

## **REPORT**

### **Study Tour of Delegates from Nigeria to NIOS Headquarters**

**22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017**

**Day1: 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017**

**Session-I**

#### **OUTSET**

The delegation from Nigeria consisting of twelve officials from Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Abuja, Nigeria visited NIOS, Headquarters on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017.



The two days programme started on an auspicious note with the lighting of the lamp. Ms. Anshul kharbanda, Academic Officer, Accountancy graciously welcomed all the participants.



Sh. C. Dharuman, Secretary NIOS, explained about the objectives of the visit of the Nigerian Delegation to NIOS. He informed that NIOS is one of the two national boards in India which had been established to take care of the out of school children. He further added that due to the rigidity of the formal schools, students shift to NIOS. NIOS is reaching out to the children with special needs,

orphans and street children through extensive use of ICT, mobile and media. He welcomed the delegates and assured full support from NIOS to help them achieve their agenda from the visit.

Mr. Faluso Falaye, thanked the Chairman, NIOS for facilitating their visit. He said that they particularly chose NIOS, as Nigeria and India have similarities and NIOS is the largest open schooling system in the world. The challenges faced by both the countries are similar yet India is making a great progress. He informed that in Nigeria the greatest challenge is more than ten million out of school children and the number is constantly increasing at an alarming rate. He said that since 1954, children in Nigeria must have free and compulsory basic education that is from grade 1 to grade 9. He further added that to address the issue of access, equity, quality and mass illiteracy, UBEC was formed in the year 1999. He said that they would like to see the strategies adopted by NIOS and achievements thereof. He added that they look forward for some form of collaboration between NIOS and UBEC to be able to deploy the technologies adopted by NIOS in their own institution.



Prof. C. B. Sharma, Hon'ble Chairman, NIOS welcomed the Nigerian delegation to India and NIOS. He informed that NIOS has a large presence abroad and we have system in place to work in other countries. While talking about the achievements of NIOS, he said that NIOS has assessed 90 million adults in last six years and half a million adults in digital literacy in past two years. He added that we permit our students to write their exams any day they choose and feel ready.

He informed the delegates that NIOS is running Open Basic Education for a very long time. He said that in last two years all courses in secondary and Sr. Secondary have been converted to MOOCs. He further informed that 1.5 million teachers have been enrolled online in one go for Diploma in Elementary Education. NIOS is planning different strategies to cater to the needs of the learners as all of them don't have access to internet. He emphasized that flexibilities are the backbone of ODL and we should be flexible enough to suit our learners. In the end, he again welcomed the participants and said that we are hopeful to do some great work together with UBEC for the benefit of the learners.

The rapporteur for the session was Dr.Praveen Chauhan, Academic Officer (Home Science).

The session was followed by Health Break.

## Session-II

### **Topic- OVERVIEW OF NIOS**

Speaker- Mr. S.K. Prasad (Joint Director, Capacity Building Cell, NIOS)

Mr S.K. Prasad started with his emphasis on the need to understand the learner-centric open and distance learning system. He said that Open and distance learning is based on the individual needs of the learner and controls what, where, when and how of learning. He also said that there is separation of teacher and learner in time and place in ODL system; there is institutional accreditation where learning is accredited or certified by some institution or agency; there is use of mixed-media courseware, including print, radio and television broadcasts, video and audio cassettes, computer-based learning and telecommunications; and there is two-way communication that allows learners and tutors to interact.



It was also informed the delegation that NIOS is ISO 9001: 2008 certified; this proves that NIOS has demonstrated its ability to consistently provide service that meets customer applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system. Organisational Structure and Instructional System of NIOS were also explained to the delegates.

He added that NIOS Online is a major ICT initiative in the direction of e-Governance. He communicated that a Single Window Student Information System has been placed on the NIOS website for the learners of NIOS having information of Online admission, Study Centres, Tutor Marked Assignments, Course Materials, Syllabus, Sample Question Papers, previous year's question papers and performance of students.

He further informed the delegation that NIOS has its own web portal [www.nios.ac.in](http://www.nios.ac.in) for dissemination of information and citizen-centric services.

He foregrounded the following objectives of the NIOS-Online Service:

1. To promote e-governance
2. To assist in reaching out to the potential learner



3. To monitor the admission, accreditation and examination of NIOS
4. To provide freedom to learner in choice of AI and subjects
5. To restructure the operations of NIOS through innovative use of ICT and simplification of procedures

### **Talking books for Visually Impaired Learners**

He disseminated information of Talking Books in DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) format that were developed for Secondary Courses. He said that DAISY is designed to be a complete audio substitute for print material and is specifically for use by people with "print disabilities" including blindness, impaired vision and dyslexia.

### **OER Initiative**

He informed the contingent that NIOS has initiated Open Educational Resources (OERs) specifically for Vocational programmes to be offered at Secondary and Senior Secondary levels, including stand-alone programmes. He further told them that the OERs have been developed in ICT Applications, Rural Technology and Tourism and Hospitality.

### **Virtual Open Schooling**

He said that NIOS has initiated Virtual Open Schooling (VOS) to serve learners to continue their education and skill development by the use of ICT. He appraised the delegation of the two courses- Certificate in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and Certificate in ICT Applications- that are being offered through VOS.

### **NIOS Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)**

The delegation was enlightened on the MOOCs that have been developed by NIOS and being run on the SWAYAM platform of the Government of India.

### **Topic- ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

Speaker- Dr. Sandhya Kumar (Deputy Director, Academic, NIOS)



Dr Sandhya Kumar elaborated on the constituents- units, cells and projects - of the Academic Department. She further went on to explain the definition and purpose of the Departmental Advisory Board (DAB) which looks into, examines and then approves the plan of action of the department.

The delegation was informed on how the department designs curriculum and develops study materials of NIOS. She told everyone that there are 14 Secondary level subjects developed for MOOCs and being run on SWAYAM platform.

Furthermore, she detailed the Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed.) programme of NIOS- a specifically designed package developed by the Academic Department, NIOS for in-service untrained teachers working in primary/ upper primary schools of different parts of the country. It was informed that about 1.4 million teachers have already taken admission to the programme in one month.

Along with the development of study material, the delegation was also informed of how the department develops audio, video and multimedia programmes for greater realisation of learning in learners.

She told the contingent that the department also devises evaluation strategies such as Question Paper Design, Blueprint and Sample Question paper for its courses.

Further, she discussed in detail about the library as a constituent of the department, Adolescence Education Programme, Open Basic Education Programme, Research and Development and Mukta Vidya Vani, Radio Vahini and DTH Channels 27, 28 and 32 (which run 4 hours of fresh content daily).

### **Topic- OPEN BASIC EDUCATION (OBE)**

Speaker- Dr. Sandhya Kumar (Deputy Director, Academic, NIOS)

Dr Kumar enlightened the delegation on the OBE programme that provides elementary education at three levels- for school dropouts, neo-literates and out of school learners- through Accredited Agencies.

She told everyone that NIOS launched the Open Basic Education (OBE) Programme as an alternative educational programme, equivalent to the Elementary Education Programme of the formal education system. She said that the OBE Programme explores and makes use of the potentialities of Distance Education Mode (DEM) for reaching the unreached. She further told the delegation that there is a provision of separate OBE programme for children below 14 and adults above 14 years.

It was informed that the OBE Programme is offered at three levels:

- Level A: equivalent to class I-III
- Level B: equivalent to class IV-V
- Level C: equivalent to class VI-VIII

Under OBE, she discussed in detail the multiple entry system, subjects offered, study hours, data management, process of admission, admission form and academic calendar.

### **OPEN HOUSE**

Subsequently, the presentations were opened for discussion. The delegation asked the following questions:

1. How does NIOS motivate its learners to study?
2. How does NIOS manage online exam authentication?
3. How are Madarsaas mainstreamed into the education system?
4. How does NIOS deal with the cases of impersonation?
5. How is the quality of study material assessed?
6. How does NIOS MOOCs work?



Mr. S.K. Prasad; Dr. Sandhya Kumar; Mr. V. Sathish and Dr Saumya Rajan enlightened the contingent on the above queries.



The rapporteur of the session was Dr. Saumya Rajan, Academic Officer, English.

After a long discourse, the post-tea session ended with vote of thanks.

### Session-III

#### **Topic-OVERVIEW OF ADMINISTRATION, STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AND EVALUATION**

Speaker-Mr.R.D.Mahapatra, Deputy Director, Evaluation

Post Lunch session for the Nigerian delegation started with a presentation on overview of Administration unit, Student Support Services and Evaluation Department presented by Mr. R. D. Mahapatra, Deputy Director, Evaluation.



In his presentation he briefed the delegation about the organization structure of NIOS and role and functioning of administration unit.

He explained about the need for student support services department and the coordination between SSS Department and that of Regional Centres of NIOS. He oriented the delegates about the various services provided to the learners of NIOS.

Further, he discussed in detail about various processes of examination. He explained about various Standard Operating Procedures established for the smooth and fair conduct of examinations.

He briefed about the whole of process of examination conduction starting from pre-examination activities, conduct of examination and post examination activities, role of regional centres and examination centres in detail.

Delegations raised many queries regarding few of the learners services provided by NIOS and also about the conduct of examination which were very appropriately answered by Mr. R. D. Mahapatra.



## **Topic-VOCATIONAL DEPARTMENT**

Speaker-Dr. Mamta Srivastava, Deputy Director, Vocational Education Department.

Dr. Mamta Srivastava, highlighted the various vocational courses offered by NIOS, enrolment trend in vocational courses. She briefed about new initiatives of Vocational Educational Department.

Further, she discussed in detailed about the modalities of course development and its implementation through Accredited Vocational Institutes (AVI).



She highlighted the various collaborations of NIOS for offering vocational courses. She concluded by flagging in various challenges in Design, Development and Implementation of vocational courses.



Both the presentations were very interactive and the delegation participated actively and raised many questions which were addressed to by the presenter.

The rapporteur for the session was Mr.V.Sathish, Academic Officer, Paramedical.

The session was followed by further discussions during the tea break.



## Session-IV

### VISIT- REGIONAL CENTRE, DELHI

Nigerian Delegation visited Regional Centre, Delhi escorted by Dr. S.Suryapani, Academic Officer, Biology. The delegation received a warm welcome in the Regional Centre, Delhi. Ms. Bhawna Dhyani, Regional Director, RC Delhi gave a brief introduction about the Regional Centre Delhi and NIOS.



Ms. Bhawna Dhyani gave a brief presentation on the concept, objective and functions of a Nodal Centre. She communicated the main objectives of the Nodal Centre and further briefed the delegates about its functioning.



Then Regional Director briefed the concept of On Demand Examination. A short demonstration of On Demand Examination was done and the delegation took keen interest in On Demand examination system. The Nigerian delegation interacted with Regional Director and other staff of the Regional Centre .



The online admission system of Regional Centre Delhi was also demonstrated to them and sample of Identity card with security features was shown to them.



Happy moments recaptured at Regional centre, Delhi. After open round of discussion with Regional Director and staff, delegation left the Regional Centre Delhi with sweet memories.



**Day 2 : 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017**

### **Session-I**

#### **Topic-INTRODUCTION TO CONCEPT, NATURE AND PROGRAMMES OF UBEC**

Speaker-Dr. Yakubu Gambo, Deputy Executive Secretary, UBEC

He said that the Federal Government of Nigeria launched the Universal Basic Education programme in September 1999 for the purpose of achieving free, compulsory and Universal Basic Education as a response to attaining Education for All (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



He mentioned the various components of UBEC like initiatives for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for pupils aged 3 to 5 years; acquisition of functional literacy, numeracy and life skills, especially for adults (aged 15 and above), nomadic population, Out-of-school children, non-formal programmes for persons who left school before acquiring the basics needed for life-long learning; Non-formal skills and apprenticeship training for adolescents and youth who have not had the benefit of formal education; and the formal education system beginning from primary school to Junior Secondary School (JSS).

He quoted the mandate of UBEC. The Commission, as an Intervention Agency, has a target of delivering basic education in Nigeria in line with the education related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Education-for-All (EFA) goals.

He also briefed the audience about the organisational structure of UBEC.

He also explained the various attributes related to UBEC like FGN Intervention Fund Disbursement formulae, yearly allocation of total grant to a state by UBEC and number of Public Schools nationwide engaged in the project.

He also elaborated the various strategies adopted by UBEC for ensuring Access, Quality and Equity.



At the end of the presentation he mentioned the numerous challenges faced by them like addressing 10.5 million out-of-school children and youths ; absence of the SUBEBs Governing Boards in some States of the Federation; low level of budgetary allocation to basic education at all levels; dwindling Government revenue ; general insecurity in schools across the country such as occasioned by Boko Haram insurgency, kidnapping, etc; slow pace in accessing and utilization of intervention funds; non-utilization of available infrastructure (completed school projects) and widening access to education for vulnerable groups.

In his concluding remarks, he thanks the NIOS for giving him the platform to share his views on UBEC.



The NIOS faculty members actively participated in the open house discussion and asked delegates their approach to address issues on special education, gender disparity, out of school children, social mobilization and quality assurance in their country.

The session was succeeded by tea break.

The rapporteur of the session was Dr. Azmat Noori, Academic Officer, History.

## **Session-II**

### **Topic- ICT INTERVENTIONS IN NIOS**

Speaker- Mr.S.K.Prasad, Joint Director, Capacity Building Cell

Mr. Prasad discussed on the importance of ICT in distance education programme and cited the success story of registration of 14 Lakh teachers though ICT facilities to NIOS portal. He briefly presented the ICT infrastructure facilities inside the NIOS and its regional centres. The different objectives of NIOS-online system focused to ensure transparency and efficiency as well as to promote e-governance and better governance were discussed. The benefit of NIOS-online system is mainly concerned with cost effectiveness and time saving, online monitoring of admission, accreditation and

examination. Mr. Prasad also briefly presented the different streams of online admission process of NIOS and learner friendly mode of admission round the year. He also elaborated the different features of NIOS website and its conductivity to all categories of learners.

Online support services of NIOS like confirmation of admission, allotment of study centres (AIs/AVIs), dispatch of Self Learning Materials (SLMs), filling of examination form, correction of data, submission of TMA, scheduling of personal contact sessions and bulk message to learners has been discussed along with its importance in the distance education scenario. ICT and media are closely linked with each other and integrated ICT and media is an important component of NIOS. Mr. Prasad also discussed integrated ICT and Media services available at NIOS like- Mukta Vidyavani Programme (MVVP), Mobile Apps, Community Radio, you tube, MOOCs, DTH, Learner Support Service (LSS), National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM).

He further communicated that NIOS launched the Secondary course in Swayam of MOOC platform and both Secondary, Senior Secondary course through DTH channel.



## **OPEN HOUSE**

During the Open House the Nigerian delegates enquired about

- (i) separate budget provision for ICT in NIOS
- (ii) type of questions in On Demand Examination (ODE)
- (iii) challenges of learners to access ICT
- (iv) working pattern of Common Service Centre (CSS) in rural areas.

Mr. Prasad contented the delegates and overall session was very interesting and exciting. The session was followed by lunch.

The rapporteur for the session was Dr.Rajendra Kumar Nayak, Academic Officer, Mathematics.

### Session-III

#### VISIT - MEDIA CENTRE, NIOS

A delegation from Nigeria visited the media unit of NIOS on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017, with Dr. Azmat Noori, Academic Officer, History. The post lunch session started with the visit to the VOS library where they were briefed about the Online Verification of students. The delegation was also given information regarding the working of MOOCs platform, which was keenly observed by them. Apart from this they got hands on experience handling the SWAYAM portal.



The delegation was then taken to Mukta Vidya Vani studio where they participated as experts in a live PCP on the D.El.Ed being conducted by Dr. Madhur Bhatia, Academic Officer, Teacher Education.



A video program was recorded having the delegates as guests. They were asked about the best thing they liked about NIOS and Mr. Foluso Falaye remarked that he was very impressed by the ODES program and 24x7 admission facility.

The visit was followed by a tea break.



## Session-IV

### Topic-VALEDICTION

Mr. S.K. Prasad, Joint Director (CBC) gave the opening remarks in the valedictory Session. Mr. Prasad summarised the proceedings of two days discussion held with the delegation from Nigeria. He emphasised upon similarities in educational provisions provided to school going primary children through UBEC, Govt of Nigeria and those provided by NIOS.

He further stressed upon the objectives of visit of Nigerian delegation in which the major objective was to deal with the challenge of accessing 10.5 million out of school children and bringing them to the mainstream. He gave a clue to a joint collaboration with the UBEC and further working towards enrolling these children through open and distance learning mode. He also discussed about the potential of On Demand Examination System which makes the examination process learner friendly.

Thereafter, representative from UBEC thanked NIOS team for the sharing their initiatives in different areas viz. academic & vocational streams, open basic education, ICT and examination & evaluation. He elaborated upon three major takeaways from NIOS such as

- To deal with the challenge of bringing out of school children into the education system, there is a need to rigorously study the process and functioning of NIOS and then replicate this system in Nigeria.
- Potential use of ICT.
- Modus operandi related to setting up of question banks and items for On Demand Examination System.



He expected future collaboration with NIOS in moving ahead with their plans and attaining the objectives of their visit. He ended his words with thanks to NIOS team members for sharing their experiences throughout the two days and the hospitality.

Among the NIOS faculty, Dr. Mamta Srivastava, DD (VED) briefly narrated her experiences with the Nigerian team related to vocational education. Dr. Manoj Thakur (REO) and Dr. Madhur Bhatia, AO also shared their experiences from research and teacher education perspective respectively.

Thereafter, Hon'ble Chairman, NIOS in his concluding remarks said that technology should be harnessed for further joint collaboration with UBEC, Govt of Nigeria and NIOS. For this, he added that SWAYAM platform can be a good solution to reach out to a large number of out of school children and facilitate them for their learning requirements. He said that there is a need to identify common areas in academic as well as vocational streams so that further plan of action can be formulated. He ended his words by congratulating and thanking everyone.

The day ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Anshul Kharbanda, Academic Officer, Accountancy.



The two day programme was coordinated by Ms. Anshul Kharbanda, Dr.Azmat Noori and Mr.V.Sathish.

Anshul Kharbanda  
Academic Officer

