

NIOS ORGANISES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Integration of Academic Courses with Vocational Education in Secondary Schools

February 18, 2012



Smt. Anshu Viash, Secretary, Deptt. of School Education & Literacy, Inaugurating the Conference

A three day International Conference on “Integration of Academic Courses with Vocational Education in Secondary Schools” was inaugurated on 17th February 2012 at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis by Smt. Anshu Viash, Secretary, Deptt. of School Education & Literacy, Govt. of India. Organized by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in collaboration with UNESCO and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), this conference will deliberate upon the impending challenges and issues of Vocational Education and Training (VET) and develop a framework to establish linkages of skill training through Vocational Education at Secondary School level with emphasis on knowledge base through academic subjects.

Delivering the inaugural address, Smt. Anshu Vaish emphasized on the need for a focused agenda to

address the skill requirement of a nation like India which will have 700 million people seeking to earn their livelihood by 2022. Speaking in the context of the workshop which was working upon the aligning of academic and vocational courses, Smt. Vaish pointed out how vocational education was stigmatized as a result of an early entry to the work place for economic reasons and the need for this to be remedied by mainstreaming vocational education. She urged the NIOS to fulfill this need by designing courses to meet market demands with an emphasis on quality, a crucial element in vocational education.

Two new vocational courses in the areas of Hospitality and Construction Supervision were launched on the occasion.

A special address was delivered by Sri Shigeru Aoyaji, Director & UNESCO Representative for India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Appreciating the contribution made by NIOS in the area of Open Distance Learning, he hoped that this conference would provide a platform for strengthening co-operation among the institutes on one hand and industries on the other.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS said that this conference was organized to re-orient the school education system especially the Open Schooling System, in keeping with the need for skill development and development of core capabilities, thereby achieving the objective of life long learning. He further added that heterogeneous experts drawn from different academic areas will deliberate on new emerging areas and develop a framework for vocational education, during the three day conference.

Plenary Session 1

Theme : Use of Technology in Providing Education

Shri Apurva Chandra, Joint Secretary (SE&L), MHRD Chaired the First plenary session on Use of Technology in providing education with reference to school education related to vocational education.

Dr. Sugata Mitra, Professor MIT Media lab, USA Professor ECLS New Castle University, UK made a

presentation on use of ICT for Skill Training Implications for Open Schooling system in India. While sharing his experience on Use of ICT for school training and its importance in the distance learning education system, he emphasised on the need for self organised learning environment.

Plenary Session 2

Theme : Vocational Skills and Training For Empowerment – The Policy Perspective

Prof. M. Aslam, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU the 2nd plenary session on the vocational skills and training for empowerment.

Two speakers of this session, Mr. Sharda Prasad, JS & DG (DGET), Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India spoke on the vocational skills and training for empowerment. He highlighted the policies prospective of the government of India for imparting training and skill education in the country.

Mr. G. Vaz (Consultant TVET), Mumbai - Spoke on prejudice to pride – policy perspectives for Vocational Skills and training to empower citizens. He highlighted the importance of skill development for developing work force with ample training in the respective areas which will empower the citizens to attain technical knowledge and meet the demand of the work force required in various sectors.

Parallel Session IA Paper Presentation

Parallel Session IA (Room No. Main Hall)

Mr. Albert Joseph, Executive Director (FVTRS), Bangalore was the Chairperson for this session. This session particularly was meant for presentation of paper on various topics relating to Vocational skills and training for empowerment – policy perspective. Mr. Joseph shared his views on the presentations made by the experts during the session.

Ms. Aparna Pankaj, Kadikar, Gujarat presented her paper on 'Optimizing the Impact of Vocational Training with Academic Studies for Tribal Girls.' About Dharampur Taluka in Gujarat which has a large population mostly of people living below the line of poverty. She said that most of the girls leave the schools after the 7th Standard and are ill-prepared and having no vocational skills. Girls marry at a very young age and barely survive on daily wages. A residential school named KEDI was

established to provide holistic development with intensive and result oriented vocational training. The training is given by specialist along with training marketing skill accounts management and keeping trap of costs is taught. Establishment of the school has transformed the result to 100% in this area.

Dr. Arif Jain, State Open School, J&K presented paper on Integration of academic and vocational courses. Dr. Jain in his presentation stated that we need to look at the man power as an asset and reorient our traditional educational system. It should encourage achievement of academic and vocational competency at the same time. He was of the opinion that Vocational courses should be identified and included in the school curriculum.

Mr. V. Levakumar, Trivandrum presented paper on Integration of vocational courses education in secondary schools. He was of the opinion that the integration of academic and vocational knowledge

and skill will improve course alignment and interdisciplinary content. For effective integration, teacher collaborative practices and development of integrated curricular is required.

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Joint Director (Acad.), NIOS presented paper on experience of NIOS on Integration of vocational courses with academic programmes. His presentation was based on the path breaking scheme of NIOS which explores the trends among learners for offering combination of vocational and academic subjects and its utility in their education and career.

Mr. Prakash Khanale, Associate Professor, D.S.M College, Maharashtra presented paper on Emerging Vocations at Schools in India. He presented that with large increase in man power of India in the coming years, there would be a great need of planning and executing new vocations for schools in India. He suggested vocational courses are from areas of energy, sources, computation, communication and security etc. may be of high importance.

Dr. Manoj Kulshreshtha, Project Coordinator School of Engineering and Technology, IGNOU, Delhi presented paper on Vocational training initiative through ODL for motorcycle technicians. His presentation was a brief description of certificate programme in motor cycle service and repair (CMSR) programme in terms of its salient features, process flow both educational and administration, programme delivery and evaluation mechanism.

Dr. Anil Kumar K, Asstt. Professor in Teacher education, RIE, Mysore Karnataka presented paper on an authentic learning approach to develop employability skills among Indian Secondary school students. He highlighted the pedagogical approach to be followed while integrating the academic courses with vocational education at the secondary level.

Mr. K. Ramakrishna Rao, Andhra Pradesh presented paper on Entrepreneurship opportunity in the area of Home Science based vocational courses. His presentation was basically a study conducted in Vishakapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh, covering students of Secondary Schools.

Md. Anwarul Islam, Bangladesh presented paper on prospects of technical and vocational education

through open and distance learning system in Bangladesh. His presentation focused on designing and developing of curriculum for vocational courses and skill training in the localised contexts through open and distance learning process from the Bangladesh Open University.

Godson Gatsha, Botswana presented paper on integration of academic courses with vocational education in open schooling : policy issues, challenges and prospects in Botswana. Through presentation it was desired to know that why the integration of academic courses with vocational and technical education in open schooling are limited.

Parallel Session B IB (Room No.005)

Dr. Wilberforce Meena, Tanzania was the Chairperson for this session. This session was particularly meant for presentation of paper on various topics related to Use of Technology in providing education. He enlightened the gathering from his expert comments on the presentation made by various experts.

Dr. Sushmita Mitra, London presented paper on Using skill standards for developing integrated curriculum. She presented that the whole economy has moved from manufacturing to a knowledge based and service based economy. She was of the opinion that in this situation how can we prepare the learner for the changing market place and how can we prepare for a job for life. Her presentation also highlighted the academic and industry skill standards to design integrated curriculum.

Dr. Amit Agarwal, Uttarkhand made presentation on the use of technology providing education. He presented his paper on various strategies for promoting use of vocational education.

Prof. (Ms) P.K. Tulsi, Chandigarh shared her experience on role of technology in skill development. The presentation highlighted the role of technology in skill development and also the support needed to achieve the objectives.

Dr. J.N. Baliya, Jammu presented paper on meaningful intervention of computer supported collaborative learning (CSCL) in vocational education in an open learning set-up.

Ms. Jyostna Ayyagari, Hyderabad presented paper

on utilisation of Low Cost Automated Learning Management System for Increasing Rural Outreach of Vocational training.

Mr. K. Venkatesan, Andamand & Nicobar presented paper on integrated approach for secondary school students through e-connectivity for providing urban amenities to Rural areas (PURA).

Ms. Vidya Varidhi Upadhyay, Delhi shared her experience on use of information technology in providing skill training and vocational education for secondary schools in India. In her presentation she highlighted the applicability of ICT in propagation of education and its use in the context of India for the benefit of students.

Ms. Jagriti Singh, Delhi presented paper on use of

technology in academic courses and vocational education. Her presentation highlighted the importance of use of technology and framework for academic courses and vocational courses by using ICT.

Ms. Rajni Bala, Punjab presented paper on role of web application tools in education. Her presentation was on the web application tools and its role in the relationship teaching staff and students.

Last paper was presented by Mr. Chitrasen Gautama, Delhi on role of ICT (Information communication Technology) in quality education. His presentation highlighted the various impacts of ICT on contemporary education and potential future development.



Launching of New Vocational Courses