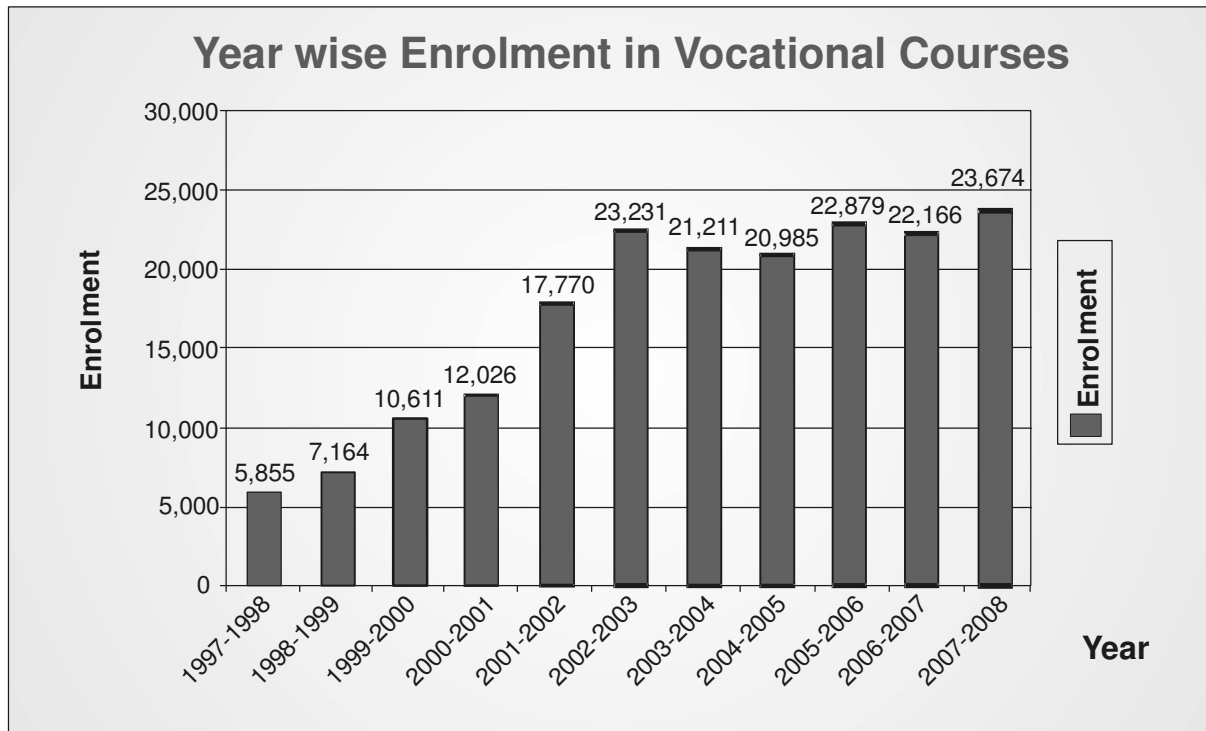
Year wise Enrolment in Vocational Courses

Table 4.2 Year wise Enrollment in Vocational Education Courses

Year	Enrollment	Percent increase
1997-1998	5,822	(+)51
1998-1999	7,164	(+)23
1999-2000	10,611	(+)48
2000-2001	12,026	(+)13
2001-2002	17,770	(+)48
2002-2003	22,321	(+)26
2003-2004	21,211	(-)5
2004-2005	20,985	(-)1.1
2005-2006	22,879	(+)8.9
2006-2007	22,166	(-)3.11
2007-2008	23,674	(+)6.8

Admission to vocational education courses of NIOS is open round the year. During the year 2007-08, admission in various courses was done through a network of more than one thousand **AVIs** all over India. The number of students admitted to vocational stream was 23,674. Table 4.3 shows the enrollment in Vocational Education Courses State/Union Territory wise during 2007-08.

**Table 4.3 State wise Enrollment in Vocational Education Courses during 2007-08**

S. No.	Name of the State	Enrollment in Vocational Education Courses	Percentage of Students vis-à-vis Total Enrollment
1.	Andhra Pradesh	369	1.5
2.	Assam	90	0.38
3.	Bihar	862	3.6
4.	Gujarat	128	0.54
5.	Haryana	1053	4.4
6.	Himachal Pradesh	969	4.0
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	559	2.3
8.	Karnataka	852	3.5
9.	Kerala	2637	11.1
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2083	8.7
11.	Maharashtra	576	2.4
12.	Orissa	358	1.5
13.	Punjab	1225	5.1
14.	Rajasthan	470	1.9
15.	Tamil Nadu	791	3.3
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2902	12.2
17.	West Bengal	730	3.0
18.	Chandigarh	317	1.3
19.	Goa	87	0.3
20.	Pondicherry	100	0.4
21.	Delhi	5346	22.5
22.	Uttarankhand	285	1.2
23.	Jharkhand	574	2.4
24.	Chhattisgarh	305	1.2
25.	Daman & Diu	-	-
26.	Manipur	-	-
27.	Meghalaya	-	-
28.	Nagaland	-	-
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
30.	SAIED	06	0.02
	Total	**23,674**	

The region wise enrollment trend shows that the highest enrollment was in the Delhi Region followed by the Chandigarh region and Kochi region. The Guwahati Region had the lowest enrollment. Table 4.4 shows Region wise enrollment in Vocational Education Courses during 2007-08.

Table 4.4 Region wise Enrollment in Vocational Education Courses during 2007-08

Sl. No	Region	Enrollment	% of the Total
1.	Hyderabad	1221	5.1
2.	Pune	663	2.8
3.	Kolkata	1088	4.5
4.	Guwahati	90	0.38
5.	Chandigarh	4123	17.4
6.	Kochi	3528	14.9
7.	Jaipur	598	2.5
8.	Patna	1436	6.0
9.	Allabahad	3187	13.4
10.	Bhopal	2388	10.0
11.	Delhi	5346	22.5
	SAIED	6	0.02
	Total	**23,674**	

Region wise Enrollment in Vocational Education Courses During 2007-08
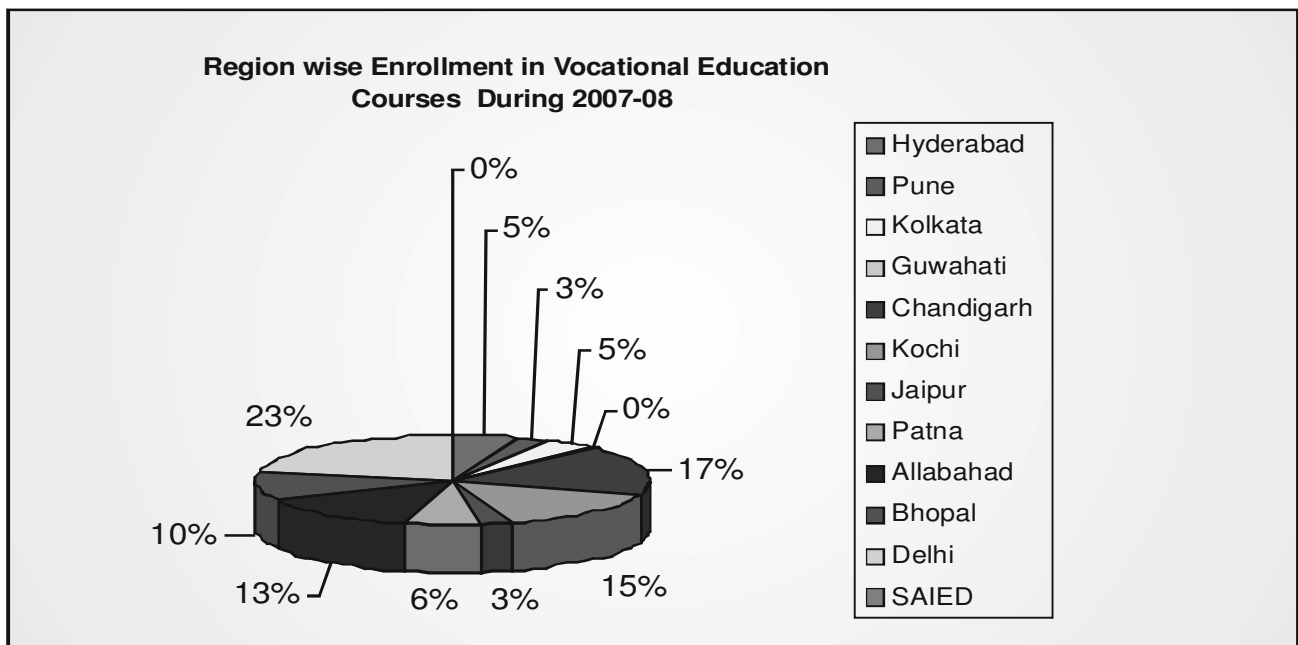
The enrollment data reveals that maximum number of students taking admission in Vocational Education Courses of NIOS was in the age group 15-20 years i.e., 65.2%. There is variation in the percentage of males and females taking admission in Vocational Education Courses. Of the total students admitted in the Vocational Education Courses, 47.7 percent were male and 52.3 percent were female.

5. Measurement and Evaluation

5.0 Introduction

Measurement and evaluation is an integral component of any teaching-learning system. The Government of India in 1990 vested with NIOS the authority to examine and certify students up to pre-degree level. In fact, NIOS is one of the National Boards of Examination. It is the only Board which conducts two full-fledged examinations every year. In order to measure the learners' achievement and evaluate their performance, NIOS has been conducting its public examinations since 1991. It has conducted 35 public examinations upto the year 2007-08.

5.1 Unique Features of the NIOS Examination System

● One of the fascinating features of NIOS examinations is that it does not have the infrastructure of its own. It shares the infrastructure and human resources of the institutions established by the public sector and private sector to conduct its examinations without disturbing their academic schedule.

● NIOS gives a lot of flexibility to the students in matters related to examination such as appearing in one or more subjects in the examination as per the convenience, credit accumulation of the passed subjects, nine chances to appear in the public examinations over a period of five years, and transfer of credit of two subjects passed from the other selected boards and up to four subjects from NIOS.

● A student is allowed to write answers in the examination in any of the scheduled languages of India even if he/she has not opted for that medium.

● On Demand Examination at Secondary level and in some subjects at Senior Secondary level. A student can appear in examination any number of times as per his/her convenience.

5.2 Quality and Standard of the Question Papers

Like previous year, during 2007-08 also NIOS developed three sets of question papers in all main subjects for Secondary and Sr. Secondary examinations. For Vocational Courses, single set of question papers was developed. Question Papers for all the subjects were printed in the identified Confidential Press. These were stored and delivered from the designated Banks/Treasuries/ Police Stations. Besides Hindi and English mediums, the question papers were developed in Urdu and in Regional Mediums (Telugu, Gujarati and Marathi) for the purpose of conducting public examinations during 2007-08.

In order to provide reliability, validity and credibility to the National Institute of Open Schooling exami-nation system, several in-built checks and balances have been incorporated into the system to ensure quality and standard of the question papers. The question papers were prepared on the basis of the design and blue print developed by the Academic Department and the Vocational Education Department of NIOS. The paper setters were provided with the syllabus, study material, sample question papers and designs of question papers in order to facilitate preparation of balanced question papers containing short answer type, very short answer type, essay type and objective type questions based on knowledge, understanding and application. The sets of question papers were got moderated by the concerned subject experts to ensure that questions were within syllabus; they were neither too tough nor too easy, and the marking scheme was accurate and covered all parts of questions.

5.3 Orientation of the Chief Secrecy Officers and Secrecy Officers

In order to keep the identity of the examinees secret, NIOS hides the names and enrolment numbers of the candidates by allotting them

fictitious numbers. These are made available to the concerned secrecy teams only. As the Chief Secrecy Officers (CSOs) and other secrecy team members are taken from the outside, they need to be orientated about the concept of fictitious numbers and their role in this regard. During 2007-08, the Department of Evaluation, NIOS organized two orientation programmes for Chief Secrecy Officers and Secrecy Officers of all the Regional Centres for April 2007 and October 2007 examinations on 28.3.07 and 28.9.07 respectively.

5.4 Conduct of Public Examinations during 2007-08

As usual, the NIOS conducted two public examinations, one in April 2007 and other in October 2007. During the year 2007-08, 5,42,939 candidates appeared in the Academic and the Vocational Education Streams. 2,74,420 candidates appeared for the Secondary Certificate Examination, 2,46,736 candidates appeared for the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination and 21,783 candidates appeared for Vocational Education courses through 2629 examination centres in the country as well as abroad. The April 2007 and October 2007 examinations for academic courses were held in 1445 and 1184 examination centres respectively spread all over the country.

During 2007-08, 21783 candidates appeared in various Vocational Education examinations through 322 examination centres throughout the country. During April 2007, total 10415 candidates appeared in vocational examinations through 169 examination centres. 11368 candidates appeared in October 2007 examinations through 153 examination centres. During 2007-08, examinations were conducted during April 2007 and October 2007 for the Secondary and Senior Secondary level students enrolled with the newly established Rajasthan State Open School (SOS). Necessary guidance was provided to the SOS functionaries for initiating the process of centre fixation etc., for conducting public examinations in Open Schooling. The answer scripts of the students of Rajasthan State Open School were

evaluated by NIOS and their result was processed.

5.5 Monitoring and Supervision of Public Examinations of NIOS

In order to ensure smooth and fair conduct of examinations, one full time Officer on Special Duty (OSD) was deputed at each of the examination centres. In addition, Flying Squad Teams were also sent to the examination centres. During 2007-08, special arrangements were made for deploying Flying Squads in the examination centres in all the Regional Centres. Assistance was sought from the State Education Agencies for ensuring smooth conduct of NIOS examinations. The Haryana School Education Board took suitable measures in this regard by deputing special teams of its officers to supervise and monitor the NIOS examinations in the State.

Detailed guidelines were issued to the Centre Superintendents of the examination centres for taking necessary precautions to ensure smooth and fair conduct of examinations at their respective exami-nation centres. To ensure effective supervision of examinations, two invigilators were provided in each examination room.

5.6 Standardization of Marking Schemes

With help of the academic faculty of NIOS and the outside subject experts, the Marking Schemes of the Question Papers of 12 subjects of Secondary course and 17 subjects of Senior Secondary course for April 2007 and October 2007 examinations were got standardized and finalized immediately after the question papers had been administered. The finalized Marking Schemes of different subjects were sent to the Regional Centres of NIOS by e-mail, which were used by the evaluators for evaluating the answer scripts in different subjects.

5.7 Evaluation of the Answer Books

The Team Leaders and Evaluators in different subjects evaluated the answer books at the Evaluation Centres fixed by the Regional Centres. The work was coordinated and monitored by the

concerned NIOS Regional Centres; and the awards were sent to the Director (Evaluation). Finally the results were processed and declared within four-five weeks of the close of the examination. Before finalizing, the Moderation Committee reviewed and moderated the results after having detailed and lengthy discussion. The result was approved by the Chairman, NIOS.

5.8 UFM Committee Meetings

The Confidential Section of the Department of Evaluation processed the cases of unfair means (1635 cases) detected during April 2007 and October 2007 examinations. These cases were discussed in the meeting of a high level committee. The students were given opportunity to put their viewpoints before the committee.

To consider the cases of mass copying and malpractices during April-May 2007 Secondary and Senior Secondary and Vocational Education Examinations, meetings of the Unfair Means (UFM) Committee were held on 24th July 2007 in

which 3833 cases were considered and for the meeting of mass copying cases during the period of October 2007 examination were held on 16th January 2008 in which 3834 cases of mass copying were considered at NIOS Headquarters. The individual candidates involved in Unfair Means during the examination were called to appear before the Committee for personal hearing. The Committee considered all the cases and recommended suitable penalty in established Unfair Means cases. The students found guilty were imposed penalties and the UFM Committee exonerated a few of them as per rules.

5.9 Performance of Students in Examinations during 2007-08

5.9.1 Subject-wise Performance in Academic Courses

The Subject-wise pass percentage in respect of the Secondary and Senior Secondary courses is given below:

Table 5.1 Subject-wise Pass Percentages in Secondary Certificate Examination April 2007 Examination

OL. Sub	Subject Name	App.	Pass	%	Course	Ex. Year
201	Hindi	112441	85578	76.11	Secondary	April – 2007
202	English	141321	73251	51.83	Secondary	April – 2007
203	Bengali	1081	864	79.93	Secondary	April – 2007
204	Marathi	2398	1465	61.09	Secondary	April – 2007
205	Telugu	624	308	49.36	Secondary	April – 2007
206	Urdu	2073	1653	79.74	Secondary	April – 2007
207	Gujarathi	300	248	82.67	Secondary	April – 2007
208	Kannada	21	11	52.38	Secondary	April – 2007
209	Sanskrit	6964	1635	23.48	Secondary	April – 2007
210	Punjabi	7465	5406	72.42	Secondary	April – 2007
211	Mathematics	96562	40549	41.99	Secondary	April – 2007
212	Science & Technology	111662	52905	47.38	Secondary	April - 2007
213	Social Science	126742	61210	48.29	Secondary	April – 2007
214	Economics	55308	28813	52.10	Secondary	April – 2007
215	Business Studies	36454	20691	56.76	Secondary	April – 2007

216	Home Science	68867	41318	60.00	Secondary	April – 2007
217	Typing (Hindi)	320	145	45.31	Secondary	April - 2007
218	Typing (English)	3467	1846	53.24	Secondary	April – 2007
219	Word Processing	43088	34451	79.95	Secondary	April – 2007
221	Typing (Urdu)	16	0	0.00	Secondary	April – 2007
222	Psychology	6712	2030	30.24	Secondary	April – 2007
223	Indian Culture & Heritage	7266	3905	53.74	Secondary	April – 2007
228	Assamese	239	140	58.58	Secondary	April – 2007
231	Nepali	1714	1291	75.32	Secondary	April – 2007
232	Malayalam	1181	919	77.82	Secondary	April – 2007
233	Oriya	1021	922	90.30	Secondary	April – 2007
235	Arabic	50	44	88.00	Secondary	April – 2007

October 2007 Examination

OL. Sub	Subject Name	App.	Pass	%	Course	Ex. Year
201	Hindi	18457	11197	60.67	Secondary	October, 2007
202	English	44241	17251	38.99	Secondary	October, 2007
203	Bengali	230	93	40.43	Secondary	October, 2007
204	Marathi	494	256	51.82	Secondary	October, 2007
205	Telugu	196	116	59.18	Secondary	October, 2007
206	Urdu	365	216	59.18	Secondary	October, 2007
207	Gujarathi	25	9	36.00	Secondary	October, 2007
208	Kannada	10	4	40.00	Secondary	October, 2007
209	Sanskrit	3128	744	23.79	Secondary	October, 2007
210	Punjabi	701	271	38.66	Secondary	October, 2007
211	Mathematics	35839	11218	31.30	Secondary	October, 2007
212	Science & Technology	38366	10064	26.23	Secondary	October, 2007
213	Social Science	41626	16599	39.88	Secondary	October, 2007
214	Economics	18031	6803	37.73	Secondary	October, 2007
215	Business Studies	10813	4418	40.86	Secondary	October, 2007
216	Home Science	17710	8918	50.36	Secondary	October, 2007
217	Typing (Hindi)	76	26	34.21	Secondary	October, 2007
218	Typing (English)	1132	500	44.17	Secondary	October, 2007
219	Word Processing	5879	4013	68.26	Secondary	October, 2007

221	Typing (Urdu)	3	0	0.00	Secondary	October, 2007
222	Psychology	2606	802	30.78	Secondary	October, 2007
223	Indian Culture & Heritage	2255	837	37.12	Secondary	October, 2007
228	Assamese	41	10	24.39	Secondary	October, 2007
231	Nepali	444	219	49.32	Secondary	October, 2007
232	Malayalam	98	42	42.86	Secondary	October, 2007
233	Oriya	250	214	85.60	Secondary	October, 2007
235	Arabic	19	16	84.21	Secondary	October, 2007

Subject-wise performance given in the table 5.1 shows that the pass percentage in all the subjects, except in Sanskrit and Psychology at Secondary level, was above 34 in the April 2007 examination. Similarly, the performance during October 2007 examinations shows that the pass percentage was above 40% in all subjects except that in Psychology and Indian Culture and Heritage. The lowest pass percentage in the Secondary Course in April 2007 examination was in Sanskrit (23.48). In October, 2007 examinations, the lowest pass percentage was in Sanskrit (23.79). The highest pass percentage (above 85%) was in Oriya in both the examinations in 2007 though the number of candidates appeared was small.

Table 5.2 Subject-wise Pass Percentages in Senior Secondary Certificate Examination, April 2007

OL. Sub	Subject Name	App.	Pass	%	Course	Ex. Year
301	Hindi	89374	57012	63.79	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
302	English	120963	74852	61.88	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
306	Urdu	1152	738	64.06	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
311	Mathematics	31741	14326	45.13	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
312	Physics	33853	13003	38.41	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
313	Chemistry	32701	14258	43.60	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
314	Biology	19757	10171	51.48	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
315	History	46263	26141	56.51	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
316	Geography	25219	12105	48.00	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
317	Political Science	56592	33643	59.45	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
318	Economics	45229	22027	48.70	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
319	Business Studies	24482	16361	66.83	Senior Secondary	April - 2007
320	Accountancy	19229	8054	41.88	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
321	Home Science	38436	24292	63.20	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
322	Typing (Hindi)	157	73	46.50	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
323	Typing (English)	2111	979	46.38	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
324	Steno (Hindi)	25	4	16.00	Senior Secondary	April - 2007

325	Steno (English)	151	37	24.50	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
326	Secretarial Practice	7000	4772	68.17	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
327	Word Processing	31509	20960	66.52	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
328	Psychology	5455	2765	50.69	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
329	Steno (Urdu)	2	0	0.00	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
330	Computer Science	8907	3394	38.10	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
331	Sociology	24462	16522	67.54	Senior Secondary	April – 2007
332	Painting (Theory)	6901	4595	66.58	Senior Secondary	April – 2007

October 2007

OL. Sub	Subject Name	App.	Pass	%	Course	Ex. Year
301	Hindi	23684	12211	51.56	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
302	English	35165	15752	44.79	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
306	Urdu	407	262	64.37	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
311	Mathematics	12468	4748	38.08	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
312	Physics	15904	5697	35.82	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
313	Chemistry	14410	5981	41.51	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
314	Biology	6842	2811	41.08	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
315	History	14222	6159	43.31	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
316	Geography	9275	4074	43.92	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
317	Political Science	16348	7515	45.97	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
318	Economics	17340	6939	40.02	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
319	Business Studies	6873	3570	51.94	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
320	Accountancy	7934	2958	37.28	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
321	Home Science	10289	5259	51.11	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
322	Typing (Hindi)	56	18	32.14	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
323	Typing (English)	850	374	44.00	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
324	Steno (Hindi)	10	2	20.00	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
325	Steno (English)	49	1	20.41	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
326	Secretarial Practice	1595	874	54.80	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
327	Word Processing	7816	4872	62.33	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
328	Psychology	2010	644	32.04	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
329	Steno (Urdu)	1	0	00.00	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
330	Computer Science	3673	1247	33.95	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
331	Sociology	5977	3070	51.36	Senior Secondary	October, 2007
332	Painting (Theory)	1761	118	63.49	Senior Secondary	October, 2007

The Table 5.2 (subject-wise pass percentage in the Senior Secondary April 2007 examinations) shows that in all the subjects, except in Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Economics, Accountancy, Typing (Hindi & English) and Computer Science, the pass percentage was above 50. For the October 2007 examinations, the pass percentage was above 50 in only 8 out of 25 subjects. The lowest pass percentage in the Senior Secondary examinations was in Steno (Hindi) (16.00%) for the April 2007 examinations. For October 2007 examinations, the lowest pass percentage was in Steno (Hindi)

(20%). The highest percentage of marks in April 2007 examinations was in Secretarial Practice (68.17%). In October, 2007 examinations, it was in Urdu (64.37%).

The year-wise pass percentage in Secondary and Sr. Secondary courses since 1997 to 2006 is at Annexure-III.

5.9.2 Gender-wise Performance

Gender wise data of the students appeared and certified during April 2006 and October 2006 examination are given in the tables 5.3 and 5.4.

Table 5.3 Gender-wise Performance in April 2007 Examination

	Appeared		Certified		Pass %	
	Sr. Secondary	Secondary	Sr.Secondary	Secondary	Sr. Secondary	Secondary
Male	113216	124254	33938	36802	29.98	26.62
Female	49155	58426	17508	19229	35.62	32.91
Total	162371	182680	51446	56031	31.68	30.67

Table 5.4 Gender-wise Performance in October 2007 examination

	Appeared		Certified		Pass %	
	Sr. Secondary	Secondary	Sr. Secondary	Secondary	Sr. Secondary	Secondary
Male	59832	62798	20545	19459	34.34	30.99
Female	24533	91740	8833	9763	36.00	10.64
Total	84365	91740	29378	29222	34.82	31.85

The gender wise performance of the students given in the tables shows that the performance of female candidates has been better than the performance of male candidates in both April 2007 and October 2007 examinations at Secondary as well as at Sr. Secondary level.

5.9.3 Medium wise Performance

During 2007-08 at Secondary level, besides Hindi and English medium the examinations were conducted in Urdu, Telugu, Marathi, Malayalam and Gujarati also. The number of students

appeared and certified in different mediums at Secondary level during April 2007 and October 2007 exams is given in the following table.

The medium wise examination data for Secondary level course shows that during April 2007, Telugu medium students had maximum pass percentage (42.56) followed by the English medium students (40.7%), whereas in October 2007 examination Telugu medium students had maximum pass percentage (50.63%) followed by the Malayalam Medium students (34.51%).

Table 5.5 Medium wise performances at Secondary Level

Medium	April 2007 Exam.			October 2007 Exam		
	Appeared	Certified	Pass%	Appeared	Certified	Pass%
Marathi	1804	588	32.59	696	235	33.76
Telugu	484	206	42.56	160	81	50.63
Urdu	946	320	33.83	461	156	33.84
Gujarathi	244	75	30.74	83	22	26.51
Hindi	124522	28153	22.61	65609	20774	31.66
English	53960	21962	40.70	24392	7837	32.13
Malayalam	720	142	19.72	339	117	34.51

During 2007-08, Sr. Secondary level examinations were conducted in Hindi, English and Urdu mediums. The data about students appeared and certified in different mediums during April 2007 and October 2007 examination are given below:

Table 5.6 Medium wise performance at Sr. Secondary Level

Medium	April 2007 Exam.			October 2007 Exam		
	Appeared	Certified	Pass%	Appeared	Certified	Pass%
Urdu	453	145	32.01	207	61	29.47
Hindi	98792	28759	29.11	51667	18234	35.29
English	63126	22542	35.71	32491	11083	34.11

At Senior Secondary level English medium students had maximum pass percentage (38.6%) in April 2007 examination. In October 2007 examinations, the Urdu medium students had maximum pass percentage (46.6%).

5.9.4 Subject-wise Performance in Vocational Education Courses

During 2007-08, 21001 Students appeared in Vocational Education Examination. These include 10,367 students during April 2007 examination and 10364 students during October 2007 examination. Around 6354 vocational students were certified in Vocational Education Courses during April 2007 examinations. 6313 students were certified in Vocational Education Courses during October 2007 examination.

Table 5.7: Subject-wise Pass Percentage in Vocational Education Examination April 2007

Subject Code	Subject Name	Appeared	Certified	Pass %
252	Carpentry (Theory)	19	13	68.42
253	Solar Energy Technician (Theory)	8	7	87.50
255	Laundry Services (Theory)	2	2	100.0

256	Bakery & Confectionary (Theory)	121	107	88.18
257	Welding Technology	107	89	73.33
322	Type Writing -Hindi (Theory & Practical)	15	11	43.14
323	Type Writing –English (Theory & Practical)	51	22	61.54
324	Stenography – Hindi (Theory & Practical) Sr.Secondary	26	16	84.62
325	Stenography – English (Theory & Practical) Sr.Secondary	13	11	63.21
327	Word Processing – English (Theory) Senior Sec.	106	67	50.00
356	House Keeping – Accommodation Service (Theory)	2	1	75.83
357	Catering Management (Theory)	240	182	55.56
358	Food Processing (Theory)	18	10	75.00
359	Play Centre Management (Theory)	4	3	80.0
360	Hotel Front Office Management (Theory)	15	12	100.00
401	Basics of Health Care	1	1	100.00
402	Health and Environment	1	1	100.00
403	Health Education	1	1	100.00
404	Health Extension Activities	1	1	91.11
412	Secretarial Procedures (Theory)	45	41	91.11
413	Computer Applications in Office (Theory)	45	41	93.33
414	Business Communication	45	42	55.56
415	Shorthand Writing (Theory & Practical)	45	25	77.78
422	Type Writing – Hindi (Theory & Practical)	18	14	46.43
423	Type Writing – English (Theory & Practical)	28	13	74.07
424	Stenography – Hindi (Theory & Practical)	54	40	79.87
425	Stenography – English (Theory & Practical)	159	127	84.93
426	Secretarial Practice (Senior Secondary level)	219	186	92.40
427	Word Processing – English (Theory) (Senior Secondary)	171	158	97.48
430	Orientation to X-Ray Department	119	116	92.56
431	Radiation Physics	121	112	71.67
432	Human Anatomy & Physiology	120	86	87.13
433	Dark Room Layout and Practices	101	88	77.78
434	Regional Radiography and Contrast Media	99	77	75.79
435	Advanced Imaging and Special Diag Procedures	95	72	70.05

436	Libraries: Functions and Services	187	131	68.62
437	Organization of Library Materials	188	129	71.28
438	Records of Library	188	134	79.63
439	Understanding the Child	962	766	81.88
440	Early Childhood Care & Education Principals& Procedures	960	786	81.35
441	Orgn. & Mang. An Early Childhood Care & Edu. Cent.	960	781	76.76
601	House Wiring & Electrical Appliances Repairing	185	142	50.00
602	Motor & Transformer Rewinding	14	7	100.00
603	Radio & Tape Recorder Repairing	4	4	100.00
604	Television Repairing	3	3	83.92
605	Cutting & Tailoring	423	355	86.11
606	Dress Making	72	62	00.00
607	Library Attendant	1	0	41.67
608	Certificate in Basic Computing (Theory)	156	65	95.77
611	Plumbing	71	68	88.52
612	Beauty Culture	488	432	
613	Certification in Desk Top Publishing (CDTP)	398	168	42.21
614	Yog	382	200	52.36
615	Certification in Security Services (CSS)	210	6	2.86
616	Certification in Comp. Hardware Assembly &Maintenance	208	124	59.62
701	House Wiring & Electrical Appliances Repairing	1039	797	76.71
702	Motor & Transformer Rewinding	610	444	72.79
703	Radio & Tape Recorder Rewinding	196	154	78.57
704	Television Repairing	136	119	87.50
705	Cutting & Tailoring	623	570	91.49
706	Dress Making	488	454	93.03
707	Library Attendant	3	1	33.33
708	Library Clerk (Module II)	3	1	33.33
709	Refrigeration	506	411	81.23
710	Air Conditioning	270	239	88.52
711	Basic Computing Skills	1538	861	55.98
712	Computer Applications	1466	750	51.16

713	Certificate in two Wheeler Mechanism	65	55	84.62
715	Basics of Health & Disease	18	9	50.00
717	Basics of Homeopathy	18	12	66.67
802	Jan Swasthya	1465	1274	86.96

October - 2007

Subject Code	Subject Name	Appeared	Certified	Pass %
219	Word Processing – English (Theory) Senior Sec.	1	0	00.00
253	Solar Energy Technician (Theory)	1	1	100.00
255	Laundry Services (Theory)	13	11	84.62
256	Bakery & Confectionary (Theory)	95	84	88.42
257	Welding Technology	150	130	86.67
322	Type Writing -Hindi (Theory & Practical)	10	8	80.00
323	Type Writing –English (Theory & Practical)	41	22	53.66
324	Stenography – Hindi (Theory & Practical) Sr.Secondary	26	18	69.23
325	Stenography – English (Theory & Practical) Sr.Secondary	7	4	57.14
326	Secretarial Practice (Senior Secondary)	51	27	52.94
327	Word Processing – English (Theory) Senior Sec.	38	22	57.89
356	House Keeping – Accommodation Service (Theory)	13	12	92.31
357	Catering Management (Theory)	76	60	78.95
358	Food Processing (Theory)	4	4	100.00
360	Hotel Front Office Management (Theory)	16	16	100.00
412	Secretarial Procedures (Theory)	10	7	70.00
413	Computer Applications in Office (Theory)	10	6	60.00
414	Business Communication	10	7	70.00
415	Shorthand Writing (Theory & Practical)	10	3	30.00
416	Learning through toys	1	0	00.00
417	Art of toy making	1	0	00.00
418	Toy making as an Industry	1	0	00.00
422	Type Writing – Hindi (Theory & Practical)	76	60	78.95
423	Type Writing – English (Theory & Practical)	117	71	60.68
424	Stenography – Hindi (Theory & Practical)	15	73	69.52
425	Stenography – English (Theory & Practical)	186	116	62.37

426	Secretarial Practice (Senior Secondary level)	291	174	59.79
427	Word Processing – English (Theory) (Senior Secondary)	99	71	71.72
430	Orientation to X-Ray Department	69	65	94.20
431	Radiation Physics	69	59	85.51
432	Human Anatomy & Physiology	69	47	68.12
433	Dark Room Layout and Practices	68	42	61.76
434	Regional Radiography and Contrast Media	67	41	61.19
435	Advanced Imaging and Special Diag Procedures	67	44	65.67
436	Libraries: Functions and Services	149	118	79.19
437	Organization of Library Materials	149	129	86.58
438	Records of Library	149	120	80.54
439	Understanding the Child	1330	1053	79.17
440	Early Childhood Care & Education Principals& Procedures	1330	1071	80.53
441	Orgn. & Mang. An Early Childhood Care & Edu. Cent.	1330	1066	80.15
442	Home & Health	27	20	74.07
443	Agriculture (Including Animal, Husbandry & Poultry)	26	13	50.00
444	Mechanics, Energy & Environment	27	18	66.67
601	House Wiring & Electrical Appliances Repairing	27	18	66.67
602	Motor & Transformer Rewinding	8	3	37.50
604	Television Repairing	2	2	100.00
605	Cutting & Tailoring	394	313	79.44
606	Dress Making	49	34	69.39
608	Certificate in Basic Computing (Theory)	254	149	58.66
611	Plumbing	54	46	85.19
612	Beauty Culture	518	434	83.78
613	Certification in Desk Top Publishing (CDTP)	218	111	50.92
614	Yog	204	108	52.94
615	Certification in Security Services (CSS)	88	4	4.55
616	Certification in Comp. Hardware Assembly & Maintenance	142	86	60.56
701	House Wiring & Electrical Appliances Repairing	1257	858	68.26
702	Motor & Transformer Rewinding	928	472	50.86
703	Radio & Tape Recorder Rewinding	215	162	75.35

704	Television Repairing	169	133	78.70
705	Cutting & Tailoring	1010	928	91.88
706	Dress Making	925	835	90.27
709	Refrigeration	516	411	79.65
710	Air Conditioning	378	313	82.80
711	Basic Computing Skills	1634	667	40.82
712	Computer Applications	1569	502	31.99
713	Certificate in two Wheeler Mechanism	49	33	67.35
715	Basics of Health & Disease	9	7	77.78
717	Basics of Homeopathy	9	7	77.78
723	Four Wheeler chassis in Mechanism	24	19	79.17
724	Four Wheeler Engine Mechanism	24	20	83.233
802	Jan Swasthya	1529	1231	80.51

5.10 Region Wise Result Status

The analysis of the region wise result of Senior Secondary Examination shows that in April 2007 examination the Regional Centre Patna had highest pass percentage (51.03%) at Sr. Secondary level and the Regional Centre Kochi had lowest pass percentage (18.68%). In October 2007 examination, the Regional Centre, Jaipur had highest pass percentage (47.66%) and the Regional Centre, Kochi had the lowest pass percentage (22.33%).

At Secondary level, in April 2007, the Regional Centre Patna had highest pass percentage (50.51%) and the Regional Centre Chandigarh had lowest pass percentage (21.70%), whereas during October 2007 examination, the Regional Centre, Jaipur had highest pass percentage (52.37%) and the Regional Centre, Guwahati had lowest pass percentage (23.79%).

Table 5.10 Region Wise Result Status

Region	Secondary				Senior Secondary			
	April 2007		October 2007		April 2007		October 2007	
	Appeared	Pass %	Appeared	Pass %	Appeared	Pass %	Appeared	Pass %
Hyderabad	1356	29.94	629	28.14	4507	30.86	2006	38.09
Pune	13795	36.09	5759	34.90	5163	32.25	2164	30.36
Kolkata	16329	42.38	8871	33.75	10651	38.08	5810	36.21
Guwahati	15476	37.28	6343	23.79	9758	45.70	4044	24.55
Chandigarh	48748	21.70	24102	25.78	47243	28.30	22952	30.10
Kochi	2009	24.04	1097	31.63	3308	18.68	1836	22.33
Delhi	47162	23.04	25684	29.60	48928	27.45	26980	35.43
NIOS HQ	732	48.91	234	44.44	1120	35.98	354	44.35
Jaipur	6064	36.40	4046	52.37	3312	37.05	2012	47.66

Patna	5785	50.51	1717	48.63	5267	51.03	3444	48.29
Allahabad	4101	46.89	2084	33.69	5591	36.13	3327	39.34
Bhopal	5280	50.19	2461	42.06	2652	53.39	1155	29.52
Dehradun	15843	37.69	8713	41.03	14871	31.61	8281	42.92

5.11 On-Demand Examination System (ODES)

Besides two public examinations in a year, NIOS conducts On Demand Examinations at Secondary level. The introduction of On-Demand Examination (ODE) by NIOS has provided complete flexibility to the learners to pursue learning at their own pace. This has made the system of examinations independent of the time frame. This will help the learners to take up examinations as per their wish and preparation. They can also appear for improvement of their performance any number of times within the period of their admission till they are satisfied with their achievement.

Under the scheme of On-Demand Examinations, a learner can walk into the identified Testing Centre of NIOS on the prescribed days as per his/her choice and can appear in examination in any subject. The learner is provided with a question paper generated by the computer based on a blue print/design specific to the subject. The blue print is a three dimensional grid, which allocates the number of question and marks to each module/unit of the subject, the learning objective and the type of question. While generating a question paper, the computer picks up a question from each cell of the blue print from about 30-40 questions, which have been developed and computerized for each cell. Thus, each student appearing in a subject gets a different question paper, even if a large number of students is appearing in that subject. The weightage of each question paper set is maintained in terms of content, objectives and the type of question.

5.11.1 ODES at Secondary Level

The On-Demand Examination System (ODES) at Secondary level was started with effect from 8 February 2006 on prescribed days. During 2007-08, On-Demand Examination was conducted twice in a week. During 2007-08, 12470 students appeared under ODES.

No. of Candidates Appeared and Pass under On Demand Examination (From April 2007 till March 2008)

1. Secondary Course

Subject	Appeared	Pass	Pass%
Hindi	2597	1644	63.30
English	3890	1199	30.82
Sanskrit	277	71	25.63
Mathematic	3638	396	10.89
Science & Technology	4271	658	15.41
Social Science	4612	481	10.43
Economics	1709	869	50.85
Business Studies	1749	965	55.17
Home Science	2267	1468	64.76
Typewriting (Hindi)	20	12	60.00

Typewriting (English)	120	62	51.67
Word Processing	1146	540	47.12
Psychology	60	9	15.00
Total candidates	**26356**	**8374**	**31.78**

5.11.2 Towards ODES at Senior Secondary Level

The "On-Demand Examination" has become quite popular amongst the student community of NIOS. Encouraged by the popularity of ODES, NIOS started On-Demand Examination for Senior Secon-dary Course from 3.10.2007 initially in the subject of Business Studies & Mathematics. More subjects like Physics, Hindi, Pol. Science and Home Science were added on 10.10.2007.

No. of Candidates Appeared and Pass under On Demand Examination
(From April 2007 till March 2008)

2. Senior Secondary Course

Subject	Appeared	Pass	Pass%
Mathematic	260	62	23.85
Physics	284	61	21.48
Business Studies	38	30	78.95
Hindi	29	12	41.38
Home Science	15	8	53.33
Total	**626**	**173**	**27.63**

5.11.3 On-Demand Examination System launched at Patna

On 28th August 2007, NIOS launched the On-Demand Examination System (ODES) at its Regional Centre, Patna. The Union Minister for Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, inaugurated the Centre. The Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi, presided over the function. Shri Ram Chandra Purbey, Ex-Minister HRD, Government of Bihar, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Ex-State Minister, Government of India and Ex-Minister of Education, Govt. of Bihar, Shri M.C. Pant, Chairman, NIOS and Shri D.S. Bist, Secretary, NIOS were present during the inauguration ceremony.

The On-Demand Examination at Secondary Stage will be extended to the Testing Centres being established at other Regional Centres of NIOS.

6. Administration and Accounts

6.0 Introduction

The Administration Department of NIOS, headed by Secretary, looks after the matters related to (i) Memorandum of Association of NOS Society, (ii) Constitution of various committees of NIOS and organization of meetings of apex committees, (iii) matters related to personnel, (vi) legal matters, (v) budgets/Accounts, (vi) production and distribution of materials, (vii) purchase and supply of equipment, (viii) maintenance, (ix) promotion of Hindi (Raj Bhasha), (x) Annual Report, (xi) Parliament Questions etc. the programmes and activities of the Administration Department of NIOS during the year 2007-08 are as follows:-

6.1 Personnel & Establishment

6.1.1 Appointments

The following officers joined NIOS on deputation basis:

1. Shri R.P. Dwivedi, Assistant Director w.e.f. 11.04.2007

2. Smt. Rashmi Dwivedi, Research Evaluation Officer w.e.f. 12.04.2007

3. Shri A.K.Sharma, as Assistant Director w.e.f. 20.02.2008.

6.1.2 Promotion

Shri Jugal Kishore Virmani, Peon was promoted to the post of Photocopier Operator in the Pay Scale of Rs. 3050-4590 w.e.f 7-12-2007.

6.1.3 Retirement

Dr. (Mrs.) Neelam Sinha, Joint Director retired from the service of NIOS on attaining the age of superannuation w.e.f. 31.07.2007

6.1.4 Repatriation

The following Officers/Officials were repatriated to their Parent Departments.

1. Shri A.S.Mathur, Director (Evaluation) w.e.f. 16.08.2007

2. Smt. Meenakshi Saxena, Academic Officer (Sanskrit) w.e.f. 30.04.2007

6.1.5 Removal from service

For the first time, the penalty of removal from service w.e.f. 24th December 2007was imposed on Shri. Jagan Lal Sharma, Section Officer for absconding unauthorizedly from his duties.

6.1.6 Recruitment

In order to fill up vacant posts - Ten (10) posts of Academic Officers were advertised in May 2007 and two posts of Director (Evaluation) and Director (Vocational Education) were also advertised on direct recruitment basis in the month of December 2007.

6.1.7 Finalisation of Gradation List

The National Institute of Open Schooling which had been functioning as Open School Project under CBSE was set up as an autonomous body in 1989 by Government of India Notification. Accordingly, NIOS was following the Recruitment Rules of CBSE till it formulated its own Recruitment Rules in the year 2002. Based on these Recruitment Rules, direct recruitments and promotions were undertaken in the year 2002-03. Some members of staff and officers of NIOS expressed their grievances against them leading to litigation in courts of law. There were also disputes regarding inter-se-seniority in between officers and members of staff from different cadres. Due to these complications, the work of further promotions and recruitments came to a standstill in NIOS. In view of this, the Chairman NIOS appointed a Two Member Committee comprising of Ms L. Indumathy, Dy. Secretary / Director MHRD and Shri. D.S. Bist, Secretary, NIOS to examine and resolve all the

issues regarding seniority of all levels of officers and members of staff. The constitution of this Committee was taken note of by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi also during the disposal of various petitions filed before it by staff members of NIOS. Eight meetings were held over a period of eight months leading to circulation of tentative gradation list.

6.1.8 Printing and translation of recruitment rules

The amendment Recruitment Rules 2007 were printed in English and translated in Hindi. These Rules have also been uploaded on the net and are available on the NIOS website.

6.1.9 Backlog/Shortfall of SC, ST/OBC Vacancies

The detailed position with respect to backlog/ shortfall of SC/ST/OBC vacancies were calculated based on the General Rule of Recruitment and Promotion of Academic and Non-Academic Staff of NIOS Part I & II (as amended upto March 2007) for Direct Recruitment and Promotion, as per directions of DOPT and submitted to MHRD. At present, there is no backlog of SC, ST or OBC vacancy in NIOS.

6.1.10 Parliament Unit

Parliament Unit coordinated with different Departments of NIOS in order to provide information related to NIOS during the Parliament Session. To ensure prompt, correct and timely information, Nodal Officers were designated within each Department and replies of 26 Parliament Questions were sent to MHRD.

6.1.11 Implementation of instructions of CVC regarding e-governance in NIOS

As per the instructions of the Central Vigilance Commission, NIOS, in order to reduce the scope for corruption and to bring greater transparency and accountability in the discharge of duties and public dealing, had issued necessary instructions for implementation of e-governance in NIOS vide office order no. 62/07 dated 2nd March, 2007. Vide this order all the Departments/Regional Centres/

Unit of the NIOS have been instructed to provide complete information on NIOS websites regarding the rules and procedures as well as all application forms / proforma in a downloadable form.

In addition, all AIs, AVIs and AAs of NIOS have been directed to provide e-mail IDs for easy and faster communication and transparency between NIOS and its partners.

6.1.12 Monthly Activities Report

As per letter (F.No.7-1/2006School6 dated 04th January 2008), all key developments of MHRD are to be communicated on a monthly basis to the Cabinet Secretary. In this connection MHRD directed NIOS to submit the details of the important activities and significant events undertaken during each month. For collection and collation all HODs / Regional Directors were requested to appoint Nodal Officers to submit a brief of activities in report form by every month.

Accordingly, NIOS has been sending Monthly Report to MHRD. This work is being coordinated by Deputy Director (Personnel)

6.1.13 VIP References

NIOS receives a large number of VIP references from the various elected representatives of Central and State Governments such as Hon'ble Member of Parliaments, Hon'ble Ministers either through Ministry of Human Resource Development or directly. These VIP references have to be replied within a stipulated period of time as per the norms of Government of India.

All HODs have nominated a custodian for VIP references. In order to maintain the systematic record of receipt of these letters, action taken on them and replies given for these VIP references, each department has been directed to maintain a separate receipt and dispatch register for all VIP references.

Personnel Section maintains a separate master register for receipt of all VIP references and their disposal and also ensures that year wise entries are done on regular basis. This master register is also cross checked with the register in all departments on regular basis.

6.1.14 Opening of Regional Sub Centers

Two Regional Sub Centre Bhubaneshwar and Dharbanga were opened in January 2008.

6.1.15 Strengthening of the Public Grievances Redressal Machinery

In keeping with the directives of the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) to make the administration more

responsive to the needs of the citizens, NIOS has set up a Public Grievances Redressal Cell (PGR Cell). The responsibility of this cell to redress the grievances received from the general public as well as NIOS learners, Secretary NIOS has been designated as Director (Public Grievances).

6.1.16 Redressal of Staff Grievances

In pursuance of directives of Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Ministry of PPG&P, Govt. of India and emphasizing the need for setting up of Staff Grievance Redressal Mechanism for staff, the Deputy Director (Pers.) has been appointed as Staff Grievance Officer (SGO) for redressal of staff grievances.

6.1.17 Coordination with MHRD/ International Agencies

The Personnel Section has been assigned the responsibility of coordinating with MHRD, and

other offices of central and state governments on behalf of NIOS.

6.1.18 Legal Matters

The Legal Unit of NIOS is responsible for taking up matters concerning NIOS affairs in all courts of law across the country. The Secretary NIOS is the head of Legal Unit and represents NIOS as an entity at all forums. NIOS has engaged Advocates in different district courts on a case-to-case basis.

The legal unit also coordinates with Regional Centres for settlement of any legal cases in their jurisdiction.

During the year 2007-08, the Legal Unit drafted various deeds regarding Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding and prepared Show Cause Notices. The Legal Unit rendered opinion on various issues regarding accreditation, examination, and general administration. The Legal Unit replied to the legal notices, redressed the grievances of learners, and defended NIOS at various Forums/Courts.

6.2 Maintenance and Purchase

6.2.1 The Academic Department of NIOS was shifted from Delhi to the newly constructed building at A-31, Sector-62, NOIDA, by December 2006. Subsequently, in the year 2007-08, the Maintenance Section arranged shifting of all the office records, furniture, equipments, etc., from office buildings located at Kailash Colony to newly constructed buildings located at A-24/

25 and A-31, Sector-62, NOIDA. The work of shifting was started on 17th December 2007 and completed within a short span of time. This involved not only logistics problems but also required proper manpower planning. In the two newly occupied building, all basic amenities were provided apart from the following work which were also undertaken.

- Installation of PRI lines through Airtel and BSNL and providing intercom facilities in all the Departments/Sections/Units.

- Arranging subsidized transport facility to NIOS Staff members.

- Renewal of lease agreement/fresh agreement for accommodation at different Regional Centres.

- Purchase of office equipments & store after following purchase procedure.

6.2.2 Construction of Office Complex for NIOS at NOIDA (UP)

MHRD had conveyed vide letter dated 05/03/2002 the approval of EFC to construct NIOS Office Complex at NOIDA at overall cost of Rs.25 Crores and Rs.1 Crore to be paid to School of Planning and Architecture for their services, who were appointed as architects for the project. Subsequently MHRD approved payment of additional fee for verification for contractor bills @ 1.00% for value of work done measured. A total fee of Rs.1.07 Crores has been paid so far.

The construction work was awarded to M/s Era Constructions (I) Ltd., New Delhi on 14/07/2003 at tendered cost of Rs.17.21 Crores. The value of work done upto February 2008 is Rs.15.77 Crores. The civil work on building on plot A-31 & A-24/25 had been completed except for rectification of defects.

M/s ITI Ltd. was appointed as Project Management Agency for day-to-day supervision and monitoring of project for 24 months at fee of 1.61% of value of work done measured. M/s ITI Ltd. had agreed to continue working till

NIOS - Delhi Regional Centre
A-31, Sector 62, Noida

completion of work at the same fee of 1.61%. The total fee paid to M/s ITI ltd. is Rs.30.69 lakhs so far.

The work of boring tubewells and installation of 7 lifts was also undertaken. The installation of electrical substation and DG sets is in process and so is the installation of HVAC System.

6.2.3 Subsidized Transport and Canteen Facilities

With the shifting of the building to Sector-62, NOIDA a problem of commuting from Delhi was faced by the staff members. The public transport facility in Sector-62 is yet to be developed and the area is inaccessible in terms of public transport. The situation gets further aggravated by the fact that the area is not adequately covered by police supervision and walking from the National Highway to the office complex – a distance of more than one kilometer – becomes risky. In view of the genuine hardship and difficulties faced by staff members, NIOS authorities took the initiative to provide subsidized transport facilities for commuting to and fro. Buses ply on three different routes from different parts of Delhi on all working days.

Canteens have also been started in both the buildings A-31 and A-24/25, Sector-62, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh.

NIOS HQ, A-24/25, Sector 62 Noida

1997-98 onwards are at **Annexure II and III**.

6.3.3 Budgetary Support to NIOS

The budgetary support to NIOS from the MHRD during 2007-08 was Rs.600.00 lakh under Plan only. A diagrammatic presentation of Budgetary Support to NIOS from the MHRD since 1997-98 is at**Annexure –IV**.

6.2.4 Installation of Safety Equipments

Closed circuit T.V. cameras have been installed in different parts of the building. Fire fighting equipments have also been put in place in all the floors.

6.3 Accounts

6.3.1 Income Generated by the NIOS

The funds generated by way of collection of admission and examination fees, and sale of publications etc., during the year 2007-08 were to the tune of Rs.7256.00 lakh as against Rs.5972.80 lakh during 2006-07. The increase of 21.48% in the revanue was due to (a) increase in the number of students enrolled and increase in the number of students who appeared for examinations, (b) increase in reciept of miscelleneous fee, and (c) receipt of interest on term deposit from bank. Income of NIOS during 2007-08 was Rs.574.38 lakh. The trend of NIOS generated income from 1997-98 onwards is at **Annexure - V**.

6.3.2 Expenditure

The Non-Plan expenditure during the year 2007-08 was Rs.4685.89 lakh as compared to Rs.4339.34 lakh during previous year. The Plan expenditure during the year 2007-08 was Rs.610.96 lakh as compared to Rs.817.66 lakh during previous year. Diagrammatic presentation of the NIOS Non-Plan and Plan expenditure from

6.3.4 Fee Concession to Prioritized Groups

During 2007-08, subsidy aggregating to Rs.472.82 lakh was given in the form of concessions in admission fee to the students belonging to weaker sections of society comprising women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, ex-servicemen and handicapped. This subsidy was solely met from NIOS generated funds. The number of beneficiaries availing subsidy during the year was 1,36,690 [SCs; 39953 STs; 23276 Ex-Servicemen; 547 Handicapped; 1773 Women; 71141 (excluding SC/ST Women)].

The rate of subsidy ranged between Rs.200 to Rs.450 per student depending on the courses of study and gender. A diagrammatic presentation of the yearwise subsidies given from 1997-98 to 2007-08 is at **Annexure-V**.

During the year 2007-08:

● In order to comply with accrual system of accounting, depreciation was charged on Fixed Assets of NIOS.

● Efficient management of working capital was effected with the help of cash flow and fund flow statement.

● Effective control was exercised on fixed assets by way of preparing fixed assets schedule in proper proforma.

● Activities in respect of reconciliation of admission, examination and miscellaneous

- fee have been initiated in all Regional Centres of NIOS.

- The annual accounts of NIOS were prepared on accural basis in uniform format as applicable to all central autonomous bodies and prescribed by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

- The computerisation of Accounts in the Regional Centres of NIOS was undertaken and Tally 9.0 version has been installed in all Regional Centres of NIOS.

- The certification audit of Accounts of NIOS for the year 2006-07 was got conducted by DGCAR from 20.08.2007 to 27.08.2007.

- Audit certificate of annual Accounts for the year 2005-06 was obtained and sent for lying in the Parliament

6.4 Material Production and Distribution

NIOS is one of the biggest Government Publishing House in India. Printed instructional materials written in self-learning style is the main source of learning for learners of NIOS. NIOS prints lakhs of copies of several hundred books/titles developed for various courses of study. It really needs meticulous planning and huge managerial skills to procure paper products, their adequate warehousing and proper stocking. NIOS purchase paper for printing its Self Instructional Material (SIM). NIOS publications have wide variety of subjects. Once the paper is purchased, next the most challenging task comes printing the materials pertaining to all subjects, courses and mediums within a stipulated time frame.

The success of any Distance Mode of Learning System largely depends on timely printing, transportation and distribution of study materials to the learners scattered all over the country. NIOS have been doing all these tasks timely, efficiently and satisfactorily. Materials produced by NIOS is well prepared and quality of printing has been highly appreciated by all and sundry in formal schooling system, as well as by large number of users. NIOS prints Self Instructional Materials

(SIM) for its learners from various printers on NIOS panel.

6.4.1 About NIOS Publications

NIOS prints learning materials of different subjects, courses, and mediums. Majority of the subjects are in 2 to 3 parts. NIOS books are user friendly and self explanatory in approach. During the year 2007-08, NIOS printed approximately 50 lakh copies (combined despatches) of Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational Education courses. Study materials in Hindi, English, Telugu,

Marathi, Malayalam, Gujarati and Urdu were also got printed. NIOS printed and supplied study materials for the students of the Rajasthan State Open School also.

The expenditure incurred on paper and printing of the instructional materials during 2007-08 was approx. Rs.1682.22 lakhs.

During 2007-08, NIOS purchased good quality paper from the Hindustan Paper Corporation, a Govt. of India Undertaking, through open tendering. This further added to the quality of printing of the NIOS publications.

Some of the unique features of NIOS publications meant for students are as under :

- Unique layout - in A4 size - following International standardization of sizes.

- Using 10-12 pt. type for text and leaving enough white space so as to make the reading catchy and providing enough space to students for writing notes etc.

- Using Graphics in between the text to make the reading catchy.

- Using 60 G.S.M.—NIOS Water marked paper for printing of text and 180 GSM Pulp Board (MG) for printing of multi-colour covers of the Books.

- Perfect binding and side stitching of books making them more convenient while using and withstand rough handling by students.

- NIOS got more than 2 parts of a subject packed in polythene, so that all parts could be given/issued to the learners and further to avoid any damage during transportation.

NIOS mainly prints study materials for its learners of the following courses :

- Books for open Basic Education: This material is generally printed in four colours so as to make it catchy for the students.

- Books for Secondary Courses

- Books for Senior Secondary Courses

- Books for Vocational Education Courses

- Other publications of the organization

NIOS Publications printed during 2007-08

1. Books for Secondary Courses

2. Books for Senior Secondary Course

3. Books for Vocational Subject

4. Books in regional mediums in Gujarati, Malayalam, Telugu, Marathi at secondary level.

5. Examinations related materials

6. Admission related material

7. Other publications like Annual Report, Annual Accounts and 'Open learning Magazine'

8. Books in Bengali medium under OBE programme

9. Miscellaneous items for Departments (Administration, Evaluation, Student Support Services, Vocational, Academic) and Regional Centres

10. Reports of various seminars/conferences

During 2007-08, the following examinations related stationery was got printed:

– Answer Books for Oct./Nov., 2007 and April/May, 2008 examinations.

– Date sheets for Academic and Vocational courses for October/November, 2007 and April-May, 2008 Exams.

– Miscellaneous items required by the Evaluation Department for Examination.

– Guidelines for Centre Superintendent for Academic and Vocational Examinations.

– Certificates for Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational Education courses or October/November, 2006 exams and April-May, 2007 examinations.

– Mark sheets, Provisional Certificates and Migration Certificates for Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational Examinations for April-May, 2008 examination, and for October/November, 2007 examinations.

Admission related Materials Printed during 2007-08

NIOS enrolls learners from all over India through Accredited Institutions (AIs) for its various courses and programmes. During 2007-08 for the first time in NIOS history, three different Prospectuses were got printed.

(i) For Delhi Region

(ii) For Chandigarh Region,

(iii) For Rest of India

This was done in order to minimise usage of paper and postal charges incurred on despatch etc. Earlier only one Prospectus used to be printed in Hindi and English mediums in addition to regional mediums and Urdu.
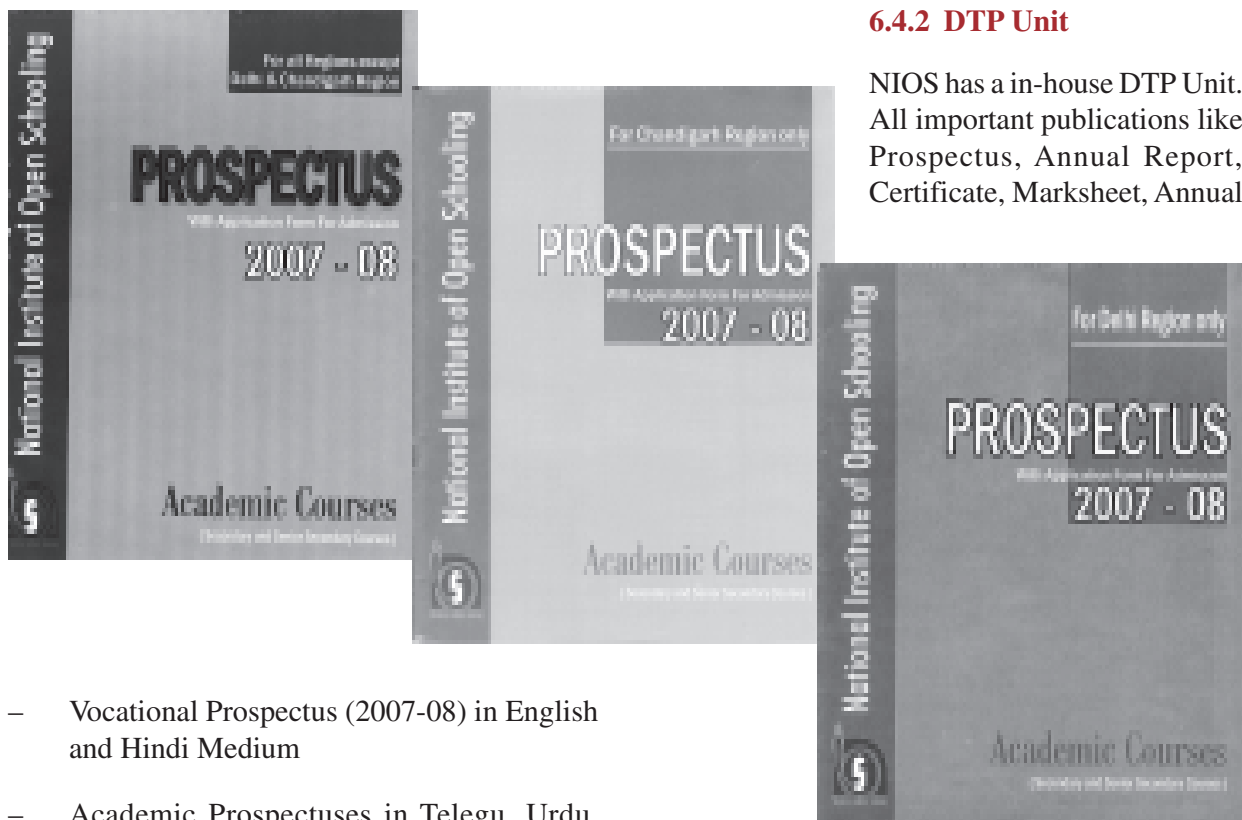
6.4.2 DTP Unit

NIOS has a in-house DTP Unit. All important publications like Prospectus, Annual Report, Certificate, Marksheet, Annual

– Vocational Prospectus (2007-08) in English and Hindi Medium

– Academic Prospectuses in Telegu, Urdu, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam were also got printed. In addition, Vocational Prospectus (Urdu) was also got printed.

– Administrative Guidelines for Academic and Vocational courses.

Other prestigious Publications of NIOS printed during 2007-08:

– NIOS at a Glance, 2007

– OSAC Journal, December, 2006

– Open Schooling, Quarterly News Bulletin

– Annual Report 2006-2007

– Annual Account 2006-07

– A Curriculum Framework-Vocational Education through Open and Distance Learning

During 2007-08, for the first time Annual Report 2006-07 and Annual Account 2006-07 were got printed in a record time and submitted to MHRD for tabling the same before the Parliament.

Account, NIOS at a Glance, Answer Books, Open Learning magazine, Open Schooling News Bulletin, Examination related materials and various Reports of Seminars and Conferences were got typeset in the DTP unit.

6.4.3 Material Distribution

The success of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programme largely depends on timely supply of instructional materials to the students to enable them to learn at their own pace. The instructional materials are provided to the students. The students of NIOS were given instructional materials duly packed in polythene for each subject.

6.4.4 Review of the Functioning of MD Unit

During 2007-08, the review of the functioning of Material Distribution (MD) Unit was done. A comprehensive e-plan was worked out by the Secretary NIOS for improving the efficiency of functioning of the MD Unit and making it more transparent by putting various stages of its activities involved right from procurement of paper to dispatch of study material to the learners

of NIOS on the Internet. The entire chain of activities was integrated using ICT to ensure timely completion of all the activities involved in the dispatch of study material to the learners of NIOS. This e-plan was duly approved during the Publication Advisory Committee held on 26th April 2007 in the Chamber of Chairman, NIOS. The point wise review was conducted as follows:-

1. As per the e-plan, re-assessment for purchase of paper for the year 2008-09 started in August 2007.

2. Once the paper suppliers were selected through appropriate process then their contact addresses, e-mail IDs, telephone numbers etc., were put on NIOS website.

3. The tentative delivery schedule was worked out in consultation with all the transporters for the benefit of all the concerned AIs and AVIs indicating likely date of delivery and receipt of consignments. The monitoring of transportation of study material to the various AIs was also done by the Student Support Services Department.

The study material is made available to the students through the Accredited Institutions. The material was supplied to them in bulk at their doorsteps through road transport. In certain special cases, the study material was sent directly to the enrolled students.

6.4.5 Despatch of Study Materials to Online Learners

From 2007-08, NIOS launched online admissions. Accordingly study materials to learners enrolled through online for different streams were sent. In addition three sales counters were opened as under:

I. NIOS Counters for Study Material

1. Three direct sales/distribution counters were opened at the following three locations of NIOS, in and around Delhi

   (a) The Regional Centre, Delhi at A-31, Sector-62, NOIDA, where sufficient

stock of all the Study materials was maintained under the charge of Regional Director, all the learners were provided the desired study material promptly on the basis of requirement by payment or otherwise.

   (b) Similarly, a sales counter was opened at NIOS, HQ for direct sale/provision of study material.

   (c) Third sales counter continued functioning at M.D. Unit, R.P. Bagh under the supervision of the Incharge, MD Unit.

II. **Mode of Dispatch of Study Material to the learners under Stream 1:-** Normally all the study material to the learners of stream 1 was dispatched directly by the MD Unit to the learners. In cases of non-delivery/non-receipt of study material by the learners arrangements were made for the learners to collect the study material directly from the three sales counters at NIOS Headquarters, Regional Centres and Sub-centres of NIOS, whose study material have come back. This information was also placed on the NIOS website. On line admission Unit was in touch with all the 23000 learners on the basis of their e-mail IDs and got confirmation from all the learners.

III. **Dispatch of Study Material for Streams 2 and 3:** - The study material of NIOS was optional for the learners under stream 2 and 3. Therefore it was decided that all those learners who are desirous of study the NIOS study material in streams 2 and 3 under on-line admissions, would be supplied the study material directly by MD Unit based on the requisition received from the learners either by post or on-line.

The On line Admission Cell provided a detailed list containing the names of the learners and their exact addresses to the MD Unit.

The main aim of NIOS is to serve the people at large. NIOS makes sure that study materials are supplied to learners at the time of Admission or

immediately after admissions are over. To achieve this target, NIOS utilizes the services of efficient, reliable and professional mailer/transporter for despatch of NIOS study materials all over the country. The mailer/transporter is selected through proper tendering and taking all related precautionary measures into consideration.

During 2007-08, NIOS despatched Study Material to approximately 2000 Accredited Institutions. A diagrammatic presentation of number of despatch centres of NIOS since 1997-98 is at **Annexure VI.**

Since most of the students enrolled with NIOS, particularly those hailing from rural areas, belong to poor and backward classes, the cost of printed books is subsidised as a part of the wider social objective (to keep the cost of printed material as cheap as possible). With this social objective in mind, only the actual cost of printed material is charged from the students and this cost is included in the total charges recovered from students at the time of admission. In this way, NIOS supplies the printed material to students at highly subsidized rates.

7. Student Support Services

7.0 Introduction

Under the Open and Distance Learning System, learner support is of paramount importance. Such support is provided through various services to:

- help learners to learn well by providing timely and proper academic support,

- facilitate learners in solving their problems through the study centres/learning centres,

- coordinate and monitor establishment, working and management of the study centres.

The main objectives of the Student Support Services Department of NIOS are as follows:

- Formulation of policy and planning related to students enrollment and registration.

- Advocacy and publicity of NIOS programmes.

- Identification and establishment of study centres for accreditation from amongst recognized and reputed academic institutions all over the country, thereby building a network of Accredited Institutions (AIs).

- Enrolment and registration of Secondary and Senior Secondary learners of NIOS.

- Monitoring of functioning of the study centres and conduct of personal contact programmes.

- Development of policy for continuous assessment of the learners through Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA).

- Coordination with the Regional Centres for timely and effective support to the learners.

- Redressal of problems and grievances of learners.

- Supply of "Open Learning" Magazine (half yearly) to supplement the self-learning materials.

7.1 Formulation of Policy and Planning for Admission – Ni-On Project

NIOS is committed to the universalisation of education and has been making sincere efforts for furthering the national agenda of universalisation of secondary education. During the year 2007-08, one of the most significant projects introduced by

NIOS for meeting this goal was introduction of **Online Admission.** The **Ni-On Project** aimed at increasing educational access through the use of technology. The Project was based on a concept paper titled 'Towards Universalisation of Secondary Education through NIOS' written by Shri. D.S. Bist, Secretary NIOS and later published in the Indian Journal for Open Learning, IGNOU, New Delhi, Vol. 17, No. 1, January, 2008.

The idea behind this move was to enhance educational access to a large number of students

efficiency in operations of NIOS in its key areas of functioning like admission, accreditation and examinations and other activities.

(iii) To assist government's goal of Universalisation of Secondary Education (USE) by improving and enhancing the reach of NIOS to its potential learners.

(iv) To bridge the digital divide in between the learners of NIOS and of formal schooling

who continue to be outside the educational fold at the Secondary as well as Senior Secondary levels. The facility of online admission helps the learners to enroll in NIOS without going through the accredited institutions. It provides full autonomy to learners to take admission from any place at any time as per their convenience. This Pilot Project was termed Ni-On Project. It was inaugurated by Shri Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India on 4th July, 2007.

General Objectives of Ni-On Project

(i) To promote e-governance and better governance as directed by the Government of India from time to time.

(ii) To ensure transparency and improving

system by providing them opportunity to use ICT for accessing NIOS for the purpose of admission and availing benefits associated with it.

(v) To facilitate the structural and functional transformation of NIOS as ODL institutions by imparting it greater flexibility, openness, superior quality and reliable services, as service provider to its marginalized target group of learners.

The salient features of Ni-On admissions include:

– Faster and Simpler Admission: Direct access to NIOS Admission;

– Choice of Study Centre: Freedom to select Study Centre of their choice;

– Admission Open 24x7: Admission opened round the year for the learners for On Demand Examination of Secondary Course;

– Better support services: Direct interaction of learners with NIOS; faster redressal of all problems;

– Easy Payment: Payment of fee online through credit card, else by Bank Draft.

In order to make the Ni-On Project successful and learner friendly, four streams of Online admissions were introduced keeping in mind the different requirements of learners. The admissions in different Streams of Online are mutually exclusive and a learner can only opt for one of them. These streams are as follows:

– **Online Admission for all learners (Stream-1)**: This stream for Online Admission was opened for all learners as per the laid down criteria for admission in Secondary and Senior Secondary courses. These learners were eligible to appear in public examination first time in April-May, 2008.

– **Online Admission for learners wanting to appear in October-November, 2007 Examinations (Stream 2)**: This stream for Online admission was opened for all those learners who had appeared but could not clear the Public Examination of Secondary /Senior Secondary levels from any recognized Examination Board for the same subject combination in which they had appeared. The learners of this stream were eligible to appear in the October-November, 2007 Secondary/Senior Secondary Public Examinations of NIOS, on the basis of marksheet / admit card of the respective Boards.

– **Online Admission for learners wanting to appear under the On Demand Examination System (ODES) of NIOS for Secondary Level (Stream 3)**: This stream for Online admission was opened throughout the year for those learners who had appeared but could not clear the public examination of Secondary level from any recognized examination Board and wanted to appear through On Demand Examination System of NIOS for Secondary level only. The admission under this stream was limited to availability of seats under the ODES. The

scheme was available through On Demand Examination at NIOS Headquarter at NOIDA.

– **Online Admission for learners wanting to appear under the On Demand Examination System (ODES) of NIOS for Senior Secondary Level (Stream 4)**: During the year 2007-08, for the first time, NIOS introduced the On-Demand Examination for Senior Secondary learners. This stream for Online admission was opened throughout the year for those learners who had appeared/ already passed Senior Secondary or above from any recognized Board/University and wanted to take part admission in one subject or upto four subjects for updating their qualifications or learners who had appeared but could not clear the public examination of Senior Secondary level from any recognized examination Board in the same subject combination in which they had appeared and wanted to appear through On Demand Examination System of NIOS for Senior Secondary level only. The scheme was available through On Demand Examination at NIOS Headquarter, NOIDA.

In addition to the above four streams, the existing practice of admission through accredited institutions continued. It has now been rechristened as 'Off-line Admissions'.

Like any other year, admission through AIs of NIOS commenced in July, 2007 and continued till September 2007. During the year 2007-08, the total number of students admitted in various academic courses through different AIs as well as on-line (Stream I & II) was 3,40,342.

The NIOS has its AIs (study centres) in the Middle East (Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Sharjah, Bahrain) and Nepal also. The aim of having the study centres outside India is to extend educational facilities through the open learning system to non-resident Indians and other nationals settled there.

The State/ Union Territory wise enrolment at Secondary and Senior Secondary level is shown in Table 7.1 and Region-wise Enrolment in academic courses is shown in Table 7.2.

Table 7.1 : State/Union Territory-wise Enrolment in Academic Courses 2007-08

Admission through AIs as well as On-line Streams I & II

State/ Union Territory	Secondary Course			Sr. Secondary Course			Total
	Through AIs	Through On-line Streams		Through AIs	Through On-line Stream		
		I	II		I	II	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1252	2	-	1094	3	-	2351
Andhra Pradesh	1134	2	29	3641	61	45	4912
APO	9	-	-	16	-	-	25
Arunachal Pradesh	2255	1	-	1116	4	1	3377
Assam	1375	72	11	1202	522	23	3205
Bihar	5302	254	175	9011	1553	1491	17786
Chandigarh	1080	14	10	500	-	40	1644
Chhatisgarh	1073	47	2	854	53	7	2036
Delhi	39516	1509	374	31263	3899	857	77418
Foreign Countries	649	28	-	1121	21	-	1819
Goa	2771	1	1	749	1	1	3524
Gujarat	905	35	2	535	42	5	1524
Haryana	23221	436	121	23248	779	337	48142
Himachal Pradesh	4235	581	7	11085	2184	27	18119
Jammu and Kashmir	728	8	1	1251	12	3	2003
Jharkhand	1478	6	8	1251	16	50	2809
Karnataka	229	4	1	800	18	14	1066
Kerela	5445	417	14	3024	191	20	9111
Madhya Pradesh	6295	221	391	2760	64	213	9944
Maharashtra	9869	65	6	4868	68	8	14884
Manipur	4657	121	108	3915	200	207	9208
Meghalaya	1562	2	-	61	5	3	1633
Mizoram	2548	100	-	1404	162	-	4214
Nagaland	2482	4	3	1303	11	4	3807
Orissa	2824	313	213	1422	94	166	5032
Pondicherry	2	-	-	3	-	-	5
Punjab	6956	64	33	1419	80	66	8618

Rajasthan	5277	392	912	2799	401	446	10227
Sikkim	1300	1	1	832	1	-	2135
Tamil Nadu	279	-	-	380	10	2	671
Tripura	392	233	-	325	135	-	1085
Uttar Pradesh	14896	176	1112	16377	357	1536	34454
Uttarakhand	6479	95	893	4498	148	604	12717
West Bengal	10669	241	140	6433	223	83	17789
All India SAIED	2222	16	-	809	1	-	3048
Total	**171366**	**5461**	**4568**	**141369**	**11319**	**6259**	**340342**

During the year 2007-08, the Regional Centres admitted the following number of students through AIs as well as online in Streams I & II in their respective Regions.

Table 7.2: Regional Centre-wise Enrolment in Academic Courses 2007-08

Regional Centre and the States/UTs Covered	Enrolment		Total	Percentage
	Secondary	Sr. Secondary		
Allahabad	4676	6578	11254	3.30%
Bhopal	8029	3951	11980	3.51%
Chandigarh	36642	40418	77060	22.65%
Delhi	43549	38015	81564	23.96%
Dehradun (Sub Centre)	17687	15575	33262	9.78%
Guwahati	15926	10603	26529	7.79%
Hyderabad	1399	4579	5978	1.75%
Jaipur	7523	4228	11751	3.45%
Kochi	6157	3630	9787	2.88%
Kolkata	16956	10351	27307	8.03%
Patna	7223	13372	20595	6.06%
Pune	12713	5695	18408	5.41%
NIOS HQ.	677	1142	1819	0.54%
All India SAIED	2238	810	3048	0.89%
Total	**181395**	**158947**	**340342**	**100%**

The highest enrolment was in Delhi Region (23.96%) followed by Chandigarh Region (22.65%) and the Sub-Centre Dehradun (9.78%).

On-Line Admissions in Academic courses in Streams III & IV (2007-08)

On-line Stream	Secondary Course	Sr. Secondary Course	Total
III	815	-	815
IV	-	602	602
Total	**815**	**602**	**1417**

7.1.1 Academic Courses : Enrolment Trend

The enrolment of students in the Secondary as well as Senior Secondary Courses has been generally increasing since 1998-99. During the year 2007-08, there was an increase of 16.96% in enrolment as compared to the previous year.

Year-wise enrolment in Academic Courses since 1997-98 is depicted below:

Year wise enrolment in Academic Courses
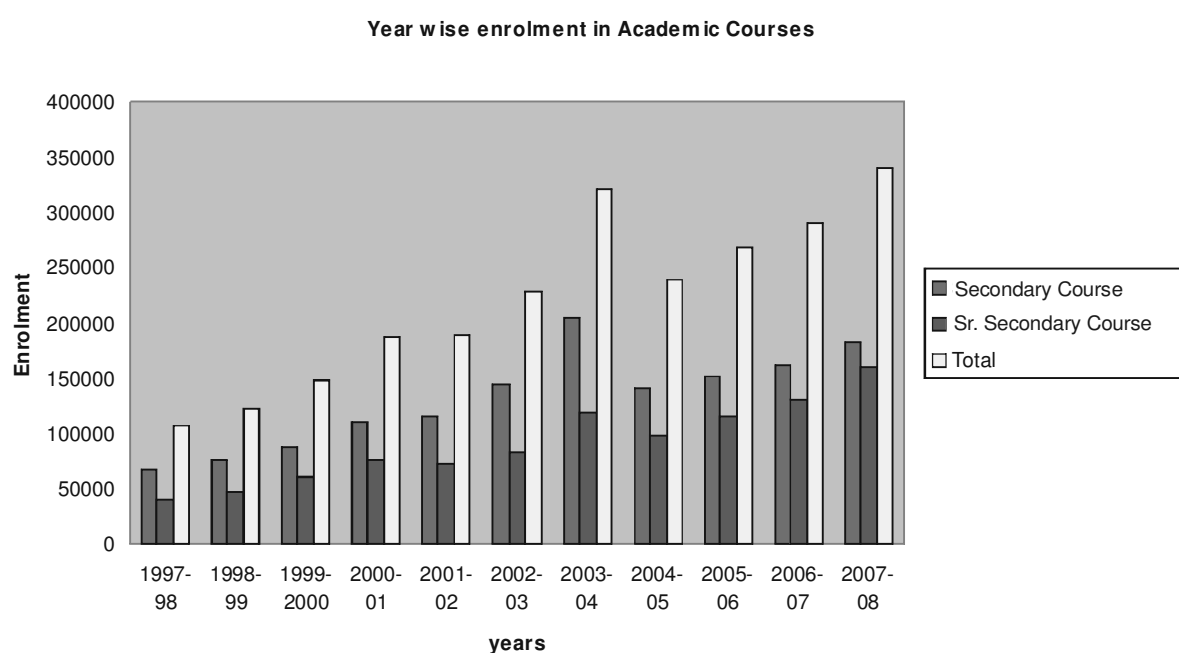
7.1.2 Academic Courses: Students Profile

During the session 2007-08, the course-wise, Regional medium-wise, category-wise, gender wise, age-wise and religion-wise profiles of the learners are presented in Tables 7.3 to 7.8.

Table 7.3: Number and Percentage of Students Registered in Various Courses during 2007-08

Course	No. of Students	Percentage
Secondary	181395	53.30
Sr. Secondary	158947	46.70
Total	**3,40,342**	**100**

8. Regional Services

8.1. Regional Centres of NIOS

The NIOS has a mandate to play the role of a national apex resource centre for Open Schooling. The Memorandum of Association of the National Open Society envisages that it will "Establish Regional Centres for supervising the proper functioning of the learning support at study centers". For effective administration, co-ordination and the supply of material, the Regional Centres of NIOS provide a vital and effective link between the Study Centres and NIOS Headquarter; between the State Governments and the NIOS Headquarter, between Study Centres and learners, between Academic Facilitators and the Study Centres and between the NIOS and general public. The concept of Regional Centre is a well thought mechanism. The success of NIOS programmes and policies in a Region largely depends on the pivotal role played by its Regional Centre.

The NIOS, till 1994-95, was following a two tier system i.e., NIOS Headquarter in Delhi and the Study Centres spread all over the country. It was felt that this system needed to be revamped in order to provide better opportunities for student support, counseling and redressal of their problems through localised structures in a decentralised way. This resulted in the establishment of the first Regional Centre at Kolkata in 1994-95. Presently there are 11 Regional Centres are working in different parts of the country: Allahabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Patna and Pune. There are three Sub-Centres at Dehradun, Bhubaneshwar and Darbhanga.

Basically the Regional Centres are required to perform four types of activities:

1. Academic
2. Administrative
3. Promotional
4. Planning and Monitoring

A brief description of the functions generally performed by the Regional Centres under each category is given below:

1. Academic Functions

- Conducting research in the area of Open Schooling and collecting feedback on the functioning of AIs/RCs/NIOS.

- Development of need based instructional material pertaining to the Open Schooling courses of study including regional languages and training packages etc.

- Development and dissemination of need based audio and video programmes in the Regional languages.

- Organization of short-term training programmes for Open Schooling functionaries.

- Follow up studies of NIOS pass outs and compilation of success stories.

- Arranging extra mural lectures, exhibitions and other programmes.

- Holding meetings of Co-ordinators, Centre Superintendents and Academic Facilitators.

2. Administrative Functions

- Admission related activities such as sale of Prospectus, fee realization, getting admission data punched, checking of admission data, sending check list to AIs, issue of identity cards, checking and verification of Transfer of Credits (TOC) cases and forwarding the same to NIOS Headquarter, change of subjects/additional subjects.

- Record keeping in respect of students' admission and examination (Record pertaining to five years).

- Liaison with NIOS Headquarters for distribution of study material.

- Attending to the grievances of students/learners.

- Carrying out corrections/modification in admission data as per requirement, in liaison with National Institute of Open Schooling Head-quarter.

- Organizing meetings of Transfer of Credit (TOC) Committee for extending this facility to the learners.

- Examination related activities such as fee realization, fixation of examination centres, issuing Hall tickets to students, receipt of answer books, secrecy work for evaluation, spot evaluation of answer books, sending award lists to NIOS Headquarter, Re-evaluation etc.

- Maintenance of Secretary's Account and Regional Director's Accounts.

- Appointment of nodal officers, observers and inspection teams for ensuring proper conduct of examinations of NIOS, analysis and conso-lidation of observer's reports, taking follow up action, verification of examination related bills.

- Miscellaneous work related to NIOS admission, programme delivery and examination etc.

- Matters related to public relations and students' grievances.

- Ensuring that the TMAs are attempted by the candidates and are evaluated at the AIs.

- Sending TMA awards and bills to the SSS Department as per schedule and maintaining record of the same at the Regional Centre.

- Carrying out 5% sample checking of the TMAs.

3. Promotional Functions

- Identification of good schools/institutions to work as study centres of NIOS.

- Accreditation related work such as inspection of schools/institutions for Accreditation,

interaction with Study Centres, matters related to dis-accreditation of Study Centres.

- Advertisements regarding admission, examination and publicity of NIOS programmes.

- Liaison with State Governments to encourage them to start State Open Schools.

- Identification of educational needs in Open Schooling in the region through State Coordination Committees.

- Promotion of Open Schooling in the States within the region and consultancy/assistance to the concerned states for setting up/up scaling of State Open Schools (SOSs).

- Liaison with States and Coordination and Clearing house functions in Open Schooling.

- Organization of advocacy programmes.

4. Planning and Monitoring Functions

- Preparation of Perspective Plan and Annual Plans of the Regional Centre.

- Monitoring of Implementation of NIOS programmes in the accredited institutions including Personal Contact Programmes (PCP) and Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs).

- Identification and allotment of Academic Facilitators to the AIs.

- Matters related to Academic Facilitation at the Study Centres through identified Academic Facilitators etc.

- Coordination and clearing house functions.

- Maintenance of database of admission, AIs, Human Resource for monitoring and academic facilitation at the RC level.

- Analysing the reports of the Academic Facilitators and preparing consolidated reports on quarterly basis for necessary actions and forwarding the same to the NIOS Headquarter.

- Ensuring smooth functioning of AIs/AVIs/ OBE Centres.

8.2 Highlights of Programme and Activities of Regional Centres

The Regional Centres of NIOS at Allahabad, Delhi, Kolkata and Pune organized the meeting of their Advisory Committees.

- The Regional Centre, Delhi organized a number of programmes in the year 2007-08. An orientation-cum-feedback meeting of AI Co-ordinators and Academic Facilitators was organized on 25th June 2007 while an orientation-cum-feedback meeting of AVI Coordinators and Facilitators was organized on 17th July 2007. A training programme of the ODL functionaries under the COL-NIOS training project was organized on 1st December, 2007 in which the first two training modules of the COL NIOS training package were released by Sir John Daniel, President COL. A second orientation-cum-Feedback meeting of AVIs Coordinators and Facilitators was organized on 12th and 13th December, 2007.

  The Regional Centre, Delhi initiated dialogues with companies for placement of NIOS Vocational pass outs. The Vienova Technology Ltd organized campus selection programmes in various AVIs.

- The meeting of Regional Centre Advisory Committee (RCAC) was held on 20.02.2008 at Regional Centre, Delhi.

- The Regional Centre, Jaipur organized a meeting of AI/AVI Coordinators on 13th July, 2007 at SIHFW Conference Hall, Jaipur *interalea* to acquaint them with the changes/innovations introduced by NIOS in its admission system. The Regional Centre, Jaipur participated in the activities of Rajasthan State Open School (SOS) and recommended about 11042 TOC cases.

- The Regional Centre, Kolkata organized a regional meeting of Coordinators and Academic Facilitators on 7th July 2007 in the Assembly of the God Church School, Kolkata. 52 Coordinators and Academic Fa-

cilitators attended the meeting. The study materials for A and B levels of OBE in Bengali medium was developed and printed. ZSS Hooghly was accredited and the equivalency programme for OBE has been implemented from March 2008. Secondary Course materials in Oriya medium for all subjects except Social Science was developed and sent for printing. Initiatives to open a cell to promote Open Schooling System in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and in the State of Sikkim were taken.

- A meeting of 105 Coordinators of AIs, AVIs and Academic Facilitators was organized on 29th July, 2007 by the Regional Centre, Allahabad in the Conference Hall Auditorium, Science Faculty, University of Allahabad. A meeting of Chief Secretary, Director Education and Additional Director Patrachar was convened to facilitate the opening of State Open School in U.P. The SOS was expected to be functional soon.

- The Regional Centre, Bhopal organized on 10th July 2007, an Orientation programme for the Coordinators of the Study Centres AIs/AVIs and Academic Facilitators in order to make them acquainted with the changes introduced by NIOS.

- The Regional Centre, Guwahati organized the Coordinator's Meeting on 6th July, 2007 which was attended by the NIOS Chairman, Mr. M.C. Pant, Director Evaluation, Mr. A.S. Mathur, Deputy Director, Mr. S.K. Anand and Regional Director, Dr. Rajesh Kumar. The Chairman, NIOS, discussed the procedure for online admission. The Director (Evaluation) emphasized the need to maintain high standards for fair conduct of examinations. The Regional Centre, Guwahati hosted a Regional Meet on Curriculum Framework in Open Vocational Education on 5th July 2007 in which 17 experts participated. The Regional Centre developed a Vocational Education Course on Basic Bamboo Technology in collaboration with the Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre for inclusion in the NIOS Vocational Curricu-

lum. It also participated in the Guwahati Book Fair from 30th December 2007 to 10th January 2008 and displayed NIOS study material, CD programmes, Application Form for Accreditation of Institutions as Study Centres, Prospectus etc. A meeting of Team Leaders and Senior Evaluators was organized on 27th March 2008 in the context of Spot Evaluation work.

- The Regional Centre, Pune in the period under review, organized a two-day workshop in the context of Diploma in Basic Rural Technology (DBRT). It also enrolled 20 Co-ordinators for Certificate Course in Open Schooling. A one-day Orientation programme for Coordinators of AVIs was organized for promotion of Vocational Education on 12th January 2008. The Hindi Pakhwara was celebrated on 28th September 2007. Dr. K.P. Pandey, Vice-Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pune distributed prizes to the participants.

- An Orientation programme for coordinators of AIs and Academic Facilitators under Kochi Region was held at Kochi on 26th July 2007. 32 coordinators and 2 have attended. Shri. S.K. Anand, Deputy Director (Admn), NIOS Headquarter, Ms. Bhavna Dhyani, Incharge, MDU &PPU, NIOS Headquarter and the Regional Head and staff members of the Regional Centre were present.

An Orientation programmes for the coordinators of AVIs of the Kochi Region was held at Kochi on 15th December 2007. 69 Coordinators from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry participated in the Meeting. The Chairman of NIOS Shri M.C. Pant, and Assistant Director of Vocational, NIOS, and Shri R.S.P. Singh attended the meeting.

A brain storming session on promotion of open learning in Rural Kerala was conducted by the Regional Centre, Kochi at Kochi on 14th December, 2007 in association with CNRI & JSS. 110 NGOs participated in the meeting. They expressed their interest to associate with NIOS. Besides the other digni-

taries, Shri M.C. Pant, Chairman, NIOS, Dr. R.S.P. Singh, Assistant Director (Vocational Education), Mr. J.K. Palit, Vice President of JSS and Mr. Balagopal, Chairman of CNRI participated in the meeting.

Regional Medium, Malayalam, has already been introduced at Secondary level. The pending translation work of Psychology, Home Science, Economics and Indian Culture and Heritage has been completed and the books were under print.

The learning material for Tamil as a Language at Secondary level was finalized and printed. The Curriculum for Tamil as a language at Senior Secondary level was also prepared.

- The Regional Centre, Hyderabad organized an Orientation programme for the Coordinators of Study Centres (AIs/AVIs) and Academic Facilitators in order to acquaint with the changes in the scheme of studies as well as other activities of NIOS on 11th July 2007 at Hyderabad. An Orientation programme for the Coordinators of Study Centres (AVIs) of Karnataka State was organized at Bangalore on 17th November 2007.

The translation work of the Prospectus for the Academic year 2007-08 in Telugu was undertaken. Tutor Marked Assignments in Telugu language were developed for Secondary and Senior Secondary courses for the year 2007-2008 from 27th to 30th August 2007.

A three-day workshop to review the lessons in Kannada language course was organized at Mysore from 15th to 17th November 2007.

A four-day workshop in Hindi was organized at Chennai from 2nd to 5th October 2007. The Hindi Fortnight was celebrated from 14th to 28th September 2007. The staff of Regional Centre participated in the various competitions.

A three-day workshop to develop the Curriculum of Karnatic Music course at Secondary level was organized at Mysore from 13th to 15th March 2008.

9. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

9.0 Introduction - ICT in National Institute of Open Schooling

In the Open Learning, the face-to-face contact is very limited. The learners are at a distance and the teaching-learning methodology is distance education mode. In such scenario, the Open Schooling organization has to depend heavily on the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). NIOS has been making increasing use of ICT in almost all of its programmes and activities.

9.1 Infrastructure and Area of Applications

The NIOS has come a long way in the forefront of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) since it made a small beginning with only two personal computers in 1989. Now the organization has a well equipped Computer Centre with various types of computers and printers of latest configuration. It has achieved an important place in the world of Online. Today in the arena of Web World, NIOS is playing a significant role by providing various types of information through Internet as well as online.

9.1.1 Student Information System

Starting form Scanning of registration/admission form to the issue of the certificate, all the processes are computerized. The following areas are covered under Student Information System:

◆ Admission/Registration

◆ Scanning of ICR compatible Admission Form

◆ Pre-examination activities

◆ Result Processing

◆ Certification

- **Admission 2007-08**

Approximately 340 thousand of students' admission data were processed by the Computer Unit during 2007-08. It also includes 29,024 students data processed through online admission.

- **Examinations**
  Pre-examination Activities (April 2007 and October 2007 examination)

During 2007-08, pre-exam processing of data of about 542 thousand students was done both in the academic and vocational streams as against data of 448 thousand students during 2006-07. The work included data-entry of examination lists and examination forms, their verification, updation and generation of the various reports for use by the examination centres for conduct of examinations.

- **Result Processing (April 2007 and October 2007 Examination)**

In the context of April 2007 examination and October 2007 examination, result of about 542 thousand students was processed. The photographs of the successful candidates, scanned at the time of admission, were also printed on the certificates.

9.2 NIOS on the Web

9.2.1 Web Accessing and Web Designing

With dedicated lease line for Internet Access, the NIOS faculty and officials can access Internet from their computers without using user name and password.

9.2.2 Help E-mail Id for NIOS Online Learners

E-mail Id admonline@nos.org and support@nos.org were activated for online help to NIOS learners.

A separate link "Ask Your Teacher" was provided on the web site to facilitate student's support. NIOS students can now directly interact through the E-mail with the specified subject experts to seek response to their queries.

9.2.3 Online Course Material

As a measure of support to students, the complete study materials of the revised Secondary Course were available in the PDF format. These can be downloaded / accessed from the link titled "On-line Course Material" from the home page. These PDF files can be viewed in Adobe Acrobat Reader, which can also be downloaded from the website also.

During the year, the Study materials of Senior Secondary course and materials of some of the Vocational Education courses were made available through NIOS website. The materials are scanned copy of the print materials in the PDF format and can be downloaded.

9.3 M-Support

During 2007-08, NIOS learners were provided with M-support facility. The information about the examination centre, examination date sheets and results of learners were provided on the mobile phone through SMS. The students are requested to send a SMS in the following format.

NIOS10 <Enrolment Number> for Secondary
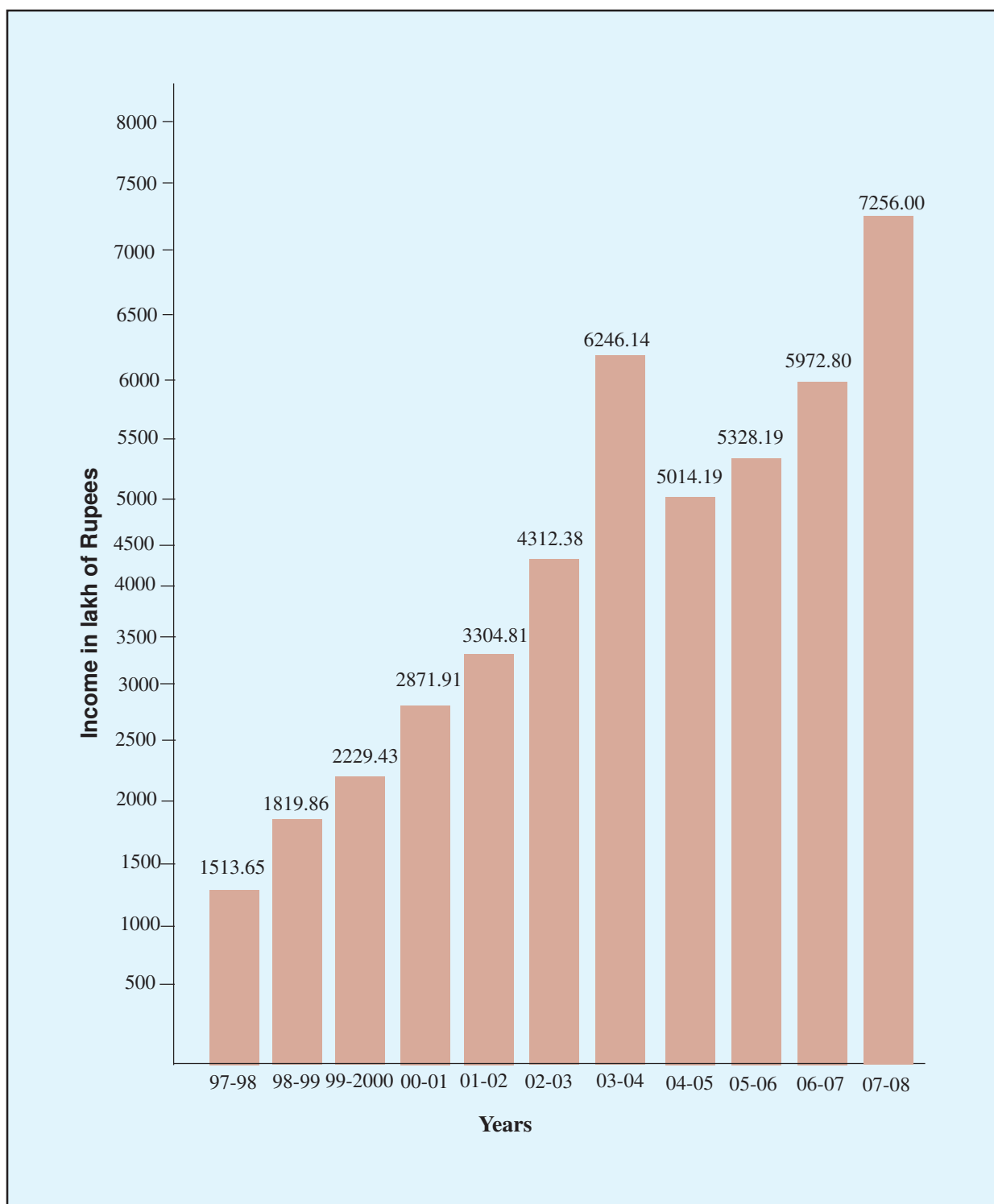
NIOS12 <Enrolment Number> for Senior Secondary

To be sent to 5676750, 52424, 58888, 55454, 56300, and 51234.

9.4 NIOS Contribution to MHRD "SAKSHAT" Portal

Web Based Tutorial (WBT) were developed for some topics of Chemistry and uploaded on the Educational Portal "SAKSHAT" of the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The linkage of this Portal from NIOS Web site was also provided.
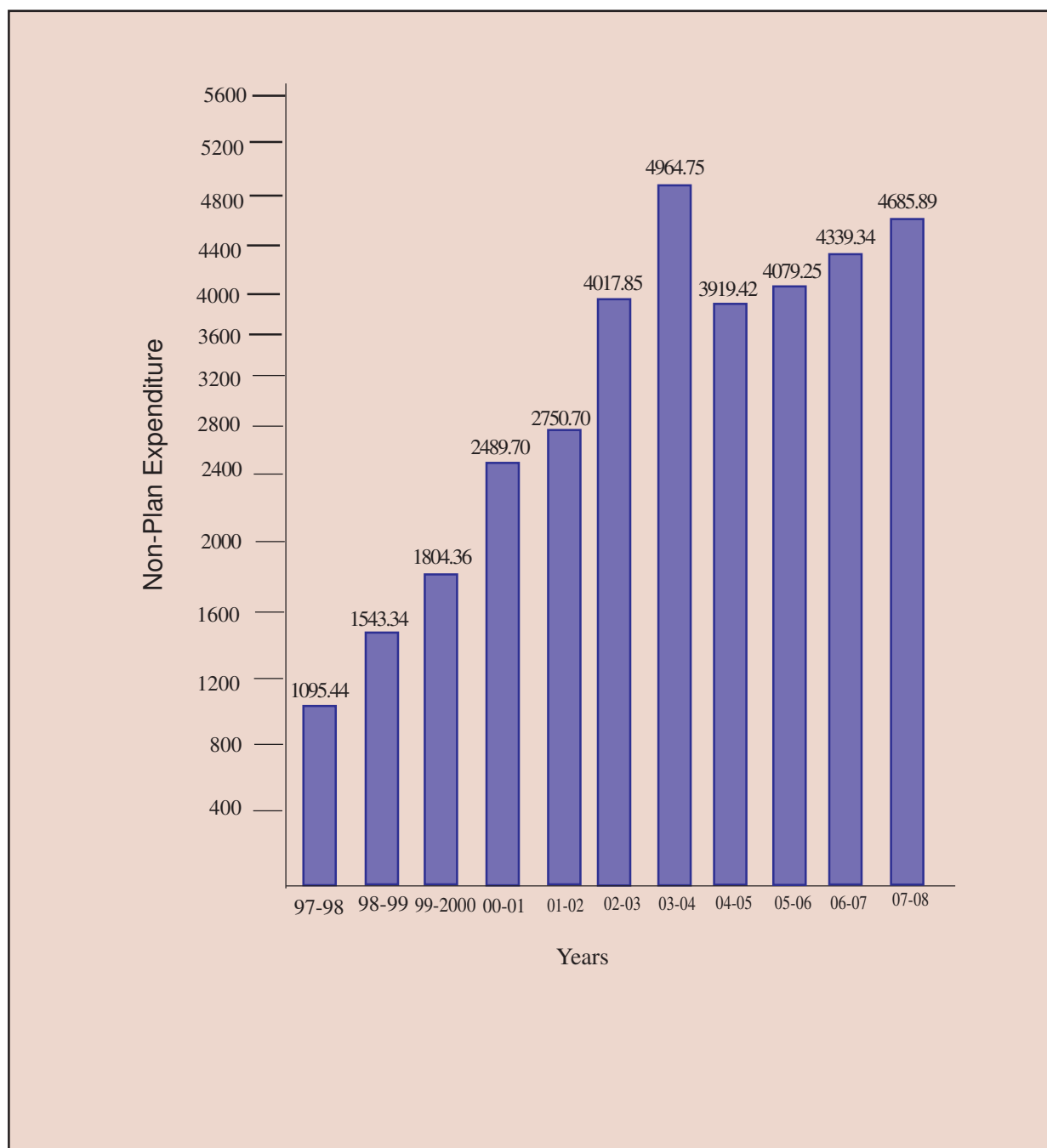
Annexures
&
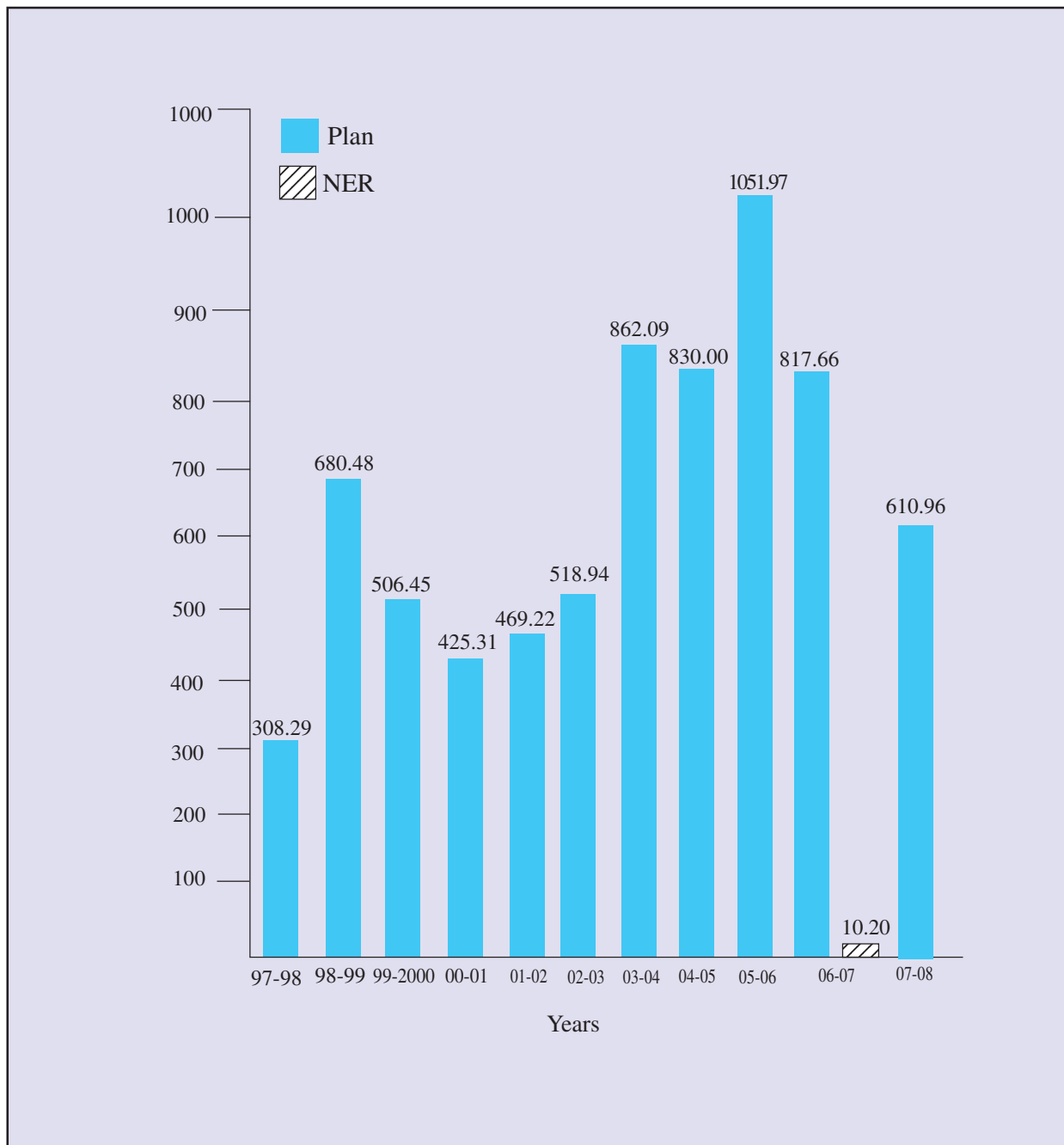*Appendices*

NIOS Income from 1997-98 to 2007-08

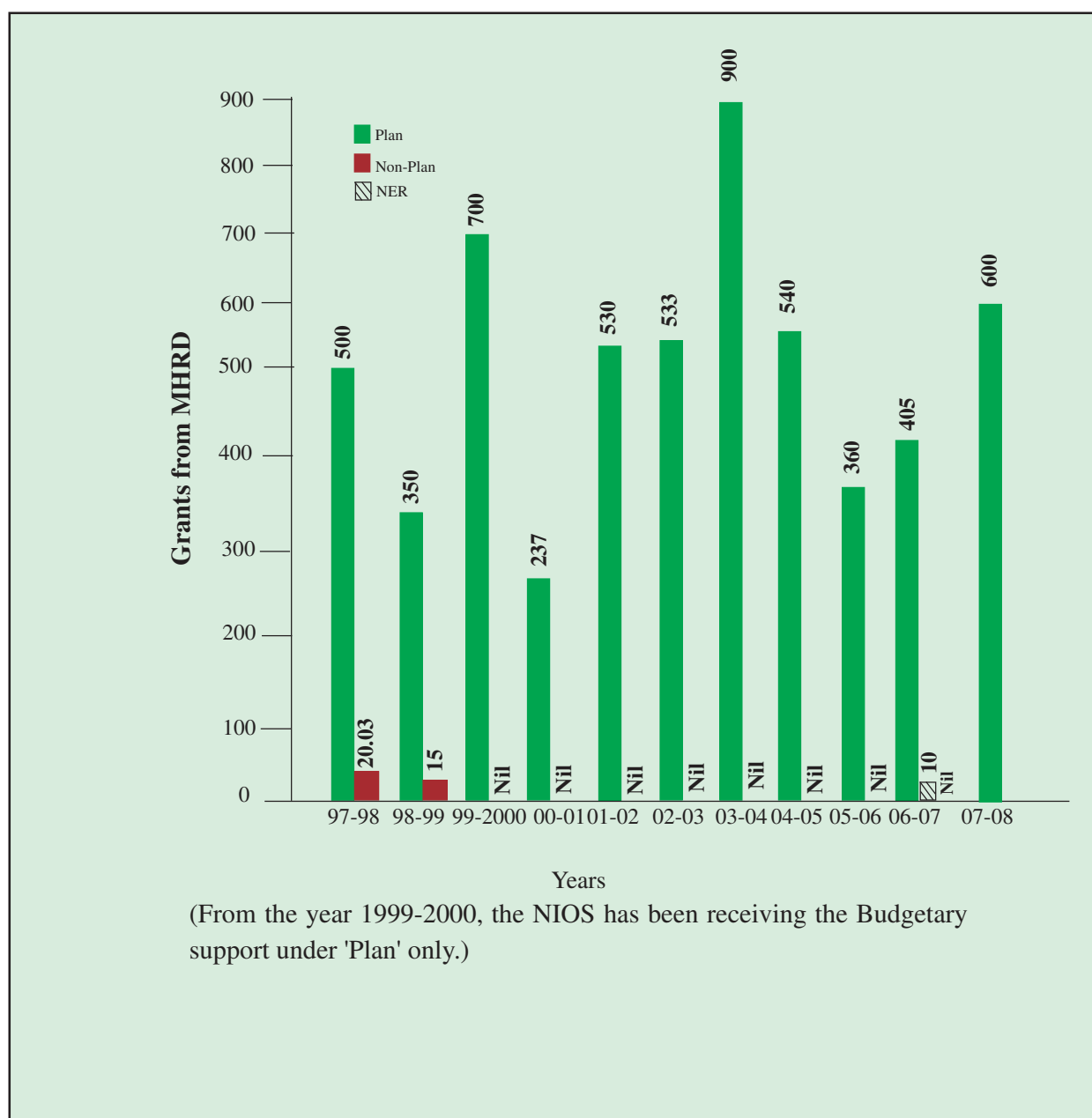## NIOS Non-Plan Expenditure (1997-98 onwards)

(Rupees in Lakh)

Chart: NIOS Non-Plan Expenditure by year (Non-Plan Expenditure vs Years)

Year	Non-Plan Expenditure
97-98	1095.44
98-99	1543.34
99-2000	1804.36
00-01	2489.70
01-02	2750.70
02-03	4017.85
03-04	4964.75
04-05	3919.42
05-06	4079.25
06-07	4339.34
07-08	4685.89

NIOS Plan Expenditure (1997-98 Onwards)

(Rupees in Lakh)

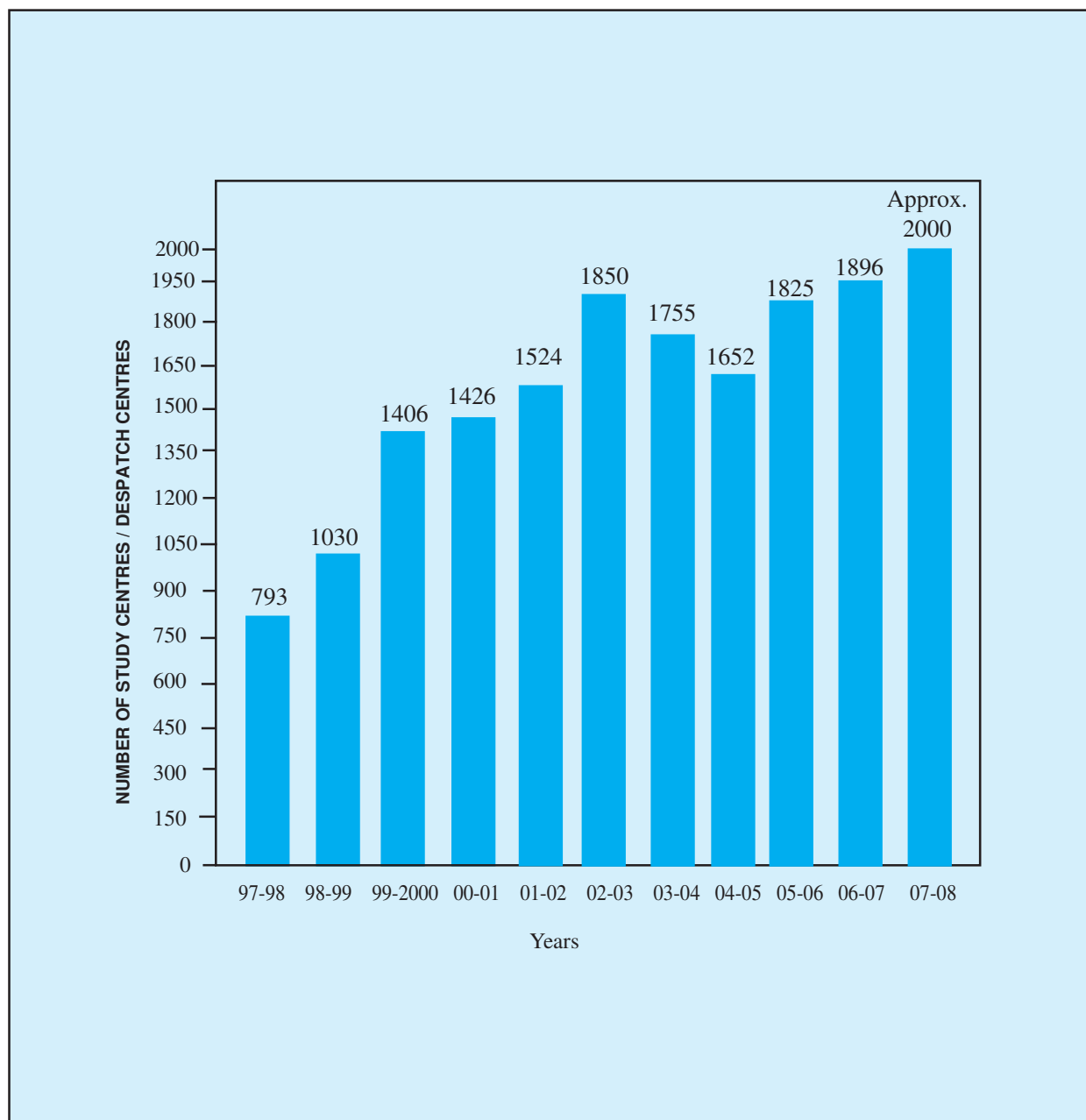### Yearwise Budgetary Support to NIOS from the MHRD since 1997-98

(Rupees in lakh)

(From the year 1999-2000, the NIOS has been receiving the Budgetary support under 'Plan' only.)

Subsidies given by NIOS to Prioritised Groups since 1997-98

(Rupees in lakh)

Year	Subsidies
97-98	102.37
98-99	135.60
99-2000	158.17
00-01	193.44
01-02	180.96
02-03	172.47
03-04	267.87
04-05	407.32
05-06	433.86
06-07	440.96
07-08	472.82
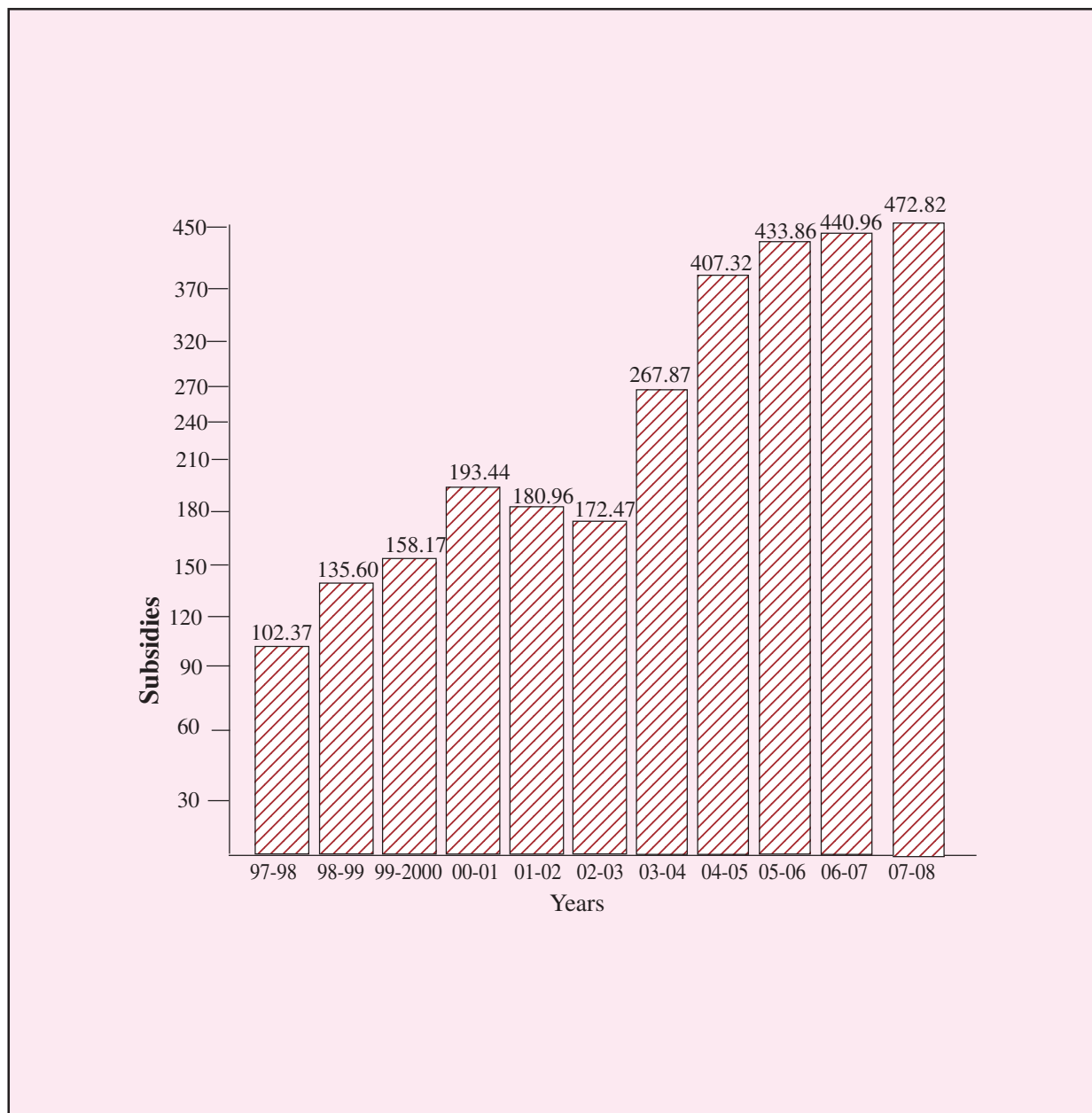
Number of Accredited Institutions/Despatch Centres of NIOS

NUMBER OF STUDY CENTRES / DESPATCH CENTRES

Years

97-98: 793
98-99: 1030
99-2000: 1406
00-01: 1426
01-02: 1524
02-03: 1850
03-04: 1755
04-05: 1652
05-06: 1825
06-07: 1896
07-08: Approx. 2000

List of Members of the General Body of the
National Open School Society (As on 31.03.2008)

Name and Address	Name and Address
Shri Arjun Singh (President) Hon'ble Minister of HRD Govt. of India Shastri Bhawan New Delhi - 110001	**Smt. Vandana K. Jena** Joint Secretary (AE) & DG (NLM) Department of SE &L Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001
Shri M. A. A. Fatmi (Vice-President) Minister of State, HRD (Secondary and Higher Education) MHRD, Govt. of India Shastri Bhawan New Delhi - 110 001	**Prof. V. N. Rajasekaran Pillai** Vice Chancellor IGNOU Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110 068
Shri A. K. Rath Secretary, SEL Department of Education, MHRD Shastri Bhawan New Delhi - 110 001	**Prof. Krishan Kumar** Director National Council of Educational Research and Training Sri Aurobindo Marg New Delhi - 110 016
Sh. S. C. Khuntia Joint Secretary (SE) Department of Education, MHRD Shastri Bhawan New Delhi- 110 001	**Shri Ved Prakash** Vice-Chancellor National University of Educational Planning and Administarion 17 B, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi - 110 016
Shri S. K. Ray Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor (HRD) Department of Education, MHRD Shastri Bhawan New Delhi - 110 001	**Smt. Lovleen Kackar** Joint Secretary (CW) Department of Women and Child Development Shastri Bhawan New Delhi - 110 001

Smt. Stuti Kacker
Joint Secretary (P&A)
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi - 110 001

Dr. Arvind Prasad
Joint Secretary (BC)
Ministry of Social Justice and
Empowerment
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi - 110 001

Mrs. Asha Murty
Joint Secretary & Director General
Employment and Training
Ministry of Labour
Rafi Marg,
New Delhi

Ms. Reena Ray
Secretary Education
Govt. of Delhi (NCT)
Old Secretariat
Delhi - 110 054

Shri Ranglal Jamuda, IAS
Commissioner
Kendriya Vidalaya Sangathan
New Delhi - 110 016

Shri Ashok Ganguli
Chairman
Central Board of Secondary Education
Shiksha Kendra 2, Community Centre,
Preet Vihar, New Delhi - 110 092

Shri O.N. Singh
Commissioner
Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti
A-28, Kailash Colony
New Delhi - 110 048

Additional Director General (A)
Prasar Bharti (B.C.I.)
Director General : Doordarshan
Doordarshan Bhawan, PTI Building,
Parliament Street,
New Delhi - 110 001

Smt. L. Indumathy
Director
Department of School Education
and Literacy MHRD
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi- 110 001

Dr. M. Sen Gupta
Department of Educational Research and Policy
Perspective, NCERT,
Sri Aurobindo Marg
New Delhi -110 016

Prof. Neerja Shukla
Head
Department of Education of Groups with
Special Needs
NCERT
Sri Aurobindo Marg
New Delhi - 110 016

Shri Grace Kujur
Deputy Director General (P)
Office of the Directorate General
All India Radio,
Parliament Street
New Delhi - 110 001

Prof. O. S. Dewal
E-250, Mayur Vihar
Phase-II,
Delhi -91

Dr. J. Veera Raghavan
(Ex-Secretary to GOI. MHRD)
Director
Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan
K. G. Marg
New Delhi - 110 001

List of Members of the Executive Board of the
National Open School Society (As on 31.03.2008)

Name and Address	Name and Address
Sh. M. C. Pant Chairman National Institute of Open Schooling A-24/25, Institutional Area, Sector -62, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh	**Sh. Ram Bahadur Ray** Jansata, Indian Express A - 80, Sector - 2 NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh
Sh. S. C. Khuntia Joint Secretary (SE) MHRD Shastri Bhawan New Delhi -110 001	**Dr. Rajendra Prasad,** Professor Indian Institute of Technology, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110 016
Sh. S. K. Ray JS & Financial Adviser MHRD Shastri Bhawan New Delhi-110001	**Prof. M. Sen Gupta** Department of Educational Research and Policy Perspective NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg New Delhi -110 016
Prof. O.S. Dewal E-250, Mayur Vihar Phase- II Delhi - 91(Ph:- 22771582)	**Sh. Amitabh Garg** Director, JSS Dr. Ambedkar Welfare Society 8-A/1 Elgin Road, Civil Lines Allahabad - 211 002
Prof. Neerja Shukla Head Department of Education of Groups with Special Needs NCERT Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110016	**Shri. K. R. Chandrasekaran** Director (Acad./Eval) National Institute of Open Schooling A-24/25, Institutional Area, Sector -62, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh
Dr. (Ms.) Sharad Renu Nivedita Nilaya 495, Dampier Nagar Mathura Uttar Pradesh-281001	**Shri. D. S. Bist** Secretary /Director (SSS) National Institute of Open Schooling A-24/25, Institutional Area, Sector -62, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh

List of Members of the Finance Committee of the National Open School Society (As on 31.03.2008)

Name and Address	Name and Address
Sh. M. C. Pant Chairman, National Institute of Open Schooling A-24/25, Institutional Area, Sector -62, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh	**Shri D.P. Sharma,** IA & AS (Retd.) 117, AGCR Enclave Vikas Marg Extension Delhi-110092
Sh. S. C. Khuntia Joint Secretary (SE) Department of Education, MHRD, Shastri Bhawan New Delhi - 110 001	**Sh. K. R. Chandrasekaran** Director (Acad./Eval.) National Institute of Open Schooling A-24/25, Institutional Area, Sector -62, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh
Shri S. K. Ray JS & Financial Adviser (HRD), Department of Education MHRD, Shastri Bhawan New Delhi-110001	**Sh. D. S. Bist** Secretary / Director (SSS) National Institute of Open Schooling A-24/25, Institutional Area, Sector -62, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh
Prof. B. R. Goyal Retired Professor, NCERT 208 Civil Lines Gurgaon, Haryana -122001	

List of Members of the Academic Council of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

Convenor

1.	Chairman, NIOS	Shri. M.C. Pant	Chairperson
2.	Head of Departments of NIOS	2.1 Director, Department of Evaluation, NIOS	Member.
		2.2 Director, Academic Department, NIOS	Member.
		2.3 Director, Department of Vocational Education, NIOS	Member
		2.4 Director, Department of Student Support Services, NIOS	Member
		2.5 Secretary, Administration Department, NIOS	Member
3.	External Experts	3.1 Prof. A.K. Sharma Retired Director, NCERT C-3, Sector 48, NOIDA (Uttar Pradesh)	Member
		3.2 Dr. Om Vikas Ex. Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Morena Link Road, Gwalior -474003	Member
		3.3 Prof. R.G. Chouksey National Institute of Technical Training + Research, Shyamala Hills, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	Member
		3.4 Prof. Vachaspati Upadhyaya Lal Bahadur Shastri Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Shaheed Jit Singh Marg New Delhi -110016	Member
		3.5 Ms. Indumathy Director, Deptt. of School Education Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi -110001	Member

	3.6	Prof. T.K.V. Subramaniyam Head, Department of History Delhi University Delhi - 110007	Member
	3.7	Prof. B.P. Khandelwal Former Director, NIEPA 4503, ATS Greens II, Sector 50, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh	Member
	3.8	Prof. D.C. Pant Former PVC, IGNOU A-45, Regency Park-I DLF, Phase IV, Gurgaon (Haryana)	Member
	3.9	Dr. (Ms) Najma Akhtar Senior Fellow, NUEPA, Sri Aurobindo Marg New Delhi -110016	Member
	3.10	Dr. Subhash Pachpor Director, M.P. State Open School Board of Secondary Education Campus Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal -462001 (Madhya Pradesh)	Member
	3.11	Shri C.K. Misra CK 33/7, Neelkantha Varanasi - 221001 (Uttar Pradesh)	Member
4.		Director (Academic), Central Board of Secondary Education Preet Vihar, New Delhi - 110092.	Member
5.		Director (SE) Deptt. of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001	Member
6.		Director (Academic), Member Convener National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), A-24/25, Institutional Area, Sector - 62, NH - 24, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh	

Sanctioned Staff Strength of the NIOS
(As on 31.03.2008)

S.No.	Name of the post	Scale of Pay	Total Staff Strength
1.	Chairman	(Rs. 18400-500-22400)	1
2.	Secretary	(Rs. 14300-400-18300)	1
3.	Director (Academic)	(Rs. 14300-400-18300)	1
4.	Director (Evaluation/SSS/Voc.Edu.)	(Rs. 14300-400-18300)	3
5.	Joint Director	(Rs. 14300-400-18300)	6
6.	Deputy Director	(Rs. 12000-375-16500)	14
7.	System Analyst / Programmer	(Rs. 12000-375-16500)	1
8.	Publication Officer	(Rs. 12000-375-16500)	1
9.	Assistant Director	(Rs. 10000-325-15200)	20
10.	Accounts Officer	(Rs. 10000-325-15200)	1
11.	Academic Officer	(Rs. 8000-275-13500)	21
12.	Research & Evaluation Officer	(Rs. 8000-275-13500)	1
13.	Librarian	(Rs. 8000-275-13500)	1
14.	Section Officer	(Rs. 6500-200-10500)	27
15.	PS to Chairman	(Rs. 6500-200-10500)	1
16.	Public Relation Officer	(Rs. 6500-200-10500)	1
17.	Assistant Audit Officer	(Rs. 6500-200-10500)	1
18.	Hindi Officer	(Rs. 6500-200-10500)	1
19.	Graphic Artist	(Rs. 5500-175-9000)	1
20.	EDP Supervisor	(Rs. 5500-175-9000)	1
21.	Cameraman	(Rs. 5500-175-9000)	1
22.	Editor (Media)	(Rs. 5500-175-9000)	1
23.	Superintendent	(Rs. 5500-175-9000)	10
24.	Technical Assistant	(Rs. 5500-175-9000)	2
25.	PA	(Rs. 5500-175-9000)	3
26.	Assistant Librarian	(Rs. 5500-175-9000)	1
27.	Translator	(Rs. 4500-125-7000)	1
28.	Production Assistant	(Rs. 4500-125-7000)	1
29.	Library Assistant	(Rs. 4000-100-6000)	1
30.	Assistant / Internal Auditor	(Rs. 4000-100-6000)	42
31.	Stenographer	(Rs. 4000-100-6000)	6
32.	Junior Assistant	(Rs. 3050-75-3950-80-4590)	53
33.	Staff Car Driver	(Rs. 3050-75-3950-80-4590)	3
34.	Electrician	(Rs. 3050-75-3950-80-4590)	1
35.	Photocopier Operator	(Rs. 3050-75-3950-80-4590)	1
36.	Peon and Mali	(Rs. 2550-55-2660-60-3200)	19
		Total	**251**

Academic, Professional and Participatory Contributions of the Faculty.

Papers / Articles Published.

1.   Shri. D.S. Bist, Secretary, NIOS

–   Towards Universalisation of Secondary education through NIOS, Indian Journal for Open Learning, International level Journal of Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, Volume 17, No. 1 January 2008.

–   Open & Distance Learning - A Policy Intervention for Inclusive Development & Mainstreaming of Marginalized Socio-Religious Communities, (2008) - An Indian Case Study - Paper accepted for publication and presentation at Fifth Pan Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning, London.

–   Increasing Educational Access though NIOS, Integrating Open Learning System with Flexible Examination System though use of ICT - Concept Paper (2007).

–   National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) - A Policy Intervention for Inclusive Development and mainstreaming of Marginalized Socio-Religious communities (SRCs) with Special Reference to Muslim Community and Based upon Sachar Committee's Recommendations - A concept paper.

2.   Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Deputy Director (Personnel)

-    Five modules edited and printed under UNESCO-NIOS Literacy Initiative For Empowerment (LIFE) Project, November 2007.

-    India Report in International Expert Meting on Educational Policies From a Lifelong Learning Perspective in Promoting EFA, October 9-12, 2007, Tokyo.

-    Background paper on LIFE Project at International Conference of E9 Countries on ICT for Literacy organized by UNESCO & NLM, October 4-6, 2007, Bangalore.

-    Contributed to the development of OBE Vocational Modules.

3.   Dr. T.N. Giri, Assistant Director, (Open Basic Education), Academic Department, NIOS

–   Paper titled "Educating Refugees and Displaced Persons through Open and Distance Learning" accepted for fifth Pan Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning held from 13 to 17 July 2008 at London, U.K.

Academic Contribution

1.   Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Deputy Director (Personnel), NIOS

Project Coordinator for LIFE Project supported by UNESCO

-    Member Core Group, UNESCO-NLM International Conference, November, 2007.

-    Member, Drafting Committee for Policy Note on Reformulating Education for ALL (EFA) Policy in Framework of Lifelong, October, 2007 for ACCU, Japan.

2.   Dr. Rachna Bhatia, Academic Officer(Hindi)

-    Member of Curriculum Committee of Elective Hindi Course of NCERT for bringing out two textbooks - Antra and Antaral.

- Writing and Editing of seven lessons for Foundation Course in Functional Hindi for graduate level learners of the Indira Gandhi National Open University.

Faculty Participation in Conferences / Seminars / Workshops

1. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Regional Director, Guwahati

– The Regional Director, NIOS made a presentation on "Challenges of Open Schooling in the North Eastern Region" in the Regional Seminar organized by the NCERT's Regional Institute of Education, Shillong on 8 & 9 October, 2007.

2. Shri S.K. Prasad, System Analyst and Programmer

- Shri S.K. Prasad, SAP and Ms. Anitha Nair, A.O, Secretarial Practice, attended the International Conference on Universal Quality School Education organized by Educational Technology and Management Academy from 21 to 23, November 2007.

3. Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Deputy Director (Personnel)

- Presentation on Contents and Methodology at International Expert Meeting on Educational Polices From a Lifelong Learning Perspective in Promoting EFA, October 9-12, 2007, Tokyo.

- Presentation on Equivalency programmes at UNESCO Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy, November 29-30, 2007, New Delhi.

- Acceptance of Abstract of Paper for the Fifth Pan Commonwealth Forum, London.

- Rapporteur and editor for International Workshop on AEP through ODL, October 30-31, 2007.

Training Programmes Attended by NIOS Officers

1. Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Deputy Director (Personnel) attended a five-day training programme on Establishment Rules from 7th to 11th May 2007 organized by the Institute of Secretarial Training and Management, JNU Campus, New Delhi.

2. Shri. S.K. Anand, Deputy Director (Accounts & Evaluation) attended a two-day training programme on Accrual Accounting (10th and 11th May 2007) organized by the Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad.

3. Shri. S.K. Prasad, SAP attended a two-day training programme (25th and 26th October 2007) on RTI organized by Impact Academy of Training and Consultancy, Gurgaon.

4. Dr. T.N. Giri, Assistant Director (OBE) and Dr. Mamta Srivastava, Assistant Director (Vocational Education) participated in a three-day Workshop on Incorporating Gender Concerns in Public Policy organized by the Indian Institute of Public Administration, I.P. Estate, New Delhi from 10th to 12th September 2007.

5. Smt. Bhupinder Kaur, Section Officer (Personnel) attended a one-day programme on RTI on 4th May 2007 organised by the Institute of Secretarial Training and Management, JNU Campus, New Delhi.

6. Shri. Gurudev Singh, Section Officer (Accounts) attended a training programme on Accrual Accounting organized by Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad.

7. Ms. Rekha Ahuja, Assistant and Ms. Sunita, Junior Assistant attended a three-day training programme (18th to 20th June 2007) on Noting and drafting organized by Institute of Secretarial Training and Managament, JNU Campus, New Delhi.

8. Two personnel of Regional Centre, Delhi have been given technical training on EDUSAT by CIET.