

NEWS BULLETIN

April 2010



National Institute of Open Schooling

NIOS to Introduce Paramedical Courses in Collaboration with IMA

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) offers a number of vocational courses in different areas to meet the demands of the job market and the interest of the learners.

Keeping in line with the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has signed an MOU with the Indian Medical Association (IMA), to introduce five paramedical courses in a phased manner.

The courses to be introduced include the following:

- i) X-ray Technician course
- ii) Operation Theatre Technician course
- iii) Cardiac Technician course
- iv) Medical Record Keeping course
- v) Medical Lab Technician course

To begin with, the X-ray Technician course and Operation Theatre Technician course would be introduced from the July 2010 session on a pilot basis. About 50 training centres/work places with adequate infrastructure to conduct these courses are being identified. A learner who has passed the 12th class with Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Biology will be eligible to take admission in these courses, the duration of which would be two years.

While NIOS will provide financial support for developing the academic activities, admissions and evaluation, monitoring in respect of quality of education on training etc. will be looked after by IMA.

In addition to the above courses, the NIOS also plans to introduce 'Cardiac Technician' and 'Medical

Record Keeping' courses from the July 2010 session. IMA has agreed to provide the course material for these courses.

The certificates for the above courses will be jointly issued by IMA and NIOS

Regional Centre, Delhi

A meeting of Centre Superintendents of examination centres of Delhi Region was held to ensure a fair and smooth conduct of the April/May 2010 examinations.

The Regional Centre, Delhi conducted the biggest ever exam through 208 examination centres, for which about 1.30,000 learners enrolled in the Delhi and NCR region.

All the examination centres were monitored by the Officers on Special Duty (OSDs) and Flying Squads in close co-ordination with the Evaluation Dept. and OSDs were rotated on daily basis from one exam centre to another exam centre.



Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS addressing the Centre Superintendents

NIOS-FVTRS Collaboration

The NIOS is working out possible ways of collaborating with the Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTRS) to certify trained youth in various trades and to facilitate vertical mobility to mainstream the youth academically.

The FVTRS with its headquarters in Bangalore focuses on school drop-outs and illiterate youth to make them employable and to conduct demand-oriented flexible skill building training programmes. This involves market and training needs analysis in different regions, curricula preparation, and orientation to partners and management training programmes for partners.

A detailed proposal regarding trades, curricula and partner network link to NIOS is being worked out.

TMA for 2010-11

The Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs) for the year 2010-11 has been prepared for Secondary and Senior Secondary levels in Hindi and English versions. This TMA is applicable for all learners who have registered from 1st April, 2010. Learners may download the TMA in the subjects taken by them.

Launching of new subjects for On-Demand Examinations (ODES) at Senior Secondary level.

Four new subjects - Hindi, Mathematics, Physics, and Psychology are to be launched for On-Demand Examinations at Senior Secondary level from 18th May, 2010. Learners can opt for these subjects. Other subjects namely Chemistry, Geography and Economics at Senior Secondary level for ODES are to be launched shortly.

Standardization of Marking Scheme

A schedule for holding the meetings for Standardization of Marking Schemes for the subjects in Secondary and Senior Secondary courses for April-May, 2010 Examinations was worked out for timely completion of standardization of Marking Schemes. Accordingly, the Marking Schemes were standardized and submitted by the Academic Department for forwarding them to the Regional Centres.

OBE Programme

Subsequent to consultations held with MHRD officials to take a final decision on implementation of OBE for 6-14 age group in view of the Right of

Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, MHRD has permitted NIOS to continue its OBE programme for 6-14 age group for a period of three years from 1st April, 2010. Accordingly, NIOS has advised all the Accredited Agencies (AAs) as per the instructions of the MHRD.

Admissions Open

Online Admissions for 2010-11 Session

- **On-line Admission for all learners (Stream-1) – I Block** This is open for all learners as per the laid down eligibility criteria for Secondary and Senior Secondary level from 01 March 2010 to 31 August 2010.
- **On-line Admission for learners wanting to appear in October – November 2010 examination (Stream-2)** – This is open from 20 May 2010 to 20 July 2010 for all those learners who had appeared but could not clear the Public Examination of Secondary/Senior Secondary levels from any recognized Examination Board for the same subject combination in which they had appeared.

Online Vocational Admission 2010-11

Admission to Vocational courses is open throughout the year. The facility of On-line Admission for Vocational Courses has also been introduced. Admission is open upto 30th June 2010 to be eligible to appear for the forthcoming examinations as per eligibility of the learners.

For more information regarding admission, please log on to www.nios.ac.in

Study Visits

A delegation from Kenya consisting of members from the Kenya High Commission, University of Nairobi,



Interaction with the delegates

Directorate of Open & Distance Learning, MOI University, ICT/e-learning Kenyatta University and Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Nairobi visited the NIOS on 6th April, 2010.

Training-cum-Orientation Programme on Web designing with web Accessibility

The Computer Unit of NIOS in collaboration with the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) organized a 2 day Training-cum-Orientation Programme on 17-18th Apr 2010 on Web designing with web accessibility.

The Workshop was attended by the representatives of five State Open Schools and officials from NIOS headquarters. The Five State Open Schools were:

1. Andhra Pradesh State Open school
2. Haryana State Open school
3. J&K State Open School,
4. Assam State Open school
5. Rajasthan State Open School

The Resource Persons who conducted the Training Programme were from CIS.



Participants from NIOS, State Open Schools and NCOS along with the Resource persons from CIS during the Training-cum Orientation programme.

The Focus of the Training programme was on Web Designing from the Accessibility point of view as a large number of learners with special needs pursue

courses through Open Schooling. It was greatly felt that the website of the organization should be easily accessible to the learners with special needs also. Keeping this in view, the thrust was upon the following areas:

- Understanding Disability
- Discussions held upon the Assistive or Adaptive Technology commonly referred to as “...products, devices or equipment, whether acquired commercially, modified or customized, that are used to maintain, increase or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities”
- Demonstration was done upon the various assistive devices like Screen Readers, screen magnifiers, CCTV Cameras, Word prediction software etc. as well as how these technologies has helped overcome disability.
- Best practice of HTML.
- W3C Markup validation Service
- A detailed discussion was held upon the WCAG 2.0 Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 and its four Principles - Percievable, Operable, Understandable, Robost (POUR).
- Discussion was held upon the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Program
- It was also discussed how to make web content more accessible for people with
 - blindness and low vision
 - deafness and hearing loss
 - learning disabilities
 - cognitive limitations
 - limited movement
 - speech difficulties

Teacher Training Programme

A meeting chaired by Dr SS Jena , Chairman NIOS was held on the 15th April 2010 to explore the possibility of training the untrained teachers under the RTE. This was organized in view of the concern regarding the training of the untrained teachers, with the implementation of RTE.

The task is enormous as there would be more than 70 lakhs untrained teachers to be trained within 5 years. So far, no efforts have been made for the training of teachers at the elementary level. It has major implications due to the vast heterogeneity with respect to RTE.

Various teacher training courses implemented by various states and other organizations both by distance education and face to face mode were discussed in the meeting.

It was pointed out that infrastructural resources in terms of physical as well as human resources, adequate student support as well the appropriate use of technology are important criteria in Teacher Training (TT).

Identification of study centers where TT can be implemented and an effective delivery mechanism also needs to be worked out.

The UNESCO expressed their willingness to provide support to NIOS in this new venture. A formal MOU is under preparation to be signed by both NIOS and UNESCO.

It was agreed upon that NIOS should go in for Teacher Training at the elementary level which should be a venture in a

- project mode
- competency oriented
- sandwiched programme in a phased manner.

Success Story

Ishant Gandhi

Enrolment No. 27012962269

Ishant Gandhi passed the Secondary examination from the NIOS in 2007 and has appeared for the April/May 2010 Senior Secondary examinations.



Belonging to a family of artistes, Ishant started acting at the age of eight. Although he attended a regular school upto class IX, he found it difficult to cope up with formal schooling along with his schedule as an actor. The NIOS which offers the option of flexible education enabled him to enroll and pass the Secondary examination.

A highly talented learner, Ishant performs kathak dance and also cultural and devotional programmes such as bhajans and kirtans. He is presently playing a supporting role in a Zee TV serial titled " Karol Bagh, 12/24".

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National Institute of Open Schooling

A-24-25, Institutional Area, Sector-62, NOIDA, UP

Website : www.nios.ac.in

Toll Free No. 18001809393