NEWS BULLETIN

January-February 2012

National Institute of Open Schooling

International conference on 'Integration of Academic Courses with Vocational Education in Secondary Schools' (17-19 February, 2012)

A three day International Conference on "Integration of Academic Courses with Vocational Education in Secondary Schools" was held from 17-19 February 2012 at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi. Organized by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in collaboration with UNESCO and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), this conference deliberated upon the impending challenges and issues of Vocational Education and Training (VET) to develop a framework to establish linkages of skill training through Vocational Education at Secondary School level with emphasis on knowledge base through academic subjects.

Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, Deptt. of School Education and Literacy inaugurating the Conference

Delivering the inaugural address, Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, Deptt. of School Education & Literacy, MHRD, Govt. of India emphasized on the need for a focused agenda to address the skill requirement of a nation like India which will have 700 million people seeking to earn their livelihood by 2022. Speaking in the context of the workshop which was working upon the aligning of academic and vocational courses, Smt. Vaish pointed out how vocational education was stigmatized as a result of an early entry to the work place for economic reasons and the need for this to be remedied by mainstreaming vocational education. She urged the NIOS to fulfill this need by designing courses to meet market demands with an emphasis on quality, a crucial element in vocational education.

Launching New Vocational Courses

Two new vocational courses in the areas of Hospitality and Construction Supervision were launched on the occasion.

A special address was delivered by Sri Shigeru Aoyaji, Director & UNESCO Representative for India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Appreciating the contribution made by NIOS in the area of Open Distance Learning, he hoped that this conference would provide a platform for strengthening co-operation among the institutes on one hand and industries on the other.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS said that this conference was organized to re-orient the school education system especially the Open Schooling System, in keeping with the need for skill development and development of core capabilities, thereby achieving the objective of life long learning. He further added that heterogeneous experts drawn from different academic areas will deliberate on new emerging areas and develop a framework for vocational education, during the three day conference. The inaugural session of the Conference on 17th February 2012 was followed by the plenary sessions, where presentations were made on various themes.

The first plenary session chaired by Sri Apurva Chandra, Joint Secretary (SE&L), MHRD, Govt. of India included a presentation on the "Use of ICT for Skill Training Implications for Open Schooling System in India" by Dr. Sugata Mitra, Professor, MIT Media Lab, USA and Professor, ECLS, New Castle University, U.K.

Plenary Session Chaired by Sri Apurva Chandra, Joint Secretary (SE&L), MHRD, GOI

Chaired by Prof. M. Aslam, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, the second plenary session highlighted the policies and perspectives of the Govt. of India for imparting training and skill education in the country through presentations made by Sri Sharda Prasad, JS & DG (DGET), Ministry of Labour, Govt of India and Sri G. Vaz (Consultant, Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET), Mumbai on how policy perspectives for

vocational skills and training to empower citizens had enabled translation of prejudice to pride.

Prof. M. Aslam, VC, IGNOU (Centre)
Chairing a Session

Parallel sessions on the Use of Technology in Academic Courses and Vocational Education and Policy perspectives for imparting vocational skills and training for empowerment, were also held on the first day of the conference, chaired by Dr. Wilberforce Meena, Tanzania and Mr. Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS, Bangalore, respectively. The speakers included Ms. Aparna Pankaj, Kadikar, Gujarat; Dr. Arif Jain, State Open School, J&K; Mr. V. Levakumar, Trivandrum, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Joint Director (Acad.), NIOS; Mr. Prakash Kanale, Associate Professor, D.S.M College, Maharashtra; Dr. Manoj Kulshreshtha, Project Coordinator, School of Engineering and Technology, IGNOU, Delhi; Dr. Anil Kumar K., Asstt. Professor in Teacher Education, RIE, Mysore, Karnataka; Mr. K. Ramakrishna Rao, Andhra Pradesh; Mr. Anwarul Islam, Bangladesh; Godson Gatsha, Botswana; Dr. Sushmita Mitra, London; Dr. Amit Agarwal, Uttarakhand; Prof. (Ms) P.K. Tulsi, Chandigarh; Dr. J.N. Baliya, Jammu; Ms. Jyotsna Ayyagari, Hyderabad; Mr. K. Venkatesan, Andaman & Nicobar; Ms. Vidya Varidhi Upadhyay; Ms. Jagriti Singh, Delhi; Ms. Rajni Bala, Punjab and Mr. Chitrasen Gautama, Delhi.

The second day of the conference began with a video presentation of Ms. Francis Ferreira, Educational Specialist, COL who could not attend the conference but wanted to share her views and concerns. Through her message, she emphasized on the need for more investments in the system in order to reach out to the 71.6 million children who do not have access to quality education.

The first session on the second day chaired by Mr. Jagadananda, Information Commissioner, Orissa deliberated on the theme "Designing the curriculum and Quality Framework to strengthen the impact of Vocational Education at School Level". The two speakers for the session were Mr. Dilip Chenoy, MD & CEO (NSDC), Delhi and Ms. Belinda Smith, Consultant, TVET.

Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS felicitating
Mr. Jagadananda, Information Commissioner, Orissa

Deliberations were also held on "Developing a Framework for the Recognition of Prior Learning" in a panel discussion chaired by Sri Jagmohan Singh Raju, Joint Secretary (Adult Education) and Director General, National Literary Mission Authority (NLMA), Govt. of India and on 'Vocational Education in Secondary Schools and its implications' for National Vocational Educational Qualification Framework (NVEQF)'.

The session ended with an emphasis on the need for thinking about Bharat versus India, and the need for integration of employability, self employment, and livelihood.

The Third and final day of the conference began with a plenary session on the theme "Assessment and Certification Framework", chaired by Prof. Md. Miyan, Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

Plenary Session: Prof. Md. Miyan (centre),
Mr. Shailendra Sidgel (L) and Ms. Maria Peters (R)

The issues discussed included "Working in Partnership to Engage Youth in Vocational Education Training (VET) and "Student Assessment in Technical Vocational Education & Training" through presentations made by Ms. Maria Peters, CEO, Chisholm Institute of TAFE, Australia and Mr. Shailendra Sidgel, Statistical Advisor, South Asia, UIS, Canada, This was followed by two parallel sessions on the themes, "Vocational Skills and Training for Empowerment – The Policy Perspective" chaired by Dr. Godson Gatsha, Consultant & ODL Technical Advisor, Malawi and Designing the curriculum and quality framework to strengthen the Impact of Vocational Education at the school level" chaired by Ms. Weddinah Nyangu, P.E.O, Ministry of Education, Science and Vocational Training , Zambia. Speakers in these sessions included Mr. Karnail Singh, J&K, Dr. Ashish Agarwal, Delhi; Dr. Jitendra Tiwari, Uttarakhand; Dr. Vetukuri P.S. Raju, Delhi; H. Asgar, Delhi; Ms. Smriti Sharma, Chattisgarh; Mr. B.R Umakant, Karnataka; Mr. J Inbaraj, Chennai; Dr. G Ananda A.P; Dr. Sanjay B Zope, Maharashtra; Mr. T. Somanath, Karnataka; Mr. K. Ramakrishna Rao, Bheemunipatnam; Dr. Asfa M. Yasin, M.P. and Mrs. Rajni Bala, Punjab. The conference sessions concluded with a panel discussion on the theme "Pedagogy for skill Training in secondary school" moderated by Dr. K.P. Wasnik, Director (Vocational Education)", NIOS. The panelists included Prof. C.G Naidu, IGNOU; Ms. Terry Neal, Flexible learning, OPNZ, New Zealand and Dr. Nalin Jena, World Bank, India.

This was followed by two parallel plenary sessions wherein paper presentations were made on various issues relating to the Integration of Academic Courses with Vocational Education. A panel discussion on "Pedagogy for Skill Training in Secondary Schools" also formed part of the conference proceedings on the third day.

The three day conference concluded with a Consolidation and Valedictory Session, presided by Dr. (Smt.) D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Govt. of India.

Dr. (Smt.) D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Govt. of India delivering the Valedictory address

Congratulating Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS for the initiative taken by him in organizing this conference, Smt. Purandeswari highlighted the importance of Vocationalization of Secondary Education in the country. "India is in a transition to a knowledge based economy. This requires the translation of manpower to knowledgeable manpower", she said. Speaking in the context of the integration of academic courses with vocational education, she pointed out the urgent need to re-determine the critical elements of vocational training to make the system more efficient.

The Guest of Honour, Sh. Jagmohan Raju, Joint Secretary, Adult Education and Director General, National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA), Govt. of India emphasized on the role to be played by state education boards in the integration of academic courses with vocational education and hoped that the findings and outcome of the conference would facilitate the formation of policies in the context.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS informed that extensive deliberations were held on the integration of vocational education with academic courses through insights given by the speakers on the various sub-themes in the form of paper presentations made during the conference. He thanked the collaborative institutions, UNESCO & COL as well as the delegates for their support and contribution.

Dr. Mamta Srivastava, Dy. Director, Vocational Education Deptt., NIOS presented a consolidated report on the three day conference which was held from 17th-19th February 2012.

Dr. K.P. Wasnik, Director, Vocational Education Deptt., NIOS proposed a vote of thanks.

Workshop on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

A three day workshop was organised on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) from 20-22 February, 2012 at IDSA, New Delhi as a part of the MOU signed between National Institute of Open Schooling, (NIOS) and Open Polytechnic New Zealand (OPNZ) and to benefit from the expertise of OPNZ, in implementing RPL in India. Ms. Liz Bowen Clewey, Director, Competency International Limited, New Zealand and Ms. Terry Neal, Flexible Learning Manager, OPNZ were the facilitators of the workshop. Participants were from NIOS, State Open Schools, Jan Shikshan Sansthans and PSSCIVE, Bhopal. Some key sectors identified in the workshop were Textiles, Automobile, Construction Supervision, Plumbing and Electrical Technician.

Republic Day Celebrations

The Republic Day (January 26, 2012) was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm and fervour at the NIOS headquarters, NOIDA as well as the Regional Centres. Delivering a message for NIOS learners on the occasion, Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS reiterated the commitment of the institution to generate a healthy learning society.

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January 25, 2012

Message

Dear Learners,

On the occasion of 62nd Republic Day being celebrated on January 26, 2012, I extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to all of you.

Republic day is the proud reminder of Indian triumph over not only foreign rule but also from other prejudices through establishment of Indian constitution. Our constitution has laid a firm foundation to build a vibrant partnership in every field of human growth and development.

We mark this anniversary of Indian republic and establishment of India as a sovereign nation by celebrating the shared belief in justice, democracy, liberty, equality and fraternity. NIOS commits to form a robust relationship with learners leading to educational, vocational and life skills empowerment to generate a healthy learning society.

(Sitanshu Shekhar Jena)

Superannuation

Dr. R.K Arya, Joint Director (Media) has retired from the services of NIOS and was accordingly relieved from his duties w.e.f. from 29-02-2012.

From the Regional Centres .....

Bhubaneswar

- An Orientation Programme for New Accredited Institutes through Teleconference and a Meeting of Coordinators for the Koraput Zone were organised at the IGNOU Regional Centre, Koraput on 12 January 2012.
- To commemorate the National Youth Day (12 January 2012), a quiz programme was organised for NIOS learners at the Government SSD High School, Sunabeda, Koraput (AI No. 410031) on 13 January 2012.
- In a Carrom Competition held for NIOS learners from 25-27 January 2012 at MITRA, Bhubaneswar, Sri Chinmay Kumar Pradhan and Ms. Ankita Payal were declared the winners.
- A Chess Competition held on 27th January was won by Sri Sk. Abdul Rahim.

Pune

Workshop on Development of OER in Vocational Education

A three day workshop was held from 27-29th Feb 2012 at Pune to orient the Open Educational Resources (OER) course teams in the areas of ICT applications, Rural Technology and Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Inaugurating the programme, Prof. Ram Takwale, Former Vice Chancellor, IGNOU emphasised on the creation of an OER based educational system and hoped that the workshop will help in the development of role- based and concept based OERs with a lot of activities by means of which distance learners can enhance their capabilities.

A detailed presentation on the terms 'Open Resource' and 'Educational Resource' was made by Prof. S.C. Agarkar, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), Mumbai. The importance and usefulness of ADDIE Model was discussed through an online presentation session made by Dr. Jayashree Shinde, HOD, Educational Technology, SNDT University, Mumbai and supported by Prof. Veena Deshmukh, Director, CDE, SNDT University, Mumbai.

Prof. M.N. Deshmukh, Sr. Scientific Officer, HBCSE, Mumbai shared his experience of the OER project of HBCSE. A session on wiki by Dr. Savithri Singh, Principal, Acharya Narendra Dev College emphasised on the need for making the OER 'open' in its complete sense and demonstrated the use of wiki educator as a platform for OER.

The participants were urged to prepare Concept Maps on the topics for which the content analysis had been completed and work towards the preparation of integrated syllabi.

Success Story

सेवा में,

डा0 राजेश कुमार जी,
क्षेत्रीय निदेशक,
राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विद्यालयी शिक्षा संस्थान,
मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार,
क्षेत्रीय केन्द्र, चण्डीगढ।

श्रीमान् जी,

मुझे यह खुशी है कि मैंने आपके NIOS से दसवीं की परीक्षा पास की है। मैंने अपनी जिंदगी में कभी भी यह नहीं सोचा था कि मैं आपके इस NIOS से दसवीं की परीक्षा पास कर पाऊँगी यह नहीं । जितना मैंने पढा और सुना था उससे ज्यादा ही मुझे आपके इस NIOS से सफलता प्राप्त मिली है। मेरे हिसाब से यह बहुत ही बढिया शिक्षा को प्राप्त करने का रास्ता है।

मैंने आठवीं पास करके आगे की पढाई जारी न कर सकी। लेकिन मेरा मन भी लोंगों की पढाई को देखकर उदास हो जाता था कि मैं भी दसवीं पास करूंगी, यह नहीं क्योंकि इस के लिए समय और पैसों की जरूरत होगी, लेकिन इस NIOS में ऐसा नहीं है न तो स्कूल जाना पडता है और न ही कोई अतिरिक्त फीस देनी पडती है। परन्तु घर पर ही समय निकाल कर और अपना मन बनाकर पढाई करनी पडती है। आपकी किताबें दो-तीन बार पढ कर मन में समझ आ जाती है। सबसे अच्छी बात यह है कि इस में हम एक-एक पेपर पास कर के अंत में प्रमाण-पत्र प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

मेरा अनुमान है यह एक बहुत ही बढिया शिक्षा ग्रहण करने का साधन है जोकि हमारे जैसे कई बहनें-भाई जिन्होनें अपनी पढाई बीच में छोड दी है। वह अपनी पढाई NIOS के माध्यम से शुरू कर सकते है। और इस NIOS से पूरे भारतबर्ष में अनपढता समाप्त हो जायेगी। इस से उपर और कोई साधन मुझे अच्छा नहीं लगता है। है तो केवल NIOS ही। NIOS ही हमारी बीच में छोडी गई शिक्षा को आगे ले जाने में उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना को पूरी कर सकती है।

मैं आपके इस NIOS का धन्यवाद किन शब्दों से करूं, क्योंकि यह NIOS छोडी गई शिक्षा को आगे ले जाने में भरपूर सहायक है यही जिंदगी को संभारने वाला {Institute} है तो केवल NIOS ही है।

अन्त में आपकी इस NIOS का अत्यन्त आभारी हूँ जिन्होंने मुझे इस बधाई-पत्र के काबिल समझा।

धन्यवाद सहित।

NIOS-RC-CHANDIGAR.
Diary No...9500.....
Date.....03/01/2012.....

दिनांकः- 14-12-2011

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