

NEWS BULLETIN

January-February 2011

 National Institute of Open Schooling

PROJECT 'HUNAR' launched in DELHI

As a part of its endeavour to promote school education amongst disadvantaged communities, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) launched the 'HUNAR' project for Skill Development and Training of Girls in Delhi on 26th February 2011. The programme was inaugurated by Sri Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Govt. of India in the presence of Smt. Sheila Dixit, Chief Minister, Delhi and Sri Haroon Yusuf, Minister of Food and Civil Supplies and Power, Delhi Govt. at the Delhi Municipal Corporation School Building, Near Delhi Police Bhawan, Asaf Ali Road, Delhi-110006.

A Handbook for Teachers of the HUNAR Project and a HUNAR folder were also launched on the occasion.

HUNAR is a unique and significant project conceived by the NIOS with far reaching ramifications in terms of creation of an education delivery mechanism which is entirely community based and directed towards all round empowerment of disadvantaged girls in the 14+ age group. Also keeping in view the importance of the socio- religious dimension of educational access for the target group, this project aims to provide skill development and training which is easily accessible and community based.

Speaking on the occasion, and referring to the demand in today's society for vocational courses such as bakery and confectionery, beautician etc., Sri. Kapil Sibal mentioned

that about 500 learners had already enrolled through 20 centres in the HUNAR project in the old city area of Delhi. He expressed the hope that the HUNAR programme which would soon be extended to all the Madarsas will emerge successful.



Release of Hunar Folder

Appreciating the efforts taken in launching the HUNAR project and speaking in the context of the importance of skill training to empower girls, Smt. Sheila Dixit made reference to the Gender Resource Centres in the name of Stree Shakti which imparted training in vocational areas such as tailoring, cutting, computers etc.

Congratulating Sri. Kapil Sibal for launching the HUNAR initiative in Delhi, Sri Haroon Yusuf assured that all efforts would be made to spread awareness about the project in Delhi.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Sri. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS referred to HUNAR as a small initiative to target the 550 million learners below the age of 25 for imparting education and skill development. He appealed to the Chief Minister of Delhi to integrate the HUNAR scheme with the other social development programmes launched in Delhi.

While academic and technical support would be provided by the NIOS, the community based training centres will provide infrastructural facilities and facilitate training activities. On successful completion of the course, the NIOS will issue the certificate to the successful candidates,



Inaugural address being delivered by Sh. Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for HRD, Govt. of India

The HUNAR programme has earlier been successfully launched in two phases in the State of Bihar by extending skill education and training through Madarsas and nodal agencies situated at the district level. In its first phase, 10134 Muslim girls were certified in the examination. In the second phase of HUNAR in Bihar, 50,000 girls belonging to the Muslim Community and other backward classes have been targeted.

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

Online Admission Open

- *Online Admission is open for Stream 1-Block I for the April 2012 examination.*
- *Online Vocational Admission is open for learners with admission dates from 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011.*

For more details, log on to www.nios.ac.in

Advocacy Programme for Muslim Minority Institutions

An Advocacy Programme for Madarsas was organized by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) on 29 January, 2011 at Bhopal. Quoting Nelson Mandela who said that 'Education is a Powerful Tool' to change society, Sh. Babulalji Gaur, Minister for Urban Administration, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, the chief guest of the programme emphasized on the need for spreading education amongst the Muslim community, especially girls. Sh. G.G. Saxena, Secretary, NIOS explained the education policies of the Govt. of India especially that of the NIOS for the Muslim Community. He highlighted the SPQEM scheme which targeted the enrolment of more women by providing certain facilities and concessions. Speaking in the context of challenges faced by the present educational system, Dr. Sushmita Mitra, Director, Student Support Services (SSS) Department, explained about the facilities offered by the NIOS such as examinations twice a year, On Demand Examination System (ODES), Transfer of Credits (TOC) and Credit Accumulation Facility, making the NIOS system more flexible than the others.

Explaining the HUNAR Project of NIOS for developing vocational skills among girls and women, Ms. Anita Nair, Assistant Director (SSS), NIOS highlighted the success story of the Hunar Project in Bihar with no dropouts and 50,000 girls being targeted in Phase II of the project.

Adding that the Hunar Project was meant for girls in the age group of 12-14 years, Ms. Gopa Biswas, Joint Director (Academic), NIOS highlighted the unique features of the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system which enables a learner to choose any combination of subjects in the NIOS programme. A combination of Academic and Vocational subjects is also permitted, she said.



Advocacy Programme for Muslim Minority Institutions at Bhopal

Prof. Halim Khan, Ex-Chairman, M.P. Madarsa Board, urged the Madarsa Boards to avail the opportunities provided by the SPQEM scheme of the Govt. of India to further their development and collaborate with the NIOS to provide Vocational Education to its learners.

Sh. Kulwant Singh Sachdeva, Member, M.P. Minorities Commission, Sh. Moulana Hafiz Sahib, Ex-Chairman, Masazid Committee & Member, M.P. Madarsa Board and Sh. Md. Matin, Member, M.P. Madarsa Board were also present on the occasion.

Dr. A.K. Sharma, Regional Director, NIOS Regional Centre, Bhopal announced the formal closing of the programme.

Orientation programme for Co-ordinators of FVTRS study centres

An Orientation Programme for orientation of co-ordinators of the newly inducted centres of the Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTRS) was held on 13th January 2011.

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FVTRS, a Bangalore- based NGO working for the unorganised sector to establish innovative centers, whereby both vocational and academic qualification/certification would be given to the students enrolled in these centers. In addition to this, soft skills training and entrepreneurship training would also be given to the learners. By working together with FVTRS, the NIOS aims to reach the unreached areas especially the Educationally Backward Blocks.

About 70 FVTRS co-ordinators attended the meeting and presented their action plan to implement the MOU. They were given orientation on the admission and evaluation processes of the NIOS. The role and responsibility of a co-ordinator was also explained.

A question answer session also featured in the programme.

Relationship Management Programme for NIOS officers

The Capacity Building Cell of the NIOS organized a programme on “Harmony in Relations/Relationship Management for officers of the NIOS on 24 January 2011. This was conducted by Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, an institution of higher learning which organizes programmes on various topics under “ Developing Inner Powers and Stress Free Management “.

NIOS Examinations commences on April 5th 2011

The Senior Secondary examinations of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) will commence on April 5th 2011. The Secondary level examinations are scheduled to commence on 7th April 2011. The detailed date sheet for the April/ May 2011 examinations are available on the NIOS website [www. nios.ac.in](http://www.nios.ac.in)

Information regarding examinations may also be obtained from the Learner Support Centre (LSC) through the toll free number 1800-180-9393 .

NIOS Celebrates National Science Day

National Science Day 2011 was jointly organized by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Vigyan Prasar, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India on 28th February at NIOS Regional Centre, Delhi, A-31, Institutional Area, Sector-62, NOIDA.



National Science Day Celebration

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS and the opening remarks were delivered by Sh. Anuj Sinha, Director, Vigyan Prasar. The highlights of the programme included an interactive session on the topic “Green Chemistry” conducted by Prof. R.K. Sharma, Honorary Secretary, the Royal Society of Chemistry, London and Co-ordinator, Green Chemistry Network Centre, Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi and a session titled “Outreach Learning Programmes - Beyond Four Walls”

by Sh. Sushil Kumar Saraswat, Chief Executive Officer, Thar Education & Research Foundation and Vice-Chairperson, International Council of Museums.

An Open House discussion and face to face interaction with eminent scientists and experts also formed part of the programme.

Activities organized as part of the programme for NIOS officers, teachers and students included the following.

- Debate on “Reduction of Carbon Footprint which will bring about Radical Changes in our life style”.
- Poster competition on “Climate Change or Many Moods of a Forest”.
- Cartoon competition on “Nature Cleans, Man Pollutes”.
- Quiz on “Chemistry”

Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Director (Academic) delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Tele-orientation programme for Academic Facilitators

A one day Tele-orientation programme for Academic Facilitators of the NIOS was held on 19th January 2011 at 19 destinations all over the country. About 271 Academic Facilitators attended the programme.

Dr S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS in his inaugural address titled - **NIOS: Its Vision and Mission to Reach out for Quality Education** explained how NIOS had strived over the years to reach out to the disadvantaged and drop out learners who for some reason were deprived of mainstream education.

Session I of the programme included a presentation on **Academic Support through Study Centres** by Dr Kuldeep Agarwal, Director, Academic Department in which he spoke about the key role played by study centres in the learning process and how they should facilitate learners by conducting Personal Contact Programms (PCPs) etc.

In her presentation on the **Concept and Need for Academic Facilitators**, Dr.Sushmita Mitra, Director, SSS Department, highlighted the importance of having Academic facilitators and their role in acting as catalysts between learners and study centres. In the sessions that followed, there were presentations made by officers of the Academic, Evaluation and Vocational Education Departments as well as the Computer Unit.

YCMOU and NIOS sign MoU to work jointly in the area of ODL

The Nashik based Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), a University created under State Legislation and the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), the largest open schooling system in the world with its headquarters at NOIDA, U.P signed an MoU on 8 February 2011 to deliver jointly identified academic/

vocational programmes using the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system through sharing of resources.

Themes of joint activities under the MoU include providing an alternative path for upward mobility of students from the school level to the university level; creating a wider network of study centres and developing a mechanism for sharing of resources so as to provide increased access to education, especially in the remote rural, tribal and disadvantaged areas in the country; to adopt/adapt relevant courses offered by both institutions, particularly in the areas of Vocational Education and Training (VET) for expansion of skill development programmes and to develop strategies for joint certification of such programmes as per the strength and mandate of the partnership institutions.

The MoU was signed at the NIOS headquarters at A-24-25, Sector 62, Institutional Area, NOIDA. The Registrar, YCMOU signed the MoU on behalf of YCMOU and Secretary, NIOS was the signatory to the MoU representing NIOS.

Teleconferencing Programme for co-ordinators of AVIs

With an objective to orient co-ordinators on the Promotion of Health and Paramedical programmes of NIOS and instructors (Teaching Staff) on skill development in learners, the NIOS organized a teleconferencing programme on 25 February 2011.

Sh. D.K. Bhawsar, AEA (VE), MHRD, GOI was a special invitee at the tele-conference, along with other subject experts. Lecture-demonstration sessions on First Aid, Care of the Elderly and Marma Therapy were conducted by experts, emphasizing on the need to use teaching aids, visual materials and demonstrative techniques to train learners. A highly interactive question-answer session helped the co-ordinators and instructors seek relevant information on the Vocational Courses offered by NIOS.

अखिल भारतीय राजभाषा संगोष्ठी की रिपोर्ट

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा 10 जनवरी, 2011 को गोवा में अखिल भारतीय राजभाषा संगोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया जिसका विषय था 'शिक्षा के बदलते आयाम और राजभाषा हिंदी I' संस्थान की ओर से शैक्षिक अधिकारी (हिंदी) डॉ. बालकृष्ण राय ने इस संगोष्ठी में भाग लिया। समारोह की मुख्य अतिथि माननीया मानव संसाधन विकास राज्य मंत्री ने इस अवसर पर अपने विचार व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि हिंदी व्यापक जन समुदाय की भाषा है परंतु जब तक उच्च कोटि का शैक्षिक तथा तकनीकी लेखन नहीं होगा तब तक हिंदी का पूर्ण विकास नहीं होगा। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की देश भर की लगभग 70 संस्थाओं ने इस संगोष्ठी में भाग लिया।

Success Story

Charles Thomas Correya

Enrolment no. 09001593329

NIOS Flexibility enables Career Progression

A drop out at the Senior Secondary level which he owes to the subject of mathematics, Charles Thomas Correya completed the Senior Secondary Course of NIOS in humanities. This enabled him to join the MG University in Kerala for a BA course. Having simultaneously completed a certificate course in Electronics, Charles is now employed as an engineer with Birla Sunlife. Equipped with both Academic & Vocational skills, he now wishes to pursue an MBA Programme and also upgrade his technical qualification through different online certification programmes.



He strongly believes that flexibility in NIOS courses and programmes has contributed in the progression of his career.

NIOS wishes him luck in all his future endeavours!

Editorial Board

• S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS	:	Chief Editor
• G.G. Saxena, Secretary	:	Member
• Kuldeep Agarwal, Director (Academic Dept.)	:	Consulting Editor
• Sushmita Mitra, Director (SSS)	:	Member
• K.P. Wasnik, Director (VED)	:	Member
• C. Dharuman, Director (Evaluation Dept.)	:	Member
• Gowri Diwaker, PRO	:	Editor