

NEWS BULLETIN

October-November 2011

 National Institute of Open Schooling

23rd Foundation Day Celebrated

The 23rd Foundation Day of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) was celebrated on 23 November 2011 at its headquarters at A-24-25, Sector-62, Institutional Area, NOIDA.

Acclaimed as the largest open schooling system in the world, the NIOS operates through a network of 15 Regional centres, two sub-regional centres and over 3700 study centres across India, Nepal and the Middle East.

Inaugurating the programme, Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development and External Affairs, Govt of India, Shri E. Ahamed appreciated the cultural programmes performed by students of NIOS



Performance by students of Tamana, an NIOS Study Centre

Foundation Day, he opined that 23 years was too short period for an institution like the NIOS which has been entrusted with an enormous challenge of reaching out to the marginalised groups by providing an alternative system of education. Shri Apurva Chandra, Joint Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, MHRD, Govt. of India urged the NIOS to carry forward this task by also extending such educational opportunities to the children of migrants working in sugar mills in the western parts of Maharashtra. He also emphasized on the need for setting up more regional centres.

Earlier in his welcome address, Dr.S.S.Jena, Chairman, NIOS pointed out the historic role played by the NIOS in the field of open schooling, and fulfilling its motto of "Reaching the Unreached" with commitment.

NIOS toppers at the Secondary and Senior Secondary examinations held in October



NIOS: A Profile 2011 being released on the occasion of the Foundation Day

study centres such as Fr. Agnel School, Tamana, Deepalaya, Amarjyoti etc. Congratulating the NIOS on its 23rd



Cultural performances by students of NIOS study centres



2010 and April 2011 were also felicitated during the programme.

The Second Foundation Day lecture on "Education for Sustainable Development : The Role of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) for Education of the Disadvantaged" was delivered by Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission, Govt of India. Prof. M.Asam, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU was the guest of honour.

The NIOS also showcased its activities through an Exhibition participated by its study centres and institutions/ organisations associated with it. The Foundation Day also witnessed a cultural Programme by the cultural troupe of All India Radio, New Delhi.



Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission, Govt. of India delivering the Second Foundation Day Lecture

Completing 23 years of delivering services in the area of open schooling to about 2.2 million students on its rolls, the NIOS will remain committed and continue to strive hard to cater to the requirements of its target group which includes school drop-outs and marginalized groups such as girls and women, SC and ST, minorities and backward classes.

Initiatives such as the facility of On-Line Admission and Examination and On-Demand Examination have made the NIOS system more and more flexible and learner-friendly with the mission to take education to the doorsteps of millions of learners from the disadvantaged segments of society.

Workshop on Development of Curriculum Framework for Open Schooling

A two day National Consultative workshop on ‘**Development of Curriculum Framework for Open Schooling**’ was organized by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 29 & 30 November 2011. This two day national workshop will seek to engage educationists, policy-makers, administrators, researchers and stakeholders to deliberate on planning & designing Open Schooling Curriculum on the basis of the National Curriculum Framework 2005, Right to Education Act, 2009 and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.



Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS delivering the welcome address

which includes the syllabus, texts books & examination. Emphasizing on the need to develop a relevant & realtime curriculum framework for the Open Schooling System, he urged the participants to focus on the elements of social constructivism and concurrent evaluative feedback in order to be responsive and sensitive to the needs of learners in such a system.

Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS in his welcome address, outlined the importance of the workshop in the context of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), targeting about 12 million learners in the country and the quality assurances needed in all aspects of school education such as the curriculum, syllabi, textbooks, teaching – learning strategies, evaluation of students etc.

Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Director (Academic), NIOS outlined the main objectives of the workshop which included social constructivism in the content of curriculum planning, development & implementation at the school level, with specific reference to the open schooling curriculum; current trends & practices in curriculum planning & development at the school level with special reference to Open Schooling and various aspects of curriculum of Open Schooling including issues related to flexibility, freedom & choice, equivalence, relevance, inclusiveness & quality/excellence.

The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks, proposed by Ms. Gopa Biswas, Joint Director (Academic), NIOS.

Programmes organized by the Capacity Building Cell(CBC), NIOS

- **Orientation Programme for Team leaders and Evaluators**

A one day orientation Programme for Team Leaders and Evaluators of NIOS was organized by eight NIOS Regional Centres during the months of September & October 2011. The main areas of discussion included the role of team leaders and evaluators, flexibilities in the NIOS examination system, the importance of spot evaluation and marking scheme and detection of malpractices in examinations.

- **Orientation Programme on Script Writing**

An Orientation Programme on Script Writing was conducted from 20th-22nd October 2011

for the Academic Officers of NIOS at the NIOS headquarters at NOIDA. Some of the key issues that were discussed included the role of media in facilitating learning, principles of constructivism and their incorporation in video programmes and viewing of films and deconstruction of the same. Practical sessions were also conducted for which the recording studio in the Media Unit, NIOS was utilized for recording and editing purposes. The Computer Lab was used for research before the scripts were given a final shape.

Prof. Jai Chandiram, Director (Retd.), Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Sri. Sunil Das, Deputy Director, EMPC, IGNOU were the resource persons.

- A series of three workshops were organized to familiarize NIOS Academic Officers with the concepts of principles of the Open Schooling System and its functioning.

While the first workshop held from 11-13 November 2011 focussed on Distance Education and Development of Self Learning Material (SLM), the second held on November 18th & 19th, 2011 dealt with Learner Support and Assessment. The third workshop organized on 7th December 2011 emphasized on the importance of Research in Distance and Online Learning.



Workshop session in progress

Various Sessions were conducted by the Resource persons which included Dr. Santosh Panda, STRIDE, IGNOU, Dr. P. Biswas and Dr. Ashok Gaba, Associate Professor, IGNOU on the following issues:-

- Evolution of Distance Education and Online Learning

- Adult Learning and Self Learning: Curriculum and Course Design in Distance Education and Alternative Models of Course Development
- Nature, Types & Components of Self Learning Material

Advocacy Programme

A one day Advocacy Programme for educating the Muslim Minority was organized by NIOS Regional Centre, Patna, at Darbhanga on 9th October 2011. In addition to 65 Maulanas from Madarsas, Muslim spiritual/religious leaders also participated in the programme.

Salient features of the NIOS as well as its programmes were introduced to the gathering by Dr. T.N Giri, Regional Directors, RC, Patna. Welcoming the participants, Dr. Mushtaque Ahmad, Principal, Millat College spoke about the importance of the Open and Distance Learning System in India.

Sri. Ajaz Ahmad, Chairman, Bihar State Madarsa Board, in his presidential address appreciated the efforts of NIOS towards educating the minority and advised the Maulanas to implement NIOS schemes in all the Madarsas.

Dr. Shoaib Raza Khan, Academic Officer, NIOS explained about the schemes available for minority education, relaxation given by NIOS for accreditation of Madarsas/Maktabs and the fee structure and the concessions being extended to Muslim minority students.

Creative Writing Competition

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) had organized a Creative Writing competition at the National level as part of the Youth Festival 2011 for KVs, NVs and CBSE. It was for the first time that learners of NIOS were competing at the same platform with students of formal schooling.



Creative Writing Session at AFC, Bhubaneswar

Under this programme, a Creative Writing competition was organized at *Mitra: Adolescent Friendly Centre (AFC)*, Bhubaneswar (Orissa) by NIOS. Despite the region being hit by floods, response received from the learners at the AFC was very encouraging. The number of female participants and special learners was overwhelming.

A total of 159 learners from Study Centres (AIs) participated from 5 zones. 5 best entries from each zone were shortlisted and sent to the NIOS headquarters at NOIDA. Active steps are being taken to

ensure more female participation. The choice of topics reflected on the socio-emotional quotient of NIOS learners e.g., learners who opted for the topic "I am Proud to be Myself" reflected a high self esteem; responses to social topics such as Child Marriage, Gender Equality, Violence against Women showed the level of social awareness; responses to topics such as HIV, Food and Nutrition, Drug Addiction, Importance of Peer Groups reflected sensitization to adolescence issues.

The shortlisted entries have been forwarded to UNFPA for evaluation on a national level. As proposed by UNFPA, the selected entries from the states will be reviewed and judged and 75 best entries will be announced as winners at the national level. Out of these winners, 15 best entries along with winning entries from the poster making competition will be put together to develop communication material for young people.

Certificate in Construction Supervision (Civil)

The NIOS is offering a new Certificate Programme entitled *Certificate in Construction Supervision (Civil)* from the January 2012 session. It will be a six month programme offered at select Accredited Vocational Insytitutes (AVIs) in both English and Hindi medium. The objective of the programme is skill upgradation of middle level workers in civil construction. The entry level qualification is 10th pass from any recognized Board of School Education.

Observation of Vigilance Awareness Week (31st October to 5th November 2011)

The Vigilance Awareness Week was observed at the NIOS headquarters at NOIDA as well as its Regional Centres.



The Staff took a pledge on the occasion. Display boards carrying messages for sensitizing the public against corruption were also placed in the offices.

Admission to NIOS Courses

- **Online Admission (Academic Stream)-Stream I (Block II)**

Course	Dates of admission
Secondary (Class X)	Upto 29.02.2012 (without late fee)
Senior Secondary (Class XII)	Upto 15.03.2012 (with late fee of Rs. 200/-)

- **Vocational Courses**

The last date for admission to Vocational Courses in Block II (1st July to 31st December 2011) has been extended upto 31st January 2012.

Success Story

Ganesh

Enrolment Numbers

Secondary Course: 25001292005

Senior Secondary Course: 250012103570



Ganesh has cleared the Secondary course of NIOS with first division and has now appeared in 4 subjects of Senior Secondary course. What differentiates Ganesh from other students is that he is suffering from a non-healing ulcer of bone infection. There is no treatment for his ailment; his lower part below the belt has not grown. The puss leaks from his body continuously. He cannot move, and even has no sensation in the lower part of his body. He has to be carried to be moved from one place to another.

This condition did not permit him to go to a regular school. He recalls that one of the tutors who used to visit his neighbourhood was kind to teach him Hindi alphabets, as a result of which he picked up reading in Hindi and even started reading newspapers comfortably. However, support from his family members and the Chief Commissioner of Disabilities facilitated his enrolment as a student under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as a private candidate, thereby enabling him to clear Class 5 and Class 8. With the active support of his sister who used to teach him two hours a day, he was able to clear class fifth examination from UT of Chandigarh with first division in the year 2004. Although he was encouraged to study further, it was not until the Chief Commissioner of Disabilities came to his support and facilitated his registration in class 8 under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, that he was able to clear the eighth class.

This joy of being able to study did not last long as doctors and others who were aware of his condition were certainly not in agreement with Ganesh appearing for the Punjab Board Examination where he was expected to clear 8 subjects in one go to be able to earn a secondary level certificate. This was again very discouraging. It was at this point that NIOS came to his rescue by providing the flexibility of studying at his own pace through credit accumulation. He could also study subjects of his own choice and was further allowed to appear for the examination in his house. UT Chandigarh continued to support him by providing him with the facility of tutors, who taught him Maths and Science.

With a keen interest in religion, he has read about the various *Puranas*, *Ramayana* etc., from which he has derived a lot of internal strength.

Ganesh is certainly determined to study further and wishes to pursue a course in Computer Science after clearing his Senior Secondary course from the NIOS.

May the Almighty bless Ganesh in all his endeavours !

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