

International Workshop on “Monitoring and Evaluation for Open Schools”

An International Workshop on “**Monitoring and Evaluation for Open Schools**” for Asian Region in the Commonwealth, as part of the first workshop planned for the COMOSA was scheduled from June 21-23, 2010 at the Centre for Good Governance, Uttarakhand Academy of Administration, Nainital: 265001, about 250 Kms away from Delhi.



Participants of the Workshop on “Monitoring and Evaluation for Open Schools”

Delegates from various countries – Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka mainly from Open Schools and Open Universities participated. In addition to this, Indian delegates from various State Open Schools and other Educational institutions from Andhra Pradesh, J&K, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Haryana and Chennai also participated in this International Workshop. The outcomes envisaged for the workshop were (i) an increased understanding of Monitoring and Evaluation, (ii) ability to write indicators as pertaining to their work in open schooling and (iii) to contribute to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

The key resource persons for the workshop were Prof M.B. Menon, Deputy Director, UNESCO_UNERWA, Jordan. The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was represented by Ms Frances Ferreira, Education Specialist. The workshop was a mix of lectures and group discussions, group work followed by a presentation of each group.

Throughout Asia over the past decades, various countries have been developing models of Distance Education to suit their particular contexts and circumstances. Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in the Asian region has many unique features. The most distinctive feature is a huge student population in ODL institutions with the basic infrastructural system for promoting open schooling at the public sectors. With limited resources and the need to expand education rapidly, countries in the region visualize ODL institutions as an alternative and viable mode of delivery to widen access to education, to satisfy continuing educational needs of adults, to expand trained workforce, and/or to train teachers to improve quality of schooling.

The success of ODL programs depends on management policies and initiatives that are sensitive to the needs of learners, while also addressing wider acceptance in the academic community. This requires re-thinking of policies and practices that are the convention in traditional classroom-based education.

Monitoring and evaluation are key elements in the planning, design, development, implementation and understanding of the ultimate success of any intervention, so also open schooling system is not beyond this preview. **Monitoring** is an ongoing process of collecting information about how an intervention is being implemented. **Evaluation** takes into account the stakeholders’ satisfaction and achievement at the end of the intervention and measures the overall effects of the learning intervention after implementation. In order to cater to the large number of clientele, it becomes imperative to put the systems in place by placing appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The rationale behind the workshop was that participants were deliberating on various issues and challenges being faced by the Open School today in India as well as in other countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, especially the Evaluation for Open Schools and how Open Schools can be monitored effectively and properly.

The major thrust of the workshop was to develop a framework on how to monitor and evaluate the activities of the open schooling system and thereby emerge as quality institutions in the Asian region to achieve the goals of education for all. The workshop focused on the aspects related to knowledge and skills required for monitoring and evaluation, development of tools and techniques, indicators

for the same with the objective to evolve a sustainable system.

Meeting on Open Educational Resources (OER) at MKCL, Pune

A two day meeting was held on June 12-13, 2010 at Maharashtra Knowledge Corporations Ltd. (MKCL) Pune to discuss issues related to development of Open Educational Resources (OER) for vocational learners of NIOS. The meeting was attended by Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman NIOS, Mr. Sanjay Sinha, Regional Director, NIOS, Pune and Ms. Koushalya Barik, Assistant Director (Vocational Education). Prominent educationists from institutions such as MKCL, I-CONSENT, HBCSE and Vigyan Ashram were invited to the meeting. Two major objectives of the meeting were i) to develop and deliver a vocational system of quality education supported by OER for playing various roles in the areas of their choice and for obtaining their livelihood and place in society to students, and ii) to make the vocational education system sustainable and ever changing in skill development and applications by creating partnerships with social and industrial institutions.

The proposed pilot areas for development of OER are i) ICT Applications, ii) Rural Technology, iii) Primary Teachers' Training, and iv) Tourism. After the meeting, the NIOS officials visited some of the centres of MKCL to find how ICT is being disseminated in rural areas.

NIOS declares Secondary and Senior Secondary results

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) declared its Senior Secondary and Secondary results on 9th June 2010 and 10th June 2010 respectively.

While 1,99,682 candidates had appeared in the Senior Secondary examination, 1,96,883 candidates appeared in the Secondary examination. 1239 examination centres were established for these examinations out of which 1226 were in India, 10 in Middle East and 3 in Nepal.

The results were made available to the students through the NIOS website www.nios.ac.in as well as www.indiaresults.com and www.examresults.com; through SMS; through IVRS by dialling the toll free no. 1800 180 9393 and through e-mail by registering on the NIOS website or sending a request to lsc@nios.ac.in

Stream I-Online Admission

Stream-I – Online Admission is open for new learners till 31st August 2010 as per the laid down eligibility criteria for Secondary and Senior Secondary levels. These learners will be eligible to appear for Public Examination for the first time in April 2011.

For details of the procedure for registration, by onto the NIOS website www.nios.ac.in

NIOS SIGNS MOU with FVTRS under PPP model

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTRS) have together entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the following aims:-

- Impart training in skills that has market demand along with education literacy programme for the target groups.
- Value addition to conventional schooling with integration of skills training.
- Certification of the trainees who have attended skills training organized by FVTRS partners in different parts of the country.
- Value addition to the conventional skill training through opportunity creation to the secondary level of education.

The NIOS proposes to work together by establishing the innovative centers, whereby both vocational and academic inputs would be given to the students enrolled in the innovative centers. In addition to this, soft skills training, entrepreneurship training would also be given to the learners.

With this MOU, the NIOS will be able to reach out to the unreached areas especially the Educationally Backward Blocks.

FVTRS is a Bangalore based NGO working for the unorganised sector since 1993, and registered under



NIOS signs MOU with FVTRS
Seen in the picture are (from L to R)
Shri G.G. Saxena, IAS, Secretary, NIOS;
Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS;
Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS.

Societies Act in 2004. By function, it is a funding organization. Currently FVTRS has 102 projects running in various States for a committed number of 18000 youth with varying course durations for different trades. Gender mainstreaming has been the hall mark of FVTRS and it could enrol more than 50 per cent of the trainees from the age group of adolescent girls and in the process, making a number of trades gender neutral as well like auto-rickshaw driving, garage mechanics, front office management etc. One challenge that FVTRS has been facing was how to make these intervention more meaningful by facilitating vertical mobility of these school dropout youth by linking them to the next higher academic level as no-one wants to be identified as an illiterate or school dropout. FVTRS is receiving funding from the European Union.

Shoobh Arts Competition

On the occasion of Commonwealth Games, New Delhi 2010, Shoobh Welfare Society is organising a Drawing/Painting Competition based on the theme 'My Dream Sport'. This is open to children aged between 5-17 years.

*Interested NIOS learners may send their entries by **15th August, 2010 to Deputy Director (Academic), National Institute of Open Schooling, A-24-25, Sector-62, Institutional Area, NOIDA-201309** by post or by e-mail to manjugupta@nios.ac.in*

Further details may be obtained from www.shoobhbharat.com.

AEP Programmes on Youtube

Video Programmes developed for learners by the Adolescence Education Programme (AEP), NIOS in collaboration with UNFPA have been uplinked on youtube.

The list of AEP programmes can be accessed by typing 'niosaep' on the search bar.

Feedback on the programmes may be sent to aep@nios.ac.in

Study Material Distribution Information System

Details of despatch of NIOS Study Material may be obtained from the NIOS website, nios.ac.in Learners who have not received their study material are advised to contact their respective study centres.

Task Force Meeting: National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS)

In pursuance of the suggestions given in the National Meet of NCOS held on 15 February 2010, NCOS Secretariat,

NIOS convened on 15-16 June 2010, a meeting of the Task Force for Preparation of the Constitution of NCOS. The Task Force has proposed that the General Body of NCOS comprising the Chairpersons of the Open Schools in India will suggest the lines on which cooperation, coordination and networking may take place for promotion and upscaling of the Open Schooling programme in the country. Among other things, an Executive Board of NCOS has also been suggested for taking steps for achieving the objectives of NCOS and the policy perspective to be visualised by the General Body of NCOS. This Task Force also formulated a Framework of the Plan of Action for Promotion of Open Schooling Programme in India.

The National Meet of NCOS also set up Task Forces on (i) Preparation of Curriculum Framework on Open Schooling and (ii) Preparation of Framework for Evaluation System in Open Schooling. The concerned Departments of NCOS coordinating the work of these Task Forces are taking necessary action to accomplish the tasks.

Appointments

- Shri G.G. Saxena, IAS assumed the charge of the post of Secretary, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) with effect from 11th June 2010.



Shri G.G. Saxena



Shri C. Dharuman

- Shri C. Dharuman, Education Officer, Central Tibetan Schools Administration, MHRD has been appointed as Director (Evaluation) on deputation basis in the National

Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) with effect from 24th June 2010.

Paper Presentation

Ms. Gowri Diwaker, Public Relations Officer, NIOS presented a paper titled "Reaching out to Tamil Learners: The NIOS Experience" at the World Tamil Conference which was held at Kovai, Tamilnadu from 23 to 27 June 2010.

Success story: A musical prodigy

L.Athira Krishna

Enrolment No. A01431799



An internationally acclaimed prodigy violinist, L. Athira Krishna has an enviable musical lineage as the granddaughter of the illustrious Vidwan Sri. Gopala Pillai and the daughter of the noted Veena player Sangitha Vidwan Sri. K.C.Krishna Pillai.

Performing across the globe as a Carnatic Violin Soloist from the age of 9, Athira is the proud recipient of many coveted recognitions including the prestigious Guinness World Record for her unique 32 hour long non-stop Carnatic Violin Solo Concert. She is among the youngest cultural ambassadors of India taking the rich Indian classical music tradition to every part of the world through her violin solo concerts.

Popularly hailed as the “Princess of Indian Violin” and honoured with the title of “The Musical Gem of India” by Former First Lady of India, Smt.Usha Narayanan, Athira Krishna has enthralled audiences across the world including performances at prestigious International Music Festivals in India and abroad. She has also given “Trans Global Fusion Concerts and lecture demonstrations on Indian classical music at World Music Festivals.

The flexible NIOS Scheme enabled Athira to complete her school education. She has completed the NIOS Senior Secondary Course with psychology as one of the subjects in 2004. She is presently pursuing MBA in Marketing from the Madras University from where she also completed her graduation.

Editorial Board

- S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS : Chief Editor
- Gowri Diwaker, PRO : Editor
- Gopa Biswas, Dy. Director : Member
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- Koushalya Barik, Assistant Director : Member
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