

National Institute of Open Schooling
A-24/25, Institutional Area
Sector -62, Noida

Minutes of 19th meeting of General Body of National Open School Society held on 16th November 2010 at 3.00 p.m. in the Committee Room –‘A’, (Ground Floor) Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi-110 001.

The 19th Meeting of General Body of National Open School Society was held on 16th November, 2010 at 3.00 p.m in the Committee Room- ‘A’ (Ground Floor) Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.

The following were present:-

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| 1 | Sh. Kapil Sibal
Hon'ble Minister of HRD | President |
| 2 | Shri S. K. Ray
AS & Financial Advisor (HRD) | Member |
| 3 | Dr. Sitansu S. Jena
Chairman, NIOS | Member |
| 4 | Sh. Jagmohan Singh Raju
JS (AE) and Director General, NLM | Member |
| 5 | Sh. Manoj Singh, IAS
Commissioner, NVS | Member |
| 6 | Sh. Raju Chandrasekhar
Consultant, Bangalore | Member |
| 7 | Prof. A. K. Sharma
Former Director, NCERT | Member |
| 8 | Prof. Ram G. Takwale
Former Vice Chancellor, IGNOU | Member |
| 9. | Prof. Mangala Sunder
Prof. in Chemistry, IIT, Madras | Member |
| 10 | Prof. C. L. Anand
Former VC, Arunanchal University | Member |
| 11 | Prof. Vasudha Kamat
Jt. Director, CIET | Member |
| 12 | Prof. S. D. Sharma
Former Director, Centre for Continuing Education, IGNOU | Member |

13	Dr. Dhaneeswar Harichandan Director, University of Mumbai	Member
14	Sh. Guilherme Vaz Consultant, Mumbai	Member
15	Ms. Neeta Pradhan (Representative of Sh. Chanderjeet Bangerjee, DG, CII)	Member
16	Sh. K. Mathivanan (Representative of JS (SE), MHRD) Director, MHRD	Member
17	Sh. C. Dharuman Director (Evaluation), NIOS	Member
18	Dr. Sushmita Mitra Director (SSS), NIOS	Member
19	Dr. K. P. Wasnik Director (Vocational), NIOS	Member
20	Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal Director (Academic), NIOS	Member
21	Sh G.G. Saxena, IAS Secretary, NIOS	Member Secretary

Sh. S. K. Tanwar, Deputy Director (Accounts) also attended the meeting to assist the Member Secretary.

Dr.(Smt) D. Purandeswari , Minister of State, MHRD, Ms. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, SE&L, MHRD, Prof. G. Ravindra, Director (I/C), NCERT, Prof. R. Govinda, Vice Chancellor, NUEPA, Shri Vineet Joshi, IAS, Chairman, CBSE, Sh. V. B. Pyarelal ,Joint Secretary (P&A), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Sh. G. Jayalal ,Deputy Director General (P), All India Radio, Prof. G. Sarojamma Vice Chancellor, Shri Padmavati Mahila Vishwavidyalaya , Tirupati Sh. Rakesh Mohan, IAS Secretary of Education, Govt. of Delhi (NCT), Sh. Vivek Joshi, IAS Joint Secretary (CW), Department of Women and Child Development, Prof. V. N. Rajasekaran Pillai, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, Sh. P. P. Mitra Joint Secretary (BC), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Sh. Sharda Prasad Joint Secretary & Director General, Ministry of Labour, Prof. Mohammad Miyan, Vice Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Dr. R. Sreedher, Director CEMCA Prof. Annu J. Thomas Professor, School of Gender and Development Studies, IGNOU, Sh. Avinash Dikshit, Commissioner, KVS could not attend General Body meeting.

Dr. Sitansu S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS welcomed the Hon'ble HRM and President of NOS Society to 19th Meeting of its General Body. He also welcomed all the members of the General Body and informed that this is the first meeting of newly constituted General Body. After self introduction by the members, he sought the permission of the Hon'ble President of the Society for presentation of the agenda items by the Secretary, NIOS.

Sh. Saxena, Member Secretary of NOS Society, also accorded a warm welcome to Hon'ble HRM and President of NOS Society. He also welcomed each of the esteemed members of the General Body. The Secretary stated that NIOS being an autonomous body under MHRD, its Annual Report and Annual Accounts along with Audited Report are required to be placed before both the houses of Parliament as per provision under Rules 7(a) of Rules & Regulations of NOS Society. The Secretary with the permission of the Chair, took up the Agenda items for the 19th General Body meeting:-

19.1(a) To confirm the minutes of the 17th General Body meeting held on 25.3.2009.

The Secretary informed that the minutes of the 17th General Body were sent to all members of General Body. Sh. Jagmohan Singh Raju, JS and DG (NLM) Department of SEL and Mrs. Gurumurthy, Director (Academic), CBSE who had sent their comments were incorporated in the minutes which were also circulated to the members. Since no further comments were received, the minutes of the 17th meeting of the General Body may be treated as approved. The members confirmed the minutes of 17th General Body meeting.

19.1(b) To report the action taken on the minute of the 17th meeting of the General Body.

The action taken on the minutes of the 17th meeting of the General Body held on 25.3.2009 was conveyed to the members of the General Body.

19.1(c) & (d) To confirm of the minutes of the 18th General Body meeting held by circulation and to report the action taken on the minutes of the 18th meeting of the General Body.

The Secretary informed that the meeting of 18th General Body was held through circulation to get the approval of the Annual Report and Annual Account along with the Audited Report of the Society for the year 2008-09. After approval by the General Body, Annual Report and Annual Account along with Audit Report for the year 2008-09 were laid on the table of the Parliament on 16.12.2009. The Minutes of the 18th General Body meeting and the action taken report hence was confirmed by the General Body.

19.2 To consider and approve the Annual Reports of NIOS for the year 2009-10.

The Secretary informed that the Annual Report of the NOS Society for the year 2009-10 was presented to the 57th Executive Board of NIOS on 20th Oct. 2010 and after obtaining the approval the same was circulated to the members of the GB in advance. The members of the GB unanimously approved the Annual Report for the year 2009-10.

19.3 To consider and approve the Annual Accounts of NIOS for the year 2009-10 with the Audit Report thereon.

The Audit Accounts along with Audit Report for the year 2009-10 as approved by the Finance Committee and Executive Board were approved by the General Body.

19.4 To consider and approve the Revised Estimate for the year 2010-11 and Budget Estimate for the year 2011-12 under Plan and Non-Plan heads as approved by Finance Committee and Executive Board of NIOS.

The Revised Estimate for the year 2010-11 and Budget Estimate for the year 2011-2012 under Plan and Non- Plan as approved by Finance Committee and Executive Board were also approved by the General Body.

After the approval of Agenda Items, Secretary requested the Chairman, NIOS to present a brief review of activities and initiatives taken up by the Institute for last one year and seek further guidance from the members of the General Body.

The Chairman, NIOS with the permission of the Hon'ble Minister, gave a power point presentation on the activities and initiatives of NIOS. He informed that there has been a paradigm shifts in education at all levels due to emergence of new technology and alternative media which has contributed shift of learning from class room to anywhere in school education, from teacher centric to learner centric, autonomy to the learners to choose the subjects they intend to learn, etc. He stated that NIOS has 1.85 Million students on roll as cumulative strength for last five years; and has certified about 1.98 Million students since 1991 at both secondary and sr. secondary levels. As on 31st march 2010, the NIOS had 2307 Accredited Institution, 1139 Vocational study centres and 683 centres for Open Basic Education Programme. At present, NIOS operates through a network of 16 Regional Centres namely Kolkatta, Hyderabad, Pune, Guwahati, Chandigarh, Allahabad, Delhi, Patna, Kochi, Jaipur, Bhopal, Dehradun, Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore & Imphal and 2 sub centre, Darbhanga & Visakhapatnam. He further informed that NIOS as an apex institution in the field of Open Schooling works in collaboration with international organization like Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Canada, and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India.

The enrolment in Academic courses has grown to 4.19 lakh during, which has registered about 11.29% increase in enrolment in the year 2009-10; but enrolment in Vocational course has goes down to 19,073. The Income from fees during 2009-10 was received to the tune of Rs. 7220.51 lakh as against Rs. 6833.22 lakh during the year 2008-09.

He enumerated new initiative taken by the NIOS to provide better and value added services to the learners which are as below:-

1. NIOS now has 100% online 24x7 admission facility.
2. Use of mobile technology for learners.
3. Periodic course revision.
4. Course implementation through the corporate houses and network of NGOs.

5. NIOS would be setting up a Community Radio Station to deliver the course content to cater to the educational and social needs of the community.
6. NIOS would be setting up one Regional Centre in every major state.
7. On-Demand examination has been extended to all Regional Centres and in all major subjects at secondary and sr. secondary levels.
8. Introduction of re-evaluation system of answer scripts at sr. secondary level.
9. NIOS is in the process of launching of 24x7 TV Channel in collaboration with CIET.
10. NIOS is developing and implementing the course using PPP mode.
11. Establishment of capacity building cell for training of functionaries
12. Creation of research and development cell
13. Academic and technical support to Sakshar Bharat Mission
14. Leadership role through NCOS and COMOSA

All the members applauded NIOS's recent initiative as informed by the Chairman, NIOS. Some of the members expressed their views on existing policies of NIOS and suggested the following action plan for strengthening the ODL system:-

- (i) NIOS need to supplement the efforts of formal education system, particularly in the context of effective implementation of RTE on account of two distinct context (i) providing educational support to facilitate enrolling children at age appropriate level, and (ii) enhancing academic qualification of teachers and developing teacher training programme for the in-service under-qualified and untrained teachers at elementary education level as huge number of such teachers are engaged in the schools.
- (ii) NIOS need to emerge as a globally accepted institution as it has huge potentiality to cater to the basic educational needs of the diversified groups. This will be possible if it has strong marketing strategy and use ICT effectively for learning purpose. It is, therefore, need to expand its strategy for education on a on-line mode.
- (iii) As an apex institution in the ODL system, there is a strong need to have a strategy for image building with an in-built mechanism on research, which has largely been neglected in this institution. Area specific development plan should be prepared, more specifically for the NE region of the country by strengthening its network of institutions in the un-served regions. There is a need to strengthen Regional Centres of NIOS and State Open Schools to provide better service to NIOS learners particularly in the North Eastern Region where technology reach is not still high. It is high time that NIOS should establish at least one regional centre in every state for not only effective course implementation but also placing a strong monitoring system.
- (iv) Keeping in view of the vastness of the country, it is not possible always to provide a standardized form of quality education in every school. As been observed, a single/group of schools can't have resources & experience to cater to diverse child needs & their multiple intelligences. In constructivist approach in learning the "resources" for activities will not be available nor provided fully. Even though, in 100% enrolment situation, the open school for dropouts or alternative loses meaning, but complimentary and supplementary roles of

formal & open schools with a strong open learning channel and choices for skill training need to be put into focus. This is possible if mass personalization approaches for creating learning environment with OER support for schools, creating parents & learning groups of students, creating e-governance (through LMS and School website) with locality/ regional/central data bases and ICT support for networked schooling system. The NIOS must strive to develop a model in the context.

- (v) It is a time to relook the model being used by NIOS and to adopt new model with a strong back-up of technologies which are crucial and critical factor in the successful implementation to Right to Education for all. NIOS should make more dedicated endeavor to exploit the given mandate on certification as well as Vocational training and skill development areas.
- (vi) There is a strong need to have a collaboration with the corporate sector for skill development and the organizations like CII, FICCI, etc. may be consulted to draft a strong PPP model for skill development of the young population of the country.
- (vii) The major target group for NIOS has been to cater to the educational needs of 14+ population. Since Sakshar Bharat Mission under the NLMA has the same mandate for providing basic education of the target group 15+ and mainstreaming them to the educational system, there is a strong need to have a convergence of DAE with NIOS. Hence NIOS should work as an extended arm to the Sakshar Bharat Mission of MHRD, Govt. of India and provide Technical and Academic support to the Mission through DAE, MHRD, Govt. of India.
- (viii) The Commissioner, NVS offered all branches of NVS for opening NIOS study centres to offer both academic and vocational courses so that NIOS reach to the educationally backward districts in the country.

The Hon'ble Minister of HRD, Sh Kapil Sibal and President of the NOS Society in his presidential key note address stated that objective of Right to Education to all is to provide educational opportunities in every states and districts, but keeping in view of the magnitude of effort to be made in the context and diversity of the country, it may take some time to make it fully operationalise. Therefore, there is an immediate need to provide additional educational back-up to the children and NIOS can play an important role in supplementing formal education. For that the role of NIOS is to be redefined in providing education to all with formal and in open schooling system.

He further stressed that in coming years the priority of the country has been emphasis on Vocational Education and skill development for preparing the young masses to the world of work. The Ministry has entrusted the task for preparing National Vocational Qualification Framework (NVQF) to CBSE and other related institutions/organizations. The AICTE would also provide support in this direction as in the higher education level a lot of technical programme are involved in vocational education. As been estimated, only about 40 to 50 million students will go to college by 2020 and around 160 million children would look forward the alternative avenues. In order to empower them both socially and economically, maximum efforts need to

be given for their skill development. He emphasized that NIOS should give priority to impart vocational education and skill development so that present and next generation of dropouts, disadvantaged groups and SC/ST and women could look forward to NIOS for getting empowerment as well as employment for reasonable livelihood.

He exhorted that in those states where level of education is very low, specific emphasis for their development of education is to be taken. Therefore, to provide educational avenue in the educationally backward states, specific need based programmes should be developed which would be relevant to the local needs. Efforts need to be made for creating a global opportunity through network and collaborations with a strong data base to be created through a portal to be devoted for the purpose.

There is a huge backlog of untrained teachers at the elementary level and distance education is the only means through which the professional competencies of such teachers could be enhanced. For this, all distance learning institutions, including NIOS, should come forward to meet this national challenge.

There is a need for introspecting the institutional objectives of NIOS and it is imperative at this stage is that a 'good and sustainable economic model' is developed for NIOS with research support from IIM/ISB for private sector investment on the vocational education offered by NIOS through PPP model.

The following broad decision were arrived at the end of the General Body Meeting:

1. Developing a road map for providing supplementary support to the formal education by the open and distance learning system, more specifically NIOS, to support implementation of Right to Education Act and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan of Govt. of India and to develop synergy with National Literacy Mission.
2. Developing the road map for Vocational Education in the context of skill development and integration with the Academic Courses of NIOS for creation of a unique academic and economic model to be implemented through ODL mode. It will also include to develop a good and sustainable economic model for NIOS with the research support from IIM/ISB for private sector investment on vocational education offered by NIOS through PPP model.
3. To develop a global opportunities through network and collaborations with a strong data base to be created through a portal to be developed for this purpose.

It was agreed that the Chairman, NIOS may prepare a road map for the aforesaid activities. Suggestions by the General Body Members may be invited for this purpose. These inputs may be placed before next GB meeting which may be convened within one and a half month.

Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.