

NEWS BULLETIN

April-May 2011



National Institute of Open Schooling

NIOS Recording Studio Inaugurated

A Recording Studio, set up in premises of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of State for HRD, Dr. D. Purandeswari on 13th April 2011. The Studio will be utilized for recording programmes for the proposed 24x7 School Education Channel, VidyaDarshan. While the NIOS proposes to telecast its programmes for 12 hours at a stretch, the NCERT will take up the remaining 12 hrs in this channel.



NIOS Recording Studio being inaugurated by MoS for HRD Dr. D. Purandeswari. Also seen in the picture is Dr. S.S. Jena, CM, NIOS

The NIOS has been utilizing the electronic media to make the teaching and learning process more effective and efficient. Audio and video programmes produced by the NIOS are significant components of the multi-channel package offered by NIOS. These programmes are also broadcast and telecast on Gyanvani and Gyandarshan channels.

Further, the NIOS being one of the apex organizations for the flagship programme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) to universalise Secondary Education, the setting up of the Studio is a step in the direction of building its own infrastructure.

Dr. Purandeswari, in her inaugural speech emphasized on the strong role to be played by the Open Schooling System at various levels in the implementation of the Right To Education Act. She urged the NIOS to shoulder this responsibility with credibility and quality to reach out to about 80 lakh children who are out of school. She also pointed out that the 24x7 channel would be an innovative method to make learning interesting for learners by including interactive sessions to capture the interest of learners.

Appreciating the NIOS initiative to start a Community Radio Station soon, she felt that the NIOS should innovate and investigate new ways such as increased use of technology to reach out to the learners.

Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS, in his welcome address spoke about the milestone achieved by the NIOS in the form of the Recording Studio in its premises. He hoped that the NIOS would now be able to produce quality audio and video programmes to supplement its self learning material popularly referred to as "Teacher in Print".

Sri G.G. Saxena, Secretary, NIOS proposed a vote of thanks.

Meghalaya to set up State Open School

The second State Open School in the north east will soon be set up in the State of Meghalaya. Announcing this in a meeting organized today by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS informed that this would be the sixteenth State Open School in the country.

Welcoming the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Govt. of Meghalaya and other delegates visiting the NIOS, Dr. Jena explained the objectives of the National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS), a forum of Open Schools in India which includes the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and fifteen State Open Schools (SOSs). The NCOS not only promotes Open and Distance Learning at the school level, but also facilitates better co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration in determining standards in the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system at the school education level.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. M. Ampareen Lyngdoh, Minister for Higher and Technical Education, Schools of Education and Literacy and Tourism, Govt. of Meghalaya stressed on the importance of setting up a State Open School in the State in view of the challenges of weather, topography and connectivity faced by the learners, thereby restricting their inclusiveness in the area of education. She hoped that such a scheme which also includes vocational programmes would provide willing learners with alternate modes of education to empower themselves.

The Minister was accompanied by a delegation led by Mr. E.P. Kharvivh, Secretary (Education), Govt. of Meghalaya and Executive Chairman of the Meghalaya Board of Secondary Education.

Dr. Kuldeep Aggarwal, Director (Academic), NIOS made a presentation on 'Initiatives of NIOS to provide quality education for all'.

Sri. C. Dharuman, Secretary (I/c), NIOS proposed a vote of thanks.



Ms. M. Ampareen Lyngdoh, Minister for Higher Technical Education, Govt. of Meghalaya addressing the gathering.

Development of Curriculum for Learners with Special Needs

A 2-day workshop was organized on May 9th and 10th 2011 for the development of curriculum for learners with special needs. The workshop was an outcome of the recommendations culled out during the seminar, Transcending Barriers: Inclusive Education in the Context of Open

Schooling. This workshop was jointly organized by Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik, Maharashtra and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

Welcoming the participants, Dr. SS Jena, Chairman, NIOS reiterated that the NIOS aims at imparting meaningful, purposeful and relevant education to the learners, hence, bringing quality education to the group with special needs is of prime importance. He felt that although open and distance system offers stress free education to children with special needs, there is large scale dropout problem after senior secondary, as there are no vertical linkages in terms of graduation courses. Keeping this in view, a dialogue has been opened with the YCMOU so that seamless transition from schooling to college may be provided to this group. He felt that training and sensitization of teacher/trainers to identify children with special needs and not make them feel isolated and dejected should be an integral part of the process of inclusion.

Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Director (Academic), NIOS threw light on the special features of NIOS highlighting the flexibilities in the open and distance mode of education. He also outlined objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop. Ms. Anuradha Deshmukh, Director, YCMOU gave a brief overview of the YCMOU.

Prof. R Krishna Kumar, Vice Chancellor, YCMOU in his address agreed that education should not exclude on the basis of abilities of a person. The vision of education today has expanded to include all. He commented that NIOS has been providing a good opportunity to children with special needs to fulfil their educational aspirations. It is however, time to be sensitive to their dreams of higher education. He assured that YCMOU shall positively contribute by facilitating channels of continuing education for people with special needs. He offered to develop need based courses for this target group.



Prof. R. Krishna Kumar, VC, YCMOU addressing the workshop participants. Also seen in the picture are : Dr. S.S. Jena, CM NIOS and Dr. Shyama Chona, President, Tamana

Dr. Shyama Chona, President, Tamana presented the background to the workshop pointing out that Open education must include with Open Hands, Open Hearts and Open Minds. Education, she said, is critical to expanding the life prospects of people with disabilities. She expressed that this collaboration with YCMOU for providing vertical linkages to learners who finish their schooling from NIOS will take India a step closer to giving meaning to learning. She said that children with special needs have a lot to give to the society, hence we must devise a reverse integration process to tap this high emotional quotient of these children. She said that the curriculum of NIOS is of high qualitative standards and we only need to take it forward to suit the needs of special learners. She proposed that together, NIOS and YCMOU may think of devising ICP - Individual Capability Plan, IEP: Individual Education Plan, ITP: Individual Therapy Plan and IVP: Individual Vocationalization Plan. This, she felt would go a long way in providing opportunity of financial independence to these children. She felt that bringing attitudinal change amongst parents as well as these children should form an integral part of the programme.

This opened the house for discussion and the points which emerged out of the Open House Discussion included academic, vocational and other interventions as well. It was observed that the aim should be inclusion of this group in the mainstream or at least bringing them at par with mainstream by maintaining qualitative standards at par with mainstream schooling. A parallel sensitization is required for normal students towards the needs of this special group. The focus should be the learner and not the curriculum. The process of curriculum development should be backwards thinking: what do we envision for the learner in her/his life and thereby how do we support him through NIOS. Additionally, the need is to develop different methodology of curricular transaction rather than different curricula. Graduate courses or other equivalent courses for them should be job oriented. The need is to empower these children with 21st century skills. The opportunities should not be limited to menial jobs such as pottery, basket making, sewing etc. They are capable of higher order managerial and executive tasks also. It was felt that these children need more one-to-one sessions as compared to other children. Concessions in the process of teaching, writing examination and evaluation are also required for special learners. The aim should be to develop self learning capabilities. It was also pointed out that interventions must be made at early stages to help them better. They are not 'apart', they are 'a part' of this system. There is no capping on their abilities and they should be provided same assistance after school for further studies also. It was observed that sub committees may be formed to ensure meaningful discussions in this regard.

The participants were then divided into groups for disabilities based discussion. The following points emerged during the group presentations.

- The AIs must be well equipped to accommodate the disabled learners and the same categorization must be followed in Universities as well.
- Life skills must be imparted to them at an early age.
- Same curriculum appears suitable but facilities depending upon specific disability may be provided; eg:
 - Use of talking books, Braille books, graphic/pictorial presentations, multimedia, ICT etc; simple language and short sentences; language subjects must focus on functional teaching rather than literature;
 - During examination we should allow special seating arrangement and permission to get up in between especially for ADD, availability of a reader, or a scribe, allow some learners to take examinations on computer, use of calculator, talking calculator etc; oral tests and practical examinations for severe cases of learning disabled; discount spellings, grammar etc in written test;
- New vocational courses such as horticulture, hospitality, computer assistant, music teacher, lab assistant, yoga instructor, automobile repair, animation artist, social work should be introduced;
- Learners with mild disabilities may be provided with support materials in the existing curriculum.
- Learners with multiple disabilities or autism may need separate curriculum even if it goes against the principle of inclusive education.

It was recommended that the follow up workshops for this purpose may be conducted in two parts:

- a. Curriculum development for mentally challenged learners may be organized in Nasik or Pune
- b. Curriculum development for autistic learners may be organized in Delhi.

Management Development Programme for Officers of NIOS

A five day Management Development Programme was organised by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) with technical support from Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) from 28th May, 2011 till 1st June, 2011. The participants of this intensive training programme were Regional Directors and other officials from different Regional Centres of NIOS from all over India, Assistant Directors and Section Officers from different Departments of NIOS Headquarters. The objective of this programme was to familiarize and update the officials in different aspects of Administration, Accounts and Finance and Management.

Due to the various schemes of the Government of India, Open Schooling is slotted to play a very important role in the coming years. Most of the officers have to play multiple roles. A sound base in administrative affairs and management issues are therefore of vital importance for all these officers to cope with the multifarious activities of the Regional Centres and Headquarters. Hence such capacity building interventions are intended to equip and empower the officers. The faculties were Senior Officers retired from GOI, and officers & Teachers from IGNOU, and ICWA. During the training, twenty topics were dealt in which included sessions on Decision Making, Leadership, Communication, Motivation, Finance, Disciplinary Proceedings & Principles of contract & agreement and practices.

AIH & TM and NIOS to collaborate in the area of Hospitality Management

The Ashok Institute of Hospitality and Tourism Management (AIH & TM), a division of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and a PSU under Ministry of Tourism, GOI and the **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)**, the largest open schooling system in the world signed an MOU on 20th May 2011 to deliver **job oriented Certificate/ Diploma Courses in the area of Hospitality Management** through infrastructure created/ provided by ITDC.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. S.S Jena, Chairman, NIOS hoped that this meaningful initiative would go a long way in fulfilling the aspirations of thousands of youngsters who wish to join the hospitality industry.

The Chairman and Managing Director, ITDC referred to this initiative as a milestone in the history of ITDC, re-prioritizing and diversifying to take up the cause of skill development and becoming a state- of the -art player in the hospitality industry.

The NIOS which is authorized to issue Diploma/Certificates has agreed to accredit sixteen hotels of AIH & TM which will function as study centres to offer the following courses :-

| S. No | Course Title | Eligibility | Duration of Course |
|-------|--|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Certificate / Diploma Course in Food Production and Management | 10 th Pass | 1 Year |
| 2. | Certificate / Diploma Course in Food and Beverage Operation | 10 th Pass | 1 Year |
| 3. | Certificate / Diploma Course in House Keeping and Maintenance | 08 th Pass | 1 Year |
| 4. | Certificate / Diploma Course in Front Office Operations | 10 th Pass | 1 Year |
| 5. | Certificate / Diploma Course in Bakery and Confectionery | 08 th Pass | 1 Year |

All these courses are to be offered as a joint venture by the NIOS and AIH & TM. This joint initiative of these organizations will give a substantial boost to the skill development processes in the hospitality sector in India. It has been envisaged that all the trainees pursuing the course will be given placement opportunity on completion of their courses. Efforts are also being made to tie-up with the government to get scholarship for the learners to facilitate them for timely completion of the courses. The delivery of the courses will be both through face to face and open distance learning methodologies.

Open Peer Review Workshop

An Open Peer Review workshop was organized on May 18, 2011, at the National Institute of Biologicals(NIB), NOIDA for the review of life skills enriched lessons in five subjects at the secondary level. Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Director (Academic) ,NIOS inaugurated the workshop by addressing the participants. He highlighted the importance of the activity and said that the role of lesson writers and mentors to fulfill the larger objective of education was of prime importance. He said that the focus of the workshop was to achieve qualitative excellence rather than the quantitative completion of lessons. This also served as a ground for



Open Peer Review Workshop. Seen in the picture are (from L to R)" Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Director (Academic), NIOS, Dr. Jaya, UNFPA and Ms. Asheema Singh, PC (AEP)

orientation of participants who joined during the process. The Objectives of the Workshop were presented by Dr. Jaya, UNFPA and Expected Outcomes by Ms. Asheema Singh, Project Coordinator, Adolescence Education Project (AEP).

Day 1 was dedicated to the presentation of Lessons under Best Practices in each subject. Considering the fact that most of the lessons are near completion, a session on developing evaluation items effectively was conducted by Prof. H. S. Srivastava. The session highlighted the evaluation of different components in the light of individual needs of the five subjects. The technical classification of evaluation items was also explained to better equip the participants in developing and designing questions items with more clarity. Different roles of Intext Questions and the Terminal Exercise were also explored.



Workshop participants in action

The final day of the workshop began with sharing the status report and projected time line for each subject, intra-subject evaluation of one lesson each in five subjects. This was followed by a presentation by Ms. Asheema Singh on the NIOS standard format of lessons to be followed as the lessons are now in the stage of finalization.

Since the process of integration was initiated as a pilot and then taken up to rewrite the entire study material, and a large number of experts involved for long time in this activity; it was proposed to evaluate it in hindsight. During the workshop, a box was kept as well charts were hung up on the wall to receive comments from the participants on the whole activity of integration. The responses received were then analyzed by Ms. Asheema Singh and Dr. Jaya.

Online Admission Open for the Following Courses

- Stream I (Block I) upto 31st August, 2011
(Secondary and Sr. Secodary)
- Stream II upto 20th July, 2011
- Stream III and Stream IV

For more details, visit the NIOS website at www.nios.ac.in or contact the Learner Support Centre (LSC) Toll Free Number 1800 180 9393, e-mail: lsc@nios.ac.in

Tele-orientation for Tutors (Social Science) of AIs

A Tele-orientation programme for Social Science Tutors of Accredited Institutions (AIs) of NIOS was organized on 27th May, 2011 at the Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC), IGNOU. The main objectives of the programme were to enable tutors to understand their role and responsibilities in the Open and Distance Learning System; and different aspects of the Social Science Curriculum to enable them to impart knowledge in the subject correctly and make Personal Contact Programmes (PCPs) more interesting. In the first session, the importance and role of PCPs and the curricular objectives of Social Science were highlighted. The second session focused on the role of tutors in the Open learning System in reaching out to the learners with an emphasis on imparting skills such as map reading. This was followed by sessions in which clippings on 'Religions in India' and 'Environment and Population' were shown and discussed.

The Social Science Tutors of AIs actively shared their views during the question-answer session. It was pointed out that such Tele-orientation programmes may be conducted in Hindi as learners and tutors in most parts of the country understand Hindi.

Success Story

रोहित रंजन

Enrolment No. 032622013

रोहित के कैरियर में एनआईओएस का योगदान



रोहित एक होनहार विद्यार्थी था। उसकी भी चाहत थी कि मैं एक अच्छे स्कूल में पढ़ूँ। पटना के 1st-10th स्कूल डॉन बास्को में उसका दाखिला करवाया। LKG-Class 5th तक वो काफी अच्छी तरह से Schooling किया। कुदरत ने उसके साथ मज़ाक किया। वह काफी बीमार रहने लगा जिसके कारण वह कक्षा में अपनी उपस्थिति पूरी नहीं कर पाता था। जिसकी वजह से उसे Class 8th में स्कूल से निकाल दिया गया जहाँ उसकी कोई गलती नहीं थी। परीक्षा परिणाम (Result) सामान्यतः उसका ठीक रहता था। वह काफी तनावग्रस्त रहने लगा, लंबी बीमारी, स्कूल से निकाला जाना, परिवार समाज में ये सुनना कि पढ़ता नहीं है इन सारे कारणों से वह कुंठाग्रस्त रहने लगा। उसकी माँ ने सोचा कि इस तरह कैसे जिन्दगी चलेगी। उसने NIOS के बारे में पता किया। माँ ने बच्चे को NIOS से 10th की परीक्षा दिलवाई, बच्चे ने 10th 72% अंकों से उत्तीर्ण किया। पहले उसे NIOS के बारे में झिझक थी। लेकिन उसके अभिभावक ने उसे इस गलत अवधारणा को दूर किया। सभी बोर्ड एक होता है। 10th उत्तीर्ण करने के पश्चात् वाणिज्य पटना महाविद्यालय में +2, B.Com Honours Account से किया फिर उसने शिंगर मैनेजमेंट किया। आज वह दिल्ली में रिलायंस कम्पनी में एक अच्छे Post पर काम कर रहा है। अभिभावक उसे सिर्फ सही दिशा निर्देश दिया कि तुम Exam दो, रोहित ने अपना रास्ता स्वयं बनाया।

Voluntary Retirement

Consequent upon request of Voluntary Retirement, Dr. (Mrs.) Sushmita Mitra, Director, Student Support Services, NIOS was relieved from the services of NIOS w.e.f. 21 April 2011.

Repatriation

Consequent upon request for repatriation, Sh. G.G. Saxena, IAS, Secretary, NIOS was repatriated to join duty in his parent cadre i.e. Govt. of NCT of Delhi w.e.f. 29 April, 2011.

Editorial Board

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