

NEWS BULLETIN

July 2010



National Institute of Open Schooling

EDUCATION SECRETARY ADDRESSES REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF NIOS

A Meeting of Regional Directors of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) was held on 19 & 20 July 2010 at the NIOS headquarters at A-24/25, Sector-62, Institutional Area, NOIDA. Such meetings are held every six months to review the working of the Regional Centres.

Addressing the gathering, Smt. Anshu Vaish, IAS, Secretary, School Education and Literacy, MHRD, GOI appreciated the flexibility being offered by the NIOS particularly in terms of the place and pace of learning, use of ICT etc. paving the way for the Right to Education which also accommodated such flexibilities.



Smt. Anshu Vaish, IAS, Secretary, School Education and Literacy, MHRD, GOI visiting the NIOS Learner Support Centre (LSC).

Congratulating the NIOS for pioneering such an Open Schooling System in the country and abroad, she suggested that the infrastructure available with formal schools may be utilized by the NIOS to conduct classes.

The Education Secretary also visited the Learner Support Centre (LSC) of the NIOS which functions as a Multi-mode Response Centre, using different modes of communication to respond to the queries of learners.

The following manuals/brochures prepared by NIOS for the benefit of learners and Regional Centres were released by the Education Secretary on the occasion.

- Student's brochure on ICT Based On-Demand Examination System (ODES)
- Information Brochure on the Learner Support Centre
- Manual and Operational Guidelines for Online Admission and Registration for Examination
- Handbook of Infrastructural Requirement and Operational Management for On-Demand Examinations at Regional Centres
- Student Brochure on Online Admission

Earlier, inaugurating the programme, Sh. S. C. Khuntia, IAS, Joint Secretary, School Education and Literacy, MHRD, GOI emphasized on the need to strengthen the Regional Offices of NIOS to enable them to reach out to the Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB) in the country.

Pointing out the need for bringing out necessary changes in the NIOS curriculum, he said that interactive content may be prepared in every subject to make learning more interesting. He also stressed on the need for a Grievance Redressal Mechanism to improve the image of the institution.

Dr. S. S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS welcomed the participants and spoke elaborately on the

special features of the Open Schooling System. Expressing concern about non-receipt of proposals from Regional Directors to set up schools in Educationally Backward Blocks and uncovered districts of the country, he advised Regional Centres to make efforts to make credible examination centres so that examination is conducted in a smooth manner.

A presentation on “Administration : revisiting practices of Governance and Management “ was made by Sri.G.G.Saxena, IAS, Secretary, NIOS. Presentations were also made by Regional Directors based on a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) ANALYSIS of the Regional Offices.

Presentations on the following issues were made during the two day meeting:

- **“Internal Quality Assurance in Student Support Services”**

Dr. Sushmita Mitra, Director (Student Support Services) highlighted the importance of maintaining quality by conforming to set standards which will in turn improve efficiency.

- **“Academic Issues and Priorities”**

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Joint Director (Acad.) and Director (Academic) – Incharge explained about various strengths such as Promotion of Open Schooling, Research and Development, Institutional Support, Adolescence Education Project (AEP), international exposure, use of technology etc. possessed by the Academic Department.

- **“Optimum use of Information and Technology”**

Sh. S.K. Prasad (System Analyst / Programmer) explained about the new initiatives taken by the Chairman, NIOS for the optimum use of technology such as new links created for dissemination of information to Accredited Institutions and learners.

- A **“Consultative Discussion on Research and Development Activities in NIOS”** was conducted by Prof. M.M. Mukhopadhyay.

- A **special lecture session on Administrative/Financial matters** by Sh. R. Tyagarajan, Deputy Registrar (Establishments), IGNOU was also organized during the meeting.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Sri.G.G.Saxena, IAS, Secretary, NIOS.

NIOS examinations – October/ November 2010

The Senior Secondary and Secondary Examinations of the NIOS will commence on October 20 and 23 , 2010 respectively.

Examinations for Vocational courses will begin on November 12, 2010.

For overseas candidates, separate examinations are scheduled to be held from October 5, 2010.

The detailed date sheet for the October/ November 2010 examinations are available on the NIOS website www.nios.ac.in

NIOS TO DEVELOP LIFE SKILLS ENRICHED STUDY MATERIAL

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is implementing the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and UNFPA India-supported Adolescence Education Program



Sri. G.G. Saxena, IAS, Secretary, NIOS addressing the participants of the Sensitization Workshop organised by the Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) unit, NIOS

(AEP) which focuses on enhancing life skills to enable young learners to tackle real-life situations effectively. The NIOS feels that life skills enhancement would be an important value addition that will go a long way in improving the overall quality of the study material, benefitting the learners.

Encouraged by the success of its pilot project to integrate life skills in selected lessons and subjects in its Secondary curriculum, the NIOS has embarked on an initiative to integrate life skills in five subjects namely English, Hindi, Science, Social Science and Home Science in its Secondary curriculum in 2010. Each subject consists of approximately 20-25 lessons. The subjects of Science and Home Science will have an additional Practical Manual each.

In the pilot project, the most popular subjects of Home Science, Social Science, Science & Technology and Languages (Hindi and English) were identified for integration to maximize the reach of the integrated lessons. Issues of empathy and communication skills were built into languages; Social Science chapter on population enabled the learner to recognize how a large population could also be viewed as India's most important asset rather than being perceived only as a liability; issues of consumer rights were included in home science and similarly several life skills were woven into all the 15 model lessons without compromising the subject content.

In the light of the above, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) organized a Sensitization Workshop for the Curriculum Committees of the subjects of English, Hindi, Social Science, Home Science and Science & Technology on 28 July 2010 at its headquarters at NOIDA.

The Chief Guest of the programme, Dr. Geeta Narayanan, Programme Officer, Adolescence Education Programme, UNFPA shared her views regarding life skills.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Joint Director (Academic), NIOS

explained the objectives of the workshop and highlighted the importance of inclusion of lifeskills in the curriculum.

This was followed by a presentation on "Curricular Interventions – NIOS Perspectives" by Ms. Asheema Singh, Project Co-ordinator, Adolescence Education Programme, NIOS.

Shri. C. Dharuman, Director (Evaluation), NIOS also emphasized on the importance of life skill education.

The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks by Shri. G.G.Saxena, Secretary, NIOS.

About 50 members of the Curriculum Committees of the subjects identified for the integration of life skills participated in the meeting.

NIOS EXTENDS ITS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO VISHAKHAPATNAM (24 July 2010)

A Sub-Regional Center of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) was inaugurated on 24 July 2010 by Smt. D. Purandeshwari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development at Vishakhapatnam, to extend educational opportunities through open and distance learning methodologies to prospective learners.



Smt. D. Purandeshwari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development addressing the gathering at the inauguration of the NIOS Sub-Regional Centre at Vishakhapatnam.

ON –DEMAND EXAMINATION IN THE SUBJECT OF ENGLISH (SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL)

The On-Demand Examination in English (302) is ready to be launched. The exam will begin from 1 September 2010. This will be the 12th subject in the Senior Secondary level.

WORKSHOP ON LESSON WRITING IN TAMIL LANGUAGE (SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL)

The fourth workshop for development of course material in Tamil language for the Senior Secondary level was held at Kochi from 9 July to 11 July 2010.

Highlighting the fact that the Secondary level course material in Tamil developed by the NIOS has received wide appreciation from learners and co-ordinators, the Chairman of the

Curriculum Committee, Dr.C.Subramaniam said that he was expecting the same response for the Secondary level too. He also assured that no controversial issues would be incorporated in the material.

Earlier, the workshop was formally inaugurated by Sri. V.S.Raveendran, Regional Director, NIOS, Kochi.

MEDIA PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

- NIOS video programmes are being telecast on Doordarshan (DD-I) from 5.02 a.m to 05.25 a.m every Friday and on Gyandarshan channel from 6.30 p.m to 7.00 p.m. everyday.
- NIOS audio programmes are being broadcast on Gyanvani FM channel from 8.30a.m. to 9.00 a.m. and repeat broadcast from 4.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Success Story: A Determined Learner

Ashok Rohilla

Enrolment No. : 000033911/920938



A drop-out owing to personal situations and a strong desire to continue education landed Sri. Ashok Rohilla in the 'Open and Distance Education System'. Delighted to know from friends about the flexibility of the system, Sri. Rohilla completed his Secondary and Senior Secondary Courses from the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

Presently employed in the Academic Department of NIOS, Sri Rohilla attributes his desire to continue education even in his forties to the institution in which he works. He is truly an example of a learner who pursued studies by fully utilizing the opportunities provided by the distance education system.

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