

National Institution of Open Schooling **(Academic Department)**

Minutes of the 11th Academic Council Meeting held on 4th March, 2011

The 11th meeting of the Academic Council of NIOS was held on 4th March, 2011 at NIOS, Conference Room 3rd floor, A-24/25, Sector 62, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh under the Chairpersonship of Dr. SS Jena, Chairman, NIOS.

The following members attended the meeting:

1. Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS	Chairperson
2. Prof. Anju Sehgal Gupta	Member
3. Sh. Rakesh Bansal	Member
4. Dr. Shabistan Gaffar	Member
5. Dr. Gauri Srivastava	Member
6. Dr. (Mrs.) Veera Gupta	Member
7. Dr. Shyam Singh Shashi	Member
8. Prof. Bharti Baweja	Member
9. Sh. G.G. Saxena,	Member
10. Dr. Sushmita Mitra	Member
11. Dr. K.P. Wasnik	Member
12. Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal	Member Convener

The following members - Prof. H.C. Pradhan, Shri B.P. Pant, Prof. C.S. Nagaraju, Prof. A.K. Sharma and Sh. K. Satish Nambudiripad could not attend the meeting.

Dr. S.S. Jena welcomed the members and spoke at length about the activities of NIOS. He said that there is a pressing need to expand the horizon of NIOS in order to increase enrolment as well as bring about qualitative improvement so that the credibility and acceptability of the system is enhanced. The main challenge was to cater to 15% population of the relevant age group under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) which comes to about 12 million through the Open Schooling system.

Chairman, NIOS explained in detail the PTTI programme in West Bengal in which the aim is to train the 30,000 trainees who are teachers at elementary level and want to upgrade their educational qualifications.

Chairman, NIOS also focused on the collaborative programme “Saakshar Bharat” between NIOS and NLMA and mentioned the Basic literacy assessment conducted on 20th August, 2010 and next assessment on 6th March, 2011. He stated that NIOS is the nodal agency to develop curriculum and study material for adult neo-literates.

Chairman asked Director (Academic) who is the Member Convener of the Academic Council to present the Agenda items.

Director (Academic) presented the agenda items as given below:

Item No. 11.1 : **To confirm the Minutes of the Tenth meeting of the Academic Council of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).**

The Minutes of the Tenth Meeting of the Academic Council were confirmed.

Item No. 11.2.1: **Action Taken Report for Minutes of 10th Academic Council Meeting.**

The Action Taken Report on the activities of Academic Department for the academic year 2010-2011 was presented by Director (Academic) and was noted by the Academic Council. Dr. Shyam Singh Shashi was of the opinion that Children's books should be purchased for the library. The Chairman informed the members that NIOS will purchase more books of National Book Trust and Children Book Trust for the learners.

Director, Student Support Services Dr. Sushmita Mitra suggested a digital library for easy access to NIOS learners and other beneficiaries. The Chairman directed that a sub-committee may be constituted to work out action plan in this regard and provide necessary guidance.

Item No. 11.2.1.1: **Translation of Senior Secondary Course in Bengali Medium for PTTI Programme.**

The Chairman, NIOS apprised the members about the background of PTTI programme. The work is in progress and NIOS will provide academic support and conduct evaluation work for the collaborative programme with the government of West Bengal.

Item No. 11.2.1.2: **To consider the proposal for collaborative programmes between NIOS and Saakashar Bharat.**

Chairman, NIOS explained the collaborative programme between NIOS & NLMA and mentioned the assessment of learners at Basic level conducted on 20th August, 2010 . He stated that the next assessment would be held on 6th March, 2011. NIOS would be the nodal agency for assessment and development of curriculum and study material for Open Adult Education at 'A', 'B' and 'C' levels.

Item No. 11.2.1.3: **Open Basic Education for Children**

Director (Academic) explained in detail the Government of India directions to continue Open Basic Education Programme till March, 2013 and to develop a bridge course for the out of school learners who have to be admitted to their age specific class as provided in the RTE Act.

Item No. 11.2.1.4: **Revision of Rates.**

The enhanced rates for different academic activities have already been approved by Finance Committee and so noted by the members. .

Item No. 11.2.2: **Reporting Items from Academic Department**

The minutes of the Departmental Advisory Board in the meeting held on 2nd February, 2011 were placed for approval. The same were approved.

Chairman was authorised to implement the recommendation of making Personal Contact Programme (PCPs) compulsory and giving weightage to Tutor Marker Assignments.

Item No. 11.2.3: Work Plan for 2011-12

Director (Academic) presented the work plan for 2011-12 and was approved by the members of the council. Director (Academic) pointed out that the preparation of Bridge courses under the RTE Act need to be included in the Action Plan which was approved by the members.

Item No. 11.2.4: Curriculum and Course material development at 'A', 'B' and 'C' level of Open Adult Education Programme.

Chairman, NIOS explained about the curriculum and course material development for Open Adult Education programme and mentioned that NIOS has already developed curriculum at 'A', 'B' & 'C' levels and study material is being developed.

Item No. 11.2.5: Approval of Draft Curriculum Structure of D.El.Ed. Programme of NIOS

Director (Academic) placed the draft curriculum of D.El.Ed programme of NIOS for the approval. Chairman explained the details of the programme which was in consonance with the National Curriculum Framework for the teacher, trainers of NCTE.

Prof. Anju Sehgal Gupta suggested that although the teaching of grammar has been mentioned in the draft curriculum, syntax, morphology and phonology have found no place. The inclusion of these items should be considered in the curriculum. Dr. Shyam Singh Shashi emphasized inclusion of human values in the curriculum. Prof. Bharti Baveja pointed out that every subject has some values that need to be inculcated and so should form part of the objectives. The curriculum structure was approved with these suggestions.

Chairman, NIOS reminded the Academic Deptt. about the decision of the 10th Academic Council meeting to change the nomenclature of Home Science to Human Ecology and Family Science as the NCERT has done.

Item No. 11.3.1: To report on Action Taken For Proposed Work Plan 2010-11

Director (VE) presented the Action Taken Report on the activities of Vocational Department for the Academic year 2010-11. The Academic Council took note of it.

Item No. 11.3.2: To apprise the Activities of Vocational Education Department

Director (VE) apprised about the activities of the Vocational Department. He emphasized the gap between the demand for and supply of skilled manpower in the country and the greater role of NIOS in bridging the gap. The Academic Council took note of it.

Item No. 11.3.3: Reporting Items From Vocational Department

Item No. 11.3.3.1: To report on Introduction of New Need Based Vocational Courses on PPP Basis

Director (VE) informed the Council that NIOS is looking for proposals from private as well as government organizations that are dynamic and innovative, and can effectively target the skill development at the sectors/ segments which have huge unmet needs. Proposals should preferably be in the priority sectors as identified by various agencies Vocational Education Department prepared the EOI for this purpose and invited the proposals from the private and public bodies. The EOI appeared in newspapers on 8th Feb 2011.

The Council members appreciated this initiative of VED and felt that NIOS should take up more such initiatives.

Item No. 11.3.3.2: To report on signing of MOU with various organisations

(a) To report on signing of MOU with Open Polytechnic of New Zealand.

Director (VE) informed the council that MOU has been signed between NIOS and Open Polytechnic of New Zealand for collaboration to strengthen and further develop the relations between the two institutions in the field of distance education up to pre-degree level.

The Academic Council members accorded approval to signing of the MOU.

(b) To report on signing of MOU with UNESCO

NIOS has been signed a work agreement with UNESCO with the following objectives;

- Design an appropriate teacher training package for the training of untrained elementary teachers through distance education mode.
- Expand the use of life kit as an academic support material in the NIOS Open Basic Education (OBE) programme and also make it available for use in the equivalency programmes offered through Saakashar Bharat.
- Upgrade, identified TVET courses for integration in the life kit, prepared in collaboration with NIOS and UNESCO New Delhi, and integrate the education of
- neo-literates with skill development. The courses designed for this purpose will also focus on aspects related to issues of recognition of prior learning.
- Undertaking system based research for development of ODL system in the school sector.

The Council members accorded approval to the work agreement between UNESCO and NIOS.

(c) To report on signing of MOU between NIOS and Functional Vocational Training Research and Society (FVTRS).

Director (VE) informed the council that NIOS and FVTRS have entered an MOU to work together by establishing innovative centers. Both vocational and academic inputs would be given to the students enrolled in the innovative centers. In addition to this, soft skills training, entrepreneurship training would also be given to the learners.

The Council members accorded approval to signing of MOU between FVTRS and NIOS.

(d) To report on Open Training & Education Network (OTEN)

Director (VE) informed the Council that the Open Training & Education Network, referred to as OTEN, which is a part of TAFE NSW – Western Sydney Institute committed to offer vocational training courses through distance mode, based on their respective academic and educational needs. NIOS is in the process of collaborating with OTEN.

The Council members accorded approval to the collaboration between OTEN and NIOS.

Item No. 11.3.3.3: To report on Constitution of Sector-wise Advisory Committees

Director (VE) informed that sector-wise Advisory Committees have been constituted by the Vocational Department in the areas of Agriculture, Business and Commerce, Health and Paramedical, Engineering and Technology, Home Science and Computer and IT areas to review the existing Vocational Courses/ Programmes and to provide the guidance on the courses its implementation strategy for linkages with Governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

The Council members took note of it.

Item No. 11.3.3.4: To report the introduction of new course ‘Data Entry Operations’ in place of ‘Word Processing’

Director (VE) informed that the students need to learn certain basics of computer applications apart from word processing for better employment opportunity. In view of this a new course “Data Entry Operations” has been introduced in place of Word Processing at Secondary and Sr. Secondary levels. The Council members appreciated this initiative taken by NIOS.

Item No. 11.3.4: To consider and approve the New Programmes/Activities of Vocational Department

Item No. 11.3.4.1: To consider and approve the proposal for implementation of credit system in vocational courses

The proposal submitted by VED on implementation of credit system in vocational courses was discussed.

The Council members appreciated this initiative and suggested that further details should be worked out.

Item No. 11.3.4.2: To consider and approve the introduction of separate vocational stream at senior secondary level

Director (VE) presented the proposal on introduction of separate vocational stream at Senior Secondary Level.

The council appreciated the initiative taken by Vocational department and suggested that further details should be worked out on the proposal. It was suggested that scope for vertical mobility of learners should be taken care of while finalizing the proposal.

Item No. 11.3.4.3: To consider and approve the introduction of modular courses

Director (VE) presented the proposal on development of vocational courses in modular pattern. According to the proposal learners will be offered exit and entry at any stage of courses, credit accumulation and vertical mobility to the learners.

The council appreciated the initiative taken by Vocational department and suggested that the further details should be worked out on the proposal.

Item No. 11.3.4.4: To consider and approve the courses to be undertaken for revision

Director (VE) introduced six new courses (Yoga, Bio Gas Technician, Carpentry, Solar Energy Technician, House Keeping and DTP) to be undertaken for revision in house. Besides the above mentioned courses, the Vocational Department would be undertaking revision of the existing courses through the Regional Directors as per the resources available with them.

The Council members accorded approval to the proposal.

Item No. 11.3.4.5: To consider and approve the courses to be undertaken for development

Director (VE) introduced 15 new courses to be initiated by NIOS in the year 2011-12. Out of these, ten courses are in collaboration with other institutions while five are to be developed in-house. Director (VE) informed that a proposal has been received from one of the Study centres of NIOS, i.e., R.G Institute of Professional Studies (AVI No.710200) Delhi for development of a certificate programme on Construction Supervision. He also informed the members that a certificate course would be developed in collaboration with National Informatics Center (NIC) on Web Designing for the updating of Government websites. Another proposal has been received by NIOS from Department of Posts and Ministry of IT for Rural Entrepreneur Program for Branch Post Masters. There is a proposal from IMA to develop five new courses in the area of Health and Paramedical.

The members accorded approval to the new courses.

Item No. 11.3.4.6: To consider and approve the courses to be undertaken for translation

Director (VE) introduced 10 new courses to be translated by NIOS in the year 2011-12. The members accorded approval to translation of these courses.

Item No. 11.3.4.7: Carry Over /On-going programmes

Director (VE) introduced 3 academic programmes and 2 on-going projects from the last academic year. The members accorded approval to completion of these programmes/projects in the next academic year.

Item No. 11.4: Action taken report for the programmes of the Student Support Services (SSS) Deptt. for the year 2010-2011 and initiatives taken by Student Support Services (SSS), Deptt. for the year 2011-2012.

- Director Student Support Services (SSS), Dr Sushmita Mitra presented the Action Taken Report with respect to the programmes of SSS planned for the year 2010-11 (page 52 of the Agenda). It was reported that all the programmes as envisaged for the year 2010-11 could be implemented on time. She informed that it was commendable that in the region of Madhya Pradesh 68 more Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB) have been covered and 19 have been covered in the region of Maharashtra.
- Dr S Mitra reported matters which were initiated by the SSS Department based on the recommendations of the Departmental Advisory Committee (DAC) which was held on 21st October, 2010 (page 48 of the Agenda).
- It was reported that certain change of procedures for grant of accreditation with respect to AVIs applying for additional courses were made as per recommendation of the DAC. Those AVIs of NIOS who wish to take additional course, beside the one allotted to them, such applications need not be put in the screening committee meeting of the Department. However, certain conditions needs to be fulfilled by such AVIs like giving an undertaking that the infrastructure for running such a course is available with them with adequate faculty. Such Institutes will be inspected by the Regional Centres on priority basis. (page 49 of the Agenda)
- It was reported that DAC has approved to Grant special permission to those AVIs who applies for extra intake of learners for one particular session. However, the AVI need to give an undertaking that the centre possess adequate infrastructure for meeting the requirement of additional learners and will provide necessary documents supporting the statement. In case the AVI wishes to permanently increase the intake of learners, then the AVI needs to apply to the SSS Department which will then forward the application to the Regional Centre for inspection. Upon receipt of the inspection report, it will be put up in the Accreditation Advisory Committee of NIOS . (page 49 of the Agenda)
- It was reported that DAC has approved the grant of special permission to the new AVIs to run courses with less than ten learners for one session till they are established in their area. The Director, Vocational Education Department, Dr K P Wasnik, was however, of the opinion that it should be applied to all AVIs and not only to the new Institutes. **It was recommended by the Members.**
- The members were informed about the SPQEM (Scheme of Providing Quality Education in Madarsa) and the fee structure that will be applicable to the students of Madrassas affiliated with the State Madrasa Board/Wakf Board. (page 50 of the Agenda)
- It was reported that NIOS and YCMOU have entered into an MOU with a purpose to provide opportunity of vertical mobility and linkages with institutions of higher learning to NIOS learners. In the first phase, a six month preparatory programme comprising of three modules is being implemented. On completion of this preparatory courses, after six months, learners will be required to take an objective type test. On qualifying the test with 40% marks, learners will

receive certificate from the University, and if she/he is 18 years of age, then will be eligible for admission to the first year of BA/B.Com of YCMOU. (page 51 of Agenda)

- It was informed that grant of accreditation to the study centers for the Project of capacity building of PTTIs trainees for improvement of Academic Qualifications has been initiated as a joint venture of NIOS and West Bengal Board of Primary Education. (page 51 of Agenda)
- The future programmes of the SSS Dept. were put before the Members of the Academic Council for approval. Besides other routine activities it was informed that Norms and Procedures of Academic Accreditation and Vocational Accreditation is being reviewed as per the recommendation of the 10th General Body Meeting of the NIOS. This will ensure modification for further expansion and upscaling of NIOS in unreached areas of the country.
- It was informed that the next Departmental Advisory Committee will be held in the months of June and December, 2011.
- It was informed that the department will issue Advertisements for admission through NIOS Head quarter and Regional Centres six times a year.
- The Secretary NIOS was of the opinion that Biometrics I card system should be introduced in NIOS which will reduce the chances of impersonation in case of admission and examination and thereby will enhance the credibility of NIOS examinations.
- It was informed to the Members, that as part of Advocacy programme for Muslim Minority Institutions, various advocacy programmes will be held quarterly in different parts of the country.
- It was informed that Best Regional Centres of NIOS will be awarded on the NIOS Annual Day. This activity will be undertaken between the month of August to November 2011.
- It was informed that as per the approval of the Finance Committee opening of new regional centres have been approved in the region of Tamilnadu, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh, and Jammu & Kashmir.

Item No. 11.5: Media Unit

ATR was presented by Dr. R. K. Arya, JD (Media) and also shared that NIOS has signed an agreement with Centre which includes audio studio for community Radio Station and of Video studio for 24x7 channels to be started in near future in collaboration with CIET, NCERT. Carried forward programmes were approved News programmes approved but Secretary, NIOS signified that this budget is retative only as it may be increased depending out equivalent, hiring of staff etc.

Item No. 11.6: Computer Unit

The Computer Unit reported various activities undertaken during the year. The highlights are as follows:

- Extension of On-Demand Examination facility to all Regional Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday
- Operationalisation of On-Demand Examination on the basis of new Question Banks developed for the revised Sr. Secondary courses.
- Setting up Computer Training and Data Centre in NIOS.
- Use of Mobile Technology to provide important information to learners such as confirmation of online admission, examination centre, examination date sheet and results.

Item No. 11.7: Evaluation Department

The Evaluation Deptt, reported the development of norms and guidelines for selection of Examination Centres w.e.f. April/May 20112 examinations. The guidelines have been drafted by a High Level Committee constituted by Chairman, NIOS.

Observations and suggestion of the Members

The observations and suggestions of the members related to the various items have been mentioned in the minutes at appropriate places. However, general comments and suggestions of the members of the Academic Council are recorded below:

Sh. G. G. Saxena, IAS, Secretary, NIOS gave the following worthwhile suggestions:

1. Introduction of biometric identity cards for NIOS candidates in order to curb malpractices in examinations.
2. Identifying and approaching, for collaboration, organizations/institution/agencies engaged in imparting quality oriented vocational education programmes. One example is an institute in Orissa for Plumbing.

Sh. Rakesh Bansal, IAS, Secretary Education and Chairman, Madhya Pradesh Open School stressed on the need to identify sensitive centres for effective monitoring in order to curb malpractices.

Prof. Gauri Srivastava, NCERT suggested that Mahila Samakhyas of UP and Uttrakhand may be involved in the development of materials for Open Adult Education Programme. She also informed that NCERT has developed bridge courses for girl students of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, which may be seen when NIOS prepares bridge courses for the out of school children admitted to their age specific classes. She offered all support from NCERT for the programmes of NIOS.

Dr. Veera Gupta appreciated the On Demand Examination System of NIOS which can be said to be its USB. She said that this is a unique system and should be expanded as well as strengthened.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.