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# 11. Promotion of Education amongst Special Groups through Open Schooling

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 Millennium Development 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 following Government Policy for the universalisation of Secondary Education. NIOS has been working towards the goals set up by Govt. of India with respect to NER/J&K.

## **Promotion of Education amongst SCs and STs**

During the year 2006-07 NIOS continued its policy of granting fee concession to SCs/STs students for Secondary and Senior Secondary Courses. A special scholarship scheme was initiated 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 one lakh p.a. in the preceding financial year and scoring not less than 50% marks in the aggregate in the secondary level examination would be eligible for this prestigious Scholarship.

## **Promotion of Education amongst Minority group**

Following the directive of the Govt of India, NIOS

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

Several initiatives were taken during 2006-07 to enhance the coverage of Programmes of NIOS for the education of minorities. These included the following:

## **Recommendations of the Sachar Committee**

The high level committee, namely Sachar Committee, constituted by the Govt. of India suggested some interventions for education of socio-religious communities specially Muslims. The committee recommends that the group of children who have completed middle school (upto class VIII) but could not manage to study further need to be provided in different types of technical training.

Taking into account the Sachar Committee Report. NIOS took measures to implement its recommendations by fine tuning its programmes and policies. A Policy Paper written by Shri D.S.Bist, Secretary, NIOS examined the recommendation of the Sachar Committee and drew up the road map for NIOS. A strong Advocacy Programme for accrediting Minority Institutions including Madarsas has been taken up by NIOS. The NIOS has made a comprehensive strategy for promoting Skill Development through its Open Vocational Education and Training for Minority Communities.

Keeping in view the Sachar Committee report, certain

Muslim populated States have been taken up on priority basis by NIOS. These are, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Maharashtra.

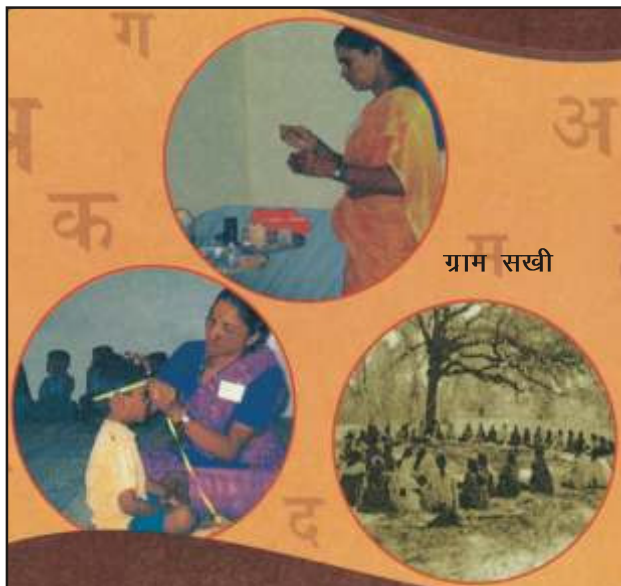
During the year 2006-07 mass sensitization programmes in Jama Masjid, Dilli Hatt (Delhi), Distt. Faizabad; Basti, Muradabad, Fatehpur, Barabanki (UP), Indore (MP) etc., for education of Minorities were organized. A number of meetings were held with authorities of different Madarsas and Makhtabs in several places like Lucknow, Distt. Sultanpur, Raibarely and Amethi (UP), Surat (Gujrat), Mumbai and Aurangabad (Maharashtra) and Ranchi (Jharkhand) etc. The policy of placing advertisements in major Urdu News Papers e.g. Admission notices

and other activities were published in Urdu Dailies such as Rashtriya Sahara (Urdu), Qauami Tanzeem, The Inqalab-e-Jadeed and Sangam.

In order to reach educationally backward persons in remote and rural areas, a special drive was initiated to identify Minority Educational Institutions as Accredited Institutions. The Project Coordinators were appointed for different regions for giving thrust to the advocacy programme. Presentations by Chairman and Secretary, NIOS were made on Minority issues with leaders from minority groups.

During the year 2006-07, the number of Accredited Minority Institutions were as under:

State / UT	AIs	AVIs	AAs
Uttar Pradesh	05	04	-
Bihar	04	-	-
West Bengal	03	-	-
Maharashtra	11	01	-
Andhra Pradesh	01	-	-
Karnataka	-	01	02
Rajasthan	-	01	-
Jharkhand	01	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	01	-
Chandigarh	03	-	-
Punjab	-	01	-
Goa	01	-	-
Delhi	-	03	02
Kerala	-	01	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Total Number of Institutions Accredited = 29+13+04=46</b>			



### Promotion of Education of Girls and Women

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



NIOS has developed a number of vocation which are targeted at women. These courses are aimed at improving the economic status of women as well as providing them with vocational and technical skills.

Also NIOS developed courses focussing at improving women health specially 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 the year 2006-07, of the total students admitted for the Vocational Education courses, 51.1 percent were males and 48.9 percent were females, as can be seen in Table 6 in the annexure.

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

### Promotion of Education amongst Differently Abled

The NIOS is committed to promotion of persons who are differently abled. NIOS offers fee concession for such groups and have also initiated a special scheme for accrediting study centres for such persons. Under this scheme called 'Special Accredited Institutions for Education of the Disadvantaged' (SAIEDs), schools and NGOs can be accredited to NIOS.

NIOS has already entered into an MOU with Rehabilitation Council's of India (RCI) for the development of human resources in the area of visual and hearing impairment.

