

13. Projects

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has taken up some projects in collaboration with different national and international partners. These projects are innovative in nature and have focus on a particular area of study. In some cases, the work done is exemplar in nature and serves as a model for other institutions working in Open Schooling.

During the year 2006-07, the following projects were taken up:

Adolescence Education Programme (AEP): MHRD, UNFPA - NIOS Collaboration

The Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India in 2005, is being implemented in all the States and Union Territories of India. It aims at realizing two specific outcomes: (i) Integration of adolescence education elements in the content and process of school education, teacher education, adult literacy programmes and other innovative educational schemes and (ii) Organization of co-curricular activities focused on life skills development among students in all the Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools.

The project is supported by UNFPA under the Country Programme. The present AEP is the extended version of the Project Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) in schools launched in October 2004.

During the year 2006 the following activities were conducted under AEP.

Advocacy Folders were designed and disseminated as an effort towards sensitization of the Stake Holders of the AEP. The NIOS Senior Secondary course was revised with the effective integration of ARSH issues. An orientation and sensitization programme was undertaken for Academic Facilitators at Kochi. The Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) was revised to include at least one project type questions on Adolescence Education issues.

In addition to this, 14 AV programmes on various issues like HIV/AIDS and substance abuse were produced in Hindi and Urdu. The NIOS Web Site hosted Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on HIV/AIDS to create awareness. The scope of Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) was enlarged to include the issues and concerns related to adolescents. Support material in the form of Book-Mark on HIV/AIDS were dispatched alongwith the study materials to NIOS learners. A Planner and a Diary were also printed. A Poster Exhibition was held at Dilli Haat, New Delhi on issues related to Adolescents.

This project is being coordinated by Mrs. Asheema Singh, Project Officer

Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) Project – A UNESCO-NIOS Collaboration

In October 2005, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution for strengthening the global commitment of literacy and launched a new initiative on Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE). Under LIFE Programme, certain strategic areas such as advocacy and communication, policy for sustaining literacy, developing strong national capacity and identifying innovative literacy practices, were identified for action by countries.

As a part of this Initiative, UNESCO, New Delhi assigned the LIFE Project to NIOS with the aim of sustaining literacy through development of material for neo-literates on different aspects of life. A resource kit for trainers is being developed under this project.

During the year 2006-07, the following activities were carried out:

Literacy materials showcasing best practices were obtained from different adult education agencies. Workshops were held to identify issues for the LIFE materials. Based on this, a Curriculum was developed alongwith a Modular Framework for this Kit. The focus of the Kit is to provide training to literacy

facilitators on the issues that a neo literate faces through the different stages of life from birth to adulthood.

A total of seven modules were developed during the period 2006-07. These included harmoniously, safe motherhood, concerns related to childhood and adolescence. The modules also include issues of political and economic empowerment. The Kit has a module on development of life skills to help neo literates deal better with their daily lives. In order to develop an appreciation of Culture and Heritage, a module has been developed on a different aspects of Indian Culture. In order to promote income generation skills, a range of Vocational Training Modules have been planned. The first of these is a module on House Keeping which was developed for neo-literates during the year 2006-07.

The project is being coordinated by Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Deputy Director (Academic), NIOS

Models of Equivalency Programme Phase – I: A UNESCO-NIOS Collaboration

The NIOS has been successfully implementing the Open Basic Education (OBE) Programmes for children and adults. In order to study the programme, with a view to replication in other developing countries, the UNESCO-APPEAL, Bangkok, with the support of JFIT, Japan assigned two research studies to NIOS under its *Project on Equivalency Programmes for the Promotion of Lifelong Learning*.

The first study ‘Models of the Equivalency Programme’ Phase-I was conducted for adult neo-literates of Rajasthan. During the year 2006, the report of this study was printed. The findings showed that, for most learners, obtaining a Certificate from NIOS was an elevating experience. Women felt that there was a growth in their self-confidence.

This research study was coordinated by Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Deputy Director (Academic), NIOS.

Models of Equivalency Programme Phase – II: UNESCO-NIOS Collaboration

The second Study ‘Models of Equivalency

Programme’ Phase-II was conducted during the year 2006-07. This study focused on children in 6-14 age group studying under Open Basic Education Programme. It was taken up in the Study Centres in Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and New Delhi. The findings of the study showed that majority of the learners were girls and almost half of the OBE learners were formal school dropouts. The Report of the study was submitted to UNESCO.

This research study was coordinated by Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Deputy Director (Academic), NIOS.

SAKSHAT – One stop Educational Portal: A MHRD, NIOS Collaboration

This MHRD project was launched in 2006 by Hon’ble President of India . It is being conducted in collaboration with various Educational Institutions: IGNOU, NCERT, NIOS, IIT, AICTE and others. The aim of this project is to address various education and learning related needs of students, scholars, teachers and life long learners. This on going project commenced in June-July 2006.

Under this project, NIOS has developed interactive multimedia programmes in Chemistry at Sr. Secondary level. NIOS submitted the CDs of Nine programmes to the MHRD for uploading on the server for Educational Portal.

NIOS is also developing the Interactive Multimedia Programme in Science and Technology at Secondary level, which will be used by Educational Portal and also by Study Centres in Personal Contact Programmes.

This project is being coordinated by Prof. Puran Chand, former Joint Director, CIET, NCERT.

Training Needs and Training Strategies for NIOS Functionaries: A COL-NIOS Collaboration

This project focuses at identifying various instructional strategies and techniques for NIOS learners as well as the training needs of tutors, coordinators at study centres with the overall aim of improving the efficiency of NIOS as an organization.

The project began in 2006 and is being conducted with support of the Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver.

During the year 2006-07, six Modules were finalized for the tutors, Coordinators of Accredited Institutions and for the Academic Facilitators and Master Trainers. These Modules were tested in three workshops and refined subsequently based on feedback.

The project is being coordinated by Prof Harmesh Lal, former Professor, CIET, NCERT.

National Open Science Congress Project

This Project was initiated by NIOS in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, with the aim of creating inculcating a scientific temperament in NIOS students and popularizing Science amongst students of NIOS. During the year 2006-07, many activities with Regional Centres of NIOS were conducted .

This project was coordinated by Dr. Oum Prakash Sharma, Assistant Director, NIOS.