

# **Open Schooling Association of the Commonwealth (OSAC)**

## **1. Introduction**

Every country in the world is making special efforts to ensure that all segments of its population have access to education. Governments of all nations have realized that the development of a country depends upon the education of its people and education is now viewed as a fundamental human right.

The Open Schooling System is the answer to many of the challenges of providing education for all. With flexibilities in eligibility requirements in terms of age, choice of subjects, medium of delivery including the use of information and communication technologies, credit accumulation facility, examination system etc. learners have better opportunity to pursue education at their own pace, place and convenience through Open Schooling.

## **2. Need for Co-operation in Open Schooling**

The Delhi Declaration and the Framework of Action, issued at the end of Education For All (EFA) summit of nine high populous countries held in December 1993, contained a specific resolution for taking a joint initiative on using distance and open learning system to reach neoliterates and the marginalised groups to improve the quality of education and achieve the goals of education for all.

The methodologies of Open Learning System supported by distance education techniques have been successfully tried in developed countries of commonwealth like Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc., where the position of failed and drop-outs at school level is not alarming as in developing countries like India, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and South African Countries.

More concerted efforts and co-operation is needed among Commonwealth countries to meet, discuss, share resources and infrastructure for mutual benefit and growth in providing education at school level through Open and Distance Learning System.

## **3. Genesis of OSAC**

There are many associations dealing with specific aspects of open and distance education but there is none specifically for Open Schooling Sector. The Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Canada took initiative in 2000 to provide such a forum for exchange of ideas and information among member countries in the area of Open Schooling by establishing **Open Schooling Association of**

**Commonwealth** (OSAC) with NIOS, NOIDA, India as Headquarter. As a gesture of goodwill and initiative, COL has provided assistance of Cdn\$5000 for start-up costs for the Association.

#### **4. Objectives of OSAC**

The basic objectives of OSAC are :

- ♦ to meet and discuss relevant and pertinent issues;
- ♦ to act as a liaisoning agency for information dissemination, co-ordination and mutual consultation among members;
- ♦ to share resources and infrastructure for mutual benefit and growth;
- ♦ to organise human resource development programmes for Open School functionaries;
- ♦ to promote research and development activities in the field of Open Schooling; and
- ♦ to take necessary steps for assurance of quality and standards of Open Schooling.

#### **5. Functions of OSAC**

OSAC shall strive to attain its objectives by:

- ♦ organising periodical meetings of members for discussing issues of mutual interest;
- ♦ organising workshops, conferences and creating a forum for discussion;
- ♦ developing and maintaining data base on various aspects of Open Schooling;
- ♦ facilitating/supporting research/development activities through joint research projects among members; and
- ♦ performing any other task which may promote Open Schooling.

#### **6. OSAC Journal**

One of the significant developments of OSAC was launching of the OSAC Journal in November, 2001. The OSAC journal is a half yearly journal in Open and Distance Learning. This was initiated as a first step towards realization of one of the envisaged roles and functions of OSAC.

The Journal provides informational inputs about the concerns, researches and new developments in Open Schooling, especially in the Commonwealth countries through conceptual papers, research articles, research reviews and book reviews.

OSAC Journal of Open Schooling is published twice a year in January and July. The guidelines for the contributors, format of the papers/ articles for the journal and the subscription form (Annexure –2) are as enclosed.

**7. Membership of OSAC**

Any institution, organisation or other body in the Commonwealth directly involved in providing education at school level through Open and Distance Learning System or working in the area of Open Schooling, shall be eligible for membership of OSAC. Application for membership of the Association is enclosed at Annexure –1.

**8. Headquarters of OSAC**

The Headquarters of OSAC is at the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), A-24/25, Sector-62.,NOIDA,(U.P.).

**9. Website**

Visit the website of National Institute of Open Schooling at [www.nos.org](http://www.nos.org) and [www.nios.ac.in](http://www.nios.ac.in) for updated information. Membership Form can also be had from the website.

# OSAC Journal of Open Schooling

## (OSAC - JOS)

The Journal of Open Schooling is committed to school education through open learning methodologies. The journal is internationally referred, contributed, abstracted and subscribed. The affairs of the OSAC Journal of Open Schooling are being managed with the help of an Editorial Advisory Board, and an Editorial Board.

### 1. Objectives of the OSAC Journal

The aims and objectives of the Journal are:

- ♦ to provide a forum across the Commonwealth Countries for scholarly discussion on concerns and issues in Open Schooling/Open Learning.
- ♦ to disseminate research, theory and practices including inter-disciplinary studies.

### 2. Coverage of the Journal

The OSAC Journal includes research papers, articles, review of research, review of Books on Open and Distance Education and highlights programmes and activities in Open Schooling in Commonwealth Countries.

The research papers may inter alia reflect need of the study, objectives, research methodology including sample and results of the study. The researches may be empirical, archival, historical etc.

### 3. Subscription Information

The OSAC Journal of Open Schooling is published twice a year in January and July. The subscription fee is as follows:

	Single Copy	Yearly
India	Rs. 30.00	Rs. 60.00
Other Countries	US\$ 5	US \$ 10

Subscription orders, accompanied by payment in the form of Demand Draft, drawn in favour of *Secretary, National Institute of Open Schooling, NOIDA* should be addressed to the *Director (Academic) and Editor, National Institute of Open Schooling, A-24/25, Sector-62., NOIDA, (U.P.). (India)*

### 4. Guidelines for the Contributors for OSAC Journal

The articles for OSAC Journal of Open Schooling should provide useful information about Open Schooling system. In order to ensure the quality and standard of the articles/papers, the received articles/papers are reviewed by a panel of experts in the field of open and distance education and only the selected articles/ papers are

considered for publication in the journal. If the article is print worthy with certain modifications, the author may be asked to do the needful.

#### **4.1 Format of the Paper/Article/Research Report for OSAC Journal**

Depending upon the nature of contribution, the following formats may be followed:

##### ***a). Articles/Papers in Open and Distance Learning (ODL)***

1. Abstract, Keywords (in about 100-150 words in a separate page (A-4 size).
2. Title
3. Author's Name, Address in the footnote of the first page.
4. Introduction/Context
5. Sub-items with headings relating to:
  - Field Situations/Scenario
  - Emerging Issues, sub issues
  - Critical analysis
6. Innovative initiatives to address the problems, implications for ODL in the country's context/context of other countries, action points (if any)
7. Conclusion
8. Acknowledgements (if any).
9. References in single space (the detailed about format is given separately)

##### ***b). Case Study Reports in Open and Distance Learning (ODL)***

1. Abstract, Keywords (in about 100-150 words in a separate page (A-4 size).
2. Title
3. Author/Name of Institution/Organisation/Country/Year of study in the footnote of the first page.
4. Introduction/Context
5. Objectives
6. Description of the case, methodology, quantitative/qualitative aspects, critical analysis, comparison of the case study with other countries in the concerned area.
7. Special Features/Innovative Initiatives/Success Points
8. Conclusion – Implication and needed follow up, replicability,
9. Acknowledgements (if any)
10. Reference

##### ***c). Research Papers in Open and Distance Learning (ODL)***

1. Abstract, Keywords (in about 100-150 words in a separate A4 size) paper
2. Title
3. Authors name, address in the foot-note of the first page.
4. Introduction (Context/Rationale, year of study, Institute/ University including country/countries)

5. Objectives of the Study
6. Sample Size, Sampling Technique
7. Study Tools
8. Methodology
9. Results (data processing, analytical presentation including statistical treatment, quantitative and qualitative analysis, tables, diagrams, graphs with captions).
10. Conclusion - major findings, implications, needed follow-up action, suggestion for further research in the area.
11. Acknowledgements (if necessary)
12. References in single space (Details about Format given separately).

## 4.2 References

A reference list should contain only references that are cited in the text. For maintaining a standard for writing references to a book, chapter in a book, article from a journal following style should be followed:

*For books* : Bobrow, D.G., & Collins, A.M. (Eds.), (1975). *Representation and understanding: Studies in cognitive science*, New York: Academic Press.

*For articles* : Frase, I.T. (1968). Questions as aids to reading: Some research and a theory. *American Educational Research Journal*, 5, 319-322.

If the reference is a policy document of any Government/International Document, it should be written as follows:

Commonwealth Secretariat (2000) *Education in a Global Era: Challenges to Equity, Opportunities for Diversity-Issue Paper*, London. Fourteenth Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, November 2000.

Title of Books/Journals should not be abbreviated and it should be in italics.

## 4.3 Length of the Research Paper/Articles etc.

Research Paper	:	3500-7000 words
Article	:	3500-7000 words
Book Review	:	About 2000 words
Research Review	:	About 2000 words

**Kindly send Articles/Reports in** A-4 size bond paper with appropriate margin along with a floppy (in MS-Word or Page Maker format) or through E-mail [diracad@nos.org](mailto:diracad@nos.org)

## **5. Editorial Correspondence**

All communications related to publications should be addressed to:

**The Editor**  
**OSAC Journal of Open Schooling,**  
**National Institute of Open Schooling,**  
**A-24/25, Institutional Area, Sector-62,**  
**NOIDA-201309, Uttar Pradesh (India)**