

NEWS BULLETIN

July-August 2012



National Institute of Open Schooling

NIOS Launches Mukta Vidya Vani

Mukta Vidya Vani, a pioneering initiative of the National Institute of Open Schooling, (NIOS) using Streaming Audio for educational purposes, was **inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Sh. Kapil Sibal, on the occasion of the 22nd General Body Meeting of the NOS Society held on 19th July, 2012 at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Mukta Vidya Vani** will enable a two way communication with any audience having access to an internet connection, from the NIOS studio situated at its Headquarters in NOIDA.



General Body (GB) Meeting in Progress

This occasion also witnessed the launching of the new NIOS website which has been designed in such a way that it not only meets the needs of its learners but is also disabled-friendly.

An MoU was also signed between the NIOS and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) with the objective of developing skill-based courses on web designing in accordance with the guidelines for Indian government websites. This will provide vertical and lateral mobility of learners from the school level in the web designing course.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS mentioned that it was a matter of pride for the NIOS that 1127 learners had qualified for counseling in AIEEE and 267 qualified for counseling in B. Arch and 9 learners qualified for counseling in the AIPMT exam.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all the members.

Mukta Vidya Vani on World Wide Web is a modern interactive, participatory and cost effective programme, involving an academic perspective along with the technical responsibilities of production of audio and video programmes, which are one of the most important components of the multi channel package offered by the NIOS. These audio and video programmes both supplement and complement the other channels of learning, i.e. printed self-learning materials and personal contact programmes. These programmes will attempt to present the topic/theme in a simple, interesting and engaging manner, so that the learners get a clear understanding and insight into the subject matter.

The NIOS website (www.nios.ac.in) has a link that will take any user to the Mukta Vidya Vani, making it global which implies that this achievement of NIOS has the potential to bring about a grand revolution in the field of education.

This application of ICT will enhance accessibility as well as the quality of programme delivery of NIOS Programmes. This is a rare accomplishment of NIOS which is the first Open & Distance Learning institute to start a two way interaction with its learners, using streaming audio and the internet.

In this endeavour to make quality education accessible to the marginalized folk, NIOS has collaborated with some international organizations like Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and Commonwealth Educational Media Center for Asia (CEMCA). The objectives of this programme are to work towards.

- the advocacy of open distance education and initiation of Mukta Vidya Vani in order to make education accessible to all;
- building a repository of best practices for reducing disparity in education;
- a collection of pioneering ideas on developing upon concepts, learning environment and student support.

The NIOS has further plans of using ICT more extensively, gradually moving towards a mobile application (Apps) for a 2 way interaction and operation through all mobile phones with GPRS or 3G.

NIOS receives NCPEDP MPHASIS Universal Design Awards 2012

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has been awarded the NCPEDP-MPHASIS Universal Design Award 2012 instituted by the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People.

These Awards are given away every year to those who have been doing exemplary work towards the cause of accessibility and thus ensuring a life of equality and dignity for people with disabilities.



Sh. U.N. Khaware, Secretary, NIOS receiving the NCPEDP-MPHASIS Universal Design Award 2012

The award was given away by Sh. Mukul Wasnik, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India on 14th August, 2012. On the occasion of the award function, the Hon'ble Minister Sh. Mukul Wasnik said that the Government is committed to the cause of the Persons with Disability (PwDs) and expressed his solidarity with all those who are involved in carrying out such work. The Ministry has already set up a Disability Welfare Board to look after the Accessibility.

The NIOS has been selected for its remarkable work done for the learners with disabilities through ICT by making its web portal www.nios.ac.in completely accessible for such learners. To cater to the special needs of people who are physically, mentally challenged, socially and geographically isolated, marginalized and disadvantaged such as street children, working children, rural women, the NIOS has special institutions called Special Accredited Institutions for Education of the Disadvantaged (SAIEDs).

On receiving the award, Sh. U.N. Khaware, Secretary, NIOS said that the flexibilities and characteristics of open schooling go in favour of disabled learners and have been proved to be the most suitable environment for education of the learners with disabilities. The main concern behind educating learners with disabilities is to promote self-esteem and personal dignity.

The NIOS is committed to provide all necessary support for the education of such learners using ICT.

NIOS Signs MoU with IDBI

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) bank for online collection of fee through debit and credit cards using the payment gateway system.

Welcoming the participants to the MoU signing function, Dr. S.S Jena, Chairman, NIOS highlighted the role of NIOS as the world's largest open schooling system in imparting quality education to the under-privileged students/dropouts upto the pre-graduate level.

Shri U.N. Khaware, Secretary, NIOS said that the Goddess of Learning in the form of NIOS and Goddess of Wealth in the form of IDBI Bank coming together will usher in a new era for the mutual development of both the institutions.



Signing of MoU between NIOS & IDBI

Shri Alok Sen Gupta, Chief General Manager, IDBI Bank in his address, offered to extend all assistance to the NIOS officials as well as learners for their respective banking needs.

Assessment Programme for Neo-Literates

The National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA), under the Directorate of Adult Education, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India entrusted the task of conducting the examination (Assessment) for the Neo-Literates under the Basic Literacy Programme of Saakshar Bharat, to National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), NOIDA. The NIOS has been contributing rightly in certifying the neo-literates through a rigorous process developed and administered by NIOS, thus making Saakshar Bharat Mission, a successful project of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

The main objectives of Assessment and Certification of neo-literates are (i) Assessing the proficiency levels of those who have attained functional literacy skills (ii) Recognizing the level of achievements at basic literacy level through certification (iii) encouraging them for their vertical mobility in education (iv) enhancing informal experience and through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills.

The first Phase (Pilot Assessment) was conducted on 20th August 2010 in 17 States/UTs. Phase-II (14 States), III (20 States) and IV (24 States) were conducted on 6th March 2011, 20th August 2011 & 18th March 2012 and the 5th Assessment has recently been held on 26th August 2012 in 24 States/UTs. The statistical data of these assessments is given below:

| Assessment | Learners Appeared | Number of Males | | Number of Females | | Total Learners Certified |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| | | Appeared | Certified | Appeared | Certified | |
| Phase I | 5,18,385 | 1,94,068 | 1,22,202 | 3,24,317 | 2,12,303 | 3,34,505 |
| Phase-II | 43,58,610 | 7,89,924 | 5,85,284 | 35,68,686 | 25,17,581 | 31,02,865 |
| Phase-II | 46,08,339 | 15,87,763 | 11,25,147 | 30,20,576 | 20,57,992 | 31,83,139 |
| Phase-IV | 1,06,24,826 | 30,33,586 | 22,02,883 | 75,91,240 | 57,54,531 | 79,57,414 |
| Total | 2,01,10,160 | 56,05,341 | 40,35,516 | 1,45,04,819 | 1,05,42,407 | 1,45,77,923 |

Learners from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and Bihar contributed more in the above Assessments. The Programme was also conducted in Tihar Jail of Delhi and Gandhinagar Jail in Gujarat for the jail inmates.

Based on the feedback received from the State Resource Centres (SRCs) and Department of Adult Education (DAE), these assessments will be held regularly in March and August every year until 100% literacy is achieved.

International delegates visit NIOS

On 30-08-2012, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) organised a programme for delegates participating in an International Programme on Business Advisors Training (BAT) & Human Resource Development and Entrepreneurship Education/Training organized by National Institute for Entrepreneur and Small Business Development, Noida. These delegates represented countries such as Bhutan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Kirgizstan, Loas, Lithuania, Malawi, Myanmar, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

These delegates, engaged in Business Advisory activities in the Govt. Sector and NGOs expressed their interest in setting up NIOS study centres in their countries. Sh. U.N. Khaware, Secretary, NIOS welcomed the delegates who were accompanied by Shri Ranbir Singh, Director, Training, NIESBUD. Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Director (Academic), NIOS briefed the activities of NIOS in the promotion and development of HRD in India. Dr. K.P. Wasnik, Director (Vocational), NIOS briefed about the Vocational Educational programmes of NIOS. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Gopa Biswas, Deputy Director (Academic), NIOS.



Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Director (Acad.), NIOS addressing the International Delegates

From the Regional Centres

Bhubaneswar

NIOS Study Centre at Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack

On 23rd July 2012, an NIOS Study Centre at Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack was inaugurated by Shri Laxmikant Mohapatra, Hon'ble Justice, Odisha High Court and Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS. Others present were, Dr. G.S. Mohapatra, Eminent Educationist; Shri Rajendra Kumar Bose, Eminent Advocate, Odisha High Court and Shri R.K. Rath, Regional Director, NIOS, Bhubaneswar.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jena said that Ravenshaw Collegiate School was one of the best schools of the State, and in the past had produced the bright scholars and it was an immense pleasure to set up a Study Centre at a school of this stature. Expecting that the school would continue to deliver with the same diligence as an NIOS Study Centre, Dr. Jena assured every possible support for its success.

Shri Laxmikant Mohapatra welcomed the initiative of opening a study centre at Ravenshaw Collegiate School. He said that as a study centre of NIOS, the school would enable thousands of drop-outs and deprived learners continue their education.

Shri R.K. Bose, delivered the vote of thanks.



NIOS Study Centre at Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack

Success Story

Hameedunisha Taj
Enrolment No: 190005103510



A school-drop out after completing her tenth class from Stella Maris College, Bangalore, Hameedunisha was married to a professional choreographer at a very young age of 18. Not happy to remain confined as a housewife, Hameedunisha who was introduced to the NIOS system by a family friend enrolled for the Senior Secondary (12th) level with Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Biology as her core subjects and English as language and passed with 70% marks. Encouraged by her husband, Hameedunisha who is incredibly passionate about animals and their well being, applied for a Course in Veterinary Medicine at The University Putra Malaysia and has been selected for the course.

Hameedunisha is extremely grateful to the NIOS for making it possible for her to pursue a course of her choice and hopes that more and more of such success stories emerge

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