

NEWS BULLETIN

January 2010



National Institute of Open Schooling

Capacity Building Workshop for Co-ordinators, Tutors and Facilitators at Lucknow, U.P.

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) organized a three day 'Capacity Building Workshop for Co-ordinators, Tutors and Facilitators' from 28-30 November 2009 at Annie Besant Inter College (ABIC), Gomti Nagar, Lucknow. The workshop was organised under the Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) supported by MHRD and UNFPA. Inaugurating the training programme, Sri Jitendra Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Secondary Education, Uttar Pradesh praised the efforts of the NIOS in reaching out to the large number of adolescents in our country. Drawing attention to the current scenario in which young adults are unsafe in their own society, Sri Ganesh Kumar, DIOS commented that communication is a very important aspect of education.

Earlier, introducing the programme, Ms. Asheema Singh, Project Officer (AEP) felt that this training would introduce a fundamental change in the teaching-learning approach and could have a far reaching impact on the quality of Personal Contact Programmes (PCPs) in Distance Education. She encouraged the trainers to use the facilitation approach of learning during PCPs. She said that every tutor was expected to provide proper guidance and training to Adolescent learners who had their our specific concerns which required special treatment.

Sri. S.S. Das, Assistant Director, NIOS informed that a force of tutors from different regions would be developed through this programme and this would widen the outreach of the programme by helping beneficiaries at their levels.

About 30 members from different parts of Uttar Pradesh participated in the workshop. Ms. M. Aga, Principal, ABIC proposed a vote of thanks.



Tutors' Training Workshop at Patna, Bihar

The Adolescence Education Programme (AEP), NIOS in collaboration with UNFPA organized a three days 'Capacity Building Programme for Coordinators, Tutors and PCP Facilitators' from 18th – 20th December 2009 at Bihar Industries Association Bhawan, Patna, Bihar. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Kamhar Ahsan, Vice Chancellor, Maulana Majurhaq al Arabic and Persian University. Professor. J. L. Pande, Consultant, UNFPA was also present at this function.



Dr. Kamhar Ahsan lauded NIOS for the services that it was providing to a large section of people, who are otherwise difficult to reach. Prof Pande commented on the fact that the huge number of learners enrolled at NIOS indicates the educational aspirations of all. The NIOS Regional Director, Patna, Dr. T. N. Giri enlightened the participants about the objectives of AEP, NIOS and explained how it was providing assistance to its beneficiaries.

After the inaugural session, the participants, who were all teachers by profession and were attending the workshop in the capacity of NIOS tutors, were divided into five groups. The introductory session was followed by sensitization and internalization of the concept of life skills. Prof. Pande took the training forward by linking life skills enhancement to the experiential learning wheel and its positive effect on the period of adolescence. Day – II began with a prayer and was devoted to each team conducting the Personal Contact Programme (PCP) session in the new integrated format. The first session was on a lesson from the subject Science and Technology which was skillfully handled by the Master Trainers. Later in the day, sessions on lessons from Hindi, Social Science and Home science were taken up. All the participants as well as the Master Trainers showed a lot of zeal to learn and experiment with the new

methodology of teaching by facilitating learning.

On Day – III, the first session was on a lesson from the subject, English. In the next session, information on the AEP website was provided to the participants so that they could carry the information forward to the learners during their PCP sessions. All sessions were conducted by the Mater Trainers from NIOS AIs at Patna. The master trainers were supported by Prof. Pande and the AEP Unit team. The valedictory programme was chaired by Dr. Randheer Singh, Retd. Professor. Dr.TN Giri, Regional Director, Patna Regional Centre, proposed the vote of thanks.

Visit of Principals of Muslim Minority Managed Senior Secondary Schools

The Department of Educational Administration, National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA) organised the visit of 45 Senior Principals of Muslim Minority Managed Senior Secondary Schools to the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) on 6th January 2010. The participants were interested in collaborating with the NIOS for further expansion of secondary education in their respective areas.



Prof. Najma Akhtar, Head, Department of Educational Administration, NUEPA introduced the participants.

Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS gave an introduction about NIOS and its various programmes and activities. The participants were sensitized about different Academic, Vocational and life enrichment courses that the NIOS was organizing for Minority Managed Institutions.

The participants visited the Learner Support Centre and interacted with the NIOS faculty on academic issues.

NIOS Regional Centre, Kochi Opens Public Grievances Redressal Cell

The NIOS Regional Centre, Kochi has constituted a Public Grievances Redressal Cell through which grievances can be heard individually, closely monitored and settled within fixed time norms.

Frequent meetings are held under the Chairmanship of the Regional Director. The cell functions under the charge of an Executive Officer.

Telephone Number: 0484 - 2335714/9497195840
e-mail: rdkochi@nios.ac.in

SNDT Women's University Students Visit the NIOS

A group consisting of 10 students, 2 alumni and 3 software professionals of SNDT Women's University, Mumbai visited the NIOS on 19 January 2010. The visiting team was welcomed by Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS. Presentations were made on the Academic and Vocational Education Programmes offered by the NIOS as well as new initiatives such as the Online Admission and On-Demand Examination scheme (ODES).

NIOS Coordinators Meeting of AIs of Kerala State Held at Kochi on 19th January, 2010

The meeting was inaugurated by Sri. Anil Kumar, Director, Kerala State Higher Secondary Education Department. Addressing the gathering of NIOS co-ordinators of Accredited Institutions (AIs) of Kerala State, Sri. Anil Kumar stressed on the importance of the mother tongue and delivered his lecture in Malayalam. Expressing concern about the deterioration in the quality of education in the country, he called upon the stakeholders of NIOS to cater to the needs of the learners by equipping them through the use of Science and Technology.



Sh V.S. Raveendran, NIOS Kochi Regional Director, gave a detailed presentation covering almost all the aspects of the NIOS System, elaborating on Open and Distance Learning (ODL); Formation of NIOS; Courses offered to the learners; Combination and flexibility of subjects; Admission on-line and off-line; Curriculum transaction; Distribution of Instructional Materials; PCPs; TMA; Examination and Evaluation; Establishment of Grievances and Redressal Cell at RC Kochi; Establishment of Enquiry and help line section at RC Kochi; Statistics showing admission details etc.

Delivering the keynote address, Smt Gowri Diwaker, PRO, NIOS highlighted the recent major initiatives of the NIOS such as On-Line Admission and the advantages of such methods of service delivery to its learners. She mentioned that the HQ was seriously considering the implementation of the On-Demand Examination Scheme (ODES) at the Regional Centre, Kochi, shortly. This was received with great applause by the participants. Newly launched subjects such as Painting at secondary level and Sanskrit and Mass Communication at Sr. secondary level were

introduced to the Coordinators by her. Some of the Coordinators appreciated the standard of the study material of Mass Communication and congratulated all the persons behind such an excellent work.

There were 59 participants for the meeting including 43 Coordinators and 10 other staff members from the AIs.

The opening ceremonial session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Sh. V Levakumar, formerly Deputy Director, Department of VHSSE, Govt of Kerala.

After the tea break, there were two specific sessions for PCP and TMA which were handled respectively by Shri V.A. Ibrahim, former Principal, Maharajas College, Ernakulam and Sh. V Levakumar respectively, both supporting the RC Kochi as Executive Officers.

The post lunch interactive sessions with the co-ordinators included deliberations on the following points :

- ◆ Increase in enrolment by increasing publicity and introduction of Malayalam medium at the Senior Secondary level
- ◆ Strengthen support to AIs by training co-ordinators and releasing funds to establish infrastructure facilities at AIs
- ◆ Examination results to be declared earlier and certificates to be dispatched on time
- ◆ Minimum attendance to be made compulsory for PCPs
- ◆ Despatch of study material on time
- ◆ Learners to be encouraged to submit as many TMA s as possible to make it effective as a learning tool. Marks to be considered for TMAs in place of grades.

NIOS AI Coordinators Meeting of Tamilnadu, Punducherry and Lakshadweep

and

Workshop on Lesson Writing in Tamil Language at Senior Secondary level - Coimbatore at Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore from 21-23 January, 2010

A common inaugural session was organized on 21 January 2010 for the AI Coordinators Meeting and for the workshop. The inaugural session was chaired by Shri T.K. Shanmuganandam, Chancellor, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore. The Chancellor lauded the efforts of the NIOS under the dynamic leadership of the Chairman, Dr. S.S. Jena, who had been putting in all possible efforts for the well being of its stakeholders. He expressed his happiness on the initiatives being taken by the NIOS for the benefit of its learners the in Southern belt particularly for the benefit of Tamilians all over the world.

In the welcome address delivered by Sri. Balasubramanian, Director, Avinashilingam JSS, Coimbatore, he pointed out that majority of our youth have been found to be enrolling for aimless higher education deviating from the work - oriented path. In this regard, he pointed out the importance of Life Skill Education, Employable and self-employment courses.



Smt Gowri Diwaker, PRO, NIOS spoke about the vision and mission of NIOS and highlighted the system of NIOS and various methods of service delivery to its learners. Shri V.S. Raveendran, Regional Director, NIOS, Kochi felicitated the dignitaries who were present on the occasion.

33 Coordinators of AIs as well as lesson writers for Tamil language participated in the meeting.

AI Co-ordinators Meeting of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Lakshadweep

The meeting of NIOS AI Coordinators of Tamilnadu, Puducherry and Lakshadweep was held on 21 January 2010 at Avinashilingam Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Coimbatore. Lecture sessions were handled by Sh. V Levakumar, formerly Deputy Director, Department of VHSSE, Govt of Kerala, EO at RC Kochi and Sh V.S. Raveendran, RD.

The Interaction session was handled by Sh V.S. Raveendran, Regional Director. All the Participants were actively involved in the session and they put forth their queries and expressed their working problems and grievances during the interaction.

In the post lunch session, specific issues such as the conduct of PCPs and TMAs were taken up for discussion. Important Points of interaction were considered in the Group discussion and the following suggestions / recommendations emerged.

1. **To enhance the enrollment** by introducing Tamil Medium at Secondary level immediately and at Sr.secondary level subsequently; to make available the prospectus well in advance before the commencement of admission; to ensure the publicity of programmes and courses and to make available study material on time and ensure the delivery of study material as per the requirement.
2. **Improve the Delivery of services** by providing Guidance and Counseling facilities at the Study Centres ; Learners' Information through Mobile SMS messages and issuing Certificates on time.
3. **To increase the rate of remuneration** for teachers handling Personal Contact Programmes (PCPs) at study centres.
4. **Quality of study material** : Tamil at secondary level is of a very high standard and does not fit the target

group in general ; Mass Communication and History materials are very good.

5. **TMA** may be awarded marks as practised in other boards.

The Regional Director urged the Coordinators to ensure the systematic conduct of PCPs in theory as well as in practicals. Since TMA is a learning tool, coordinators should motivate the learners to attempt as many assignments as possible. Coordinators were requested to popularize the abundant scope of the NIOS scheme at their level too and actively involve themselves for the enhancement of enrollment. He thanked the Coordinators of the newly opened AIs including those at different KVs for their readiness to extend support to NIOS and urged them to extent their fullest cooperation for reaching the unreached.

He added that the issue of opening a Sub Centre or even a Regional centre in Tamilnadu and to provide an ODE centre in Chennai will be explored.

Workshop on Lesson writing in Tamil Language at Senior Secondary Level -Coimbatore From 21.01.2010 to 23.01.2010

A three day workshop on lesson writing in Tamil language at Senior Secondary Level was held from 21-23 January 2010 at Avinashilingam Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Coimbatore. The Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee, Sri. C. Subramanian, Former Vice Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur as well as the lesson writers were present.

The Committee stressed on the immediate need to launch Tamil language at the Senior Secondary level and Tamil Medium at the Secondary Level. Sri. V.S. Raveendran, Regional Director of NIOS, RC Kochi assured that Tamil language would be launched as early as possible and will also do the needful for Tamil medium, in consultation with the Chairman, NIOS.

The Chairman of the Tamil language Curriculum Committee, Dr. C. Subramaniam, Former Vice-Chancellor of Tamil University, Thanjavur reminded all the members of the decisions taken at the last meeting and issued directions for the plan of action during the three day meeting. He also co-ordinated identification of lessons, allocation of lessons to the members, review of the draft etc.

Ms Gowri Diwaker, PRO, NIOS HQ delivered a lecture and power point presentation on the strategies to be followed by the lesson writers in respect of the usual pattern followed by the NIOS, for other similar programmes and to maintain the qualitative content of the products.

The lesson writers present were divided into four groups to write on poetry, prose, creative writing and optional modules.

Lessons were allocated groupwise under the supervision of a convener for each group. The task of lesson writing was carried out during the workshop and they were also reviewed. A model lesson was evolved and lesson writers were requested to follow that format strictly. The lesson writers have agreed to present their first draft for review, within a month.

Annual Meeting of National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS)

The Annual Meeting of National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS) is scheduled to be held on 15th February, 2010 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The Hon'ble Minister for HRD, Shri Kapil Sibal has consented to grace the occasion and the Minister of State, HRD, Smt. D. Purandeswari will preside over the meeting.

हिंदी कार्यशाला

संस्थान में राजभाषा हिंदी के प्रति अनुकूल वातावरण बनाने तथा दैनिक कामकाज में हिंदी के अधिकाधिक प्रयोग को प्रोत्साहन देने के उद्देश्य से 22 जनवरी, 2010 को मुख्यालय में हिंदी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। इसमें राजभाषा हिंदी के दो विद्वानों – श्री डी.पी. बंदूनी, पूर्व निदेशक (राजभाषा) मा.सं.वि.मं., भारत सरकार तथा डॉ. इंद्र सिंह 'सेंगर', हिंदी अष्टाकार, भारतीय अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण, नोएडा ने अपने महत्त्वपूर्ण विचार व्यक्त किए। कार्यशाला के विषय थे :-

- (क) राजभाषा नियमों के अनुपालन की अनिवार्यता
- (ख) हिंदी में पत्राचार एवं टिप्पण



कार्यशाला में अपने विचार व्यक्त करते हुए संस्थान के अध्यक्ष प्रो. सितांशु शेखर जेना ने कहा कि भाषा प्रयोग में कोई बंधन नहीं होना चाहिए। सभी भाषाओं को साथ-साथ आगे बढ़ाने के प्रयास होने चाहिए। बंदूनी जी ने राष्ट्रीय अस्मिता और भारतीय भाषिक संस्कृति के गौरव हेतु हिंदी के अधिकाधिक प्रयोग का आह्वान किया। डॉ. सेंगर ने राजभाषा हिंदी के नियमों व प्रावधानों का उल्लेख करते हुए हिंदी में पत्राचार के विभिन्न स्वरूपों की व्याख्या तथा टिप्पण के विविध पक्षों को उद्घाटित किया।

इस कार्यशाला में एनआईओएस के लगभग 50 अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों ने हिस्सा लिया।

Prepared by: Ms. Gowri Diwaker
PRO, NIOS