

NIOS Celebrates International Women's Day

On the historic day that marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day Celebrations, the National Institute of Open Schooling organized the following programmes :

- i) **Gender Sensitization Workshop** to dispel the misconceptions associated with gender. Dr. S.S Jena, Chairman, NIOS presided over the programme. Welcoming the officials and guests, Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Director (Academics) highlighted the issues and concerns of women and elaborated on the need of hosting such an event at NIOS.

Dr. Jena in his address emphasized that women competed with men in all fields of work. He believed that even if women are not working, they are contributing to the economic development of the country by supporting men. Dr. Jena on this occasion released the poster and badges specially designed for International Women's Day.



Gender Sensitization Workshop in Progress

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Sudha Sood, Director (HELP) with an objective to understand and analyze perception of self and also analyze the perceptions that men and women have about each other and to identify the different stereotypes associated with men and women and analyze how these affect them.

Bringing together Officers from different departments, the participatory exercises included brainstorming on



Workshop Participants Taking a Pledge

topics like jobs of women and men, world without men and women, role plays etc. The workshop proceeded with a discussion on the differences between gender and sex.

The programme ended with a pledge by the participants to accord their colleagues and learners, dignity, respect and equality, to take out time to listen to their colleagues and acknowledge that the perspectives of colleagues are valuable and as important as their own and to never commit, condone or remain silent about gender discrimination, sexual assault or domestic violence.

The participants appreciated the workshop and felt that it was a great learning experience. It was recommended that more such workshops should be organized for officials of NIOS. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Asheema Singh of Academic Department.

ii) A Talk on Sexual Harassment at Workplace

A Talk and Open Forum Discussion on Sexual Harassment at Workplace was also organised on this occasion. Dr. S.S Jena, Chairman, NIOS presided over the programme. Welcoming the officials and guests, Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Director (Academics) highlighted the issue of the evil of sexual harassment that a working woman may be exposed to at her workplace. The Talk was conducted by Mr. Madhav Khurana, Advocate, Supreme Court.



Marking the Occasion: Release of Poster by Dr. S.S. Jena

In his address, Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS said that the NIOS is committed to provide a safe working environment to all its women officials. He also released a poster to mark the occasion.

Mr. Madhav Khurana began the talk on Sexual Harassment at the Workplace by explaining the legal definition of sexual harassment under the IPC. He elucidated various behaviours, gestures, comments and actions that fall within the domain of sexual harassment and explained how an action could be taken against this offence within an official environment.

For a giant governmental organization like NIOS, he focused on the formation of Complaint Committees. Such a Committee under the Indian Law is to be headed by a Woman with half of its members being female. For transparency, a third party, preferably an NGO associated with cases against sexual exploitation can be involved. He also maintained that this committee should work on the principles of Natural Justice and Cross examination.

The talk was well moderated by Ms. Shreya Jani, Peace Education Consultant, who maintained that when women come up and asks for their rights, they demand for equality and do not believe in seizing the rights of their male counterparts. Thus, a change in the mindset is the call of the hour. All the participants took an active part in the open discussion and together, came up with various ways of creating a safe environment for all at the workplace. Many queries related to the issues and laws were responded to by both, Mr. Khurana and Ms. Jani. The talk concluded with recommendations such as an arrangement for an in-house counselor, organizing supplementary talks and workshops to create awareness etc. The programme was organized by Ms. Asheema Singh and a vote of thanks was

proposed by Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Director (Academic).

Development of TMA for the Session 2010- 2011

Meetings to develop the Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs) for the session 2010-2011 at Secondary and Senior Secondary level were conducted. TMA in the subjects of Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Urdu, Persian, Arabic, Math, Science, Social Sciences, Home Science Economics, Indian Culture and Heritage and Painting at Secondary level and in the subjects of Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Urdu, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Geography, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Home Science, Accountancy, Business Studies, Computer Science, Psychology and Mass Communication at Senior Secondary level were developed.

Translation work of TMA in Urdu Medium in the subjects of Maths, Science & Technology and Painting at Secondary level and in the subjects of Maths, Biology, History, Geography, Chemistry, and Sociology was also undertaken and completed.

NIOS AVI Coordinators Meet at Regional Centre, Allahabad

A one day meeting of AVI Coordinators of Regional Centre, NIOS, Allahabad was held at Hotel Milan Palace, Civil Lines, Allahabad on 6th March, 2010. A total number of 40 Coordinators attended the meeting.

The meeting was addressed by Sh. Suvendu Sekhar Das, Regional Director, NIOS, Allahabad. Sh. Das highlighted the role of NIOS in imparting Vocational Education to the un-reached. He also emphasized the current status of enrolment in different trades of Vocational Courses, its challenges, the role of AVI Coordinators to overcome challenges and thereby improving the system and future vision.



Prof. Rajiv Ranjan Tewari addressing the AVI Co-ordinators

The chief guest, Professor Rajiv Ranjan Tewari, Department of Electronics and Communication, University of Allahabad, spoke about the education scenario in the country, especially in the context of Vocational Education and its role in skill development and entrepreneurship.

The following themes were given to all Coordinators for deliberation and to arrive at suitable measures / remedies and recommendations.

- Theme 1) Strategy to increase enrolment in Vocational Education Programmes.
- Theme 2) Market demands for need-based Vocational Courses.
- Theme 3) Market employability
- Theme 4) Acceptability, recognition in employment exchange etc.

Some of the major recommendations which emerged included the collaboration with Industries; association of atleast one industry representative in Vocational curriculum committee; development of new courses like Fashion Technology, Retail Management etc.; up gradation of certificate course to Diploma course (CCA, Jan Swasthya),; revision of curriculum in different trades (e.g. Electrical Technicians etc) and to upgrade the course contents accordingly at par with course contents of I.T.I. and other Technical Bodies / Boards,; advertisements for Vocational admission and examination in regional dailies atleast four times in a year and a letter from the M.H.R.D. to each Employment Exchange regarding recognition and acceptance of Vocational Courses.

Re-evaluation of Answer Scripts Introduced by NIOS

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has introduced the re-evaluation of answer scripts at the Senior Secondary level from April-May 2010 examination. This will be in addition to the already existing system of scrutiny/re-totalling of marks for Secondary and Senior Secondary levels.

Candidates who will appear for the Senior Secondary examination of NIOS in April-May 2010 can apply for re-evaluation of answer scripts in theory paper of any subject. There is no provision for re-evaluation in Practical papers.

Candidates can apply for re-evaluation for one or more subjects through a single application. No second request for re-evaluation will be entertained. The

application for re-evaluation should be sent by registered post/speed post only to the concerned Regional Centre.

The processing fee for re-evaluation is Rs. 500/- per subject to be submitted through bank draft drawn in favour of Secretary, NIOS payable at the city of the concerned Regional Centre.

Candidates must apply for re-evaluation in their own handwriting within 15 days from the date of declaration of results on the NIOS website www.nios.ac.in. Incomplete applications and those received after the due date will not be entertained and will summarily be rejected without any notice.

The communication regarding the re-evaluation result shall be sent to the candidate within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of application. It will also be posted on the NIOS website.

Session on the use of Web resources for effective communication

The NIOS in collaboration with Intel organized a two hour session during the Regional Directors' meet for utilizing the Web resources for better and effective communication. The session focused on the use of ICT tools in making internal communications more effective. Showcasing of few samples created by teachers using web 2.0 tools such as wiki and blogs gave innovative ideas to use online resources with the students. A demo on using Skype Application was allied with the specific needs of NIOS officials in their day-to-day routine. A complete live demo on using text and voice chat, video chat along with file and desktop sharing modalities was appreciated.



Effective use of Web Resources: Session in Progress

The NIOS online Community (<http://rdonlinecommunity.blogspot.com>) was also

showcased and utility of such online communities in distance learning environment as that of NIOS was discussed.

Tenth Academic Council Meeting

The 10th meeting of the Academic Council of NIOS was held on 17th March, 2010 at the NIOS headquarters under the chairmanship of Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS.

The meeting began with the confirmation of the minutes of the 9th Academic Council Meeting. New Projects/Programmes of the Academic Department such as the initiation of project for capacity building of PTTI trainers of West Bengal, Collaborative programmes between NIOS and Sakshar Bharat (National Literacy Mission) and collaboration between Testiary and Furthering Education in New South Wales (TAFE-NSW) through Open Training and Education Networking (OTEN), Australia and NIOS were taken up for consideration.

Introduction of new courses/projects such as IT Essentials: PC Hardware and Software in collaboration with CISCO, Open Educational Resources (OER) and E-learning concept in Vocational Education were also reported in the meeting.

The activities of other departments/units pertaining to Academic issues were also reported/considered. The observations and suggestions made by the members of the Academic Council were recorded. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the members of the Academic Council.

New Face of NIOS Website (www.nios.ac.in)

In a drive to make its website more user friendly in terms of Accessibility and usability, the NIOS has redesigned its Home page by adding search facility as well as News and Events Section. Moreover different information has been categorized under related links such as 'About Us' consisting of the Profile, Mission and Vision and Objectives of NIOS. Apart from this, there is information about the different committees of NIOS, NIOS Publications and information about COMOSA. Information about the different Departments and Units and its activities have been included under the 'Department' Section. A complete list of NIOS Officials along with their designations and contact numbers has also been



A new look for the NIOS website

given. One can also access the complete list of the NIOS study Centres, State wise and District wise (Academic, Vocational and OBE Study Centres). In addition, a new link 'Download Section' has also been introduced apart from the other links like Statistical Reoprt, AEP, RTI etc.

Success Story

Name : Ms. Sudha
Enrolment No. : 27029182593



Ms. Sudha was a only housewife until such time that her husband passed away and she was offered the job of a constable in the Delhi Police. She then took up the job to support the family consisting of her two children.

Sudha who had not completed her schooling was motivated by her children to join the NIOS. She then passed the Secondary examination from NIOS in April 2009. A resident of Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi and posted at the Rohini Court, Delhi, Sudha today feels more confident and empowered by the qualification acquired by her.

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