

8. Regional Services

8.1 Regional Centres of NIOS

The NIOS has a mandated to play the role of a national apex resource centre for open schooling. The Memorandum of Association of the National Open School Society envisages that it will “Establish Regional Centres for supervising the proper functioning of the learning support at study centers”. For effective administration, co-ordination, and the supply of material, the Regional Centres of NIOS provide a vital and effective link between the Study Centres and NIOS Headquarter; between the State Governments and the NIOS Headquarter, between Study Centres and learners, between Academic Facilitators and Study Centres and between the NIOS and general public. The concept of Regional Centre is a well thought mechanism. The success of NIOS programmes and policies in a Region largely depends on the pivotal role played by Regional Centre.

The NIOS, till 1994-95, was following two tier system i.e., NIOS Headquarter in Delhi and the Study Centres spread all over the country. It was felt that this system needed to be revamped in order to provide better opportunities for students support, counseling and redressal of their problems through localised structures in a decentralised way. This resulted in the establishment of the first Regional Centre at Kolkata in 1994-95. Presently there are 11 Regional Centres and two Sub-Centres of the Regional Centres working in different parts of the country: Allahabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Patna and Pune. There are two Sub-Centres at Dehradun and Bhubaneswar.

Basically the Regional Centres are required to perform four types of activities:

1. Academic
2. Administrative
3. Promotional
4. Planning and Monitoring

Brief description of the functions generally performed by the Regional Centres under each category is given below :

1. Academic Functions

- Conducting research in the area of open schooling and collecting feedback on the functioning of AIs/RCs/NIOS.
- Development of need based instructional material pertaining to the open schooling courses of study, including regional languages and training packages etc.
- Development and dissemination of need based audio and video programmes in the Regional languages.
- Organization of short-term training programmes for open schooling functionaries.
- Follow up studies of NIOS pass outs and compilation of success stories.
- Arranging extra mural lectures, exhibitions and other programmes.
- Holding meetings of Co-ordinators, Centre Superintendents and Academic Facilitators.

2. Administrative Functions

- Admission related activities such as sale of Prospectus, fee realization, getting admission data punched, checking of admission data, sending check list to AIs, issue of identity cards, checking and verification of Transfer of Credits (TOC) cases and forwarding the same to NIOS HQ, change of subjects/ additional subjects.
- Record keeping in respect of students' admission and examination (Record pertaining to five years).
- Liaison with NIOS Headquarters for distribution of study material.

- Attending to the grievances of students/learners.
- Carrying out corrections/modification in admission data as per requirement, in liaison with NIOS Headquarters.
- Organizing meetings of Transfer of Credit (TOC) Committee for extend this facility to the learners.
- Examination related activities such as fee realization, fixation of examination centres, issuing Hall tickets to students, receipt of answer books, Secrecy work for evaluation, spot evaluation of answer books, sending awards to HQs, Re-evaluation etc.
- Maintenance of Secretary's Account and Regional Director's Account.
- Appointment of nodal officers, observers and inspection teams, ensuring proper conduct of Examinations of NIOS, analysis and consolidation of observer's reports, taking follow up action, verification of examination related bills.
- Miscellaneous work related to NIOS admission, programme delivery and examinations etc.
- Matters related to public relations and students' grievances.
- Ensuring that the TMAs are attempted by the candidates and are evaluated at the AIs.
- Sending TMAs awards and bills to the SSS Department as per schedule and maintaining record of the same at the Regional Centre.
- Carrying out 5% sample checking of the TMAs.

3. Promotional Functions

- Identification of good schools/institutions to work as study centres of NIOS
- Accreditation related work such as inspection of schools/institutions for accreditation, interaction with Study Centres, matters related to dis-accreditation of Study Centres.
- Advertisement regarding admission, examination and publicity of NIOS programmes.
- Liaison with State Governments to encourage them to start State Open Schools.

- Identification of educational needs in open schooling in the region through State Coordination Committees.
- Promotion of Open Schooling in the States within the region and consultancy/assistance to the concerned states for setting up/up scaling of State Open Schools (SOSs).
- Liaison with States and Coordination and Clearing house functions in Open Schooling.
- Organization of advocacy programmes.

4. Planning and Monitoring Functions

- Preparation of Perspective Plan and Annual Plans of the Regional Centre.
- Monitoring of Implementation of NIOS programmes in the accredited institutions including Personal Contact Programmes (PCP) and Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs).
- Identification and allotment of Academic Facilitators to the AIs.
- Matters related to Academic facilitation at the Study Centres through identified Academic Facilitators etc.
- Coordination and clearing house functions.
- Maintenance of data base of admission, AIs, Human Resource for monitoring and academic facilitation at the RC level.
- Analysing the reports of the Academic Facilitators and preparing consolidated reports on quarterly basis for necessary action and forward the same to the NIOS Headquarter.
- Ensuring smooth functioning of AIs/AVIs/OBE Centres.

8.2 Highlights of Programme and Activities of the Regional Centres

- The Regional Centres of NIOS at Allahabad, Chandigarh, Delhi, Guwahati, Kolkata and Pune organized the Meetings of their Advisory Committees. The Department of Student Support Services, NIOS scrutinized their

Agenda and Minutes and made recommendations to the concerned Departments/Regional Centres.

- The Sub Regional Centre, Dehradun was set up as per Office Order No. 284/06 dated 18th August 2006 in pursuance of the recommendation of the Executive Board of NIOS in its 37th meeting held on 17.05.2006. It became operational w.e.f. 01.09.2006. It assisted in conduct of Capacity Building Workshops for Lesson Writers for the Adolescence Education Project (AEP) at Mussorie from 17 to 20 January 2007. It also organised a one day meeting on February 24, 2007 at Dehradun to deliberate on evolving measures for recognition of prior learning for vocational education programme.
- The Regional Centre, Bhopal organised a visit for Senior Educators from Developing Countries of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) from September 14 to 22, 2006. Regional Centre celebrated Hindi Fortnight from 14 Sept. 2006 to 28 Sept. 2006. An understanding with the Madhya Pradesh Board of School Education for Transfer of Credit facilities was signed from the session 2006-07 for the benefit of the NIOS learners.
- The Regional Centre, Delhi organized one day Orientation Programme for the Academic Facilitators on 23rd March 2007 to make them aware of the functioning of AIs and informing them about the policies, programmes and courses offered by NIOS.
- The Regional Centre, Guwahati arranged the meeting of Chairpersons of Boards of School Education of North-Eastern States in collaboration with COBSE.
- In order to check mass copying at Examination Centres and to oversee smooth conduct of examinations, an Orientation Programme of Officers on - Special Duty and Flying Squads etc., was organized by the Regional Centre-Hyderabad.
- The Regional Centre, Jaipur participated in the activities of the Rajasthan State Open School and gave guidance to them. About 10,000 TOC cases of Rajasthan State Open School were checked and recommended.
- The Regional Centre, Kochi undertook the activity of translation work of Psychology, Home Science, Economics and the Indian Culture and Heritage in Malayalam. As regards launching of Tamil as a language at secondary level, the Regional Centre convened workshops and meetings. It also assisted the Academic Department of NIOS to conduct the one-day seminar on Adolescence Education Programme focusing on Adolescents' Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) on 16/11/06. They also conducted a one-day programme on Hindi prachar.
- The Regional Centre, Kolkota completed preparation of study materials for A & B levels of the OBE Programme in Bengali. Out of the seven books, five books were got printed. The study materials for Vocational Courses – one each for 'A' and 'B' levels respectively were translated in Bengali in house and efforts were made to get the two district ZSSs viz., Hooghly and Howrah accredited with NIOS. It has also got prepared 12 Audio Programmes for Secondary Course in Bengali and coordinated the work of translation and DTP type setting of the Secondary Course materials in Oriya.

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- At Regional Centre, Patna the On-Demand Examination Scheme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Railway Minister, **Shri Laloo Prasad** on 28-08-2006.

It organised the 'Hindi Pakhwara Samaroh' at Patna. In this function, the Director (Administration), Education Department, Govt. of Bihar, the Director, Doordarshan, Bihar were present. It hosted a meeting of Council of Boards of School Education(COBSE) on 29 and 30 November 2006 at Patna.

- The Regional Centre-Pune conducted a meeting on 3rd July 2006 pertaining to RTI Act.

Shri Anna Hazare, social reformer, presided over the meeting. It continued work in Preparation of Question Bank of Marathi Language for On Demand Examination. Hindi. The Hindi Pakhwara programme was organized on 27th September, 2006 at Regional Centre Pune.

The On Demand Examination System (ODES) was inaugurated on 20.07.2006 by Hon. Union Minister of State for HRD, Shri. M. A .A. Fatmi at the Regional Centre Pune. Mr. Suresh Kalmadi (M.P.) and Shri D.S. Bist Secretary, NIOS were also present on this occasion.