

3. Courses of Study

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) offers a wide spectrum of courses of study to meet the specific requirements of distance learners. Two types of courses have been developed.

- ◆ Academic Courses
- ◆ Vocational Education Courses

The Academic Courses include (i) Open Basic Education for out-of-school children, youth and adults. (ii) Secondary Education Certificate Courses, and (iii) Senior Secondary Education Certificate Courses.

The Vocational Education Courses of the NIOS are in the broad areas of Agriculture, Engineering and Technology, Health and Paramedical, Home Science and Hospitality Management, Computer and Information Technology, Teacher Training, Miscellaneous and Life Enrichment Programmes.

An overview of the activities related to the courses of study taken up at different levels is given below.

3.1 Open Basic Education Programme

The Open Basic Education Programme is being implemented jointly by the Accredited Agencies and National Institute of Open Schooling with the aim of providing primary and upper primary level education through alternate means of Open Schooling to those who are not able to go to formal schools or have dropped out of schools. The Open Basic Education Programme is recognised by the Government of India as equivalent education to the formal school for purposes of higher education and employment.

◆ *Target Group*

The target group for the OBE programme consists of neo-literates under the National Literacy Mission's Equivalency Programme of the Continuing Education Scheme, school dropouts, dropouts of NFE programmes, girls and women, marginalized groups, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Persons Below Poverty Line (BPL), first-generation learners, out of school children and adults.

The OBE programme is being conducted for both children and adults learners. These learners fall under two categories – (i) Children of 6 - 14 years, and (ii) Adults of 15 years and above.

◆ *Programme Levels*

The OBE programme has three levels A, B and C. Level ‘A’ is equivalent to Standard III, Level ‘B’ is equivalent to Standard ‘V’, and Level ‘C’ is equivalent to Standard VIII of the formal school system.

◆ *Activities under OBE Programme during 2005-06*

(i) Accreditation and Programme Implementation

The OBE programme is implemented through partner agencies at the grassroot level. The agencies may be non-government organizations, government bodies or government-aided institutions. The accredited agencies (AAs) are responsible for registering learners, conducting personal contact classes, and examinations and maintaining records about the learners. The AAs are selected by NIOS after screening the applications and inspecting the short listed organizations. Efforts are made to ensure that agencies working in difficult regions of different states are accredited. Most of these agencies are those that are supported under different schemes of the Government of India, welfare organizations and by international donors as well as corporate bodies. Besides well-established NGOs, these Accredited Agencies include Zila Sakshatra Samities (ZSS), Jan Shikshan Sanstans (JSS), Mahila Samakhya (MS) and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs).

During the year 2005 – 06, the number of Accredited Agencies under OBE programme stood at 270. The state wise list of agencies accredited till 31 March 2006 is as follows.

Table 3.1

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Accredited Agencies under OBE
1.	Andhra Pradesh	05
2.	Assam	01
3.	Bihar	15
4.	Jharkhand	10
5.	Gujarat	03
6.	Haryana	26
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	03
9.	Karnataka	11
10.	Kerala	06

11.	Madhya Pradesh	09
12.	Chhattisgarh	01
13.	Maharashtra	13
14.	Manipur	02
15.	Orissa	09
16.	Pondicherry	01
17.	Rajasthan	43
18.	Tamil Nadu	39
19.	Uttar Pradesh	38
20.	Uttaranchal	07
21.	West Bengal	03
22.	Chandigarh	01
23.	Delhi	21
24.	Goa	01
25.	Tripura	01
Total		270

Besides the accredited agencies, the NIOS is looking for partner agencies of the State Governments, which would monitor the OBE programme in the state(s). At present, in Rajasthan and West Bengal, the State Literacy Mission Authority (SLMA) has been designated as the state nodal agency, while in Haryana, the Haryana Prathamik Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad (HPSPP), the nodal agency for SSA, has been made the nodal agency for OBE Programme of NIOS.

Table 3.2

Sl. No.	Type of Agency	No. of Agencies
1.	Zila Saksharta Samiti	35
2.	Jan Shikshan Sansthan	59
3.	District Institute of Education and Training	20
4.	Madradas	01
5.	Mahila Samakhya	01
6.	State Resource Centre	02
7.	Govt. Organization	28
8.	Kerala State Literacy Mission	01
9.	Other NGOs	123
Total		270

The following States and Union Territories are not so far represented under OBE Programme:

Table 3.2 (a)

Sl.No.	States	Union Territories
1.	Meghalaya	1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2.	Mizoram	2. Dadra & Nagar Haveli
3.	Nagaland	3. Daman & Diu
4.	Sikkim	4. Lakshadweep
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	
6.	Punjab	

(ii) Admission and Enrolment of OBE Learners

The admission to the OBE programme is done by the Accredited Agencies. They admit/enrol the learners and arrange the teaching learning programmes. A computerised database format was prepared and sent to all OBE accredited agencies for the enrolment of OBE learners. NIOS has developed a unique 15-digit Enrolment Number for every learner. The Accredited Agencies have been directed to give the enrolment number to all learners. Detailed guidelines were also developed by NIOS to make the implementation of the programme simpler and effective.

During 2005-06 the number of the learners under OBE programme increased. The total registration under OBE Programme as on 31-03-2006 was 26829. The level wise enrolment figures are given below:

Table 3.3: OBE Enrolment Data during the Year 2005-06

Level A	Level B	Level C	Total
19459	4044	3326	26829

(iii) Academic Activities

Curriculum

The OBE programme is based on academic freedom of the learner. Openness is reflected in the fact that AAs have the freedom to choose their own books and methods of teaching. The NIOS curriculum is at present available in Hindi, English and Bengali mediums. The efforts to translate the Curriculum in other languages are under way.

The learners have a learning package of their choice comprising academic and vocational subjects. Four subjects are offered at level A, and five subjects are offered at levels B and C.

Material Development: Academic and Vocational Courses

While NIOS sets a minimum standard through the curriculum, the curriculum transaction is carried out by the accredited agencies themselves. While some agencies choose to use NCERT/SCERT books, others use the books of the State Departments. Some Agencies have developed their own books. Some Agencies seek resource support from NIOS to develop their books.

Examination Process

In order to strengthen the examination processes, the NIOS has developed detailed guidelines for conduct of examinations. These guidelines contain instructions about question paper setting, seating plan, invigilation and result preparation.

Further in order to streamline the process of preparation of examination result, a computerised Format for the OBE Result was prepared by NIOS. This format alongwith the programme software was made available to all the accredited agencies with a view to bring uniformity. The format, available on the NIOS website, can be downloaded by the accredited agencies in English and Hindi versions.

Certification

NIOS finalises Joint Certificates as per the Result Gazette sent by Accredited Agencies. The level wise certification of OBE learners till 31 March 2006 was 79915 for OBE (Adults) and 55,514 for OBE (elementary). Upto March 2006, 1,35,429 OBE learners were issued Certificates.

Table 3.4

Status of Learners Certified (Year Wise) (Status as on 31 March 2006) I. Learners Certified Under OBE (NGOs) Programme

Level	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Sub Total
A	496	6548	5686	2734	12241	27705
B	734	4345	4391	2574	4809	16853
C	271	1022	2919	3540	3204	10956
Total	1501	11915	12996	8848	20554	55514

II. Learners Certified Under NLM Programme

Level	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
A	7967	32005	30058	70030
B	—	—	9885	9885
	7967	32005	39943	79915

III. Grand Total of Certificates Issued under OBE Programme

1.	OBE (Elementary)	55514
2.	OBE (Adult)	79915
	Grand Total	135429

IV . Networking with States and Government Agencies

In order to ensure participation of the State Governments in OBE programme, NIOS had decided that a state level Nodal Agency would be identified in each State and the programme would be run in collaboration with the concerned agency.

The Government of Rajasthan identified the State Literacy Mission Authority as the Nodal Agency with the district level agency being the Zila Saksharta Samiti. In West Bengal, the State Government through Department of Mass Education identified the State Literacy Mission Authority as the Nodal Agency for running the OBE programme. In Haryana, the programme is being run through the Haryana Prathmik Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad (HPSP), which is the Nodal Agency under the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' (SSA). All DIETS, which are accredited as AAs, and other NGOs will work with the HPSSP.

V. Future Thrust

The NIOS plans to work closely with the National Literacy Mission for promotion of achieving a sustaining Continuing Education Programme. The OBE as an equivalency programme would be strengthened and SLMAs and other NLM supported bodies would be involved in the OBE programme. The NIOS would provide academic and technical support for implementation of the programme.

The present OBE programme is supported financially by NIOS. In future, the NIOS would seek funds from the Government of India to support this programme so that the outreach may be increased.

◆ *NIOS-MHRD Collaboration for the Open Basic Education (OBE) Programme for Adults*

At the instance of the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), NIOS has prepared a Framework and Plan of Action for Implementation of Open Basic Education (OBE) Programme for Adults

for three years. The project is to be conducted jointly by MHRD and NIOS. The Programme was discussed in the Project Approval Committee (PAC) Meeting in the Department of Elementary Education, MHRD held on 23 February, 2006.

The PAC asked the NIOS to furnish the Evaluation Report of OBE programme in Rajasthan. Arrangements are being made to send the UNESCO Evaluation Report on OBE to MHRD. A write-up on UNESCO projects assigned to NIOS is also being supplied.

3.2 Secondary and Senior Secondary Education

3.2.1 Revision of Course Materials

During the year 2005-06, revision of course materials in different subjects at Senior Secondary level was in progress. A number of lessons were reviewed and edited in different subjects at Senior Secondary level. A workshop on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) was organised by the NIOS at its headquarters. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the NCF-2005 brought out by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), particularly in the context of Open Schooling. As a follow up, curricula in different subjects at Senior Secondary level were reviewed and changes were carried out.

3.2.2 Review of Course Materials

The course materials in different subjects at the Secondary level in English and Hindi mediums were reviewed in the light of societal concerns, gender bias, etc. Based on review, corrections were carried out in different subjects at Secondary level in both mediums. The course material in the subject of Indian Culture and Heritage (ICH) at Secondary level was reviewed exhaustively and the books were revised.

The existing course materials in different subjects in both mediums at Senior Secondary level were reviewed in the light of societal concerns such as promotion of secularism, social justice, national integration, factual mistakes, gender biase, etc. Based on review, corrections were carried out in the Hindi and English versions of the material.

3.2.3 Development of ODES Items at Senior Secondary Level

With a view to launch the On Demand Examination System (ODES) at the Senior Secondary Stage, items in the subjects of Business Studies, Accountancy, Mathematics, Hindi, English, Home Science, Political Science, History, Economics, Biology and Chemistry were developed in English and Hindi versions based on the existing course materials.

3.2.4 Development of Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA)

Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA) were developed in Hindi and English mediums in different subjects at Secondary and Senior Secondary level for the year 2005-06 for use by NIOS learners.

3.2.5 Marking Schemes

Meetings for standardisation of Marking Schemes in different subjects at Secondary and Senior Secondary level were organised for the April 2005 and the October 2005 Examinations.

3.2.6 National Science Popularization Programme

The National Science Day 2006 was celebrated in the Study Centres and at the Headquarter of NIOS.

Virtual Classrooms

In an effort towards optimum utilisation of Information and Communication Technology, (ICT), NIOS is experimenting on the feasibility of introducing Virtual Classrooms for NIOS learners. In this context, an online demonstration programme was organised at its headquarters on 23rd August 2005. A lively interaction took place between the NIOS officials and the students of Liberty High School, Ohio University, USA.

Training Programme on E-Learning

A Training Programme on E-learning was organised by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) for the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), NCERT and the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) from 30 January 2006 to 3 February 2006 at New Delhi. Three faculty members from the Academic Department, NIOS participated.

3.2.7 Regional Language Programme

Under the Regional Language Programme, NIOS conducted the following programmes and activities during the year 2005-06

- ◆ Development of **Arabic** language as a subject was initiated, curriculum developed, lessons allotted and written; review meetings held for the same.
- ◆ **Oriya** language as a new subject at Secondary level was introduced in the year 2005-06.
- ◆ Work to constitute a Curriculum Committee for development of **Tamil** Language at Secondary level was initiated.
- ◆ The Curriculum Committee for the development of a new course in **Persian** language at Secondary level was constituted.
- ◆ Revision of **Kannada** language curriculum at Secondary level was initiated. The draft curriculum was finalized and the text selection process was started.
- ◆ A Curriculum Committee for revision of **Gujarati** language curriculum was constituted.

For the Regional Mediums, the following activities were completed:

- ◆ **Gujarati**

The translation work in Gujarati of the Instructional Material of Science, Social Science, Maths, Business Studies, Psychology, and Home Science was completed and DTP work was in progress. Revised course in ICH has been sent for translation.

- ◆ **Telugu**

The work of Translation in Telugu, the material of Mathematics, Economics and Practical Manual in Home Science was completed and DTP work has been completed. The CRCs of the all materials were sent for printing.

- ◆ **Marathi**

The work of translation in Marathi medium of the Instructional Material in Social Science (revised), Psychology, Science and Mathematics was completed and DTP work was also completed. The CRC of Revised course in Social Science, Mathematics, Psychology Book 1&2 and Science Book 1&2 and practical manual has been sent for printing.

Initiation of Oriya Medium

Work for initiation of the Oriya medium has started. The list of the experts who will be assigned the task of translating the study material in Home Science, Psychology, Indian Culture and Heritage, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Business Studies and Economics has been approved by Director (Academic).

3.2.8 Meeting of Departmental Advisory Board (DAB) of Academic Department

The meeting of the Departmental Advisory Board (DAB) of the Academic Department was held on 30th December, 2005. The activities that had been taken up in the year 2005-2006 were reported and the proposed activities for the year 2006-2007 were discussed threadbare in this meeting.

The meeting of the Academic Council was held on 29th March, 2006. The programmes approved by the DABs of the different departments were further considered and decisions taken about the activities to be finally taken up in 2006-2007.

3.3 Vocational Education Courses

- ◆ **Admission**

Admissions to Vocational Education Courses of NIOS are open round the year. During the year 2005, admissions to various courses were done through a network of 908 Accredited Vocational Institutes (AVIs) all over India. The

total number of students admitted to vocational stream was 22,879. Table 3.5 shows the enrollment State /Union Territory wise.

Table 3.5 State wise Enrolment in Vocational Education Courses during 2005

S. No.	Name of the State	Enrolment in Vocational Courses	Percentage of Students vis-à-vis Total Enrolment
1.	Andhra Pradesh	587	2.56
2.	Assam	89	0.38
3.	Bihar	312	1.36
4.	Gujarat	187	0.81
5.	Haryana	1258	5.50
6.	Himachal Pradesh	688	3.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	504	2.20
8.	Karnataka	730	3.19
9.	Kerala	2988	13.07
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1911	8.35
11.	Maharashtra	422	1.84
12.	Orissa	325	1.42
13.	Punjab	718	3.14
14.	Rajasthan	466	2.03
15.	Tamil Nadu	1621	7.09
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2138	9.35
17.	West Bengal	814	3.56
18.	Chandigarh	265	1.15
19.	Goa	38	0.16
20.	Pondicherry	0	-
21.	Delhi	5921	25.90
22.	Uttaranchal	581	2.54
23.	Jharkhand	80	0.34
24.	Chhattisgarh	216	0.94
25.	Daman & Diu	-	-
26.	Manipur	-	-
27.	Meghalaya	-	-
28.	Nagaland	-	-
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
Total		22,879	100%

Table 3.6 Region wise Enrollment in Vocational Education Courses

Sl. No	Region	Enrollment
1.	Hyderabad	1265
2.	Pune	554
3.	Kolkata	938
4.	Guwahati	89
5.	Chandigarh	2467
6.	Kochi	4103
7.	Delhi Zone-I	2848
8.	Jaipur	637
9.	Patna	360
10.	Allabhad	431
11.	Delhi Zone-II	7039
12.	Bhopal	2148
Total		22879

If we look the region wise enrollment trends, the highest enrollment was in the Delhi Region followed by Kochi region and Chandigarh region. The Guwahati region had the lowest enrolment.

Table 3.7 Year wise enrolment in Vocational Education Courses

Year	Enrolment increase	Percent
1997-1998	5,822	(+)51
1998-1999	7,164	(+)23
1999-2000	10,611	(+)48
2000-2001	12,026	(+)13
2001-2002	17,770	(+)48
2002-2003	22,321	(+)26
2003-2004	21,211	(-)5
2004-2005	20,985	(-)1.1
2005-2006	22,879	(+)8.9

The enrolment of students in the vocational education courses has been progressively increasing for the last few years except for slight decrease in the years in 2003-04, 2004-05. Table 3.7 shows the trend.

Table 3.8 Course-wise and Trade-wise Enrolment of Student in Vocational Courses during 2005

S. No.	Course	Total
Six Months Courses		
1.	House Wiring & Electrical Appliances Repairing	269
2.	Motor and Transformer Rewinding	86
3.	Radio and Recorder Repairing	20
4.	TV Repairing	68
5.	Cutting and Tailoring	1347
6.	Dress Making	127
7.	Certificate in Basic Computing	163
8.	Plumbing	88
9.	Beauty Culture	1454
10.	Certificate in DTP	456
11.	Certificate in Yog	759
12.	Certificate in Security Services	1348
13.	Certificate in Computer Hardware	140
One Year Courses		
14.	Electrical Technician	1863
15.	Radio and TV Technicians	474
16.	Cutting, Tailoring and Dress Making	1937
17.	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	915
18.	Certificate in Computer Application	2963
19.	Certificate in Two Wheeler Mechanic	93
Life Enrichment Courses		
20.	Paripoorna Mahila	—
21.	Jan Swasthya (Community Health)	2540
Stand Alone Courses (Secondary Level)		
22.	Word Processing (English)	—
23.	Carpentry	29
24.	Solar Energy Technician	03
25.	Bio-Gas Energy Technician	—
26.	Laundry	09
27.	Jute Production	—
28.	Bakery & Confectionery	186
29.	Welding Technology	270

Stand Alone Courses (Sr. Secondary Level)		
30.	Typewriting (Hindi)	27
31.	Typewriting (English)	84
32.	Stenography (Hindi)	67
33.	Typewriting (Urdu)	—
34.	Secretarial Practice	36
35.	Word Processing	291
36.	Plant Protection	10
37.	House Keeping	79
38.	Catering Management	378
39.	Food Processing	27
40.	Hotel Front Office Management	10
41.	Play Centre Management	25
42.	Poultry Farming	—
43.	Preservation of Food & Vegetables	03
Package Courses		
44.	Secretarial Practice	519
45.	Gram Sakhi	22
46.	Diploma in Radiography (X-ray Technician)	90
47.	Certificate in Library Science	409
48.	Early Childhood Care and Education	2989
49.	Diploma in Modern Secretarial Practice	144
50.	Toys Making and Joyful Learning	06
51.	Diploma in Basic Rural Technology	29
52.	Certificate in Footwear Design & Production	10

There are certain courses which are very popular, Table 3.8 shows the course wise enrolment. Enrollment trends show that Early Childhood Care and Education, Cutting, Tailoring & Dress Making, Certificate in Computer Application, Jan Swasthya, Electrical Technician & Beauty Culture courses are the most popular courses among the students.

◆ Accreditation of Institutions

NIOS serves its vocational education stream students through a network of Study Centers known as Accredited Vocational Institutions (AVIs) for its vocational courses. Accreditation of the Study Centers is done after rigorous screening of applications on the basis of norms available for each course and also the reports given by the inspection teams after physically inspecting the institutions. Table below shows distribution of AVIs (Vocational Education Study Centers) state wise :

Table 3.9 List of AVIs State wise as on 31st March 2006

S. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of AVIs	SAIED* AVIs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24	03
2.	Assam	07	
3.	Bihar	22	03
4.	Gujarat	09	—
5.	Haryana	43	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	41	—
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	—
8.	Karnataka	23	02
9.	Kerala	91	04
10.	Madhya Pradesh	75	02
11.	Maharashtra	40	03
12.	Manipur	1	—
13.	Nagaland	1	—
14.	Orissa	27	04
15.	Punjab	13	—
16.	Rajasthan	27	—
17.	Tamil Nadu	50	02
18.	Uttar Pradesh	110	—
19.	West Bengal	23	05
20.	Andaman & Nicobar Inlands	1	—
21.	Chandigarh	05	—
22.	Jharkhand	18	01
23.	Goa	05	01
24.	Chhattishgarh	14	—
25.	Pondicherry	02	—
26.	Uttaranchal	19	—
27.	Delhi	200	07
28.	Overseas (UAE)	03	
Total		908	37

* SAIED : Special Accredited Institution for Education of Disadvantaged.

◆ Meetings of the Coordinators of AVIs

The NIOS organised Orientation Programmes for the Coordinators of Study Centres (AVIs) in order to facilitate the work of Study Centres and make them acquainted with the changes taken place in the scheme of studies as well as in other activities of NIOS.

The main objectives of these meetings were:

- To acquaint the participants with various aspects of Open Vocational Education programme.
- To discuss the difficulties faced in implementation of vocational education programme.
- To identify the issues and problems of AVIs and discussion on possible solutions.
- To provide information on the courses under development.
- To identify new and innovative vocational education courses which may be developed in future.

These Orientation Programmes for the Coordinators of AVIs were held at the under mentioned venues.

S. No.	Regional Centres of NIOS	Venue	Date of Meeting
1.	Pune	Pune	25.06.2005
2.	Hyderabad	Hyderabad Bangalore	27.06.2005 11/12.08.2005
3.	Patna	Patna	05.07.2005
4.	Kolkata	Kolkata	07.07.2005
5.	Guwahati	Guwahati	08.07.2005
6.	Jaipur	Jaipur	15.07.2005
7.	Delhi Zone I	Delhi	18.07.2005
8.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	20.07.2005
9.	Allahabad	Allahabad	25.07.2005
10	Delhi Zone II	NOIDA Haridwar	29.07.2005 31.08.2005
11.	Kochi	Kochi	26.08.2005

In these programmes, matters related to examination, administration and vocational academic issues were discussed and problems were solved. Besides these, matters related to procedures for admission and accreditation were also explained to the Coordinators.

◆ **Future Thrust**

In keeping with the larger objectives of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the future thrust of the NIOS vocational courses is on training of educated unemployed youth for meaningful, skill oriented employment. In the coming years, the plans for course development include launching of traditional as well as non-traditional technology oriented and competency based courses.

Vocational Education Courses for girls and women as well as for disadvantaged sections of society are envisaged. In order to reach the rural community, vocational courses pertaining to rural development are being identified. Expansion of AVIs as well as linkage with industry, market and service sector has been planned. Training programmes for these and other personnel have also been visualised for the coming years. In short, the thrust of the future vocational education programmes is towards developing, relevant and dynamic programmes for imparting vocational and life skills to learners of the NIOS.

NIOS is developing strategies for providing vocational training to rural youth (men/women) and for this purpose collaboration and networking is to be established at grass-root level.

- ◆ **Curriculum Framework in Vocational Education** – The NIOS has initiated an exercise to develop a Curriculum Framework for Vocational Education through open and distance learning mode. The NIOS has conducted workshops in March 2005 and October 2005 in which experts from NCERT, PSSCIVE, NITTTR Bhopal, Technical Education Department, Govt. of Delhi, Board of Technical Education Delhi, IGNOU and Industry were invited to deliberate and frame broad guidelines. The Curriculum Framework is to be finalized by the end of July 2006.
- ◆ **The NIOS in collaboration with Commonwealth of Learning organized an International Conference**, on “Vocational Education and Training through Open Schooling: Challenges and Future Strategies” at Kovalam, Kerala from 8 to 10 February 2006. The delegates during the technical sessions suggested solutions to certain challenges being faced by the Open Vocational Education and Training. The NIOS is preparing a time bound action plan to implement the recommendations of the conference. A detailed write-up about this conference is included in Chapter 8 on "International Relations”.
- ◆ **Collaboration/Partnership for the purpose of improvement of quality of training and recognition of the courses.** With a view to bring about an improvement in the quality of training being imparted, and to get recognition and the importance of the vocational education and training through ODL mode, NIOS has initiated action for

collaboration/partnership with various statutory bodies or organizations, the details of which are given below:

- (a) **Partnership with CII** – The NIOS has entered into a dialogue with CII for the purpose of NIOS – Industry partnership. As a first step in this direction, a Round Table Meet was organized in Dec 2005 by CII at its Headquarters at Delhi where the representatives from some industries viz, Shree Ram Group, CISCO, TCS etc., some eminent academicians, and officers from the NIOS participated. The proposal for MACRO level and MICRO level interaction was also considered in the meeting.

As a follow up to this meeting, unit level interaction with Microsoft India in the month of December 2005 and with CISCO in the month of January 2006 was arranged by CII. During the course of discussion, the MICROSOFT assured to work out a scheme whereby some IT related courses could be identified depending on the market needs; and subsequently activities related to Curriculum/instructional material development, conduct of training, evaluation and examinations shall be conducted jointly by NIOS and Microsoft. CISCO has also submitted a proposal for running some on-line courses jointly at selected AVIs, which is under consideration.

- (b) **Partnership with IMA** - NIOS negotiated with the Indian Medical Association for running various para-medical courses under a joint collaboration. An MOU is in the process of being finalized, which contains the following salient provisions.

- ◆ The work of development of course curriculum and self learning study materials including practical manual, guidelines for internal assessment and audio/video programmes will be jointly undertaken by IMA and NIOS.
- ◆ A joint committee will be constituted for inspection of the institutes applying for accreditation with NIOS.
- ◆ The Examination Scheme will be as per NIOS norms. The theory examination will be conducted by NIOS and the list of experts who may be used as paper setters and evaluators will be sent by IMA. The Practical examinations will be conducted by IMA. Guidelines for internal assessment will be prepared jointly by NIOS and IMA.

- (c) **Partnership with the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)** - The NIOS took up the matter with RCI to collaborate and introduce need-based certificate level courses for developing human resource for physically challenged. The courses will be transacted in various accredited institutions through ODL mode, which are being run by RCI at its centers under the formal education system. The proposal is being examined by RCI.

(d) Discussion with AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

NIOS took up with AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to accord approval for introduction of a course in Homoeopathic Pharmacy. It was informed that the main aim of the NIOS to introduce the course is to provide qualified manpower for dispensing Homoeopathic medicines in Govt. Hospitals and Private Clinics all over the country. The proposal was well received by the Department of AYUSH. The Ministry has now forwarded the Curriculum of Diploma in Homoeopathy Pharmacy Course with the suggestion that the course may be appropriately modified to run as a Certificate Course in Homoeopathic Pharmacy. A committee of experts has been constituted to finalize the course curriculum. A similar course is being designed for Ayurveda to develop trained manpower for taking care of various aspects of Ayurveda.

◆ New Initiatives at a Glance

- Curriculum Framework in Vocational Education
- Collaboration/Partnership for the purpose of improvement of quality of training and recognition of the courses
 - Partnership with CII
 - Partnership with IMA
 - Partnership with Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)
 - Discussion with AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

3.4 Media Support to Open Schooling Programme

3.4.1 Background

One of the major activities of the NIOS is to explore the facilities of Educational Technology to make distance learning a successful and rewarding effort. Audio and Video programmes are significant components of the multi-channel package offered by NIOS for its courses of study. The audio/video programmes supplement and complement the other channels of learning such as printed self learning material and personal contact programme. NIOS has developed Audio and Video programmes for Open Basic Education, Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational Education Courses.

The Objective of the Media Support programme are as follows:

- ◆ Production of Audio/Video programmes for NIOS learners.
- ◆ Broadcast and Telecast of Audio/Video programmes on different channels.
- ◆ Duplication of Audio/Video programmes to Audio Cassettes, VCDs etc., to enrich and reinforce the subject matter given in the study material provided to the NIOS learners.
- ◆ Production of Video Spots for publicity purpose.
- ◆ Video coverage of important functions/seminars, workshops, etc., for reference purpose.

3.4.2 Methodology

Based on the requirement of media support, the production strategy in NIOS is centered on the academic requirement. The content brief are prepared by the Academic Officers of NIOS. The production of video programmes is assigned to outside producers as per the stages given below :

- ◆ Preparation of Academic Briefs
- ◆ Academic Brief are given to the producer for Script Writing
- ◆ Approval of Script
- ◆ Submission of Budget by the producer
- ◆ Costing Committee meeting for approval of the Budget
- ◆ Placing order to the producer.
- ◆ COMPLETION OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS
- ◆ Shooting of film(s)
- ◆ Film Review Committee Meetings/Approval of Rough Cut
- ◆ Film Review Committee Meetings/Approval of Final Cut
- ◆ Checking and Receipt of Master Material (Tapes, VCDs)
- ◆ Release of payment.

3.4.3 Overview of Work Done

1. Production of Video Programmes

During the year 2005-06, the following Video Programmes were produced:

Films completed:

(i)	Psychology : An Introduction	- Psychology Hindi & English versions	
(ii)	Adjustment	- - Do-	-Do-
(iii)	Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	- Home Science	-Do-
(iv)	Flowers	- OBE	-Do-
(v)	Chemical Equilibrium	- Chemistry	-Do-
(vi)	Volumetric Analysis	- - Do-	-Do-
(vii)	Components of Atmosphere	- - Do-	-Do-
(viii)	Understanding Colors	- Home Science	-Do-
(ix)	Assembling of Computer	- Vocational	-Do-
(x)	Ied-Gaah	- Urdu	Urdu
(xi)	Firaque Gorakhpuri ki Classical Shayri	- - Do-	-Do-
(xii)	Khuda-E-Sukhan Mir	- - Do-	-Do-
(xiii)	Ghalib ki Shayri	- - Do-	-Do-

Films under production:

1.	Children with Special Needs	- Home Science	
2.	Work Organization	- -Do-	
3.	How Color Works	- -Do-	
4.	Limits and Continuity	- Mathematics	
5.	Modules and Argand Diagram	- -Do-	
6.	Functions	- -Do-	
7.	Choosing Suitable Form of Business Organization	- Business Studies	
8.	Raising Funds for Business-I	- -Do-	
9.	Raising Funds for Business-II	- -Do-	
10.	NIOS Meritorious Students	- General	
11.	Common Problems of Elderly	- Vocational	
12.	Making Puppets	- -Do-	
13.	Handling Mail	- -Do-	
14.	Effective Power Point Presentation	- -Do-	
15.	Earthquake	- Geography	
16.	Chemistry of Colloids	- Chemistry	

Capsuling of Video Programmes

In order to feed the available time slots for telecast of NIOS programmes on Gyan Darshan and DD-I channels, 104 capsules of Video Programmes were produced.

2. Audio Programmes

Sixty four Audio Programmes/Tutorials were produced for the Open Basic Education (OBE), Secondary and Senior Secondary Education programmes. Of these, 36 programmes were produced in-house. 28 programmes were outsourced (12 Audio programmes in Marathi language, 10 Audio programmes in Telugu language and 6 Audio programmes for Adolescence Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) project). 12 Audio programmes in Bengali language are under production.

3. EDUSAT Utilization

Satellite Interactive Terminals (SIT) have been installed at NIOS Studio and at five Regional Centers of NIOS (Pune, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Chandigarh and Kochi). A trial run for EDUSAT was made on 22 February 2006. Installation of SITs at 5 more Regional Centers is under process.

Through EDUSAT, NIOS Studio was connected with the Regional Centres of NIOS at Hyderabad and Chandigarh on 9 March 2006. Learners from 3 study centres of NIOS were called at these Regional Centers and a Science Quiz programme was organized.

4. Training

Script Writing Workshops

- ◆ A three day workshop on 'Content Generation for EDUSAT' was organized from 18 to 20 May, 2005 by the Media Unit of NIOS in collaboration with DECU-ISRO, Ahmedabad. Two resource persons, Shri Nitin Bhavasar and Shri Afzal Subedar, from ISRO were invited. The faculty members along with one outside expert in each subject participated in the workshop.
- ◆ Another two day script writing workshop was organized by the Media Unit from 2 to 5 December, 2005. The faculty members (Academic and Vocational) and 3 participants from State Open Schools (SOSs) Bhopal and Jaipur participated. Prof. M.A. Mathew and Shri B. Diwaker, Reader, MCRC, Jamia Milliyya Islamia University were the Resource Persons. Four scripts were developed. The script on 'Earthquakes' was declared best among all the four.

5. Outcome/Use of Outcome

- ◆ The Audio/Video programmes produced by NIOS are sent to the Study Centres of NIOS for use in Personal Contact Programme (PCPs).
- ◆ The learners can take the cassettes of audio/video programmes on loan for a week from study centres.
- ◆ The video programmes were telecast on the National Channel of Doordarshan (DD-1) every Friday from 5.02 a.m. to 5.25 a.m. and on the Educational Channel "Gyan Darshan" everyday from 6:30 p.m to 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ The Audio programmes were broadcast on Gyan Vani (FM Channel) at 106.5 MHz every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 8.30 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. and repeat broadcast from 4.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
- ◆ The audio cassettes and VCDs of Audio/Video programmes are available for sale. A comprehensive list of the Audio Cassettes and VCDs is available on the NIOS Website for the benefit of NIOS learners and others.

6. Other Activities

◆ Video Coverage/Spots

The Media Unit arranged 31 Video coverages of various National and International programmes organized by NIOS.

One Video Spot was produced for publicity of NIOS programmes.

◆ Participation in Educational Video Festivals

NIOS sent the following video programmes as entries in the 11th Children's Audio Video Festival organized by CIET, NCERT:

- 'Classification of Organisms – Animalae' under the category "Best Video Programme for Senior Secondary Education".
- 'Beyond the Iron Curtain', under the category "Technical Excellence in Best Graphics/Animation".
- 'Samridh Jiwan Ki Kunji – Yog' for the Panorama Section.

NIOS participated in the 18th UGC-CEC Educational Video Competition with its Video Programme titled 'Classification of Organism -Plantae' under the category of the Best Educational Programme for Children.

◆ **Duplication/Distribution of Programmes**

- A total number of 5250 copies of Audio programmes were made. It includes 100 copies of programme on HIV-AIDS under ARSH project, 150 copies of programmes on Music Education and 5000 copies of programme on Hindi for Open Basic Education (OBE) programme. These cassettes have been sent to various Study Centers.
- 11386 copies of VCDs were distributed to various Study Centers (AIs and AVIs).

7. Future Perspective

- ◆ The Media Unit of NIOS has planned to give significant thrust to audio/video programme production in the coming years. A gradual expansion in the in-house production programme capacity is envisaged. In the coming years, on an average 2 video programmes/tutorials and 8 audio programmes are being planned to be produced every month in the NIOS Studio. The programme production would be outsourced to competent Producers/Production Houses. A good bank of audio/video programmes is proposed to be built by NIOS so as to meet its ever increasing telecast commitments for Gyan Vani, Gyan Darshan and DD-I.
- ◆ NIOS is exploring the concept of Interactive Classrooms on SIT based network under EDUSAT. The Interactive Classroom would involve experts from different Vocational and Academic streams giving lectures and demonstrations in NIOS Studio and answering the queries of not only those present in the studio but also of NIOS learners/viewers in different locations through Video Conferencing/Teleconferencing mode.
- ◆ Marketing of Audio Cassettes/VCDs at National and International level.

3.5 Open Learning : A Half-Yearly Magazine of NIOS

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has been bringing out a half-yearly magazine titled "Open Learning" which is generally meant for its newly enrolled students. The "Open Learning" magazine includes articles in Hindi and English which create awareness of the cultural heritage of the country, socio-economic environment prevalent, advancements in Science and Technology and other fields, and such other materials that will prepare the students both for life and career. Articles on Science, Health Family Welfare, Career Planning, Population Education, Pollution, Eminent Personalities, Human Rights, Gender Issues, Constitution etc., are also published. Two issues of the "Open Learning" Magazine were prepared during the year 2005-2006.