



## National Institute of Open Schooling

### Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council

The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council of NIOS was held under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Chandra Bhushan Sharma, Chairman, NIOS on 2<sup>nd</sup>, November, 2018 in the Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, NIOS Headquarter, NOIDA.

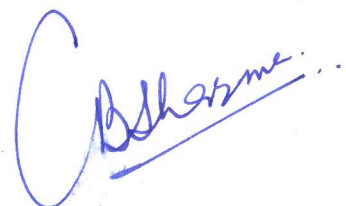
The following members were present during the meeting:

1. Prof. Chandra Bhushan Sharma  
Chairman, NIOS - Chairman
2. Prof. Md. Akhtar Siddiqui, Former Chairman, NCTE - Member
3. Prof. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Professor, 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. B. Saha, Director, (Training), CBSE, New Delhi - Member
7. Sh. Biswajit Kumar Singh, IFS, Commissioner, Navodya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi - Member
8. Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Associate Professor, STRIDE, IGNOU - Member
9. Prof. Prakash Narayan, Professor, University of Delhi - Member
10. Ms. Sandhya Salwan, Director, NSDA, New Delhi - Member
11. Dr. Ram Singh, Principal, DPS, Ranchi - Member
12. Shri P. K. Kaul, Deputy Commissioner, Academic Kendriya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi - Member
13. Sh. C. Dharuman, Director (Evaluation) & Secretary, NIOS - Member
14. Dr. Ashminder Singh Bahal, Director (Vocational Education Department), NIOS - Member
15. Sh. Sanjay Kumar Sinha, Director (Academic), NIOS - Member

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| 16. Sh. S.K. Prasad, Joint Director (CBC), NIOS                | - Member |
| 17. Dr. Manju Gupta, Joint Director (Voc. Edu.Deptt), NIOS     | - Member |
| 18. Sh. D.N. Upreti, Publication Officer, NIOS                 | - Member |
| 19. Ms. Anitha Nair, Deputy Director (Vocational), NIOS        | - Member |
| 20. Dr. Mamta Srivastava, Regional Director (Delhi), NIOS      | - Member |
| 21. Dr. Sandhya Kumar, Deputy Director (Academic), NIOS        | - Member |
| 22. Sh. S.S. Das, Deputy Director, Evaluation, NIOS            | - Member |
| 23. Dr. B.K. Rai, Assistant Director (Acad.), NIOS             | - Member |
| 24. Dr. R.N. Meena, Assistant Director (Acad.), NIOS           | - Member |
| 25. Dr. S.K. Jha, Assistant Director, Administration, NIOS     | - Member |
| 26. Shri Naveen Bhatia, SAP, NIOS                              | - Member |
| 27. Dr. Azmat Noori, Academic Officer (History), NIOS          | - Member |
| 28. Dr. Manoj Thakur, Research & Evaluation Officer, NIOS      | - Member |
| 29. Ms. Anshul Kharbanda, Academic Officer (Accountancy), NIOS | - Member |
| 30. Smt. Manju Chungru, Assistant Librarian, NIOS              | - Member |

Dr. Sanyam Bharadwaj, Director (Acad.) representative of Ms. Anita Karwal, Chairman, CBSE, Sh. A.N. Ramachandran, Jt. Commissioner (Acad.), Sh. Ajay Mishra, Dy. Director General, representative of Sh. R.K. Chaturvedi, IAS, Chairman, NSDA, Dr. Vijaylaxmi, Jt. Commissioner (Admn.), representative of Sh. Santosh Kumar Mall, Commissioner, KVS, Dr. Shalini Awasthi, Associate Professor, Delhi Institute of Heritage Research & Management, Dr. Vineeta Kamran, Principal, City Montessori School, Lucknow, Prof. Ramchandra G Bhatt, Vice Chancellor, S-VYASA University, Bengaluru, Sh. Mayank Kumar Agrawal, Director General, Doordarshan News, Mrs. Kuntal Das, TCS, Officer on Special Duty, SIPARD, Maj.Gen Anil Khosla, Managing Director, Army Welfare Education Society and Mrs. Neena Golani, Assistant Director,(SSS), NIOS could not attend the meeting.

Dr. Neelima Pant, Academic Officer (Agriculture), Ms. Radhika. B, Academic Officer (ICT), Dr. Madhur Bhatia, Academic Officer (Teacher Education), Ms. Kirti Ailani, SEO, (Health & Paramedical), Dr. Saurabh Chandra, SEO (Business & Commerce), Mr. Rajesh Bharadwaj from NIOS also attended the meeting.



The meeting started with lighting of lamp and NIOS song. Dr. B.K. Rai, Assistant Director (Academic) welcomed all the members of the Academic Council. After a brief introduction, Shri C. Dharuman, Secretary; NIOS in his welcoming address highlighted the role of NIOS in imparting quality education through open and distance learning mode to all the segments of the society. Shri Dharuman informed the members with regard to curriculum development at NIOS and how ICT is being harnessed for effective curriculum transaction such as through SWAYAM and SWAYAM PRABHA. He further apprised the members regarding the initiatives taken by NIOS with regard to Basic Literacy Assessment under NLMA for adults, education for the handloom weavers, army personnel, learners with disabilities and teacher education. He informed the members that NIOS has assessed and certified more than seven crores learners under NLMA.

Prof. Chandra Bhushan Sharma, Chairman, NIOS explained that the Academic Council is an Apex Academic Body which approves the courses and programmes to be offered by NIOS. Prof. Sharma apprised the members regarding the Basic Literacy Assessment in which more than seven crores learners have been certified and under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDSA) around 59 lakhs learners have been certified by NIOS in collaboration with the CEC, Ministry of Information and Technology, Government of India.

He further informed the members with regard to the training of around 13 lakhs untrained in-service elementary teachers through the D.El.Ed programme and its process of implementation. He elaborated that to carry this massive task of training the teachers in a smooth manner, a Programme Implementation Committee (PIC) has been set up. The members were apprised of the fact that the committee assesses the programme from every perspective on a regular basis for quality teacher education. He informed that the members of the PIC visited NIOS Examination centres and Evaluation Centres to monitor the entire process. Strategic efforts were made to maintain the quality of question papers and evaluation procedure.

He added that the programme is being delivered online through SWAYAM portal and through Study Centres spread across the country. A multipronged strategy is also being implemented with effective use of media for quality teacher training.

Prof. Sharma acquainted the members with regard to the visit of team from NIOS, to various countries such as Mauritius, Nigeria and Japan to explore scope and possibilities of expansion of Open Schooling in foreign countries.

Thereafter, Shri S. K. Prasad, Director (Student Support Services) made a detailed presentation on the use of information and communication technology and different processes of NIOS. Shri Prasad briefed about the D.El.Ed programme which is being carried out on a large scale since 3<sup>rd</sup>, October, 2017 all over the country. He informed the members that an optimal use of ICT was set in motion to make the process simple and paperless with an emphasis on 100% online admission.

He explained the programme implementation schedule wherein highlighted the role of PIC, deputy project coordinators and state coordinators. He also highlighted the admission status in which he



mentioned that 13.78 lakhs teachers have registered in I year, 12.111 lakhs in the II year and total Study Centres count to 12073 spread across the country.

He apprised that a number of A-VIEW orientation programmes have been conducted for Nodal Officers, Study Centre Coordinators and Resource Persons from time to time. With regard to the teaching-learning process, Shri Prasad mentioned about SWAYAM portal in which around 13.78 lakhs teacher trainees are pursuing the course. Besides this, DVDs have also been provided to all the registered candidates.

He also explained as to how Personal Contact Programme, Workshop Based Activities (WBAs) and School Based Activities (SBAs) are being carried out. He also threw light on the result analysis of the programme wherein he mentioned that the result was 92.09%, 96% and 98.01% in Course-501, Course-502 and Course-503 respectively.

Shri Prasad informed the members about SWAYAM PRABHA DTH Channels such as Panini, Channel-27 for secondary course, Sharda, Channel-28 for senior secondary course, Vagda, Channel-32 for D.El.Ed programme, Channel-25 for D.El.Ed programmes in Bangla & Assamese.

He also apprised the members with the latest launch of Gyanamrit DTH Channel-30 by Hon'ble HRM on 2<sup>nd</sup>, October, 2018 for programmes in sign language and Bhartiya Gyan Parampara. He informed that 16 hours videos in sign language and 8 hours in Bhartiya Gyan Parampara are being broadcast through this channel on a regular basis.

After detailed presentation, a documentary film was shown which depicted the initiatives and the conduct of teaching-learning process at NIOS.

The Chairman, NIOS informed the members that KVS and NVS are also trying to reach our programmes and urged the members to install DTH broadcasting SWAYAM PRABHA channels at their respective institutions.

Prof. Md. Akhtar Siddiqui, Former Chairman, NCTE & one of Academic Council member, congratulated NIOS and appreciated the massive task of undertaking training of elementary teachers in a smooth manner.

Thereafter, Dr. Sandhya Kumar, Deputy Director (Academic) presented the agenda items of the Academic Department.

#### Academic Department

**Item No. 19.1.1 (A) To report the Minutes of the eighteenth Meeting of the Academic Council.**

The minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of Academic Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 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. 19.1.1(B) To report Action Taken on Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council.**

Action Taken Report of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council was presented in detail.

**Item No. 18.2.1 To report the minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Departmental Advisory Board (DAB) of Academic Department.**

The Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Department Advisory Board of the Academic Department were placed at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council.

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.**

Dr. Sandhya Kumar, Deputy Director (Academic) reported that in order to reduce the load on learners, initially the curriculum of seven subjects viz...Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Accountancy, Economics and Business Studies at senior secondary level was bifurcated into two parts: Part-I and Part-II to be assessed through Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs) and term end examination respectively.

It was informed that, comprehensive guidelines are being prepared for remaining subjects at senior secondary level and all the subjects at secondary level for the similar exercise.

**Item No. 18.2.3 To consider and approve the revision of regional language subjects at secondary level.**

It was reported that an action has been initiated to complete the revision of regional language subjects at secondary level with the support of Regional Centres of NIOS.



**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 in collaboration with NLMA developed Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Equivalency Programme under Saakshar Bharat.

Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Associate Professor, STRIDE, IGNOU and one of the members of the council said that since ‘Sakshar Bharat’ scheme has not been working, NIOS may formulate new strategy to continue Equivalency Programme.

**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.**

It was reported that the curriculum development in the new six courses viz... Ayurveda Shastra, Yoga Shastra, Applied Sanskrit Grammar, Vedapath, Nyaya Shsatra, Jyotish Shsatra both at secondary and senior secondary levels is under process.

The chairman, NIOS directed to hold the first meeting for three courses within 30 days and for the remaining in another 30 days.

The Academic Council took note of the progress.

**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 were informed that initial meeting of curriculum committee has already been held for the development of Bhartiya Gyan Parampara courses at levels A, B and C of Open Basic Education programme.

The members suggested to expedite the process for timely completion of the task.

**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 reported that development of question bank for ODE in Indian Philosophy, Vedic Studies, Sanskrit Grammar and Sanskrit Literature at





Secondary level is under process. Also process has been initiated for Indian Philosophy, Vedic Studies, Sanskrit Grammar, Sanskrit Literature, Tourism and Library and Information Science at Senior Secondary level.

The Academic Council took note of it.

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

The progress of the D.EL.ED programme was reported. It was informed that the first examination was conducted on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018; the second examination was held from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 and the Third examination is proposed to be conducted from 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

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 Jharkhand State.**

The Chairman, NIOS briefed the members of Academic Council about Tejaswini Project and said that the project is for training of six lakhs SC/ST girls from the State of Jharkhand. Out of this, 50,000 girls will get education from NIOS for which study centres have already been identified. It was informed that an MoU has been signed with the Government of Jharkhand with respect to the same but the matter is lying pending with the cabinet.

The Academic Council took note it.

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

It was reported that the minutes were placed before the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council.

**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"**

It was reported that a brief report of the research study was placed in the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council. The same is also placed on NIOS website. The members were informed that as an implication of this research study, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Regional Centre of NIOS has been set up in Amethi District to facilitate the educationally deprived learners.



The Academic Council praised the efforts of NIOS in making education accessible for 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 background and findings of the research study were briefed. It was reported that process has been initiated to develop comprehensive guidelines for bifurcation of curriculum for remaining subjects at senior secondary level and all the subjects at secondary level.

The Academic Council took note of it.

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

It was informed that it has been implemented and notified.

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

It was reported that the activities have been completed as per the annual calendar.

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

It was reported that the defined activities of the Academic Department for the year 2018-19 are being carried out as per the scheduled time frame.

The progress with respect to activities of the Academic Department for the year 2018-19 was noted by the Academic Council.

**Item No. 19.2.1 To consider and approve development of New Course *Entrepreneurship* at secondary level.**

The members of the Academic Council were briefed about the objective behind introduction of *Entrepreneurship* as a course at secondary level. It was explained that the course would enable and encourage young people to translate their business ideas into successful business venture. This effort would nurture creativity and innovative ideas to create value and wealth. This would also provide learners a platform to learn the skills of a successful





entrepreneur from the very beginning and would provide foundation for further studies in Entrepreneurship.

After discussion, the members considered and approved the same.

**Item No. 19.2.2 to consider and approve the proposal for opting two additional languages in OBE Programme at Levels A, B and C**

It was informed to the members that NIOS is offering Open Basic Education Programme which is an alternative programme, equivalent to the elementary education of the formal education system providing elementary education at A, B and C levels equivalent to grade III, V and VIII respectively. Children (6-14 years) including school dropouts, left-outs from SSA, out-of-school children, children, in particular girls, of marginalized groups and children with special needs are the target group. Also Adolescents and Adults (Above 14 years) including dropouts; neo-literates; the adults, in particular women, of marginalized groups and first generation learners and qualified candidates of Basic Education Literacy Assessment of NLMA pursue elementary education under this programme.

The Guidelines for implementation of OBE have been prepared and approved by the Academic Council members in the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of Academic Council which was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015. As per the guidelines, the learners can take upto seven subjects including minimum 1 language (additional one more language but not more than total 7 subjects).

It was placed before the council that NIOS has received communications from Accredited Agencies to permit for opting 3 languages at Level A, B and C to continue examination after Level C (class VIII) in formal schooling. The passing criteria would remain the same.

It was informed by the Chairman, NIOS that OBE programme will be withdrawn by government of India by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2000. Members said that generally only two languages are allowed in which state language is compulsory. For allowing provision of 3 languages, NIOS needs to make a provision in the guidelines provided it does not affect the passing criteria and it should be made optional.

After deliberations, the Council agreed for making provision for two additional languages.



**Item No. 19.2.3**      **To consider and approve development of Learner's Guide in all subjects at Senior Secondary level.**

Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Associate Professor, STRIDE, IGNOU and one of the members of the council stressed on the need of the learning outcomes in every subject. She said that these outcomes need to be clearly placed in a consolidated manner in the form of a booklet for an easy access to everyone. The Chairman, NIOS directed the faculty to report the status of 'booklet on learner outcomes'.

**Item No. 19.2.4**      **To consider and approve live broadcast of video tutorials at senior secondary level through DTH Vagda Channel.**

The members were informed that NIOS broadcasts live video programmes on different topics of D.El.Ed through DTH Vagda Channel-32 for two hours on weekdays on a regular basis.

It was placed before the Academic Council to consider and approve the live broadcast of one hour live video programme each for secondary and senior secondary courses through the same channel.

This being a routine activity, the item was withdrawn from the agenda of the meeting.

**Item No. 19.2.5**      **To consider and approve advocacy of Mukta Vidya Vani Programmes.**

The members were informed that Mukta Vidya Vani is a unique educational web streaming wherein live interactive web radio programmes on different topics of secondary, senior secondary, vocational education and teacher education are broadcast on a regular basis. A mass advocacy is needed to communicate to the learners about the broadcast of the programmes.

Chairman, NIOS informed that many initiatives have already been taken for the advocacy of the same through e-mails and messages.

Since this is a routine activity, the item was withdrawn from the agenda of the meeting.

**Item No. 19.2.6**      **To consider and approve the visit of NIOS faculty to the AIs to monitor the conduct of PCPs and Tutor Marked Assignments.**

The members were informed that the monitoring of PCP and TMA in the ODL system is very important. The NIOS faculty can visit AIs to monitor and provide important suggestions.

Chairman, NIOS said that this agenda is at the discretion of the Competent Authority.





Item No. 19.2.7

**To consider and approve Gender Green Teacher Programme in collaboration with COL.**

Ms. Anshul Kharbanda, Academic Officer briefed about the Gender Green Teacher Programme wherein she mentioned that the programme shall be developed with the support of COL to train secondary level tutors of NIOS in the skills of integrating gender and environmental concerns in their day to day curriculum transaction.

She informed that initially it shall be piloted on 100 teachers in Delhi and NCR.

The Chairman, NIOS informed that the work is already under progress.

After deliberations, the members approved the proposal.

Item No. 19.2.8

**To consider and approve Gender Sensitization Project at NIOS Headquarters.**

The members were apprised that NIOS in consultation with COL developed its 'Gender Policy for Open Schooling'. They were also informed that NIOS also provided expertise in the development of the gender policy for the Bangladesh Open University Open School (BOU-OS).

The Chairman, NIOS informed the members that NIOS now intends to conduct gender sensitization workshops at NIOS Headquarters, Regional Centres and Study Centres (including SAIEDS) at Raipur and Jaipur and for all the key stakeholders.


It was also brought to the notice of the members that a road map for the whole year is being planned with respect to the gender awareness and sensitization activities.

After discussion, the proposal was approved.

Item No. 19.2.9

**To consider and approve adoption of 'Certificate Course on Child Rights'.**

The members were apprised about the 'Certificate Course on Child Rights' which is being developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to create awareness among in-service teachers, pre-service teachers, teacher educator or persons working in the field of child rights. The Chairman, NIOS informed that NCPCR and State Council Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) have been designated to ensure that Right to Education Act is properly implemented. He further said that since NCPCR cannot offer a course, they have requested NIOS to deliver the said course to the target



group. It was mentioned that an expert committee would examine the course and its usefulness for NIOS.

The Chairman, NIOS said that the final proposal to adopt the course shall be placed in the next Academic Council.

The proposal was approved by the members.

**Item No. 19.2.10 To report the visit of NIOS Team for Gender Policy for Open School, Bangladesh Open University and Open School, Sri Lanka**

The members were apprised that Commonwealth of Learning (COL) had entrusted NIOS with the responsibility of development of Gender Policy for the Open School, Bangladesh Open University and Open School, Sri Lanka. It was reported that a three member team from NIOS visited Bangladesh and successfully conducted a three days workshop on Gender Mainstreaming and Development of Gender Policy at Open School, Bangladesh Open University.

The members were further informed that a team from NIOS comprising of Dr. Mamta Srivastava, Dr. Madhur Bhatia and Ms. Anshul Kharbanda shall visit Sri Lanka for the development of Gender Policy for Open School, Sri Lanka.

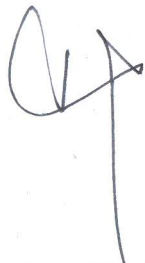
The members of the Academic Council took note of it.

**Item No. 19.2.11 To report the Peer-to-Peer Quality Assurance Audit between NIOS and Open School, Bangladesh Open University.**

The members were informed that Peer-to-Peer Quality Assurance Audit is being conducted between NIOS and Open School, Bangladesh Open University with the support of Commonwealth of Learning (COL).

It was further reported that a six member team visited Open School, Bangladesh Open (OS-BOU) University from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 to conduct external audit of OS-BOU. It was further informed that a team from Bangladesh shall visit NIOS in the month December, 2018 for an external audit.

The members of the council took note it.





**Item No. 19.2.12 To report the launch of a new channel 'Gyanamrit' for Sign Language and Bhartiya Gyan Parampara.**

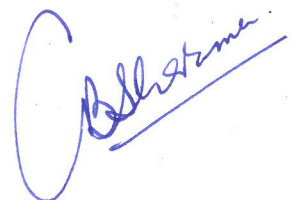
It was reported that a new SWAYAM PRABHA DTH Channel 30 'Gyanamrit' was inaugurated by Hon'ble HRD Minister Sh. Prakash Javadekar on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018. The channel broadcasts videos in sign language for hearing impaired learners. The videos on course Bhartiya Gyan Parampara (Indian Knowledge Tradition) are also broadcast through this channel.

The members of the council took note of the initiative taken by NIOS for education of the hearing impaired learners and for revival of Vedic education.

**Item No. 19.2.13 To Report about the 'Norms and Procedure' for Accreditation of "Gurukul/ Vidyapeeth/ Institute/School/Educational Unit run by NGO which do not have affiliation to a recognized State Board of School Education/CBSE/CISCE" as well as 'Norms and Procedure' for recognized Institutions/Schools/ Gurukuls/ Vidyapeeths/Educational Units at both Secondary and Senior Secondary level for 'Indian Knowledge Tradition' Courses.**

The members were informed about the 'Norms and Procedure' for Accreditation of "Gurukul/Vidyapeeth/ Institute/School/Educational Unit run by NGO which do not have affiliation to a recognized State Board of School Education/CBSE/CISCE" as well as 'Norms and Procedure' for recognized Institutions/Schools/ Gurukuls/ Vidyapeeths/Educational Units at both secondary and senior secondary level for 'Indian Knowledge Tradition' courses.

The members of the council took note of it.



## Vocational Education Department

After a thorough discussion on the agenda of the Academic Department, with the approval of the Chair, Director, Vocational Education presented the agenda items for the Vocational Education Department.

The Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> Departmental Advisory Board meeting of Vocational Education Department held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 were presented before the committee members which were approved. Following agenda items were presented:

**Item No. 19.3.1**

**To report four vocational courses launched from this admission session on SWAYAM platform.**

It was informed that four vocational courses Yoga Teacher Training Programme, Panchkarma Assistant, Beauty Therapy and Beekeeping were launched from August 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 on SWAYAM platform.

The Academic Council took note of it and appreciated the significant enrolments in courses mentioned above.

**Item No. 19.3.2**

**To report progress of new course - Yoga Teacher Training Programme.**

The progress of new course - Yoga Teacher Training Programme was presented before the committee members. It was highlighted that for monitoring and evaluation as well as to develop linkages with AVIs, whatsapp groups have been made formed connecting all AVIS offering the programme. Through this whatsapp group training classes are being monitored on daily basis. It was also informed that these trainings are being provided as per training schedules which is prepared in-house based on the learning outcomes of each lesson.

The Academic Council took note of it.

**Item No. 19.3.3**

**To report accreditation of study centers for handloom weavers course.**

The Chairman, NIOS informed the members about two major projects "Handloom Weaving" and "Handicraft Artisans" entrusted to NIOS by The Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. Director (VED) explained that the centres have been accredited and SOPs have been developed.

The Academic Council took note it.

**Item No. 19.3.4**

**To report aligning of vocational courses with National Occupational Standards (NOS) as per NSQF guidelines.**

It was informed that NIOS is in the process of aligning all its vocational courses as per NSQF guidelines. In this connection, 12 courses of NIOS





were put up in the National Skills Qualification Committee (NSQC) meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018. The NIOS has also been approved as the non-statutory certifying agency for the vocational courses that are NSQF compliant. It was also informed that NIOS has submitted 10 more courses for NSQC approval in the forthcoming meeting.

The Academic Council took note of it.

**Item No. 19.3.5**

**To consider and approve payment norms for remuneration to be paid to the faculty for implementation of handloom weavers training.**

The members were informed that the payment norms for remuneration to be paid to the trainers/ faculty for implementation of the handloom weavers training were prepared by a Committee that included representatives from Weaver Service Centre, Sector Skill Council, Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India and NIOS relevant officials including Accounts Officer and Student Support Services Department representatives. As the course is having 70% practical training, all relevant NIOS norms were taken into consideration while deciding the payment norms.

The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal.

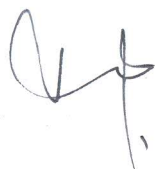
**Item No. 19.3.6**

**To consider and approve mechanism for course delivery and payment norms for handicraft artisans training.**

The members were informed that NIOS has been entrusted with the task of training 1500 SC Handicraft Artisans by the Ministry of Textiles. In the first phase, 100 learners will be trained from Varanasi region. The Training material for the same has been prepared. The members were requested to have a glance of the SOPs prepared. It was requested to consider the existing course "Indian Embroidery" for 8<sup>th</sup> class learners to be replaced by the new revised course and the name be retained i.e. Indian Embroidery for handicraft artisans training. The methodology of undertaking the training with the training schedule was highlighted. The payment norms were also informed that followed NIOS & Ministry of Textiles norms. The same content would also be followed for Trade related Certificate course.

Academic Council members were of the view that the creativity of the artisan's should be considered while teaching specific skills to them.

The Academic Council members considered and approved the proposal regarding the methodology of implementation of the program and the payment norms.



**Item No. 19.3.7**      **To consider and approve offering of six months vocational course on employability and entrepreneurship.**

In order to equip the learners with desired Employability and Entrepreneurship skills, it was proposed that the course being offered at Senior Secondary level at the Academic Stream may be modified and revised as a Six months certificate course on Employability Skills in the Vocational Stream with minimum qualification of 8<sup>th</sup> class.

After due deliberations, it was indicated that since Academic department is developing secondary level course on Entrepreneurship, Vocational department will suggest through expert committee vocational elements to be added in the curriculum.

**Item No. 19.3.8**      **To consider and approve the offering of vocational courses through SWAYAM Platform in the next one year.**

The members were informed that keeping in view the enrolments in the currently running vocational courses at SWAYAM, the Department intend to take up 20 new NSQF aligned courses in the next one year through SWAYAM.

The Committee members approved the proposal with suggestion to do need analysis before initiating the development of MOOCs content.

**Item No. 19.3.9**      **To consider and approve dropping of unpopular courses.**

It was informed that in courses like “Water Management for Crop Production and Radio and Tape Recorder” the enrolment for the past five years has been low. The course “Advanced Web Designing” is pitched at Level 5 and entry qualification is Graduate. There is a similar course at Level 3 as Web Development. As such, there is need to drop the Advance Web Designing course and retain the “Web Development” course.

The Academic Council was of the view to replace the old course with new/revised one and approved the proposal of dropping other courses.

**Item No. 19.3.10**      **To consider and approve vocational courses to be aligned with NSQF as per NOS.**

The Members were informed that as per the NSQF notification all vocational courses need to be revised and made NSQF compliant. Earlier, 12 courses were sent to NSQC for compliance and were approved. In the next meeting of NSQC, 10 new courses will be placed before the NSQC committee.





The Academic Council considered and approved the same.

**Item No.19.3.11**

**To consider and approve fees revision for all the vocational courses.**

It was informed that VED felt a need for revision of vocational course fee because the prices of all commodities including paper, printing, wage cost etc has gone up over the years. During number of AVI Coordinators meeting, the issue was also raised by the coordinators that the current fees was quite low for the AVIs or the study centres have to undertake the training sessions on no profit no loss basis.

The Committee members felt that this should be presented before the Executive Board meeting for its approval.

**Item No. 19.3.12**

**To consider and approve the change of duration of standalone certificate courses.**

It was informed that 33 Stand Alone courses are presently being offered as one year duration in combination with Academic Subjects at Secondary or Senior Secondary level. Some of these courses are also offered under Vocational Stream whereby three courses of the same domain are to be taken alongwith one language and one academic subject. It was proposed that the learners who are opting for all Stand Alone courses in the Stand alone category for the Secondary/Senior secondary certification may also be granted separate trade certificates apart from regular Secondary/Senior Secondary certificate.

As these courses are of around 240 hrs duration, it was proposed that the courses may be offered as independent certificate courses of six months duration when not combined with academic courses.

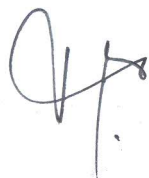
The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal.

**Item No. 19.3.13**

**To consider and approve the course revision of four courses.**

The Members were informed that as per the approval of DAB, the courses of the ICT related areas shall be revised every three years and courses of the other area shall be revised in 5 years duration. Keeping this in view and the obsolete content and demand of the courses, it was proposed to revise the courses such as, Mushroom Production (618), Basic Computing (608), Early Child hood Care and Education(439-441) and Care of the Elderly (445-448) in addition to the planned activity for the year 2018-19.

The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal.



**Item No. 19.3.14 To consider and approve revision and change of name of Four Wheeler Mechanism course.**

It was explained that there is likely to be increase in demand of Electric Vehicle Technicians in the coming years. In order to cover contents for all types of existing vehicle's, and in order to fulfill the increasing demand of Electric Vehicle technicians, it is proposed to add Electric Vehicle module to the existing Four Wheeler Mechanism (723 &724) course and change the name of the course to Four Wheeler Technician (Petrol/Diesel/Electric) for better enrolments.

The Academic Council members approved the change of name to Four Wheeler Technician, but were of the opinion that the syllabus could be revised to include contemporary elements through expert committee and bring the final outcome for approval of the Academic Council.

**Item No. 19.3.15 To consider and approve the change of name of Two Wheeler Mechanism course.**

It was proposed to change the name of the existing one year package course Two Wheeler Mechanism (713) to "Two Wheeler Technician".

The Academic Council members approved the change of name to Two Wheeler Technician course and were of the opinion that the syllabus could be revised to make it contemporary through expert committee and bring the final outcome for approval of the Academic Council.

**Item No. 19.3.16 To consider and approve the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of Community Health Workers programme.**


The Members were informed that to conduct the training smoothly & proper Implementation of programme, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the Community Health Workers Programme have been developed by the Department.

The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal.

**Item No. 19.3.17 To consider and approve the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of Yoga Teachers' Training Programme.**

It was informed that for conducting the training smoothly & properly, a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) has been developed by the Department and placed for approval.

The Academic Council approved the proposal.





**Item No. 19.3.18 To consider and approve the re-introduction of Certificate in Rural Health (Gram Sakhi) course.**

It was informed that during the 18<sup>th</sup> Academic Council meeting course "Certificate in Rural Health (Gram Sakhi)" was dropped due to less enrolment in the course for the past few years. This course was available in Marathi language as well. Keeping in view of the renewed interest from the AVIs, it was proposed to re-introduce the course and also translate the course in Bengali medium for the learners to take benefit from the course.

This is in view of the fact that the West Bengal has registered more than 200 admissions in this course for the year 2018-19.

The Academic Council deliberated upon the issue as to how this Gram Sakhi pass outs are different from ASHAs. It was then decided by the members that the course would be revised/ new version developed before it is re-introduced again. Also, the learners who were already enrolled in 2018-19 may be allowed to appear in exams as per NIOS norms.

**Additional Items**

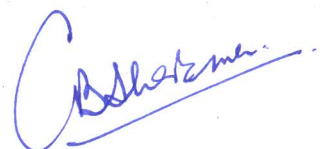
**Item No. 19.3.19 To consider and approve inclusion of Microsoft Content in the Data Entry Operations (Secondary).**

It was informed that the revised subject "Data Entry Operation" at Secondary level, includes Open Office (Apache Open Office) content only. However, the subject experts while reviewing the content recommended that the content may not be totally useful to get employment and suggested to include Microsoft Office content in the SLM as Appendix. As NIOS aims to reach out to maximum number of learners and provide them with a course that is beneficial to them as far as job opportunities are concerned, hence, it was proposed that whilst the whole course content of "Data Entry Operations (Revised)" can be Open content, the MS Office could be added as Appendix in the subject learning material with a condition that it is not mandatory.

The Academic Council approved the proposal.

**Item No. 19.3.20 To Consider and approve inclusion of chapter on Goods and Services Tax in Course on Employability and Entrepreneurship and other applicable courses of Business & Commerce or other appropriate Areas/ Courses.**

The members were informed that in order to equip the learners with desired Employability and Entrepreneurship skills, a chapter on GST be may be included in the course on employability and entrepreneurship and other applicable courses of Business & Commerce or other areas.



The Proposal was approved by the Academic Council.

Item No. 19.3.21

**To Report the finalization of Training Schedule of Handicraft Artisan Course and implementation, conduct of Classes and Evaluation of learners enrolled in the project.**

It was reported that a meeting was held with the officers from Ministry of Textiles and NIOS wherein the training schedule of the Handicraft Artisans Course were finalised. The issues related to implementation, conduct of classes and evaluation of learners enrolled in the project were also deliberated and the minutes of the meeting were placed before Academic Council members for perusal.

The Academic Council took note of it.

ICT

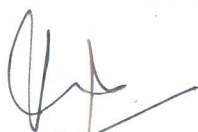
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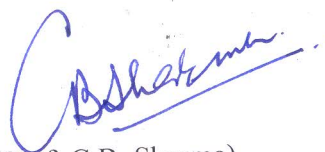
**To report about the New admission system and Online Registration and Seat booking system for On-Demand Examination**

It was reported to the members of the Academic Council that from the academic session 2018-19 (Stream 1 Block 1) onwards, NIOS has implemented 100% online admissions in secondary and senior secondary courses for public examination as well as for On-Demand Examination. This also includes the functionality where the learners are required to upload the required documents online. The admission fee has to be paid online only. No other mode (DD, cash etc) of fee payment would be acceptable.

This was also reported to the Council that the registration for On-Demand Examination has also been made online including the provision for selecting the examination centre and date of examination online only. The examination date and seat can be selected/booked only on first come first serve basis on successful payment of the required examination fee only.

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

  
(S.K. Sinha)  
Director (Academic)

  
(Prof. C.B. Sharma)  
Chairman

