9. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

9.0 ICT In National Institute Of Open Schooling

Open Learning/Distance Education is the methodology in which the learner does not go to Educational Institution but the education comes to the doorstep. To achieve this objective, the technological advancements world over are tapped by individuals/institutions. Success of this system depends upon the optimum utilization of the technology in the field of education and communication. NIOS has taken major initiatives to use ICT as one of the important strategies for "reaching the unreached" and improving the efficiency of its operations for providing better services to its learners.

9.1 ICT Setup

The NIOS has come a long way in the forefront of Information Technology since it made a small beginning with only two personal computers in 1989. Today, it has a well-equipped Computer Centre with various types of computers and printers of latest configuration. There is a Local Area Network with centralized database system with Windows XP professional as the basic network operating system. Desktop and Printers were provided to all the Departments and units of NIOS for their smooth and efficient functioning. All the computers are connected with a high end LAN server through 10/100 mbps backbone connectivity. This has greatly enhanced communication and resource sharing among users. For Internet Access, a dedicated Internet DSL leased line with 512 K capacity has been installed. The Regional Centres of NIOS have also been provided with Internet access and e-mail facility for transfer of data and for smooth connectivity with Headquarters at New Delhi. The Admission and Examination data were transferred through e-mail from the Regional Centres to the Headquarter, which expedited processing work tremendously. The Computer Centre provides computing services to all the Departments and Units of NIOS.

9.2 Areas and Application

Over the years, all the major activities of NIOS both Academic and Administrative have been computerized.

9.2.1 Student Information System

Starting from Admission to certification all the processes have been computerized. The following areas are covered under Student Information System.

- **Admission/Registration :** During the year 2006-07, ICT based compatible Admission Form was developed by the Computer Centre and the data were captured through the ICR technology after scanning the Admission Form. This was done to reduce errors resulting out of Data Entry of Admission Form. Approximately 290 thousands student's admission data were processed, which is an increase of approximately.

  23 thousand from the year 2005-06 at the Computer Unit during the current year.

- **Examination (April 2006 and October 2006 Examination):** During the year 2006, the examination processing in respect of data of about 500 thousand students was done both in the academic and vocational streams as against 488 thousands during the last year. The work includes data capturing its verification, updation and generation of various reports for use by the Examination Centres for conduct of examinations.

- **Result Processing and Certification (April 2006 and October 2006 Examination):** During

April 2006 and October 2006 Examination, result of about 500000 was processed and the result gazette was prepared for each Examination Centre and each Study Centre. Mark Sheets of all the students were printed also printed Certificate and other documents of the successful students.

- **Store Management System:** A complete software package was developed by the Computer Unit for Store Management of NIOS. The package covered the aspects of the Store including item Master, Item Receipt, Item Issue, Reports, Department, Supplier etc. 15-20 different reports were generated in the system.

- **Printing of Open Basic Education Certificates:** During the year, approximately 70000 certificates were printed for Open Basic Education A level, B-level and C-level courses. The majority of the certificates were meant for Zila Saksharta Samiti of Rajasthan.

9.3 NIOS on the Web

Internet and Web technology have proved effective in the teaching and learining process especially in the field of Open and Distance Education. Complete information about NIOS is available on its website www.nios.ac.in and www.nos.org

Online Student Information System: During the year, Single Window Student Information system was placed on the web site. In this section, complete information about each learner is given. Study Centre (AI) wise information is also given. The information includes the Admission details, Tutor Mark Assignment, Courses Material, Syllabus and Sample Question Paper, Previous Years Question Papers, Performance details.

Online Counseling: During the year, dedicated on line help/queries/support was provided to the learners through E-mail support@nos.org. On an average, 50-60 emails were received per day from the learners concerning information and correction in data. All e-mails were replied to the satisfaction of the learners.

9.3.1 Online Status of Application Forms: All Application Forms pertaining to Admission, Examination are already on the Net for use of the learners along with detailed instructions. All applications required for the Study Centres (Accredited Institutions) are on the Net with guidelines. Norms and Guidelines along with the Accreditation form for Academic Course, Vocational Courses and for Open Basic Education Programme are available on the Net. During the year, the status of the applications for accreditation has also been made available on the web site. Regular updating of the information on status of the applications is done.

9.3.2 Additional E-mail ID to Regional Heads: An additional E-mail ID was created for all the Regional Heads of NIOS for smooth and

- Explaining concepts in more interactive and user friendly manner using audio, video, graphics and animation.
- In-text and Terminal questions are also provided which help the students to check their performance while learning.

9.4 Information under RTI Act

As per the RTI Act, the information has been placed under the link RTI Act on the Home Page.

9.5 On Demand Examination System (ODES) at Secondary Level

The On Demand Examination System (ODES) at the Secondary Stage has provided complete flexibility to

direct communication with the Chairman and HODs. The nomenclature is rd<RegionalCentre>@nos.org

Online Course Materials

- All course materials of Secondary stage are available on Internet for reference purpose and to serve the interests of the students and educationists.
- Multi-media Course Development

learners to pursue learning at their own pace. This has made the system of examinations independent of the time frame and will help the learner take up the examinations as per their wish and preparation. They can also appear for the improvement of their performance any numbers of times within the period of their admissions till they are satisfied with their achievement. At present, the ODES is functional at NIOS Headquarter at NOIDA and at the Regional Centre, Pune. During the year, about 7880 students appeared in the ODES.