

## **Minutes of the DAB**

### **Vocational Education Department**

The Departmental Advisory Board meeting of the Vocational Department was held on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2011 at NIOS. The following members attended the meeting:

1. Dr. S. S. Jena, Chairman - NIOS
2. Dr. K.P. Wasnik, Director, VED
3. Dr. Mamta Srivastava, Dy. Director, VED
4. Ms. Koushalya Barik, Assistant Director, VED
5. Mr. Mithlesh Kumar, IAS,(Bihar and Jharkhand)
6. Dr. V. S. Mehrotra, Associate Professor, PSSCIVE, Bhopal
7. Dr. Vibha Joshi, , Director, School of Education, IGNOU
8. Dr. M. M. Bhattacharya, Ex Director, DGHS
9. Dr. R. K. Gupta, Associate Professor, Delhi University
10. Dr. Praveen Chauhan, SEO, Home Science.
11. Dr. P. K. Chauhan, E.O, HPM
12. Dr. Ajay Garg, SEO, Business and Commerce
13. Mr. Abhishek Singh, SEO, HPM.

The following members could not attend the meeting:

1. Mr. D. K. Bhawsar, A.E.A, (VE)
2. Dr. Uma Tuli, Coordinator, AVI, Karkardooma
3. Dr. A. K. Saini, Professor, I.P. University
4. Dr. Neelam Grewal, Dean. COHS, PAU
5. Dr. Arun Patel, Principal, Extension Edu. Inst., Anand
6. Dr. Surya Gunjal, Director, YCMOU, Nasik

The meeting started with welcome note by Dr. K.P. Wasnik, Director (VED), followed by self introductions. Dr. Wasnik outlined about the sectorwise vocational courses, enrollment trend, constraints and future strategies for promotion of vocational education in the country.

Dr. Mamta Srivastava, DD (VE) then presented the agenda of the meeting.

### **Item 2.1 Introduction of new need based Vocational courses on PPP basis**

Dr. Mamta Srivastava, DD (VE) informed that to fulfill the national objective of skill development, NIOS is looking for proposals from private as well as governmental organizations that are dynamic as well as innovative and can effectively target the skill development at the sectors/ segments which have the huge unmet needs. NIOS has published expression of interest (EOI) in newspapers and NIOS websites on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 for inviting proposals from such prospective agencies. Last date for submission of proposal is 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011. All the members appreciated the initiative taken by the VE Department.

### **Item 2.2 Signing of MOU with various organizations**

Dr. Srivastava also informed that NIOS has signed an MOU with Open Polytechnic, New Zealand, UNESCO and YCMOU and is in the process of signing of MOU with McGrawHills, IMA, OTEN etc.

### **Item 2.3 Constitution of Sector Advisory Committees.**

Dr. Srivastava told that the department has formed sector wise advisory committees in the area of Home Science, Business and Commerce, Health and Paramedical, Computer Science and Engineering and Technology. The meetings were held in all the sectors. The main objective of these meetings was to seek guidance and help in

- Review of the existing Vocational Courses/ Programmes
- Identification of new need based vocational courses
- Identifying experts, institutions and agencies for outsourcing of the courses development.
- Working out modalities for implementation
- Linkages with Industries and Job Opportunities
- Better enrolment in the courses

While discussing on this issue, Dr. V.S. Mehrotra made a point that while starting new courses, the skill gaps need to be identified and that sector should be targeted. It was also pointed out by him that need assessment is a very tricky task and it should be done so that relevant courses could be started.

Dr. R.K. Gupta said that the target group should always be kept in mind and courses beneficial to those groups should be initiated. He also said that, NIOS should go for a flexible sort of approach where students can pick from a variety of courses.

Dr. Vibha Joshi told that centralized development and implementation of courses makes it difficult to reach the regional areas. The regional centres should also be made part of program initiation, for the local need based courses.

While discussing on the agricultural courses, Dr. Mehrotra opined that the courses should be made more specific, like Vegetable Seed production, Organic Seed production. Dr. Gupta emphasized that NIOS should have modular format for the materials which allows students to opt for modules out of various choices.

While discussing on this topic various new courses were listed as Certificate in Construction Supervision, Certificate in Web Designing, Certificate in Paravet, Diploma in Naturapathy and Yoga, Certificate in Ayurveda Pharmaceuticals and Rural Entrepreneur Program for Branch Post Masters were shared with the group. Dr. Praveen Chauhan shared the curriculum of the new course on 'Event Management'. Dr. Mehrotra suggested that separate modules should be made on specific events as Birthday Event Management, Wedding Event Management etc. He also said that all the vocational courses should be competency based and have similar approach in terms of theory and practical weightage.

### **Item 3.1 Implementation of credit system in Vocational Courses**

Ms. Koushalya Barik, AD (VE) briefed about the credit system that is to be initiated in the Vocational Department. All the members said that this is indeed a very right step and is the need of the hour.

### **Other Issues**

In order to popularize the Vocational Education, Dr. Mehrotra suggested that NIOS should initiate 'NIOS Awards' for Open Vocational Education. The awards may be institutionalized as 'Best AVI award' and 'Best industry that supported NIOS'.

Dr. Mamta informed about the Hunar Project which is running in Bihar and very soon same will be extended in Delhi also. She also informed about another NIOS project running in collaboration with Rajasthan Government in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas.

Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS said that the top priority is to initiate the Vocational Stream at +2 level. He further elaborated that four vocational courses in combination with one language and soft skill should be offered at +2 vocational stream.

He suggested that the Vocational stream at +2 level can be implemented through the network of Don Bosco School and CBSE schools having Vocational courses.

Regarding the revision of Vocational Courses Dr. Jena added that an action plan needs to be developed and these should be outsourced for revision.

The following items were readout and approved by the Departmental Advisory Board.

**Item 3.2 Action points for Vocational Education Department after the Teleconference.**

**Item 3.3 Proposed courses to be undertaken for Revision**

**Item 3.4 Proposed New Courses to be undertaken for Development**

**Item 3.5 Proposed courses to be undertaken for Translation**

**Item 3.6 Carry Over Programmes - 2010-2011**

**Item 4.0 To report the Roadmap on Vocational Educational Education presented in the 20<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting of NIOS on 10th Feb, 2011.**

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

