

NEWS BULLETIN

June-July 2011

 National Institute of Open Schooling

NIOS Participates in WES 2011

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) participated in the **World Education Summit (WES) 2011**, the world's premier event on education leadership, organised by the Centre for Science Development and Media Studies (CSDMS), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Elets Technomedia Pvt. Ltd. in August 2011. The NIOS was one of the co-organisers of the event. This global event which was held at the Ashoka, New Delhi from 13th-15th July, 2011 covered all aspects of School Education, Higher Education, and Skill Development and Vocational Education, bringing together policymakers across nations for dialogues, debates and deliberations upon policies, tools and methods of learning towards Education for all. An exhibition displaying academic programmes of the 33 participating educational institutions also formed part of the summit.

As an image building measure, the NIOS showcased its products and services at the World Education Summit 2011 through an Exhibition booth. The Summit provided a single platform to cover various aspects of School Education, Higher Education, Skill development and Vocational Education from local to international level, also creating opportunities for progress, as Education Ministries across various countries participated in the Summit.



NIOS stall at the WES 2011

The NIOS organized a special session on Vocational Education; "Upscaling Vocational Education and Skill Training through Open Schooling – Trends and Challenges". Dr. K.P. Wasnik, Director (VED), NIOS, NOIDA, Ms. Neal Terry, Flexible Learning Manager, Open polytechnic, New Zealand, Mr. Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS Bangalore, Dr. Sourabh Parkash, Professor, Central Institute for Vocational Education, Bhopal and Ms. Uma Tuli, Chairperson, Amarjyoti foundation, former Chairperson, RCI made presentations in this special session.

Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Director (Acad.) made a presentation on Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE).

A two page advertorial about NIOS was published in the special issue of the digital LEARNING Magazine brought out by CSDMS on this occasion.

Hinged on the participatory model, the Summit drew attention to best practices, sharing learning and knowledge, and promoting innovations in the field of education. It also assessed learning in the 21st century and



Dr. K.P. Wasnik, Director (VED), NIOS addressing the special session on Vocational Education

debate trends in school, higher and skill education across the globe. There was also an emphasis on deliberating upon best cases and methods for creating opportunities for students with disabilities. The role of teachers in meeting learners' diverse expectations and needs was another area that was intensely addressed.

The participation of NIOS in the technical sessions, workshops, keynotes and plenary sessions as well as exhibition of an international conference like WES, 2011 is perceived as an Image Building exercise for the organization and Capacity Building measure for its officers. Such an exposure could also go a long way in building the self esteem of the participants.

MoU to further NIOS initiative to educate Minority Communities

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), an autonomous institution under MHRD, GOI and the largest open schooling system in the world has been endeavouring to promote education amongst minority communities by launching the HUNAR project, support through the SPQEM (Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrassas) programme of Govt. of India, organising advocacy and mass sensitization programmes in various states and developing its study material in Urdu medium. The NIOS has also been in the process of identifying more institutions for accreditation as study centres for meeting the educational needs of students belonging to Minority Communities.

Taking forward this initiative, the NIOS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI), also an autonomous institution under MHRD, GOI, with the objective to expand the reach and impact of NIOS programmes and policies amongst Minority Communities, undertake active advocacy programmes by establishing linkages with Minority Educational Institutions and to create a wider network of study centres and develop a mechanism for sharing of resources.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS pointed out the initiatives that the NIOS had undertaken not only to increase the educational level of the Muslim Minority but also providing a means of livelihood through its vocational programmes. He hoped that this MoU would help in developing a mechanism to identify more active institutions

to provide access to education, thereby improving the educational profile of the Muslim Minority.

Referring to the occasion as a historic one, Justice M.S.A. Siddiqui, Chairman, NCMEI said that the signing of the MoU is a positive step to improve the educational profile of the Muslim Minority, especially empowering Muslim girls by educating them and making them self-reliant.

The MoU was signed on 21st June 2011 at the NCMEI headquarters in New Delhi. The Secretary, NIOS, Sri. C. Dharuman signed the MoU on behalf of NIOS and Sri. D.R. Bhalla, Deputy Secretary, NCMEI was the signatory to the MOU representing NCMEI.

Tele-orientation Programme for AVIs

A tele-orientation programme was conducted on 24th June 2011 for the co-ordinators of Accredited Vocational Institutes (AVIs). The theme of the programme was **'Facilitating/Managing Infrastructure Resources for trade-based skill development of learners.'**

While the teaching end of the programme was EMPC, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi, the learning end for the AVI coordinators were at the respective NIOS Regional centres and IGNOU Regional centres.

The programme was introduced by Ms. Anitha Nair, Assistant Director, Student Support Services, NIOS.

Addressing the co-ordinators on **'How to provide skill training with the available infrastructure'**, Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS emphasized on the need to synergize human resource, material and other locally available resources in order to provide skills to the NIOS learners. He urged the coordinators to become more proactive in the NIOS teaching learning process.

Dr. K.P. Wasnik, Director (Vocational Education Department), NIOS updated the participants on recent developments in the vocational education programmes of NIOS and details of collaborations.

Two video films, the first titled **'Promoting NIOS through AVI'** based on the AVI, Sushila Devi Polytechnic, Ghaziabad and the other titled **'success story - Badthey Kadam'** were screened to show how vocational institutes had encouraged learners to join NIOS programmes. Two short video films titled **'success story'** and **'Tie and Dye'** were also shown.

Presentations on the following topics were made by co-ordinators of AVIs to share their experiences of encountering and overcoming difficulties in running various vocational courses and the importance of providing hands-on-experience to the learners.

- Managing Special Juvenile Centre - Prayas - A case study.
- Collaborating with local workshops for providing of better resources.
- Meeting infrastructure requirement for Home Science based courses.
- Providing hands-on-training by using local available resources.
- How to Motivate learners to attend Practical classes.

Presentations made by NIOS officers, Sri. S.K. Mishra, Regional Director, NIOS Regional Centre, Delhi, Ms. Manju Gupta, Deputy Director, NIOS and Sri. P.P. Chugh, Assistant Director, NIOS explained the roles and responsibilities of AVIs.

The programme ended with the much awaited question-answer session.

NIOS declares Secondary and Senior Secondary results

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) declared its Senior Secondary and Secondary examination results on 9.6.2011 and 13.6.2011 respectively. Out of 2,01,732 candidates who appeared in the Senior Secondary examination, 78,645 were certified. In the Secondary examination, 1,77,047 candidates appeared and 71,985 were certified. The results were made available to the students through the NIOS website www.nios.ac.in as well as www.indiaresults.com and www.examresults.com; through SMS; through IVRS by dialling the toll free no.1800 180 9393 and through e-mail by registering on the NIOS website or sending a request to Isc@nios.ac.in

Joint Orientation Programme for Accredited Institutions (Study centres)

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) along with the Yashwant Rao Chawan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nashik organised a joint Orientation Programme for the co-ordinators of Senior Secondary

Accredited Institutions (AIs) at ICSSR Conference Hall, Kalina Campus, University of Mumbai on 11th June 2011. Thirty Nine Co-ordinators from Senior Secondary AIs of Maharashtra and Goa attended the programme.

The programme commenced with an Inspirational Song by a group of differently abled children from the Spastic Society of India, Mumbai and Helen Keller Institute of Deaf and Deafblind, Mumbai. The song rendered by the spastic children was presented by the students of Helen Keller Institute of Deaf and Deafblind using sign language.

Extending a warm welcome to Dr. Krishna Kumar, Vice chancellor of the YCMOU and the co-ordinators of AIs, Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS elaborated the challenges faced by the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system and how NIOS collaboration with Higher Education Institutions like YCMOU will empower the learners.



Joint Orientation Programme: Inaugural Session

Dr. Krishna Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, YCMOU in his inaugural speech highlighted the vision of YCMOU and explained the significance of the Memorandum of Understanding with the NIOS. He also provided a road map for future endeavours with the NIOS.

Presentations were made on various aspects of Student Support by Directors of NIOS and YCMOU.

Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Director (Academic), NIOS highlighted the special features of NIOS and the Role and Functions of Study Centres. Dr. K.P. Wasnik, Director (Vocational Education Dept. and Student Support Services), NIOS explained the importance of Vocational Education and threw light on the various Vocational Courses offered by the NIOS.

Dr. Anuradha Deshmukh, Director (Centre for Collaborations & Special Initiatives), YCMOU explained how the 'Yash Ujwal', a preparatory programme in collaboration with the NIOS will be beneficial to the Sr. Secondary students of the NIOS. NIOS learners who fail to clear Class XII can pursue higher studies through YCMOU by clearing this Preparatory Programme.

Dr. N.R. Shinde, Director (Student Services Division), YCMOU dwelt upon the Role and Responsibilities of Study Centres. He emphasized on the need for study centres to be come proactive in providing Student Support. The nature of Student Support provided through YCMOU and how existing NIOS study centres can be associated with YCMOU for enrolment of students for the Preparatory Programme were also discussed.

Dr. M.N. Deshmukh, Former Professor, Mumbai University also graced the occasion.

Following the open session in which queries from co-ordinators were answered, a vote of thanks was proposed by Sr. Bendine, Co-ordinator, NIOS Centre-St. Joseph's Convent, Nagpur.

NIOS Regional Centre at Bhubaneswar inaugurated

The NIOS Regional Centre at Bhubaneswar was inaugurated on July 7, 2011. Inaugurating the centre, Shri Lal Bihari Himirika, Minister for SC/ST Development, Govt. of Orissa termed the setting up of the NIOS centre in the capital city as a welcome step for providing education to the unemployed youth belonging to weaker sections of society. Appreciating this move, Shri Pratap Jena, Minister for School and Mass Education, Govt. of Orissa said that vocational training provided by the NIOS will provide learners with a sustainable source of income. Shri S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS explained the importance of such a centre in the wake of the Right to Education. The website for the Bhubaneswar regional centre www.niosbbsr.org as well as the On-Demand Examination Scheme (ODES) were also launched on the occasion.

The Regional Centre at Bhubaneswar has opened 153 study centres covering all the districts of the State under the SC and ST development department. It is significant to note that juvenile delinquents serving jail terms would also be covered under this NIOS initiative. Training in vocational courses such as plumbing, tailoring, driving and masonry is imparted on Sundays.

NIOS study centre opened in Berhampur jail



Inauguration of NIOS Study Centre in Berhampur Jail

A study centre of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) was inaugurated in the premises of the Berhampur Circle Prison on July 8, 2011 to extend educational opportunities at the secondary and senior secondary levels to the prisoners. The inaugural function was attended by Shri Dharanidhar Dash,

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Prisons, Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS and Shri Rushi Kumar Rath, Regional Director, NIOS Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar.

Life Skills Workshop for Jail Inmates

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) held two Life Skills workshops for jail inmates—one in Berhampur Central Jail, Orissa on July 8, 2011, and the other in District Jail, Puri on July 13, 2011. These workshops were organized following a request put forth by the District Jail, Puri,



Learning to manage stress

keeping in mind the potential of life skills education to offer support and basic guidance to build a positive foundation of life after sentence, livelihood security, health and social recognition, and to promote personal development and strength to face the difficult challenges of life.

The workshops were held in collaboration with Interns from School of Life Skills Education and Social Harmony, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Chennai. The main themes for both workshops were stress management, HIV and AIDS and drug/substance abuse.

In both the workshop in progress locations, the participants were jail inmates who are NIOS learners. Learners from neighbouring jails collected at one place to participate in the workshop. The participants were pleased to be treated by the facilitators with empathy. Many inmates were able to shed their inhibitions and actively discuss the symptoms of HIV/AIDS which were similar to or matching those that they themselves had experienced at some point of time.

The feedback at the end of the workshops was very positive and NIOS has been invited to organize more such workshops in future. It was a learning experience for both the interns and the facilitators.

Management Development Programme: Second Phase

A three day intensive training programme was organised by the Capacity Building Cell of the NIOS with technical support from the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA). This was the second phase of an all India level **Management Development Programme** for NIOS officers reach the headquarters as well as regional centres. The 42



An Interactive Session

participants included the new staff recruited in different positions of NIOS as well as existing officers who required training in different administrative areas.

This collaborative programme exposed the officers to different aspects of administration and management, keeping in view the increasing

demands in the Open Schooling System due to various schemes of Govt. of India.

The programme which was organised from 16th-18th July 2011 at the India International Centre, New Delhi was inaugurated by Prof. A.K. Rath, Former Secretary (School Education), MHRD, Government of India. Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS, Dr. Sreedhar Director, CEMCA, Dr. Kuldeep Agrawal, Director (Academic), Dr. K.P. Wasnik Director (Vocational Education Department) and Shri. R. Thyagrajan, Head, Administration and Finance, CEMCA attended the inaugural and various sessions of the training programme to boost the morale of the participants.

The three day programme included presentations by senior professionals from various walks of life as well as interactive sessions with the NIOS participants. While Shri L. Gurumurthy, Director, Institute of Cost and Work Accountancy, New Delhi spoke about the principles of accrual accounting and its related issues, Shri DVS Shastri, Deputy Registrar, IGNOU discussed Seniority, Promotion, Departmental Promotion Committees (DPC), pay and other related issues.

Shri U.S. Tolia, Registrar, IGNOU provided an overview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005.

Shri K.S. Sachdeva, Joint Director (Retd), ISTM and Defence Ministry conducted an interactive session on Reservation in Direct Recruitment and Promotions. The topic on Public Procurement – National and International Bidding – Guidelines issued by CVC, Govt. of India was handled in a very mature manner by Sh. B.S. Ramaswamy, Additional Secy. (Retd), Govt. of India.

The participants were awarded certificates by Sh. B.S. Ramaswamy on successful completion of the training programme. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sonia Behl, Assistant Director (Academic), NIOS. A positive feedback on the programme was received from most of the participants.

Orientation Programme for Coordinators of Study Centres (for ex-PTTI students)

An Orientation Programme for Coordinators of Study Centres (for ex-PTTI Students) of NIOS was held on 11 July 2011 at the West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBBPE), Salt Lake, Kolkata. Coordinators from 26 Study Centres participated in the programme.



Orientation in Progress

The objective of the orientation programme

was to highlight the role and functions of the study centres, coordinators and other functionaries of study centres.

In the inaugural session, Sh. Aditi Ranjan Rout, Regional Director, NIOS Regional Centre, Kolkata welcomed the coordinators and discussed about the role, functions, objectives and special features of NIOS. The inaugural session was also attended by the Secretary, WBBPE. Addressing the participants, the Secretary, WBBPE, Sri D. Mandal highlighted the problems of ex-PTTI students and requested the coordinators to extend cooperation to NIOS by fully utilizing the NIOS Self Learning Material (SLM) and promptly conducting Personal Contact Programmes (PCPs).

Details about the academic and examination related functions of study centres, procedure for change of subjects and additional subjects, Transfer of Credit, Issue of duplicate Identity cards, change of coordinators, norms for payment, engagement of staff for PCPs, preparation of sign board and its design and display notice board etc. were also discussed.

Tutor Training Workshop

A policy decision taken by the NIOS to proceed the curricular way to reach out to the target learners for Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) necessitated the sensitization of tutors to use the Self Learning Material (SLM) effectively and efficiently. A three day residential workshop was conducted from 18th – 20th June 2011 at +2 M.L. Academy, Laheria Sarai, Darbhanga, Bihar by the Project Co-ordinator along with two Master Trainers along with Project Co-ordinators (AEP) for 28 tutors in

Languages, Science, Social Science and Home Science, drawn from 15 study centers of the region.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M.J. Warsi, Prof of Linguistics, St. Louise, Washington University, USA.



Imparting Participatory Teaching Learning methods

Participants were introduced to some participatory teaching learning techniques conducted by Ms. Asheema Singh to illustrate methods to arouse curiosity and interest in students in the teaching process. Mock Personal Contact Programme (PCP) sessions were conducted to demonstrate the various challenges that may be faced during a PCP.

Dr. T.N. Giri, Regional Director, NIOS, R.C., Patna outlined the various tools built into the NIOS Life Skills courses that would help the tutors give a better understanding of the course material to the learners and explained how to access the NIOS website with an objective to empower the tutors and learner and alleviating stress amongst the learners.

The residential nature of the workshop not only took the participants away from the workplace but also helped in securing greater concentration from them while working, and allowed them time for practice and internalization of the concepts.

• Internship Programme

For the first time in NIOS, under the Adolescence Education Programme (AEP), four interns were placed at 'MITRA' the Adolescent Friendly Centre (AFC) at Bhubaneswar and NIOS headquarters, NOIDA. The AFC initiated a month long internship programme in June-July 2011. While three students completed their Internship Programme at MITRA, the fourth worked on the feedback analysis of the various capacity building workshops conducted by the AEP Unit at NIOS headquarters.

• Field Testing of MITRA

As part of the activities of the Adolescence Education Programme, the MITRA Activity Manual adapted from NCERT Manual was field tested at the Adolescent Friendly Centre, Bhubaneswar. The manual designed by a group of experts at NCERT to instil various life skills among the adolescents covers vital aspects such as Choosing the Right Career, Role of Communication in Developing Relationship, Personality and Relationship Development, Gender Discrimination, Understanding Adolescence, Substance and Drug Abuse, Coping with Stress and HIV/AIDS.

The activity included eight different workshops at Bhubaneswar, Paradeep, Berhampur and Puri, during which a total of 212 hours and 10 minutes sessions were conducted involving 212 learners. The purpose of the Field Testing was to elicit learners' response on various chapters keeping in focus the content and context and modifying the manual in the light of their feedback for adaptability in the region.

Orientation of Course Writers

A three day workshop for Orientation of Course Writers for Diploma in Elementary Education Programme was held at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai from 29-31st July 2011. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS who made a detailed presentation of the objectives of the Diploma in Elementary Education programme and also touched upon the strategies to be adopted for achieving the objectives and structure of the course. Prof. Santosh Panda, Director, STRIDE, IGNOU was the key resource person. The Course Co-ordinators, Prof. M.N. Deshmukh and Prof. S.C. Agarkar were also present during the programme, which was attended by eighteen course writers from various parts of Maharashtra.

Tele-orientation Programme for AIs

A Tele-orientation Programme was organised on 27th July 2011 for the co-ordinators of Accredited Institutions (AIs). The theme of the programme was "Management of Study Centres - Issues and Challenges".

Success Acknowledged!

NIOS learners awarded by CEMCA

Five female students who topped in media/technology related subjects in the April 2011 examinations conducted by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) have been awarded by the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi.

These awards have been conferred on Ms. T. Divya Bharathi (Word Processing (English) – Secondary Course), Ms. Minakshi (Science and Technology - Secondary Course), Ms. Sriraksha Raghunathan (Mass Communication- Sr. Secondary Course), Ms. Varsha Srivastava (Computer Science- Sr. Secondary Course) and Ms. Khushaboo Srivastava (Word Processing (English)-Sr. Secondary Course).



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In addition to a scholarship of Rs. 3000/- covering the entire admission and examination fee spent by each female awardee to complete her secondary /senior secondary education through NIOS, each award also includes a citation from CEMCA.

CEMCA, New Delhi, a Sub-Regional Office of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Vancouver, Canada has been collaborating with the NIOS to expand the scope and improve the quality of learning by using new approaches and technologies in the area of Open and Distance Learning (ODL).

These awards, it is considered, will go a long way in encouraging girls and women, included in the target group of NIOS, to pursue higher education in emerging areas of media/ technology, thereby strengthening the NIOS objectives of providing greater equity and justice in society and evolving an inclusive learning society.

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