

7. Networking

7.1 Regional Centres of NIOS

One of the aims and objectives as per Rules and Regulations of the Memorandum of Association of the National Open School Society is that it will “Establish Regional Centers for supervising the proper functioning of the learning support at study centers”. For good administration, for co-ordination, for the supply of material effectively as well as for supervision, the Regional Centers provide vital and effective link between the study centers and NIOS headquarters; between the state government and the NIOS headquarter, and between the study center and learners, between the academic facilitators and study centers, between the NIOS and general public. The concept of Regional Center is a well thought mechanism. The success of NIOS programmes and policies in the Region largely depends on the pivotal role played by Regional Centers.

The NIOS, till 1994-95, was following two tier system i.e., NIOS Headquarter in Delhi and Study Centers 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 Center in Calcutta in 1994-95 followed by one each in Hyderabad, Guwahati, Pune, Kochi, Chandigarh, Patna, Jaipur, Allahabad and Delhi. Presently there are 11 Regional Centers working in different parts of the country at Allahabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Patna and Pune.

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

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

A brief description of the functions performed 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, Center Superintendents and Academic Facilitators.

2. Administrative Functions

- **Admission related activities** such as sale of Prospectus, fee realization, getting admission data punched, checking admission data, check list to AIs, issue of identity cards, checking and verification of Transfer of Credits (TOC) cases and forwarding the same to 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 study material distribution.
- 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 TOC Committee to extend this facility to the learners
- **Examination related activities** such as fee realization, fixation of exam centers, 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 exam related bills.
- Miscellaneous work related to NIOS admission, programme delivery and examinations etc.
- Matters related to public relation and students' grievances.

- Ensuring that the TMAs are attempted by the candidates and are evaluated at the AIs.
- Sending TMA 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 Centers, matters related to dis-accreditation of Study Centers.
- 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 Center.
- Monitoring of Implementation of NIOS programmes in the accredited institutions including Personal Contract Programmes (PCP) and Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA).
- 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 HQ.
- Ensuring smooth functioning of AIs/AVIs/OBE Centres.

5. Activities undertaken by Regional Centres during 2005-06

5.1 Admission

The admissions in NIOS courses are made through a network of AIs in different States/Union Territories. To facilitate the process, a few States/UTs are allotted to each Regional Centre of NIOS.

During the year 2005-06, the Regional Centre-wise enrolment in Academic Courses is shown in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1: Region Centre-wise Enrolment in Academic Courses 2005-06

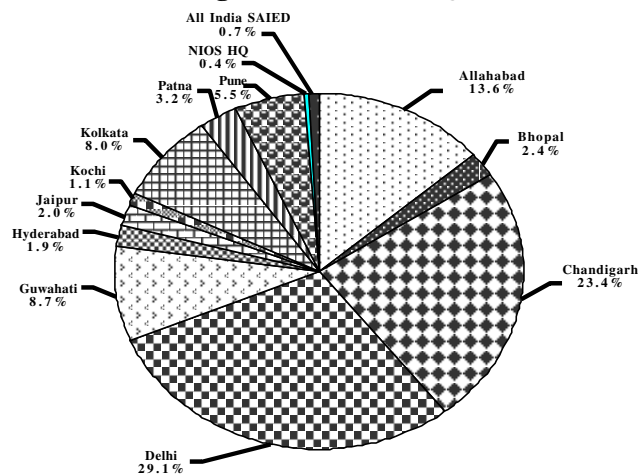
Regional Centre and the States/UTs Covered	Enrolment	Percentage
Allahabad	36361	13.61
1. Uttar Pradesh	24807	
2. Uttaranchal	11554	
Bhopal	6280	2.36
1. Madhya Pradesh	5107	
2. Chhattisgarh	1173	
Chandigarh	62434	23.38
1. Haryana,	38215	
2. Himachal Pradesh	13316	
3. J&K,	1039	
4. Punjab,	8680	
5. Chandigarh	1184	
Delhi	77812	29.15
Guwahati	23320	8.74
1. Assam	2551	
2. Arunachal Pradesh	3026	
3. Manipur	9344	
4. Meghalaya	1192	
5. Mizoram	3174	
6. Nagland	3432	
7. Tripura	601	
Hyderabad	5071	1.90
1. Andhra Pradesh	4154	
2. Karnataka	917	
Jaipur	5272	1.97
1. Gujarat	902	
2. Rajasthan	4370	

Kochi		2815	1.05
1. Kerala	2296		
2. Tamil Nadu	515		
3. Pondicherry	4		
Kolkata		21380	8.01
1. Orissa	2872		
2. Sikkim	2201		
3. West Bengal	14366		
4. Andaman & Nicobar	1941		
Patna		8518	3.19
1. Bihar	5204		
2. Jharkhand	3314		
Pune		14735	5.52
1. Goa	2669		
2. Maharashtra	12066		
NIOS HQ.		1085	0.40
1. APO India	46		
2. Foreign Countries	1039		
All India SAIED*	1943	0.72	
Total		2,67,026	100

* *Special Accredited Institutions for Education of the Disadvantaged*

It transpires that students from all States and Union Territories, except Lakshadweep and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, got enrolled in NIOS courses at Secondary and Sr. Secondary level. The Regional Center Delhi had the maximum enrolment of 29.15%, followed by the Regional Center Chandigarh which had 23.38% enrolment.

Enrolment in Regional Centres HQ and SAIEDs



5.2 Accreditation of Institution

To provide educational opportunities through NIOS, institutions are accredited in each Region of NIOS to function as study centres.

During the year 2005-06, Region-wise the number of Accredited Institutions (AIs) functioning as study centre of NIOS is given in Table 7.2

Table 7.2 : Region-wise distribution of AIs

REGION	STATE	AI
HYDERABAD	ANDHRA PRADESH	77
	KARNATAKA	14
	ANDHRA PRADESH (TELUGU MEDIUM)	46
PUNE	MAHARASHTRA	64
	GOA	9
	DAMAN & DIU	1
	MAHARASHTRA (MARATHI MEDIUM)	65
	MAHARASHTRA (GUJARATI MEDIUM)	2
	GOA (MARATHI MEDIUM)	1
	KOLKATA	WEST BENGAL
KOLKATA	ORISSA	25
	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	9
	SIKKIM	8
	GUWAHATI	ASSAM
GUWAHATI	MANIPUR	47
	MEGHALAYA	7
	NAGALAND	14
	MIZORAM	11
	TRIPURA	6
	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	15
	CHANDIGARH	HARYANA
HIMACHAL PRADESH		45
JAMMU & KASHMIR		18
PUNJAB		52
CHANDIGARH		9
KOCHI	KERALA	27
	TAMILNADU	21
	PONDICHERRY	2
	KERALA (MALAYALAM MEDIUM)	4
DELHI	DELHI	231
	DELHI (GUJARATI MEDIUM)	1
JAIPUR	RAJASTHAN	50
	GUJARAT	13
	GUJARAT (GUJARATI MEDIUM)	10
PATNA	BIHAR	72
	JHARKHAND	61

ALLAHABAD	UTTAR PRADESH	229
	UTTRANCHAL	85
BHOPAL	MADHYA PRADESH	52
	CHHATTISGARH	11
HQ	APO	3
	UAE	17
	UAE(MALAYALAM MEDIUM)	3
	NEPAL	3
	ALL INDIA URDU MEDIUM	47
SAIED	SAIED	66
	TOTAL	1826

5.3 Transfer of Credit (TOC)

The Transfer of Credit (TOC) scheme was implemented for ex-NIOS, ex-CBSE or State Board students from the session 1997-98. To extend this facility, TOC committee comprising of the Regional Director, one external member and a section officer of the Regional Centre is constituted. This Committee critically examines all cases requesting for TOC with the original mark sheet and recommends eligible cases to HQ for approval. All Regional Centres organised meeting of the TOC committee to recommend cases. Table 7.3 indicates the Region wise cases of TOC in the year 2005-06.

Table 7.3 Number of Region wise cases of TOC in 2005-06.

Allahabad	Chandigarh	Delhi	Guwahati	Hyderabad	Jaipur	Kochi	Kolkata	Patna	HQ
1165	866	6000	563	115	6333	130	1643	199	23

5.4 Personal Contact Programme (PCP)

All Regional Centres monitored PCPs conducted in the AIs and forwarded bill of PCP to HQ for further processing and release of payments. RCs were directed to pay 75% of the total payment to the AIs till all AIs submit the balance of study material. It is mandatory for the study centres to give the stock position of books at the end of the year, failing which 25% payment of the PCP may be withheld.

5.5 Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

All the Regional Centers (RCs) monitored submission of assignments along with awards list by the AIs as per given schedule. The RCs arranged sample checking of the evaluated assignment (5%) by the evaluators on approved panel. The awards of the TMA got punched from the computer agency and forwarded to SSS Department on CD along with bills of the evaluators for further processing.

5.6 Academic Facilitators (AFs)

The Academic Facilitators appointed by HQ were required to visit the allotted study centers (usually more than once) in nearby locality. As per the scheme, each study center has to be visited upto a maximum of seven times in an academic year. He/She is required to visit the AI twice during admission, three times during Personal Contact Programme (PCP) and twice during examination. However, in 2005-06 the visits were restricted to only four. The feedback report of each was submitted in prescribed proforma to the Regional Center immediately after the visit. Consolidated reports came from Kolkata, Chandigarh, Pune, Jaipur, Guwahati, Bhopal, Delhi and Hyderabad regions which highlighted strength and weaknesses of various AIs.

5.7 Regional Center Advisory Committee Meetings

The Regional Centres Advisory Committees (RCACs) have been constituted for all the Regional Centers for the purpose of reviewing the activities of the Regional Centers and providing guidance and for better functioning. The Student Support Service Department had suggested following Common Agenda Item for consideration of all the Regional Centres Advisory Committees:

- to review the activities of Regional Center.
- to identify the weak areas for improvement.
- to draw out a Plan of Action for 2006-07 with respect to:
 - i) expansion of AIs in unreached districts/educationally backward districts through meeting.
 - ii) set a target of expansion in terms of establishment of AIs and enrolment.
 - iii) Identification of educationally backward areas upto block level where AIs are required.
 - iv) Monitoring of the functioning of AIs to ensure quality services both academic and administrative.
 - v) Conduct and monitoring of the admission 2006-07.
 - vi) Training and Orientation of the functionaries at RCs and AIs.
- Liaison with State Governments on account of promotion of open schooling/setting up of SOSs, equivalency and recognition with state boards and universities, and transfer of credit.

During 2005-06, the Regional Centers organized the meetings of their RCAC on dates as given below and submitted their programme proposals for 2006-07 for approval of the Academic Council of NIOS.

S.No.	Regional Center	Date of Meeting
1.	Allahabad	09.12.2005
2.	Jaipur	15.12.2005
3.	Kolkata	15.12.2005
4.	Pune	22.12.2005
5.	Hyderabad	04.01.2006
6.	Patna	11.01.2006
7.	Delhi	12.01.2006
8.	Chandigarh	18.01.2006
9.	Kochi	25.02.2006
10.	Guwahati	28.02.2006

7.2 National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS)

As a future broader perspective for open schooling and growing demand of the masses for the Open and distance learning (ODL) system, a National Consortium for Open Schooling (NCOS) has been set up. The Secretariat of NCOS is located in NIOS. It is being envisaged to upgrade it as the National Council for Open Schooling as an umbrella statutory organization for formulation of standards in Open Schooling and accrediting / grading of the central/state open schooling organizations ensuring quality, standards, coordination and collaboration amongst NIOS (MHRD), State Education Departments, Boards of School/Secondary Education and Institutions of Higher Learning in the country. The present NCOS will be subsumed later in the National Council, in order to keep pace with growing demand from various quarters to expand and extend Open Schooling. The following role and functions of NIOS have been envisaged:

- Constitution and operationalisation
- Promotion of Open Schooling in the Country / States
- Consultancy and assistance for setting up or upscaling of State Open Schools (SOSs)
- Coordination and Clearing House Functions
- Organizing Annual Meetings/Advocacy Campaigns/Seminars, Conferences etc., for promotion of Open Schooling.
- Any advisory role and functions for Promotion of Open Schooling

(POS) as may be assigned to NCOS by MHRD (Govt. of India) and the NIOS

◆ **Objectives of NCOS**

In order to promote open and distance learning (ODL) at school stage in the country, the NCOS became operational in 1997. It aims at providing forums for sharing of information and ideas among State Open Schools, Correspondence Schools, NIOS and other organizations engaged in open learning at school stage including the COBSE and State Education Boards. The forum strives to achieve the following broad goals/objectives.

- To facilitate the Apex Body functions of the NIOS
- To promote better cooperation and collaboration among agencies/ institutions involved in open schooling, distance education and correspondence education at school stage.

◆ **Functions of NCOS**

- Providing technical and professional assistance and consultancy to State Governments for the establishment of State Open Schools and State Centres for Open Schooling.
- Formulating norms and guidelines for maintenance of standards and quality of various programmes/activities to be offered through distance Mode and Open Learning System, including possibility of transfer of credits, etc.
- Sharing of resources, expertise, curriculum, instructional materials and teaching learning strategies of mutual interest and benefit.
- Creating forums such as publications, meetings, workshops and seminars for sharing experiences, increase access and equity and improve quality and standards in the system.
- Developing and maintaining a data base on various aspects of Open Schooling in the country and abroad.
- Facilitating better linkages with international, national and state level agencies in matters concerning open schooling through formal and informal consultation.
- Providing technical and financial support to open schools and such other institutions for developing educational, communication and information technologies in improving the teaching learning process, training and management.
- Initiating other activities and programmes, as may be deemed appropriate, by associating institutions/ States from time to time.

To operationalise its role as an association in open schooling, NCOS undertakes various activities to set up and strengthen State Open Schools and to ensure their cooperation and collaboration with NIOS and other institutions involved in open schooling. .

◆ **Models of State Open Schools**

The NIOS has evolved various models of State Open Schools (SOSs) as it expected that in each state one of these will come up in due course of time. The SOSs offer Secondary, Senior Secondary, Vocational and Basic Education courses as per the State's identified needs in the concerned regional mediums through Open Schooling System. The structure of a State Open School varies according to the context and educational needs of each state. The NIOS has also made provision to provide technical and professional support in designing, setting up and quality assurance of the State Open Schools and discharging coordination and clearing house functions as a Resource Agency / forum for exchange of ideas, information and ancillary activities.

◆ **State Open Schools**

The position regarding setting up of Open Schools (SOSs) in States is as follows:

The States that have already set up State Open Schools are (1) West Bengal (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Karnataka (4) Tamil Nadu (5) Kerala (6) Madhya Pradesh (7) Rajasthan (8) Punjab (9) Haryana (10) Jammu & Kashmir.

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) provides financial and academic resource support to SOSs occasionally. These SOSs are following certain features of Open and Distance Learning (ODL)/ Open Schooling in terms of model, stages of Education covered, status, learning materials, curriculum and courses of study, etc. Generally they are following the NIOS pattern of Open Schooling more or less. However, there is scope for improvement in order to conform to open learning strategies. Efforts are being made for upscaling of these SOSs.

The states that have contemplated the idea of establishing a State Open School include (1) Bihar (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Assam (4) Orissa (5) Jharkhand (6) Chhattisgarh (7) Gujarat, and (8) Maharashtra. Some of these are in the process of preparation of Project Proposals to set up SOS. Others could not finalise the proposals so far. NIOS has been interacting with them on various platforms and advocating for establishment of SOS on priority basis. The States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have finalised the Project Proposals for SOS during 2005-06.

They are awaiting for their State Government's approval.

The States of North-East, including Sikkim, have not specifically responded for setting up of their own State Open Schools. The States of Manipur and Mizoram had evinced their interest for SOS some years ago, but it could not take concrete shape. Guidelines titled 'How to set up a State Open School/State Centre for Open Schooling' were provided to the State Education Departments.

The States of Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Delhi and all the Union Territories are yet to respond. A State Centre for Open Schooling was established in Himachal Pradesh, but that is dysfunctional now. Delhi established its SOS, but later on scrapped the scheme.

Under the aforesaid categorization of States for promotion of Open Schooling and setting up of independent State Open School in each state, the points of uniqueness/variations/similarities and needed Action Plan have been worked out for follow up action during 2006-07.

◆ **Programmes and Activities of NCOS**

1. As a follow up of the recommendations of (i) The National Meet for Promotion/Strengthening of Open Schooling, held from 6 to 7 August, 2004 at Bhopal and (ii) International Conference on Promotion of Open Schooling, held from 23 to 25 January, 2005 at Goa, the following activities were carried out:
 - Sending Communications to the State Education Secretaries emphasizing the need to upscale the Programmes of the State Open Schools
 - SOSs were advised for planned intervention to extend Open Schooling Programmes to all levels viz, Primary to Sr. Secondary including Vocational Education Courses.
 - Emphasized on Quality Assurance in Curriculum, Materials, Transactional Process, ICT, HRD, Evaluation, Monitoring, Students Support Services etc.
 - Organized an International Conference on Vocational Education and Training through Open Schooling at Kovalam (Kerala) from 8 to 10 February, 2006
 - Fostered networking and linkages amongst the NIOS and the SOSs/other Institution in the Field of Open Schooling.
 - Persuaded the States through Advocacy Seminars, personal visits and written communications to set up their own SOSs at the earliest.

- Publicity of Open Schooling Programmes through Electronic Media, Seminars, Advocacy Meetings, Visitation, etc.,
 - Drafting a 'Suggestive Framework' titled "Promotion of Open Schooling – Setting up of a State Open School" (awaiting intensive discussion before it is approved/improved/accepted)
2. A National Conference on Cooperation and Collaboration of State Boards of Education and Open Schools in India was jointly organized by NIOS and COBSE on 20 October, 2005 at New Delhi.

One of the Recommendations of the Conference is as follows:

“Visualizing the significant role of Open Schooling for meeting the educational needs of varied clientele, the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) may formulate a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Promotion of Open Schooling. The Centrally sponsored Scheme may make special provision of financial assistance to the States that could not set up their Open Schools so far.”

3. Annual Meeting of the State Open Schools (SOSs)

The NIOS organized the Annual Meeting of State Open Schools at its Headquarter in New Delhi on 21 October 2005. The deliberations focused on the current Status/Situations and Networking among NIOS and SOSs. The Status Reports of State Open Schools of i) Andhra Pradesh, ii) Haryana, iii) Karnataka, iv) Kerala, v) Madhya Pradesh, vi) Rajasthan, vii) Tamil Nadu and viii) West Bengal were presented by the concerned States. Based on the profile and status of each SOS, the following observations/comments were made.

- Each State to strengthen/upscale/upgrade the existing status of SOS.
- Enhance enrolment at all levels of school education courses, especially through regional mediums.
- Introduce/undertake courses of OBE (Equivalency Programmes)
- Increase collaboration and Networking with NIOS vis-à-vis each SOS.
- Seek admissible professional, technical, academic and resource support from NIOS from time to time.
- Strengthen the existing forum of NCOS for better results pertaining to Promotion of Open Schooling at the national

level as well as States level.

- Sharing innovations and experiences in Open Schooling through NCOS
- Making Annual Meeting of SOS as a regular feature.

Recommendations

- NIOS, under the aegis of NCOS, may set up a National Resource Centre of Learning Materials of all the SOSs and NIOS. The Curriculum Framework and Syllabi of these organizations may also be kept in the Resource Centre. The State Open Schools agreed to send a set of their printed materials to NIOS for maintaining a “National Centre for Open Schooling Materials”.
- A Backgrounder giving information about NIOS and SOSs may be prepared. This may be updated every year.
- NIOS should take appropriate steps on priority basis to plan and organize need based capacity building programmes for the open schooling functionaries.

4. Status of SOSs

i) Rajasthan State Open School (RSOS) (May 13, 2005)

The Govt. of Rajasthan has started (w.e.f July, 2005) a full-fledged State Open School (SOS) as a Registered Society and enrolled students for the Secondary (Class X) and the Senior Secondary (Class XII) courses for 2005-06 session. The Govt. Order for this was issued by the State Vide No. F.22(4)/Shiksha-1/2004, dated 13.5.2005. Earlier the Open School Programme at X and XII level was being conducted as Correspondence Courses under the Directorate of Distance Education of Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education, Ajmer. The RSOS has broadly adopted Self Instructional Materials and Scheme of Studies of NIOS. The SOS is working in close cooperation with NIOS. Financial Assistance to the tune of 5 lakh rupees was released to RSOS as seed money.

ii) Tamil Nadu Restarts State Open School (SOS) (October 13, 2005).

The Education Secretary, Government of Tamilnadu, organized a meeting at Chennai on 13 October 2005 to revive the State Open School and starting the Open Basic Education (OBE) programme in the State. Prof. K R Chandrasekaran, Director (Academic), NIOS, the State Government officials and the Director, State Resource Centre, Chennai attended the meeting. It was decided to restart the State Open School. Initially, the secondary level course was proposed to be started from May, 2006.

iii) Bihar gets Ready for SOS (November 21-22, 2005)

The NIOS Regional Centre, Patna, in collaboration with the State Education Department, finalised the Project Proposal for launching the State Open School in Bihar. In order to discuss the techno-economic feasibility report, a two-day workshop was held from 21 to 22 November 2005 in the Office of the Regional Centre of NIOS under the Chairmanship of Shri Vijay Prakash, IAS., Education Secretary, Govt. of Bihar. Prof. K R Chandrasekaran and Dr. S S Sangal from NIOS Headquarters participated in the workshop. Shri S K Sinha, Head, Regional Centre, Patna coordinated the programme.

iv) Revival and Upscaling of TNSOS. (February 13, 2006)

The Secretary, School Education Department, Govt. of Tamilnadu organized a meeting in the State Secretariat on 13 February, 2006 to consider the revised project proposal for revival and upscaling of the State Open School (SOS) and decided to restart it as the State Institute of Open Schooling (SIOS) from the ensuing Academic session. Prof. K R Chandrasekaran, Director (Academic), NIOS and Dr. S S Sangal, Former Director (Academic), NIOS attended the Meeting. From the School Education Department of Tamilnadu, Director, DTERT, Director, Non-formal and Adult Education, Director, SRC, Incharge of TNSOS, and other State Govt. officials participated in the meeting. Inputs for revising, updating and standardizing the proposal for revival/upscaling of TNSOS in conformity with the broad objectives of Open Schooling framework/guidelines etc., were given by Dr. S.S. Sangal in a workshop held in DTERT, Chennai from 10 to 12 February 2006.

Various aspects of revision, updating revival and upscaling of the project proposal were comprehensively discussed. It was decided to re-launch the Open Schooling Programme in the State and re-name the SOS as SIOS.

Based on the Project Proposal for upscaling vis-à-vis its relevant provisions, the Plan of Action of operationalisation of the Scheme of Open Schooling in the State was approved. It was decided to restart the Open Schooling Scheme from 2006-07 for Secondary and from 2007-08 for Higher Secondary courses. The constitution of the Open Schooling State Coordination Committee (OSSCC) and the appointment of a State Nodal Officer, identification of needs and sustenance of Open Schooling in the State were also agreed upon.

v) Uttar Pradesh State Open School (UPSOS)

A comprehensive Draft Project Proposal for setting up of the UPSOS was finalised in March, 2006 and submitted by the State Education Department for approval to the State Government.