



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING
(Academic Department)**

The Minutes of 18th Meeting of the Academic Council of NIOS was held under the Chairpersonship of Prof. C.B. Sharma, Chairman, NIOS on 9th February, 2018 in the Conference Room of 1 Floor, NIOS Hqs.

The following were present during the meeting:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Prof. Chandra Bhushan Sharma
Chairman, NIOS | - Chairman |
| 2. Prof. Md. Akhtar Siddiqui, Former Chairman, NCTE | - Member |
| 3. Prof. Pawan Kumar Sharma, C. C. S. U. Meerut | - Member |
| 4. Prof. D. Venkateshwarlu, School of Education IGNOU | - Member |
| 5. Swami Vedatattwanand,
Ramakrishna Math Vivekanada Veda Vidyalaya, Howrah | - Member |
| 6. Dr. Anita Priyadarshini,
Associate Professor, STRIDE, IGNOU | - Member |
| 7. Dr. Ram Singh, Principal DPS, Ranchi | - Member |
| 8. Dr. Shalini Awasthi,
Delhi Institute of Heritage Research & Management, N.D. | - Member |
| 9. Dr. Sanyam Bharadwaj, Director (Acad.) representative of
Ms. Anita Karwal, Chairman, CBSE | - Member |
| 10. Sh. A.N. Ramachandran, Jt. Commissioner (Acad.)
representative of Sh. Bishwajit Kumar Singh, Commissioner, NVS | - Member |
| 11. Sh. Ajay Mishra, Dy. Director General, representative of
Sh. R.K. Chaturvedi, IAS, Chairman, NSDA | - Member |
| 12. Dr. Vijaylaxmi, Jt. Commissioner (Admn.), representative of
Sh. Santosh Kumar Mall, Commissioner, KVS | - Member |
| 13. Ms. Vishalalakshi Nigam,
Secretary, Lalit Kala Akademy | - Special invitee |
| 14. Sh. C. Dharuman,
Director (Eval.), & Secretary, NIOS | - Member |
| 15. Dr. Ashminder Singh Bahal,
Director (Vocational Education), NIOS | - Member |
| 16. Ms. Bhawna Dhyani,
Regional Director (Delhi), NIOS | - Member |
| 17. Sh. S.K. Prasad,
Joint Director (CBC), NIOS | - Member |
| 18. Sh. D.N. Upreti,
Publication Officer, NIOS | - Member |



- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------|
| 19. | Ms. Anitha Nair,
Deputy Director (Vocational), NIOS | - Member |
| 20. | Dr. B.K. Rai
Assistant Director (Acad.), NIOS | - Member |
| 21. | Dr. R.N. Meena
Assistant Director (Acad.), NIOS | - Member |
| 22. | Dr. S.R. Khan
Assistant Director (Acad.), NIOS | - Member |
| 23. | Sh. Naipal Singh,
Librarian, NIOS | - Member |
| 24. | Dr. Sukanta Mahapatra,
Academic Officer (Sociology), NIOS | - Member |
| 25. | Sh. V. Sathish,
Academic Officer (Paramedical Science), NIOS | - Member |
| 26. | Dr. Saumya Rajan,
Academic Officer (English), NIOS | - Member |
| 27. | Dr. Manoj Thakur,
Research & Evaluation Officer, NIOS | - Member |
| 28. | Sh. S.K. Sinha,
Director (Academic), NIOS | - Member-Secretary |

Dr. Hrushikesh Senapaty, Director NCERT; Shri Prakash Narayan, Professor, University of Delhi; Shri Sunil Kaura, Director (Student Support Services); and Academic Officer (Maths) could not attend the meeting.

The meeting started with Saraswati Vandana followed by NIOS song.

Sh. S.K. Sinha, Director (Academic) & Member Secretary of the Academic Council welcomed all the members of the Academic Council. Director (Academic) informed the members with regard to various core activities and initiatives undertaken by NIOS. Director (Academic) appreciated various initiatives taken under the dynamic leadership of Prof. C.B.Sharma, Chairman, NIOS in the area of Teacher Education and education of Persons with Disabilities; and Textiles & Skill Development. He also apprised of several initiatives taken up in teacher education and transparency brought out in the examination system which helped NIOS in streamlining the examination system.

The Chairman, NIOS Prof. C.B. Sharma welcomed all the members of Academic Council and thanked the new members for accepting the invitation to be on the Academic Council. He explained that the Academic Council is an Apex Academic Body at NIOS, which approves the courses and programmes to be offered. He briefed with regard to the various initiatives taken in the last two years with special emphasis on D.El.Ed. Programme. He also apprised the members that till now 7000 master trainers have been trained to train the untrained teachers throughout the country. Prof. Sharma informed that NIOS has to adopt innovative strategies and offer courses for new takers beyond Secondary and Senior Secondary levels. NIOS, therefore, has collaborated with national



level organisations and has taken initiatives in the areas of Textiles, Vedic Studies, Sports and Skill Development.

Prof. Sharma urged the Academic Council members to work as Brand Ambassadors of NIOS and contribute in various activities undertaken by NIOS. Prof. Sharma also emphasised on the importance of Ved Vidyalyas keeping in mind the culture and heritage of India. The AC members were apprised of the fact that an MoU has been signed between NIOS and with pioneer organisations including Swami Vedatattwanand Ramakrishana Math Vivekananda Veda Vidyalaya, Belur (West Bengal) and Patanjali Yoga Peeth in order to have a good clientele. In a similar manner, MOUs have been signed between NIOS and Indian Army for education of defence personnel and with Ministry of Textiles to develop courses for the weavers. NIOS has also collaborated with international agencies, such as World Bank and Commonwealth of Learning (COL) for quality initiatives. As a part of collaboration with COL, NIOS will undertake Gender Audit of the Open Schools of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Prof. Sharma informed that NIOS has taken pioneer initiatives to increase its reach and effectiveness in Open and Distance Education in India and abroad. As a recognition of the initiatives taken by NIOS in the field of Distance Education the Commonwealth of Learning has conferred Award of Excellence for Institutional Achievement in Distance Education to NIOS in 2016. By offering of D.El.Ed. programme on Swayam, NIOS has the largest presence on Swayam. Prof. Sharma thanked all the members of their expertise and valuable experience in the diverse fields and requested to come forward with their suggestions to help NIOS in imparting quality education.

Sh. C. Dharuman , Secretary, NIOS mentioned about the unique features of NIOS such as flexibility in the examination system, On Demand Examination, transfer of credits etc. Prof. Md. Akhtar Siddiqui, Former Chairman, NCTE & one of Academic Council member, complimented Chairman, NIOS and appreciated that under his dynamic leadership NIOS has attained new heights.

Thereafter, Sh. C. Dharuman, Secretary, NIOS presented the agenda items.

Academic Department

Item No. 18.1.1 (A) To confirm the Minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Academic Council

The minutes of the meeting of Academic Council were circulated to all the members via e-mail. Since no comments were received, the minutes, therefore, were treated as confirmed.

The minutes were confirmed by the Academic Council.



Item No. 18.1.1(B) To report the Action Taken on the decisions of the 17th Meeting of the Academic Council

Action Taken Report of the 17th Meeting of the Academic Council was presented in detail.

The Chairman, NIOS informed the members that in case there is any area which is not taught at secondary or senior secondary level and there is a need to develop such courses, the members may recommend introduction of such courses in NIOS. He further informed the members that NIOS can develop MOOCs on such courses and Government of India can fund the same.

The members appreciated the above.

Item No. 18.2.1 To consider and approve the minutes of 14th Meeting of the Departmental Advisory Board (DAB) of Academic Department.

The Minutes of the 14th Meeting of Department Advisory Board of the Academic Department held on 20th June, 2014 were presented. The minutes of the meeting of the DAB were submitted before the Academic Council, which were considered in detail.

- In terms of Item No. 14.6, it was informed that Open Basic Education (OBE) programme was started in 1994 and in 2002, the programme was for the learners in the group of 6-14. This programme for 6-14 year age group has now been extended upto 2020 under the RTE. One of the members suggested NIOS to be cautious while giving accreditation to the Accredited Agencies running OBE programmes for the learners in the age group of 6-14.
- The Chairman, NIOS informed that more than 200 Accredited Agencies running OBE Programmes have been disaccredited for not functioning as per NIOS norms. It was also brought to the notice of Academic Council that NIOS will continue to disaccredit such institutions if any laxity in functioning of AAs is noticed in future.
- With regard to initiatives for education of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Chairman, NIOS informed that NIOS has developed course material and video programmes in Sign Language at Secondary level. NIOS is also planning to conduct examination for Hearing Impaired learners wherein



Video recording will be done for them to answer the questions in Sign Language. It was informed that NIOS will also conduct examination at home for learners with Autism as per requirement.

The members considered and approved the same.

Item No. 18.2.2 To consider and approve the bifurcation of curriculum both at Secondary and Senior Secondary levels to reduce the burden of learners.

The Secretary, NIOS informed that the course material developed by NIOS for Secondary and Senior Secondary levels is at par with CBSE and other Boards but the curriculum seems to be heavy due to various reasons such as embedded material in SLM, provision of notes, in-text questions, and inclusion of Life Skill Components. The Secondary and Senior Secondary courses of CBSE and other boards are for two years; examinations are held at the end of 10th or 12th in which questions are asked only from that year's syllabus. On the other hand, NIOS conducts examination for Secondary and Senior Secondary courses which includes the syllabi of both the years i.e. (9th & 10th) & (11th & 12th) in the final examinations.

As per the recommendations of the 17th Academic Council, seven subjects at senior secondary level were selected i.e., Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Accountancy, Economics and Business Studies for revision. The Curriculum was bifurcated into two parts: Part-I was developed for Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs) and Part-II for Terminal Examination. Further, it was suggested to study its impact on the performance of learners. Therefore, a research study on "Effectiveness of New Evaluation System in Seven Subjects at Senior Secondary Level of NIOS" was taken up. Findings of this study revealed that the learners were benefitted by the new evaluation system.

After detailed discussions and deliberations, members agreed to the proposal for bifurcation of curriculum for remaining subjects at senior secondary level and all the subjects at secondary level.

Item No. 18.2.3 To consider and approve the revision of language subjects at Secondary level.

It was informed to the members that revision of NIOS curriculum and updating of Self Learning Materials (SLMs) is a regular activity. Last



revision of Regional Language subjects was done before 2005 in following subjects:

(1) Bengali (2) Marathi (3) Telugu (4) Gujarati (5) Kannada
(6) Assamese (7) Nepali (8) Malyalam (9) Odia and (10) Tamil

Since, a large number of learners are enrolled in these regional subjects and revision took place long back, revision of the same is necessary.

The proposal was approved by the Academic Council.

Item No. 18.2.4 To consider and approve the "Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Equivalency Programme under Saakshar Bharat".

The members were informed that NIOS plays a major role in Equivalency Programme by providing opportunities for the adults, neo-literates, school drop outs to enhance their educational levels. It was informed that NIOS conducts examination and issues certificates.

NLMA in collaboration with NIOS has developed Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Equivalency Programme under Saakshar Bharat. The guidelines have seven chapters including the Learners Registration Process, Programme Delivery, Assessment, Certification, Preparation of State Proposal and Costing and Budgeting.

Chairman, NIOS requested members to have a relook on the guidelines and suggest more in this regard.

After a long discussion, the proposal was approved by the Academic Council.

Item No. 18.2.5 To consider and approve six new courses-'Ayurveda Shastra, Yoga Shastra, Applied Sanskrit Grammar, Vedapath, Nyaya Shastra, Jyotish Shastra' both at Secondary and Senior Secondary levels in 'Bhartiya Gyan Parampara (Indian Knowledge Tradition)' in light of the MoU signed with Ramakrishana Math & Ramakrishana Mission.

The members were informed that NIOS has already introduced six new subjects at Secondary and Senior Secondary levels. It was further informed that Self Learning materials will be prepared in these six new courses - 'Ayurveda Shastra, Yoga Shastra, Applied Sanskrit Grammar,



Vedapath, Nyaya Shastra, Jyotish Shastra' - under 'Bhartiya Gyan Parampara (Indian Knowledge Tradition).

One of the members informed that there are 6000 Gurukuls and 8 Sanskrit Boards in India. Learners from Gurukuls are left behind as they do not possess valid certification. He thanked NIOS for taking this initiative for learners. The issue was raised with reference to the modus operandi of teaching learning and evaluation strategies. It was informed that norms for the same are being prepared by NIOS and there are a number of evaluators in India whose services would be utilized for the purpose.

After discussion the proposal was approved by the Academic Council.

Item No. 18.2.6 To consider and approve Introduction of new courses of Bhartiya Gyan Parampara (Indian Knowledge Tradition) at levels A, B and C of Open Basic Education (OBE) programme.

The members of the Academic Council were apprised of the Bhartiya Gyan Parampara (Indian Knowledge Tradition) courses have already been introduced at Secondary and Senior Secondary levels. The members were informed that curriculum committee has already been formed for the development of Bhartiya Gran Parampara courses at levels A, B and C of Open Basic Education programme.

The proposal was approved by the Academic Council.

Item No. 18.2.7 To consider and approve the development of Question Paper for On Demand Examination (ODE) in all new subjects.

It was informed that there are 29 subjects at Secondary level and 26 subjects at Senior Secondary level but all the subjects are not covered in On Demand Examination. Since NIOS has introduced new courses and learners have appeared in these subjects in public examinations, development of question papers for On Demand Examination (ODE) is required.

The proposal was approved by the Academic Council for the development of question papers for On Demand Examination (ODE) in the following subjects:

Secondary level:

- Indian Philosophy
- Vedic Studies



- Sanskrit Grammar
- Sanskrit Literature

Senior Secondary level:

- Indian Philosophy
- Vedic Studies
- Sanskrit Grammar
- Sanskrit Literature
- Tourism
- Library and Information Science

Item No. 18.2.8 To report D.El.Ed and PDPET programmes for conducting training of untrained elementary teachers across the country

Secretary (NIOS) informed the members with regard to the Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed.) and Professional Development Programme for Elementary Teachers (PDPET) in detail. He briefed the programme assigned to NIOS by the MHRD. It was informed that 13,63,867 teachers have been enrolled in this programme who will be trained in a period of 18 months i.e., by 31st March 2019.

NIOS will administer the programme through a specially designed web portal for D.El.Ed. and PDPET, and SWAYAM.

The Academic Council took note of it and congratulated Chairman, NIOS and his team for this endeavor.

Item No. 18.2.9 To report project Tejaswini for Socio-economic Empowerment of Adolescent girls and young women in Jharkand State

The Chairman, NIOS informed the members of Academic Council that Tejaswini Project is running at a very slow pace. He briefed about the project to members and requested them to be a part of it.

The Academic Council noted the above and offered their support to the project as and when required.

Item No. 18.2.10 To report the minutes of the 9th Meeting of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) held on 18/02/2016

The Chairman, NIOS informed the members about the two projects- HUNAR in Bihar and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in the State of Rajasthan. On the outcome of these two research projects he informed, that both the projects were good but did not directly benefit



the girls. If the proper equipments were provided to girls, perhaps they could have done better to establish themselves. He requested the members to go through the reports and invited them for their involvement in similar types of research proposals. He informed the members that all such studies in future will be fully funded by NIOS.

The Academic Council took note of the initiatives of NIOS.

Item No. 18.2.11 To report research study "A Study of the Socio-Educational Status of Rural Areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh in View of Expansion, Opportunity and Utility for National Institute of Open Schooling"

The Secretary (NIOS) briefed the members about the project. It was informed that one Regional Centre has been opened in Amethi District on the recommendations of this report, to cater to the needs and demands of its educationally deprived learners.

The Academic Council took note of it and praised the efforts of Chairman, NIOS in reaching out to far flung areas of the country and taking care of educationally disadvantaged group.

Item No. 18.2.12 To report research study "Effectiveness of New Evaluation System in Seven Subjects at Senior Secondary Level of NIOS"

The members were informed about the rationale of undertaking this research project. This study was done on seven subjects i.e. Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Business Studies, Accountancy and Economics of Senior Secondary level to see whether new system of evaluation has reduced the burden of NIOS learner. The research study, has revealed that marks secured by the learners in theory papers in new system were higher in comparison to the previous examination.

The Academic Council took note of it.

Item No. 18.2.13 To consider and approve honorarium for blind referring of articles or research papers to be presented by faculty at national and international seminar/conference

It was informed that NIOS motivates its faculty to write articles and research papers for presentation at national and international seminars/ conferences. As the articles and papers are expected to be of international levels, it was proposed to consider and approve honorarium of external expert for blind referring of the same.



Academic Council approved an honorarium of Rs. 1500/- for external expert for blind referring of papers.

Item No. 18.2.14 (A) To report the Annual Programme of activities of the Academic Department of 2017-18

The Annual Programme of Activities of the Academic Department for the year 2017-18 was presented by Secretary, NIOS. He informed that the Annual Activity Plan of Academic Department consists of the following levels/programmes/areas:

1. Senior Secondary
2. Secondary
3. Media
4. Open Basic Education (OBE)
5. Other Academic Activities
6. Research and Development
7. Library
8. Seminar/Conference/Workshop
9. Celebration of Important Days
10. Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) (STET)

The Annual Programme of Activities of the Academic Department for the year 2017-18 was noted by the Academic Council.

Item No. 18.2.14 (B) To approve the Annual Programme of activities of the Academic Department of 2018-19

The Annual Programme of Activities of the Academic Department for the year 2018-19 was considered and approved by the Academic Council.

**Additional
Item No. 1.**

Introduction of Early Childhood and Care Education (ECCE) as an Academic discipline at Senior Secondary level

Chairman informed the members that NIOS offers many subjects at Secondary and Senior Secondary levels. He said that this course will be helpful to those learners who wish to study and train themselves in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) at Senior Secondary level.

The proposal was approved by the Academic Council.



Vocational Education Department

With the approval of the Chair, Director, Vocational Education presented the agenda items for the Vocational Education Department which are as follows:-

Item No. 18.3.1 To consider and approve introduction of Vocational Stream at Secondary / Senior Secondary level

The proposal to offer Vocational Stream at Secondary/Senior Secondary level was presented in detail, its need, objectives, area/subjects of choice, instructional strategy, eligibility criteria, evaluation strategy, examination fee and accreditation norms. Members took note and were appreciative of the new initiative of offering a separate vocational stream at Secondary / Senior Secondary level.

The proposal was approved by Academic Council.

Item No. 18.3.2 To consider and approve addition of new NSQF compliant courses in the stand alone category

It was proposed that the new NSQF compliant courses prepared to offer in Vocational Stream at Secondary/Senior Secondary level may also be offered as individual vocational courses in the stand alone category. After detailed discussion, Academic Council approved the proposal.

Item No. 18.3.3 To consider and approve introduction of new courses

(a) Yoga Teachers' Training Programme

It was informed that a course on Yoga Teachers' Training Programme has been developed as one-month residential programme and one year Certificate programme, and is open to both Indian and foreign nationals. The main aim is to train the learners to become Yoga Teachers by providing in depth knowledge and training of Yoga theory and its practices and pedagogy. The fees of this course is kept as Rs 10,000 with 60:40 as the AVI and NIOS share.

The proposal was approved by Academic Council.

(b) Diamond Grader & Assorter Course

It was informed that a survey was carried out in the Gems jewellery community of Gujarat region and based on the finding it is proposed



that a six months course on Diamond Grader & Assorter may be offered. The total duration of the course is 200 hrs with 30% weightage for theory and 70% weightage for practicals, the fees for this course is Rs 10,000 with the share of NIOS being 40%. Since the demand for this course is primarily in Gujarat region, it was proposed to offer the course in Gujarati medium. This may be translated into English or Hindi, if required. Members were appreciative of the new initiative, one of the members said that regarding the duration of the course, notification issued by Government of India on common minimum norms for skill development should be followed.

The Academic Council approved the proposal.

Item No. 18.3.4 To report Signing of MoU with the Departments of Handlooms and Handicrafts under Ministry of Textiles

The members were informed that NIOS has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Textiles, GoI for providing education to Handloom Weavers and Handicraft Artisans and their children.

Academic Council took note of it.

Item No. 18.3.5 To consider and approve development of Five modules for the Handloom Weavers course

It was informed that a MoU with Ministry of Textiles, GoI, NIOS has been signed to give an opportunity to the general learners and handloom weavers to earn a Secondary and Vocational Certificate including skills like Basic Computing, Entrepreneurship and Soft Skills. Under this scheme, the learner may take one language, one academic subject and three vocational courses for obtaining Secondary certificate of NIOS. NIOS has already developed five modules of the Handloom Weavers course. The fee structure for this vocational stream is proposed as Rs. 10,000/-. The Ministry of Textile has offered to reimburse 75% of course fee for Handloom Weavers and their Children belonging to SC/ST, BPL and Women. NIOS would also provide 25% fee concession to the Handloom Weavers and their children belonging to the SC/ST, BPL and women.

All members were appreciative of the initiative and welcomed the move of providing school education at Secondary level to Handloom weavers community. One of the members was of the view that the core vocational courses are very appropriate to the learners from the weaving community but at the same time it was requested that decision of making a language compulsory needs to be relooked, as



language offered for certification at Secondary level would be tough for these learners and this might not motivate learners to take up this course. There was a detailed discussion and it was informed that the reason for making one language compulsory is that National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 has made it mandatory that every learner must learn one language. Finally, it was decided that NIOS should undertake this program and based on the experience gained, changes could be made later on.

The proposal was approved by the Academic Council.

Item No. 18.3.6 To consider and approve development of Course for the Handicraft Artisans and their Children

It was highlighted that NIOS has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Textiles, Govt. for providing school education to Handicraft Artisan and their Children of SC community. Through this collaboration, it is envisaged to offer three vocational courses, one academic subject and one language so as to enable them to acquire Secondary certificate. The entire course is free for the candidates belonging to the SC community. However, examination fee shall be charged as per NIOS norms. Ministry of Textiles has sanctioned financial grant to NIOS for establishment of study centres for implementation of these courses. NIOS shall accordingly identify and establish centres for training of the learners.

The Academic Council approved the proposal.

Item No. 18.3.7 To report Training and Certification of untrained Health Workers in the State of Bihar

It was informed that NIOS through an MoU with State Health Society, Govt. of Bihar has initiated a programme for training and certifying untrained Community Health workers in Bihar. The Self Learning Material (SLM) has been designed for learners. First Referral Units (FRU) and Primary Health Centres (PHC) have been accredited as AVIs for the same. It was reported that training for nearly 22000 workers has started in 149 FRU's and 534 PHC's from January 2018 session.

The Academic Council took note of it.



Item No. 18.3.8 To consider and approve offering of Vocational courses in the Swayam platform of Gol

The proposal to offer courses on Bee Keeping, Beauty Therapy, Panchakarma Assistant, Yoga teachers training programme in Swayam platform, an initiative of MHRD, Gol was presented.

The Academic Council approved the proposal.

Item No. 18.3.9 To consider and approve offering of Course on Employability Skills and Entrepreneurship at Senior Secondary level

It was highlighted that in order to equip NIOS learners with the desired Employability Skills and Entrepreneurship skills, a course on Employability and Entrepreneurship is proposed to be offered at Senior Secondary level.

The Academic Council approved the proposal.

Item No. 18.3.10 To consider and approve renaming and adoption of Microsoft content for NIOS course on e-Office Practices at Secondary Level

It was presented that revised Data Entry Operations (229) course offered at Secondary level may be renamed as e-office practices and approval was sought for adopting Microsoft content for the NIOS course. Members of Academic council were of the opinion that if Microsoft contents are taught in course than it may appear that one particular private company is being promoted, hence the course should teach open source software and not private company's software. After detailed deliberation, it was decided that the proposal for adopting Microsoft content for NIOS course may be reviewed.

Item No. 18.3.11 To consider and approve renaming of Data Entry Operations (336) subject at Senior Secondary Level

It was presented that revised Data Entry Operations (336) course offered at Senior Secondary level may be renamed as Digital Services Management course.

Academic Council approved the same.

Item No. 18.3.12 To consider and approve adoption of training manual and offering of course on Certificate in Dairy Worker (NSQF compliant level 2) jointly with Agriculture Sector Skill Council (ASCI).

It was informed that a Certificate course in Dairy worker (NSQF level 2) is proposed to be offered in collaboration with Agriculture Sector



Skill Council (ASCI). Approval was sought for adopting training manual of ASCI for NIOS course with addition of glossary and references. Details of the said course are as follows:

- a) Job role: Dairy Worker; Level: 2
- b) Course name: Certificate in Dairy Worker
- c) Course duration: 6 months (360hrs.; 75 hrs- Theory, 135hrs - Practical & 150 hrs- Practice session)
- d) Entry level: 5th Standard Passed
- e) Course fee: Rs 3000.00 (Fee sharing: AVI- 70%, NIOS-20% ASCI 10%.

It is being proposed that this will be a joint certification between NIOS and ASCI.

The Academic Council approved the proposal.

Item No. 18.3.13 To consider and approve replacing the existing vocational courses with NSQF compliant courses

It was presented that the courses on Bee Keeping, Poultry Farming, Indian Embroidery, Computer Hardware Assembly and Maintenance have been revised as per National Occupational Standards (NOS) and it was proposed to be replaced with the existing one.

The Academic Council approved the same.

Item No. 18.3.14 To consider and approve conduct of State level workshop on Vocational Education

It was informed that the enrolment of vocational courses offered by NIOS is not that impressive as compared to that of Secondary and Senior Secondary courses and many AVIs are non-functional. In order to promote Vocational Courses State level workshop on Vocational Education was proposed. After a detailed discussion considering the financial implication, it was decided to begin with one large scale state level workshop with all the stake holders for the North Eastern states and report may be submitted within 3 months. Based on the experience, proposal for the conduct of state level workshop for rest of the states may be considered.

The Academic Council approved the same.



Item No. 18.3.15 To consider and approve the removal of courses having less admission

The members were informed that as the need and demand of courses vary from time to time and with significant changes being made in the area of skill development, courses in certain trade have become obsolete and the takers are also very few. In view of this, it was proposed that 14 courses with low or nil admission may be dropped from the active list of courses offered by NIOS.

Academic Council studied the list of such courses / programmes and approved their removal.

Item No. 18.3.16 To consider and approve work plan for the year 2018-19

The work plan of Vocational Education Department for the year 2018-19 was presented in detail. It is proposed that 18 new courses be developed, six courses be taken for revision and 13 courses be translated from English to Hindi for 2018-19.

The Academic Council approved the same.

**Additional
Item No. 1.**

To consider and approve offering of Certificate Course in Computer Applications as a stand alone course

It was informed that certificate in Computer Application course is proposed to be offered as a one year stand alone course.

The Academic Council approved the proposal.

Item No. 2.

To consider and approve offering of Vocational course on Floriculture

The members were informed that a new course on Floriculture is proposed to be developed.

The Academic Council approved the proposal.



Item No. 3.

To consider and approve offering of vocational courses on Bamboo Grower and Bamboo/ Cane Furniture making

The members were informed that a new course on Bamboo Grower and Bamboo / Cane furniture making is proposed to be developed.

The Academic Council approved the proposal.

ICT Unit

Item No. 18.4.1 To consider and approve the starting of authentication of the learners data/information by linking Aadhar number of the learner.

NIOS may provide multiple options to validate the applicants seeking admission in 2018-19. Aadhaar Number can be used as one of the options for validating the authenticity of the applicant. In addition, other methods of authentication may also be used like Aadhaar Enrolment ID, Passport Number, Bank Account Number, Date of Birth Certificate or any other valid identity type. While taking Aadhaar number of the applicant, consent from the applicant should be taken. Aadhaar number along with demographic details should be validated from UIDAI but Biometric data (if collected) must not be stored. The applicant must be informed that the Aadhaar number along with demographic details will not be shared with third party.

The proposal was approved by the Academic Council.



Evaluation Department

Item No. 18.5.1 To report Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Assessment and Certification of Digital Literacy.

The Secretary, NIOS informed that NIOS has entered into an MoU with Common Service Centre (CSC) e-Governance Services for Digital Literacy Assessment under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA). The NIOS has conducted the Digital Literacy Assessment through online proctoring in December, 2015 and about 25 lakh learners have so far been assessed till February, 2017. The target of assessment of 24 lakh learners has successfully been achieved by the NIOS. In pursuance of the agreement entered between CSC and NIOS, an amount of Rs.50/- per learner has been remitted by the CSC to the NIOS as a part of activity conducted for the assessment. NIOS has successfully conducted the Digital Literacy Assessment for 25,19,194 number of learners upto February, 2017 and the target of 25 lakh learners' assessment has successfully been achieved by the NIOS.

The Academic Council took note of it.

Item No. 18.5.2 To report the conduct of Evaluation and Certification of D.El.Ed. Programme for in service teachers.

It was informed that Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) programme has specifically been designed for in service untrained teachers working in primary/ upper primary schools of different states of the country. The programme has been developed by the Academic Department, NIOS on the initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India, and also keeping in view the NCF 2005, RTE 2009 and NCFTE 2010. The Programme aims at enabling the target group to develop skills, competencies, attitudes and understanding to make teaching and learning more effective. NIOS has already signed MoU with 4 States i.e. Meghalaya, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand and is conducting the D.El.Ed. training programme. As an extension to this programme, NIOS has launched the D.El.Ed. Training Programme all over India from the current year with a mandate of the Govt. of India to impart D.El.Ed. training to around



14 lakh untrained in-service teachers working in various lower and upper primary schools by 31st March, 2019.

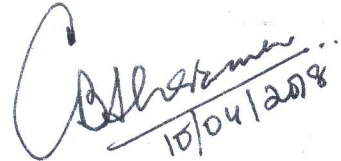
The Academic Council took note of it.

Chairman, NIOS informed that next meeting of Academic Council will be held by the end of May, 2018.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(S.K. Sinha)
Director (Academic)



(Prof. C.B. Sharma)
Chairman