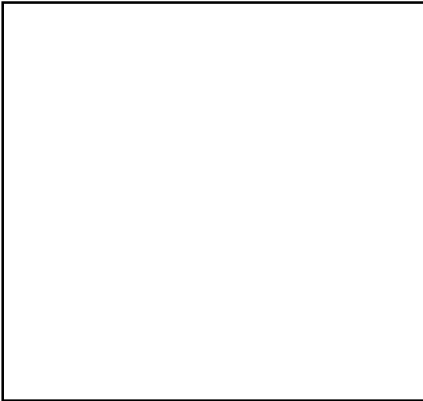


From the Chairman's Desk



The unprecedented economic development coupled with the growth of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has placed the human resource development programmes of the developing countries at the centre stage of their developmental agenda. No country in the world can survive with dignity unless its population at large possesses certain essential survival skills and a minimum level of knowledge in various fields. In the context of Human Resource Development through Education, the developing countries of the world have been endeavouring to meet (i) the challenge of numbers, (ii) the challenge of credibility, and (iii) the challenge of quality. The World Education Forums have laid emphasis on Education For All (EFA). At the dawn of twenty first-century the developmental agenda encompasses not only “Education for All” (EFA) at Elementary stage but also the Universalisation of Secondary Education (USE).

The challenge of “reaching the unreached” can be met if the national governments provide for flexible and viable system of open learning along with the formal schooling programme. The increasing use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will enable the developing countries to meet the challenge of educating the increasing number of prospective learners. The 21st Century has started posing new challenges, the responses to which need to be provided through multi-model schooling system, adopting multi-media approach including open learning, distance education, ICT based learning programmes, contact classes, peer learning and self study and, more importantly, learning of requisite skills.

In recent times some significant initiatives have been taken by India to widen access to School Education and enhance participation of learners in the educational process adopting Open and Distance Learning ODL modes of delivery.

The National Open School (NOS) was set up by the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in 1989 with a view to provide education through ODL mode to those who cannot attend regular schools. Since its inception, the NOS discharged the responsibility to promote the entire range of school education through open learning system in the country. It performed a significant role for defining standards in open schooling, experimenting with innovations, assisting State level organisations with professional resource support and expertise, and dissemination of tested innovations, curriculum and materials. In July 2002, the National Open School (NOS) was re-christened as the **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)**.

For programme delivery, NIOS had adopted multi-media approach. The Self Learning Materials are provided to all enrolled students in printed form. The NIOS books of Secondary stage have been put on the Internet. CDs of NIOS books are available at a price. The Audio Cassettes of NIOS are particularly useful for blind students. The Media programmes of NIOS are telecast and broadcast regularly every month. The audio and video cassettes are made available to the Study Centres of NIOS. These can be accessed through TV, VCR and Audio Cassette Recorder. NIOS learners are allowed to take these cassettes on loan for a week from their Study Centres. Thus, it may be stated that **a comprehensive learner friendly programme delivery approach has been adopted by NIOS.**

NIOS continued provided educational opportunities to interested learners through Open Basic Education, Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational Education Courses/Programmes. With about 14 Lakh students are on roll, NIOS has emerged as the largest open schooling system in the world. The new enrolment during 2005-06 was 2,89,905.

In NIOS, **two examinations** are held **every year. Credits** secured by the student in examination are **accumulated.** These flexibilities provided by NIOS in its scheme of examinations remove the stress and strain of examinations that are faced by the students of formal system of schooling. During the period from 1991 to 2004, NIOS certified 5,70,337 students at Secondary stage and 3,34,781 students at Senior Secondary stage. During the period from 1993 to 2004, NIOS certified 52761 students in different Vocational Education Courses. The total number of learners certified under Open Basic Education programme is 63,818.

A significant initiative of NIOS is the **ICT based On-Demand Examination System (ODES)** where assessment takes place when learner feels ready. Respecting the individuality and sovereignty of the learner, this scheme attempts to reduce the stress of appearing in all subjects at a fixed time under a fixed schedule.

The NIOS alone with its limited infrastructure cannot provide adequate responses to the educational challenges that could be met through the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode in the area of open schooling/continuing education. There is a **need to create a network of apex organizations for open schooling at national and state level.** Since its inception, NIOS has been endeavouring to persuade the states to set up State Open Schools (SOSs). Ten states (West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerela, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir) have already set up SOSs.

To facilitate cooperation and interaction among NIOS and **State Open Schools** and other concerned agencies for expansion of activities pertaining to Open Learning system, a **National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS)** has already been established the **Secretariat** of NCOS is located in NIOS. It provides a forum for discussion on matters related to promotion of Open Schooling in India.

NIOS has been interacting with several developing countries in their endeavours for promotion of open schooling and capacity building. In this context, NIOS organizes for them advocacy programmes. An **International Centre for Training in Open Schooling (ICTOS)** has also been set up. The ICTOS offers Certificate, Advanced Certificate, and Diploma courses in Open Schooling. In collaboration with COL and UNESCO, the National Institute of Open Schooling (India) has organized several advocacy and consultancy programmes related to open schooling for African and Asian countries. It has also organized several international conferences for discussion on various issues pertaining to promotion of open schooling.

The Open Schooling system in India, which is at a take-off stage, has to have a great leap forward to meet the challenge of making the nation a learning society in a reasonable period of time. Keeping this in view, the **NIOS has prepared a Vision Document**. It provides a framework giving direction in which research, development, training, programme delivery, networking, extension and other programmes of NIOS should be conducted in order to best serve the object of implementing and promoting the open schooling programme in the country. According to the Vision Document:

- ◆ The NIOS will work **mainly as a Resource Organisation** in open schooling at national and international level with its usual programme delivery role.
- ◆ It is being envisaged that the **State Open Schools (SOSs) may assume major responsibility for expansion** of open schooling in India particularly due to the fact that the clientele (students) would generally opt for open schooling through Regional Mediums.

The State Open Schools are required to come forward to meet the challenges of education. In order to provide appropriate responses to the educational challenges, the State Open Schools (SOSs) may proceed further at an accelerated pace with well thought Vision and Mission. Among other things, the Vision Document prepared by NIOS may be suitably adapted by SOSs.

A sound base for open schooling has been created in India through a network of organizations and institutions that are partnering in the noble venture of reaching the unreached. However, there is a need to give impetus to this

system of open schooling through financial and other infrastructural facilities and sharing of more manpower and other resources of the formal education system. Among other things, the formal education system can help the open schooling system in various ways such as sharing of premises, utilization of the services of its staff, utilization of laboratories and other equipments.

We acknowledge with thanks the assistance and cooperation extended to NIOS by various national and international organization and educationists in planning and operationalisation of its various programmes and activities.

Based on the informational inputs provided by the constituents of NIOS, the Annual Report has been drafted by Prof. K.R. Chandrasekaran, Director (Academic), Mrs Gopa Biswas, Deputy Director (Academic), Dr. J.D. Sharma, and Shri D.N. Upreti, Section Officer, Administration Department. I thank them for their contribution.

(M.C. Pant)
Chairman, NIOS

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1. Introduction

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), formerly known as the National Open School (NOS), was established by the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, in November, 1989 as an autonomous organisation (in pursuance of the National Policy on Education, 1986) and registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

NIOS occupies an important place in the national system of education and it has its own distinct character.

The main objectives of the NIOS are :

- to provide opportunities for continuing and developmental education at the school stage;
- to provide consultancy services to the Government of India and States;
- to serve as an agency for effective dissemination of information related to distance education and open learning;
- to identify and promote standards of learning in distance education system and state open schools; and
- to exercise normative and coordinating functions while promoting standards in distance and open learning system in the country.

In order to fulfil its mission of (i) universalising education, (ii) enhancing social equity and justice, and (iii) creating a learning society, the NIOS has been endeavouring for education of the marginalised groups, namely, rural youth, girls and women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, handicapped and ex-servicemen, among others.

NIOS was vested, in October 1990, with the authority to examine and certify students registered with it up to pre-degree level courses. The NIOS conducted its first Secondary and Senior Secondary Examinations in January, 1991. Certificates issued by NIOS are recognized by the Association of Indian Universities, the University Grants Commission (UGC), several Universities and Institutes of Higher Learning, several Boards of Education, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

NIOS offers academic, vocational and life-enrichment courses. The academic courses offered include Open Basic Education (OBE), Secondary and Senior Secondary Courses. NIOS is developing course materials for the Open Basic Education at A, B and C levels that are equivalent to classes III, V and VIII respectively. As regards, academic courses, students are given freedom to select subjects according to their needs, interests and abilities. Students are also encouraged to choose vocational subjects, which is something unique recognizing the value of work and skills at par with knowledge.

The NIOS network of study centres consists of accredited institutions (AIs) for academic courses and Accredited Vocational Institutions (AVIs) for vocational education courses. Several Special Accredited Institutions for the Education of the Disadvantaged (SAIED) have been recognised as study centres of NIOS to meet the educational needs of the differently abled and other disadvantaged children. The accredited institutions of NIOS are located in various States of the country. At the close of the twentieth century, the NIOS took a major initiative of launching the Open Basic Education (OBE) programme in partnership with dedicated and experienced NGOs and Zila Saksharta Samities (ZSSs). This programme is meant for children below 14 years and adults above 14 years with separate focus. Starting of Open Basic education programme completes the chain of Open Schooling system from primary to pre-degree level.

1.1 Management and Organisational Structure

The policy perspective for the National Institute of Open Schooling is provided by the General Body of the organisation. The execution and monitoring of programmes is overviewed by the Executive Board of the Organisation. The constitution, roles and functions of the apex bodies of NIOS are as follows:

The authorities specified for the management of the National Open School Society are (i) the General Body; (ii) the Executive Board, and (iii) the Finance Committee.

◆ General Body of the NOS Society

This apex body, vested with it the responsibility to assist the society by providing sound and professional advice and counsel, generates a vision and gives broad policy directions. It ensures that the Organisation remains publicly accountable, exercising its powers and functions in consonance with the mission and objectives of the Society. The Union Minister for Human Resource Development is the President of the Society who chairs the General Body meetings. In his absence, the Minister of State of HRD, who is the Vice President of

the society, chairs the General Body meetings. The Secretary of the National Institute of Open Schooling is the ex-officio member Secretary of the General Body of the Society.

A list of members of the General body as on 31st March 2006 is given in **Appendix-A**.

- **Executive Board of the NOS Society**

In general, the Executive Board has been vested with all the powers of the Society to manage its affairs enabling it to function smoothly and effectively. Specifically the Executive Board does forward planning for preparation of policies and programme of action, takes appropriate decisions to ensure effective implementation of the programmes and exercises review function. The Chairman NIOS, is the Chairman of the Executive Board of NIOS and the Secretary NIOS is its Member Secretary.

Other members of the Executive Board include the Heads of the Departments of NIOS; nominees of the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development and its Finance Division; and one specialist from each of the following areas:

- Distance Education
- Developmental Education
- Industry
- Media
- Technology
- Vocational/Technical Education

The Executive Board was reconstituted in February, 2004 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education). A list of members of the Executive Board, as on 31st March, 2006, is given in **Appendix – B**.

- **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee of the NIOS scrutinizes the accounts and budget estimates and makes recommendations on proposals for new financial outlays and other financial matters. The Chairman, NIOS is the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. The Secretary, NIOS is the Member Secretary of the Committee.

The Finance Committee is composed of the Heads of the Departments of NIOS, nominees of the Department of Education and its integrated Finance Division and financial and management experts.

A list of members of the Finance Committee as on 31st March, 2006, is given in **Appendix-C**.

- **Organizational Structure**

The Chairman of the National Institute of Open Schooling appointed by the Government of India is the Chief Executive of the Organisation. He is assisted by Five Heads of Departments, namely, Director (Vocational Education), Director (Academic), Director (Student Support Services), Director (Evaluation) and Secretary, NIOS. The organisational structure of NIOS is depicted on page 5.

A Statement showing the category-wise sanctioned staff strength of the NIOS as on 31.03.06 is given in **Appendix-D**.

1.2 Meetings of General Body, Executive Board and Finance Committee held during the year 2005-06.

(a) General Body

The 12th Meeting of General Body of NIOS was held on 25th October 2005.

(b) Executive Board

The 37th meeting of Executive Board was held on 16th May 2005

The 38th meeting of EB was held through circulation

The 39th meeting of the Executive Board was held on 21st October 2005

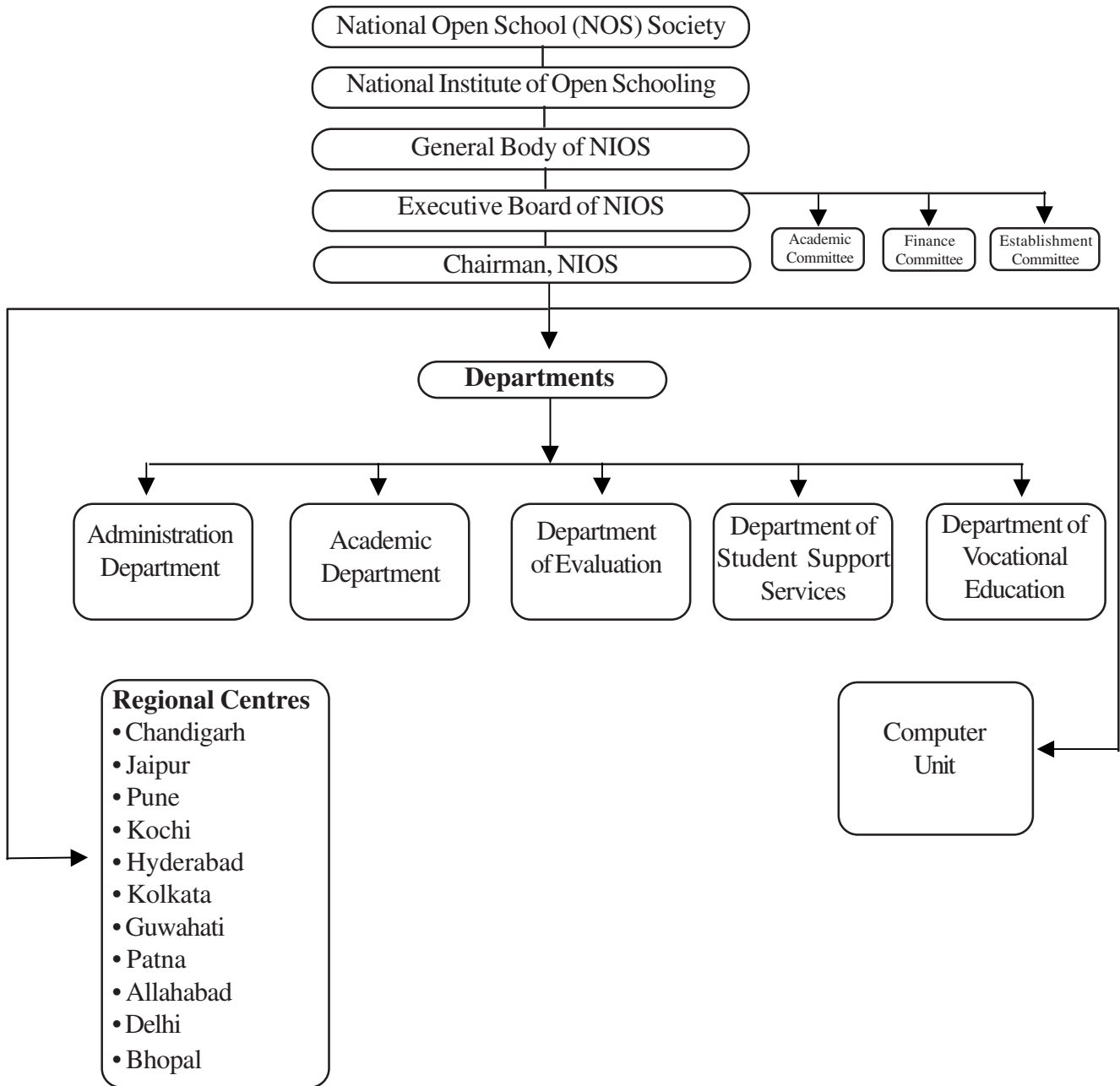
(c) Finance Committee

The 25th meeting of Finance Committee was held on 10th October 2005.

- **Regional Centres of NIOS**

For effective implementation of the NIOS programmes throughout the country, Eleven Regional Centres have been established at Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Chandigarh, Allahabad, Patna, Jaipur, Bhopal and Delhi.

Organisational Structure of National Institute of Open Schooling



ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF NIOS

Chairman

Chairman's Secretariat

**Administration Department
(Secretary)**

**Academic Department
(Director)**

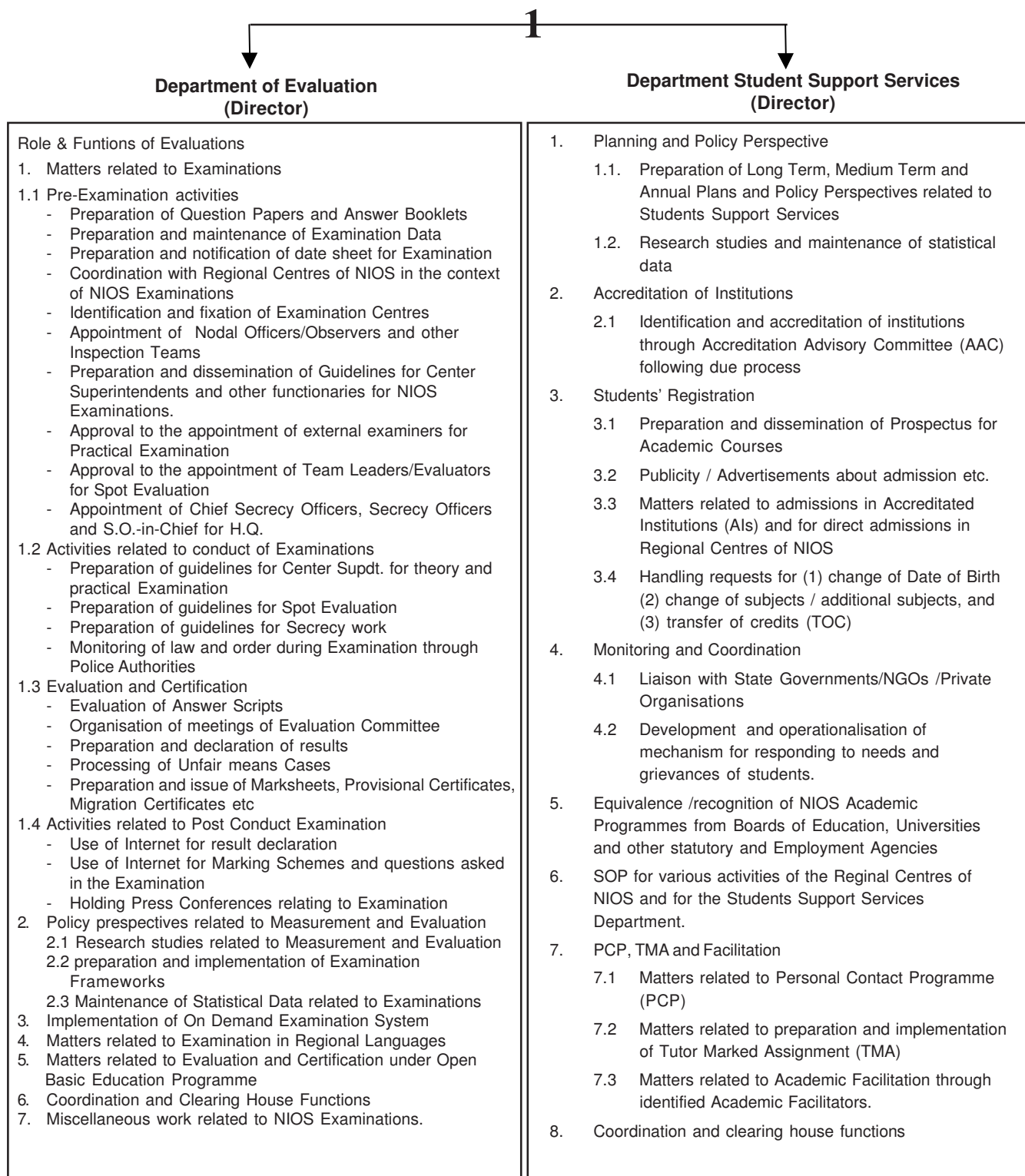
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Administration <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Memorandum of Association, Rules and Regulations 1.2 Constitution of (i) General Body, (ii) Executive Board, (iii) Finance Committee and other Committees; organisation of their meetings and taking follow up action. 1.3 Matters related to NIOS Personnel 1.4 Legal matters 2. Matters related to Land and Buildings 3. Purchase and supply of Equipment etc. 4. Accounts 5. Publication of Materials 6. Distribution of Materials 7. Maintenance 8. Public Relations 9. Promotion of Hindi (Raj Bhasha) 10. Matters related to Accreditation of Institutions as Study Centres of NIOS 11. Administration Coordination 12. Malpractice Cell 13. Miscellaneous matters related to Administration 14. Minority Cell and Accreditation of Minority Institutions 15. Material Production and Distribution Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Printing of Material related to courses of study, Programme Delivery, Examinations, Conferences/Seminars, Journals, Magazines, News Bulletins etc. – Typesetting (DTP) of various manuscripts of the constituents of NIOS. – Distribution of Materials to the clientele of NIOS. – Maintenance of Inventory of Paper purchased and used for publication of materials – Fixation of Price of NIOS Publications and maintenance of Inventory of publications – Sale of Books to authorised dealers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning and Policy Perspectives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Preparation of Long Term, Medium Term and Annual Plans of NIOS related to academic work. 1.2 Constitution of Academic Committee 1.3 Organisation of meetings of Academic Committee for consideration of the Academic Programmes of the constituents of NIOS and dissemination of the minutes of the meetings 1.4 Monitoring of implementation of Academic Programmes of the Academic Department 1.5 Research and Surveys 2. Curriculum and Learning Materials (Secondary and Sr. Secondary) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Identification of courses of study and development of Curriculum and Learning Materials 2.2 Preparation of Question Paper Designs Blue Prints, Marking Schemes etc. 2.3 Graphics 2.4 Evaluation of Curriculum and Learning Materials etc. 2.5 Population and Development Education 2.6 Education of Differently Abled and Disadvantaged Learners 3. Open Basic Education Programme <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Development of Curriculum and Learning Materials 3.2 Identification and Accreditation of Agencies as partners of NIOS Open Basic Education Programme 3.3 Development and Dissemination of Standards in Open Basic Education 3.4 Joint Certification (NIOS-Accredited Agencies collaboration) 3.5 Monitoring of implementation of Open Basic Education Programme 3.6 Education of Child Labour Programme 4. Regional Language Programme <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Offering Regional Languages as subjects and mediums 4.2 Development /translation of materials in Regional Languages 5. Media Support to Open Schooling Programmes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Development and dissemination of audio and video programmes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Life Enrichment Programmes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 Bharatiya Culture and Heritage 6.2 Education in Human Values 6.3 Peoples of India 6.4 Lives of Great Personalities of India 6.5 Performing Arts (Music, Dance, Painting) 7. Human Resource Development <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Setting up and operationalisation of International Centre for Training in Open Schooling (ICTOS) 7.2 Development of Training Packages 7.3 Organisation of short term and long term training programmes for Open Schooling functionaries at national and international level. 8. National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8.1 Constitution and operationalisation of NCOS 8.2 Promotion of Open Schooling in States 8.3 Consultancy and assistance to States for setting up/upscaling of State Open Schools (SOSs) 8.4 Coordination and clearing house functions related to promotion of Open Schooling 8.5 Organisation of meetings of NCOS and follow up action 9. International Relations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9.1 Interaction/Liaison with international agencies like UNESCO, COL, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank in the context of Open Schooling Programmes. 9.2 Interaction, liaison with other countries in the context of Open Schooling Programmes 9.3 Operationalisation of Open Schooling Association of Commonwealth (OSAC) 9.4 Advocacy/consultancy programmes for promotion of Open Schooling in other countries 10. Journals, Magazines and News Bulletins <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10.1 OSAC Journal of Open Schooling 10.2 Open Learning (Magazine) 10.3 NIOS News Bulletin "Open Schooling" 10.4 Preparation of other Journals, Magazines and News Bulletins as per need 11. Vigilance and Grievances 12. Coordination and Clearing House Functions 13. Library and Documentation
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ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF NIOS (Continued)

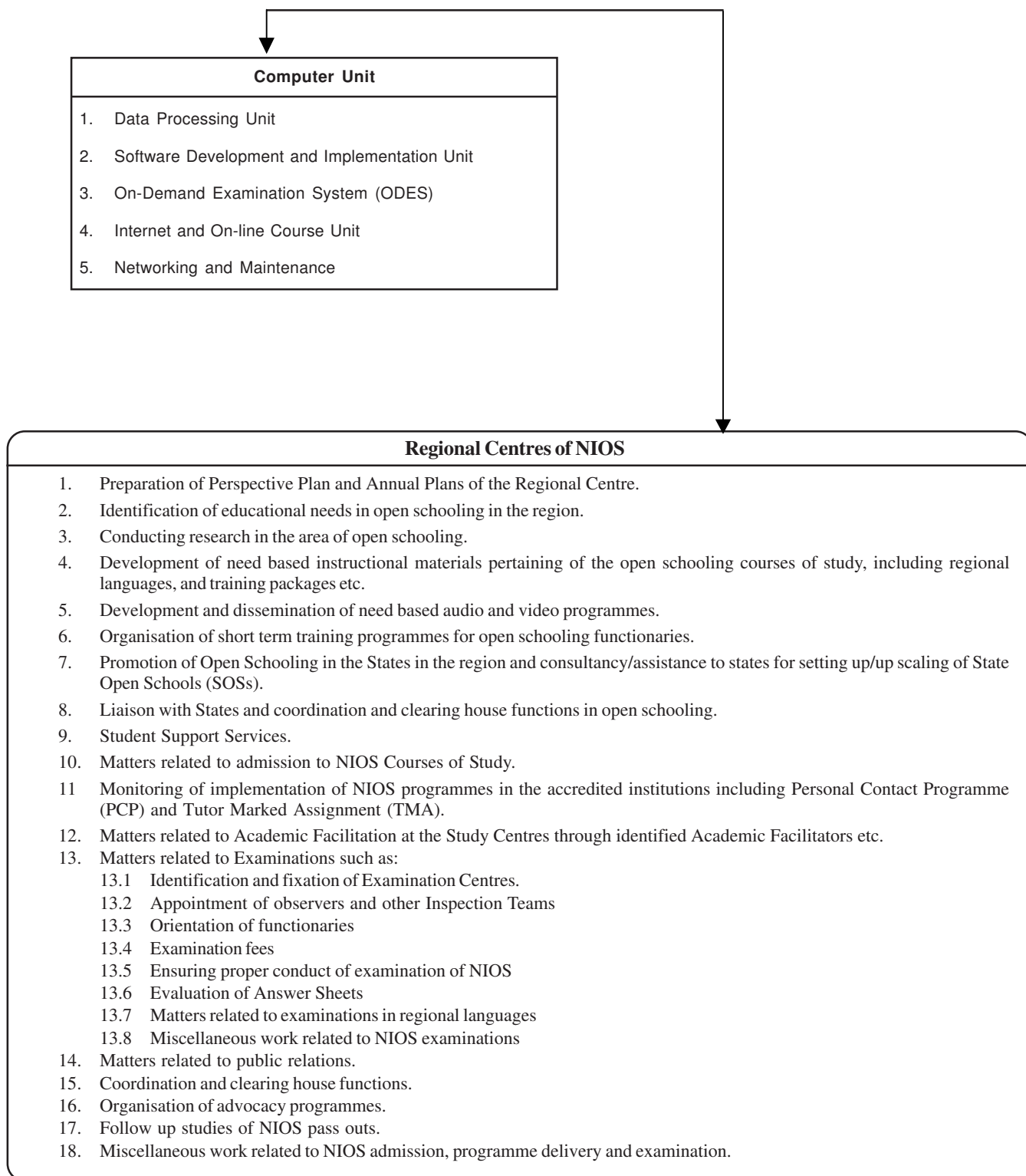
Department of Vocational Education (Director)

1. Planning and Policy Perspective in Vocational Education
 - 1.1 Preparation of Long Term, Medium Term and Annual Plans in Vocational Education.
 - 1.2 Networking in the context of Vocational Education programmes.
 - 1.3 Monitoring of implementation of Vocational Education Programmes
 - 1.4 Research and Surveys
 - 1.5 Matters related to maintenance of quality in Vocational Education
2. Curriculum and Learning Materials
 - 2.1 Identification of courses of study
 - 2.2 Development of Curriculum and Learning Materials
 - 2.3 Preparation of Question Paper Designs, Blue Prints and Marking Schemes
 - 2.4 Development of Media support to Vocational Education Programmes
 - 2.5 Development of Vocational Education courses in Regional languages as per needs and demand
 - 2.6 Evaluation of curriculum and learning materials etc.
 - 2.7 Development of modes and models to offer Vocational Education Programmes, and matters related to recognition and equivalence
3. Accreditation of Institutions
 - 3.1 Identification and accreditation of Institutions for implementation of Vocational Education Programmes
 - 3.2 Identification and accreditation of Rural Community Workshops within the framework of Vocational Education Programme of NIOS
4. Admission
 - 4.1 Preparation of Prospectus for Vocational Education and dissemination
 - 4.2 Organisational matters related to admission in Vocational Education courses.
5. Examinations
 - 5.1 Preparation of Examination Framework for Vocational Education courses and its operationalisation
 - 5.2 Monitoring of implementation of Examinations
 - 5.3 Follow up of Vocational Education pass outs
6. Training
 - 6.1 Development of Training packages
 - 6.2 Organisation of Orientation/Training Programmes for functionaries handling Open Vocational Education Programmes
7. Advocacy
 - 7.1 Organising advocacy programmes in Vocational Education
 - 7.2 Publicity to Vocational Education Programmes
8. Coordination and clearing house functions in the area of Vocational Education

ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF NIOS (Continued)



ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF NIOS (Continued)



1.3 Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring of Open Schooling Programme

Realizing the need for preparation of a long term perspective of the Open Schooling programme of NIOS, a “Vision 2020 Document” was prepared and placed before the Academic Committee (AC) in its Fifth Meeting held on 4 January 2005. The Document was approved by AC and later on by the Executive Board (EB) in its 37th Meeting held on 16 May 2005.

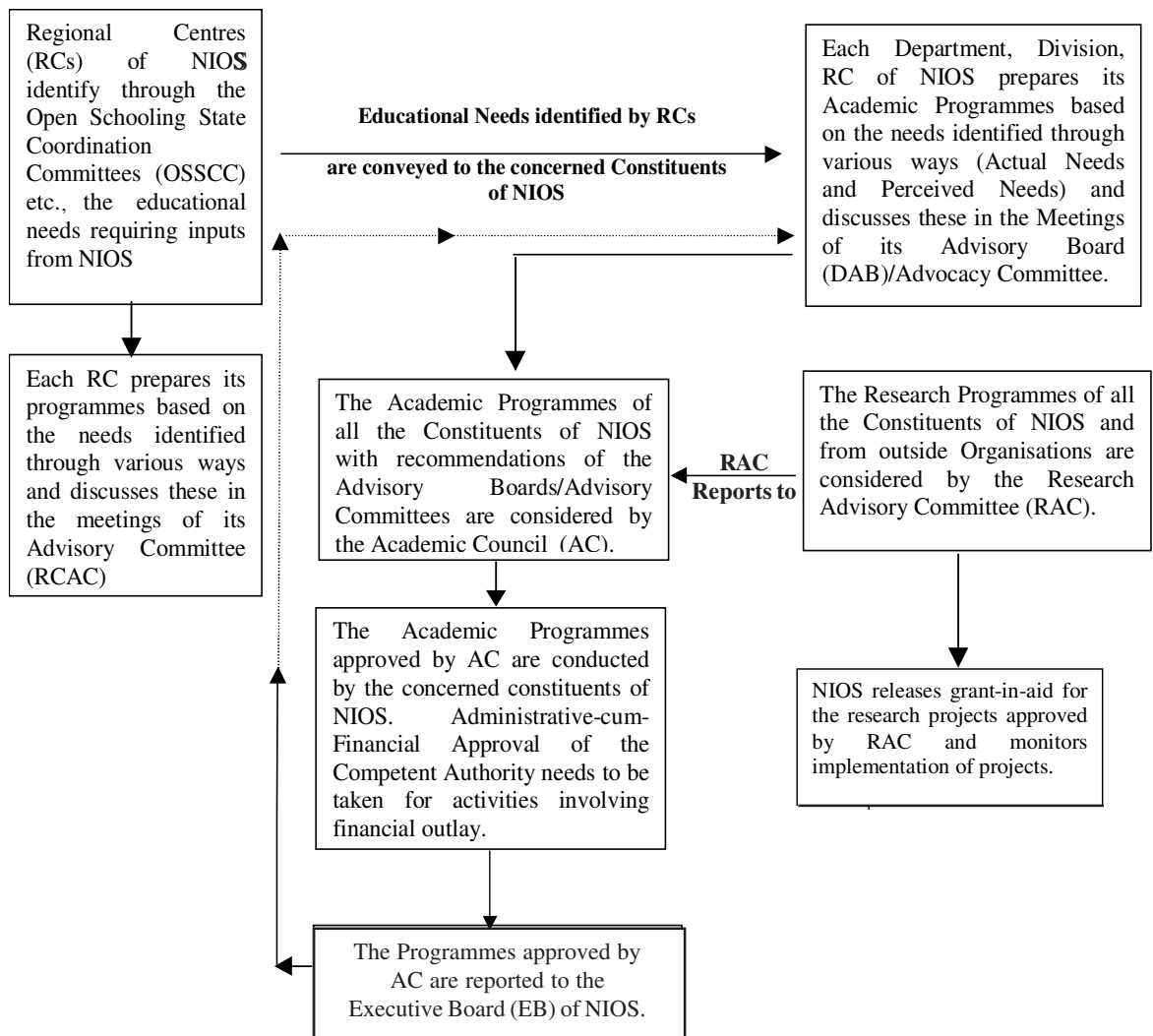
In order to implement the Vision Plan of NIOS, **long term, medium term, and short term plans will be prepared and operationalised.** The work on preparation of the Medium Term Plan covering the period from 2006-07 to 2011-12 has already been initiated.

The NIOS has now formulated a detailed programmes processing mechanism. The Programmes Processing Committees are as follows.

- (i) **Open Schooling State Coordination Committee (OSSCC)** to identify educational needs of states requiring inputs from NIOS.
Chairperson : State Education Secretary
Convener : Head, Regional Centre, NIOS
- (ii) **Advisory Committees of the Regional Centres, NIOS (RCAC)**
Convener : Head, Regional Centre, NIOS
- (iii) **Advisory Boards of the Departments of NIOS (DAB)**
Chairperson : Head of the Department
Convener : One faculty member
- (iv) **Research Advisory Committee (RAC)**
Chairperson : Chairman, NIOS
Convener : Director (Academic)
- (v) **Academic Council**
Chairperson : Chairman, NIOS
Convener : Director (Academic), NIOS

A diagrammatic presentation of the Programmes Processing Mechanism of NIOS is as follows.

Diagrammatic Presentation of Programmes Formulation and Processing Mechanism in NIOS



The Following Programmes Processing Committees have already been constituted.

- (i) **Academic Committee**, renamed as the Academic Council (AC). The Sixth Meeting of AC was held on 29th March 2006.
- (ii) **Advisory Boards (DABs)** of the following Departments.
 - Academic Department
 - Department of Vocational Education
 - Department of Evaluation
 - Department of Student Support Services

Each of these Departments organized the first meeting of the DAB during November 2005 to February 2006.

- **Advisory Committees of the Regional Centres (RCACs):** The Regional Centres have organized the first meeting of RCACs during November 2005 to February 2006.
- **The Open Schooling State Coordination Committees (OSSCCs)** have not so far been set up. The Education Secretary of each State has been requested to agree to become the Chairperson of OSSCC. The process is going on.
- **The Research Advisory Committee (RAC)** organized its last meeting on 2 March 2006. The Committee considered the following two items :
 - Scheme of Grant – in- Aid for Research Projects in Open Schooling
 - Priority Areas of Research in Open Schooling

The Programmes recommended by the Advisory Boards and the Advisory Committees were finally considered by the Academic Council in its Sixth Meeting held on 29 March 2006.

The Academic Council gave several suggestions regarding (i) Vocational Education Programmes, (ii) Accreditation of Institutions, (iii) Maintenance of a Database of Open Schooling Programmes, Admission and Examinations, (iv) Matters related to Student Support Services, (v) Upgradation of ODES, and (vi) Evaluation of Self Instructional Material. Matters related to NIOS – COL (Commonwealth of Learning) relations were also discussed.