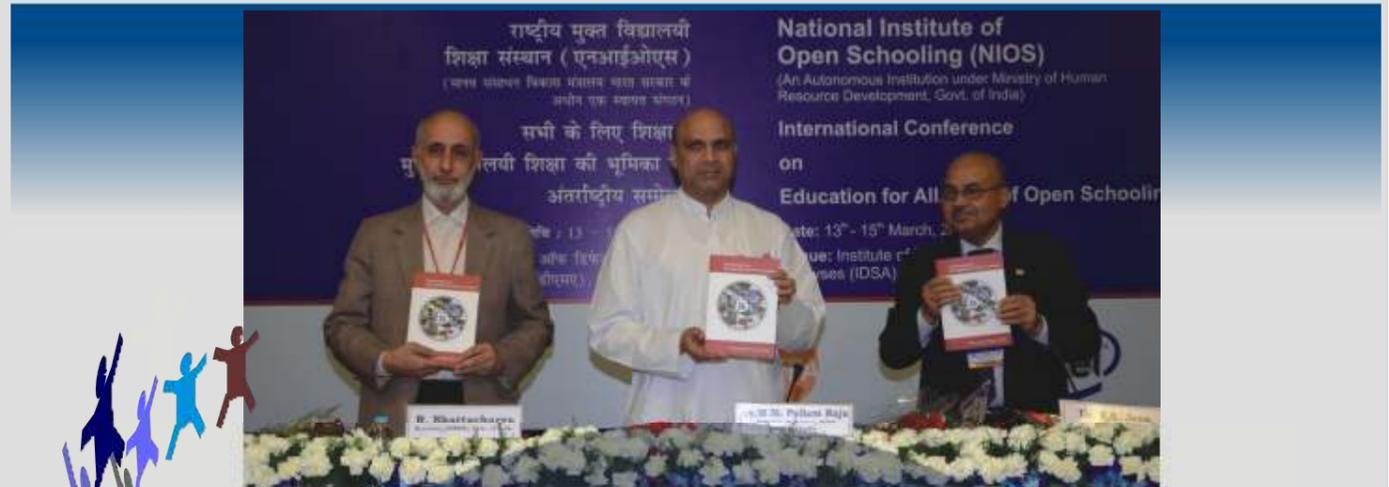




Cultural evening during the conference



PARALLEL SESSION

Paper Presentation on Issues of Access and Equity (Parallel Session I)

Chair: Sh. M.C. Pant,
Former Chairman, NIOS

Papers

Open Schooling System In Insecured and Conflict Situations: A Case of Afghanistan
Dr Sushmita Mitra

The Role of SSC Programme of Open School towards Education for All in Bangladesh: A Study on Learners' Experience:
A.K.M. Iftekhar Khalid

Educational Development of Marginalized Communities through Open Schooling in India: A Case Study of NIOS
Mr. Sukanta Kumar Mahapatra

(In) Quality Questions: A Sociological Apprehension of the issues in Open Schooling
Dr. Dev N Pathak

Schooling and Silent Exclusion in Education: Open Schooling is the Alternative Perspective towards Access and Equity in Education
Pankaj Das

Paper Presentation on Issues of Quality (Parallel Session II)

Chair: Dr. Jaya, National Programme Officer, UNFPA

Papers:

Making learning contextualized: A step towards quality education
Dr Sutapa Bose

Issues of Quality ODL with regard to Curriculum, Materials, Delivery System & Evaluation-
Prof. K.A.Hasim

Life skills for enhancing excellence in education and lifelong learning
Ms. Asheema Singh

Enhancing quality of education : capturing the role of primary school teachers in Himachal Pradesh
Garima sarma and Priti Joshi

TMA as an effective strategy to improve the quality of education for OD L learners with reference to NIOS
Dr. Balkrishna Rai

Novel learners and flexible education delivery: NIOS IS THE KEY
Dr. Saumya Rajan

Paper Presentation on Institutional Related Issues and Operational Strategies (Parallel Session III)

Chair: Sh. U.N. Khaware, Secretary, NIOS

Papers:

Better Learner Support Services is a way to ensure Quality Assurance in ODL
Dr. Niradhar Dey

Publicity strategy for awareness and advocacy of open schooling regarding Indian context
Anuj kumar

Learner Support Services in Open and Distance Learning for Achieving Education for All
Mohammad Mamunur Rashid

Effectiveness of Learner Support Services in Andhra Pradesh State Open School
Sheik Mohammad

Open Schooling and Distance Learning: A Superhighway to Success but still a long way to achieve it
Sonam Mehta and Karnica Vyas

Editorial Team

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National Institution of Open Schooling Organises International Conference

Education for All : Role of Open Schooling

13-15 March 2013

Conference Venue : IDSA, 1 Development Enclave (Near USI), Rao Tula Marg, New Delhi, India)

"Education for all" declares that everyone has a right to education. Its aim is to give everyone a chance to learn and benefit from basic education not as an accident of circumstance, or as a privilege, but as a right. The movement towards Education for All revitalized educational reforms all over the world. Major progress has been made in terms of access to Primary Education and declining number of out of school children. However, the emphasis is now being given on Universalization of Secondary Education.

In order to achieve the goal of Universalization of School Education, the Open Schooling will have to play a more vital role. Globally, the progress of Open Schooling programme is varied in nature and scope. Some countries have not yet stated the Open Schooling programme, but they essentially need to open up to the idea of open schooling to achieve the Millennium goal of Education for All.

It is in this context that an international conference is being organised for deliberating upon the role of Open Schooling in fulfilling this cherished goal of Education for All in all developing countries, particularly those that come under the umbrella of the Commonwealth.

The three-day conference on Education for All: Role of Open Schooling was conceptualized as a part of Silver Jubilee year Celebration of The National Institution of Open Schooling.



Inaugural address by Honorable Minister HRD Dr. MM Pallam raju



Keynote address by Ms Frances Ferreira, Specialist COL Canada



Sh R Bhattacharya Secretary (SE&L) MHRD addressing the gathering

The Inauguration started with the lighting of lamp by the dignitaries. The Inaugural address was delivered by the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister of MHRD, GOI, Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju. In his address he said that Education for All is a global commitment that focuses on improving access to Elementary Education. He was of the view that Education is the most potent tool for socio-economic equity. Keeping in view the limitations of the educational system, there is a dire need to look for alternatives. Open and Distance Learning (ODL) is seen as a potential alternative to achieve Education For All (EFA) and thereby to achieve the Millennium Goals. He hoped that the Conference would provide a further impetus by giving significant contributions to develop systems and strategies to reach the unreached.

Sh. R. Bhattacharya, Secretary, MHRD was the guest of honour. In his address briefed about the two flagship education programmes of Government of India namely Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA). He said that the RMSA recognises Open Schooling as a potential tool for achieving access to Secondary Education. He was convinced that NIOS being the largest open schooling system in the world, with the advantages like accessibility, flexible curriculum, cost effectiveness and transfer of credits is crucial in achieving the target of "Education for All". He emphasized on the need for Open Schooling



Lighting the lamp by Honorable Minister HRD

to be expanded in such a way so that states can also deliver education in regional languages, thereby making it accessible. He urged the participants to discuss and deliberate on enhancing opportunities being provided by the Open Schooling System.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS. He welcomed the dignitaries and the participants and informed the august gathering about the various awards bagged by NIOS. He assured that NIOS will work with the Government of India in achieving its commitment towards Right to Education. He said that NIOS, a unique education model with its inherent flexibilities and an innovation to link education with livelihood, has been meeting the educational aspirations of several millions of learners especially the disadvantaged. For him, making Education Accessible to All is a major challenge before developing countries. He said that deliberations and directions to achieve the Millennium goals as well as EFA goals by 2015 would be the major objective of this conference.

Ms. Frances Ferreira, Specialist, COL Canada, in her address was overwhelmed with the Commonwealth of Learning's association with the NIOS, and was of the view that the Open Schooling was not a panacea for the challenges faced by the Education sector but an important vehicle for facing the challenges.

Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Director, (Academic) gave an overview of the Conference. Sh UN Khaware, Secretary, NIOS proposed a vote of thanks.

The document on "Framework for 'Recognition of Prior Learning' was released on this occasion.



Chairman NIOS welcoming Ms Frances Ferreira, Education Specialist COL Canada



Chairman NIOS welcoming Honorable Minister HRD

The first keynote address on "From Education for All to Learning to All" was delivered by Ms. Frances Ferreira, Education Specialist, Open Schooling COL, Canada and was chaired by Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS. In her Keynote address, she took Education for All as the central theme to eliminate poverty. According to her, Gender parity remains a challenge which does not only mean equal number of boys and girls but also equal treatment and access to subjects of their choice. She stressed on the role of Open Schooling to build human capital and quality learning. She made her presentation with the conviction that open schooling can make a meaningful contribution to the socio-economic development.

The second Keynote address on "The Future of Learning" was delivered by Dr. Sugata Mitra, Professor of Educational Technology, Newcastle University, U.K. and Ted Prize 2013 winner. This was chaired by Ms. Shweta Khurana, Head K12 Education Corporate Affairs Group Intel South Asia. Dr. Mitra clarified the difference between the "Future of Learning" and "Future of Education". Dr. Mitra very briefly described the British Education Model, where the main purpose was to design the machine (education model) and to produce the people (workforce for the nation). He also cited the Victorian Model of education. He concluded by stressing on self-organized learning in which learning happens without any assistance and is not forced.

The third Keynote address was on the theme "Access and Equity in School Education: Issues & Concerns for open Schooling". The session was chaired by Prof. A.K. Sharma, Former Director, NCERT, New Delhi and the speaker was Dr. Vinod Raina, Bharat Gyan Vigan Samiti.

Dr. Raina emphasised on the need for focusing on quality parameter in education system by integrating access, equity and quality. He stressed upon the skill development activities of learners and the role of ODL system in vocationalization of academic courses. He further highlighted the evolution of education through RTE Act and Education for All in the context of Social and Economic view point. He concluded that a balance must be achieved between human interaction and the use of ICT in education.

Panel discussion

The First panel discussion was on the sub-theme: "Issues of Access and Equity", chaired by Fr. T.V. Kunnunkal, Founder Chairman, NIOS. The panellists were Dr. Usha Nayar, Former Professor, NCERT and Prof. Janaki Rajan, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi.

Prof. Usha Nayar, highlighted the current scenarios related to education emphasising gender related issues existing in Haryana and Punjab. She raised thought provoking issues relating to girl child education. She urged the NIOS and CBSE that the need of the hour is to develop courses on gender studies.

Prof. Janaki Rajan emphasised that Right to Education is vital for the deprived and marginalised section of society focusing on education for social justice.

She was of the view that inclusive education was to equip the student and parents to fight against the problems persisting in the society. She also urged for change in curriculum in align with the societal changes.

The session was moderated by Ms. Lystra Sampson Ovid, Director, Open School Trinidad & Tobago.

