

12. Research Studies and Surveys

12.1 Scheme of Grants-in-Aid for Research Projects in Open Schooling (GRPOS)

One of the main objectives of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is to undertake research and assist other organizations/institutions to promote research in Open Schooling. In pursuance of the above objective and keeping in view the emerging areas of research, a detailed scheme of **Grants-in-Aid for Research Projects in Open Schooling (GRPOS)** has been developed. It contains guidelines for screening modalities, monitoring and evaluation, modalities for releasing funds etc., for research projects received from external organizations/institutions. The scheme was edited by a sub-committee comprising of internal faculty members constituted by the Director (Academic). The scheme was discussed thoroughly in subsequent meetings of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and approved in its meeting held on **2 March, 2006**.

The GRPOS was approved in principle by the Academic Council in its meeting held on 29 March, 2006. The scheme (language and Memorandum of Understanding) was vetted by the Legal Cell of NIOS. The scheme will be operationalised after the approval of the Finance Committee and the Executive Board of NIOS.

12.2 Screening of External Research Projects

In a meeting of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) held on 22 August, 2005, the following research proposals were presented by the Principal Investigator.

- (i) “Enhancing Effectiveness of the Students Support Services” submitted by the Society for Planning and Action Research.
- (ii) “Independent Learning based upon Self-Learning Approach” submitted by the International Council of Education.

The Principal Investigators were advised to modify their projects in the light of the suggestions given by the RAC.

12.3 Priority Areas of Research in Open Schooling

The areas of research in Academic, Management/Administration and

Vocational Education in open schooling were identified. These were discussed and approved with minor modification in the RAC meeting held on 2 March, 2006.

◆ **Research in Academic Areas**

Research in Open Schooling in National Open School aims at finding out the solutions of the problems/difficulties identified in all the areas such as:

- Flexibilities and openness in the Open Schooling System,
- Student Support service – PCPs, TMA,
- Support media,
- Effectiveness of Self Instructional Materials (SIM),
- Examination and Evaluation strategies,
- Need based subject selection/subject combinations,
- Possibilities of integrating modern technology for effective instruction, and

◆ **Research areas in Management/Administration**

1. NIOS success record viz., Employability/present status of NIOS students for academic/vocational courses.
2. Conduct PCPs at various study centres.
3. Role and Functions of the Academic Facilitators in NIOS

It could include the following factors:

- How often they visit AI/AVI?
 - What specific areas do they look at ?
 - What information do they provide to NIOS?
4. The efficiency of distribution system of learning materials and its cost-effectiveness.
 5. Selling of self-instructional material (SIM) with special attention to feasibility of sale of SIM in Open market.
 6. A study on role of OSD and raid parties during examinations.
 7. Cost-benefit analysis, advantage, and disadvantage of centralized evaluation system vis-à-vis decentralized evolution system in NIOS.
 8. Evaluative studies about the conduct of examination at NIOS

◆ **Research Areas in Vocational Education**

1. Studying job profiles of pass-outs of vocational courses of NIOS.
2. Effectiveness of Networking with Industries/Technical Institutions in Open Vocational Education.
3. Marketability in terms of demand of vocational courses – An evaluation study.
4. National level impact study of vocational training in the field of Business and Commerce of NIOS learners.
5. Comprehensibility of vocational learning materials used by NIOS learners in the field of Health and Paramedical Education.
6. Different factors causing low enrolment of some vocational courses and remedial measures.
7. Effect of Vocational Training on Employment opportunities.
8. Feasibility study of new vocational courses.
9. Status review of existing vocational courses (Impact Study)
10. Learner profile in vocational education.
11. Requirement of need based and job oriented Vocational courses through Open Schooling.

◆ **The Research areas envisaged in NIOS Vision Document 2020 are as follow :**

- Studies on accessibility of NIOS and the constraints both from learner and institutional point of view.
- Surveys to assess the demand for different types of academic and vocational courses of study etc.
- Studies on critical review of the flexibilities and openness in the Open Schooling System.
- Tracer and other follow up studies to find out how the pass outs are employed and, in general, what they are doing and what their views about the courses completed by them.
- Studies on instructional methods suitable for Open and Distance Learning, support systems needed to enhance learning and procedures of continuous evaluation to be adopted for monitoring the progress of learners and also for helping them in learning more effectively.

- Studies based on analysis of examinations data to assess the quality of questions and to analyse the performance of examinees on different competencies tested by the questions.
- Studies on socio-economic background of learners and their performance level.
- Studies on delivery system including use of ICT and other modes.
- Studies on efficacy of self-instructional materials.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness and quality of Personal Contact Programmes (PCPs), Support mechanisms and Media etc.
- Comparative study pertaining to performance of pass outs of ODL system with those of formal school system.
- Studies on per student cost and cost-effectiveness of the ODL system for different types of courses.