

# Reaction of Distance Education System at Secondary Level

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**Abstract:** The study is based on the reaction of Counselors, Co-ordinators and Regional Director towards different aspects of Distance Education Programme at Secondary Level. The paper was carried out on a sample of 104 Counselors, 26 Co-ordinators and Regional Director of Eastern Region, Odisha. The researchers were collected data by the self-made questionnaire and interview on the reaction of the Counselors, Co-ordinators and Regional Director to know the reaction towards different aspects of distance education at Secondary Level. The statistical techniques were used for analyzing the data. Percentages were calculated according to the responses. The results of the study that the students of Odisha are admitted towards NIOS Courses for the acquire degree comparatively easier than regular courses. Which is conducted in Odisha. NIOS gives preference to Female candidate, Rural groups students, S.C & S.T and Handicapped persons on admission. It also produces more job facility and provides self-satisfaction.

**Keywords:** Distance education system

## 1. Introduction

A School is an educational institution designed to provide learning spaces and learning environments for the teaching of students under the direction of teacher. Most of the country has systems of formal education which is known as compulsory. This is vary by country to country.

Comparatively, Distance Education System on long-distance learning is the education of students who may not always be physically present at a School. A distance learning programme can be completely distance learning. Where learners are staying in distance places and continue their programme of studies in Distance Education (D.E) Institutions. It is teaching – learning situations where along with print medium various technological media are used to deliver study contents to learners. These media are radio, television, audio and video cassettes, mobile, computer etc. In this situation, two-way interaction takes place between learners and counsellors. The support services of learners play a major role in this situation. Today it involves online education. In this context, the education system needs to meet the meet the goals of Social Justice. Which indicates education for all. But the formal education system of Odisha Govt. unable to fulfil the destination of each citizen of the society. For this reason, distance education system can effective and meaningful alternative mode which creates the solution of the left out students. The researchers marked the reaction of the counsellors, Co-ordinators and regional director. This will help

the students in the open system to enjoy the benefits of the more flexible system together with the credibility which the conventional system offers.

At present state, there are various evaluations pattern available on an offered programme by D.E Institutions, which is called Accredited Institutions of NIOS. The needs of the distance learners, there are 162 AIs of NIOS spread over Odisha. The conventional face to face education being inadequate to accommodate the growing needs of the knowledge driven society and increasing desire of students for Secondary Education. NIOS is considered by many as in effective alternative educational system and students prefer to enroll in the varieties of programmes conducted by Accredited Institutions in different parts.

A few studies have been undertaken at the national level as well as regional levels. In addition, at the individual level, studies have been conducted by Anand (1979), Pillai and Mohan (1983), Sahoo (1985), Pati (1993) and Srivastav (1995). In case of Odisha so far in depth study has been conducted on distance education at Secondary Level. In case of Odisha so far in depth study has been conducted on distance education at Secondary level. Although there have been studies on media aspects of formal education by Mohanty(1979), Biswal(1982), SCERT (1982), CET (1986),CIET (1989), Acharya (1995), NayaK (1995), Pradhan (2000) and Sahu (2005) in the field of higher education. No remarkable study has been undertaken either at personal level or at institutional level in the State of Odisha highlighting different aspects of distance system at the secondary level of NIOS programme.

To increase the effectiveness of Distance Education system of the state at the secondary level, it needs proper planning and management of quantitative dimensions of the system. Quantitatively the system will have to meet the academic requirements of the target group. The qualitative aspects of the system include its instructional system. Hence, an attempt has been made by the researchers to study the details on organizational and institutional aspects of Distance Education programme offered by NIOS at secondary level on the state of Odisha.

## 2. Objectives of the Study

To study the reaction of Counselors, Co-ordinators and Regional Director towards different aspects of Distance

Education Programme at Secondary Level.

#### A. Methodology of the Study

The methodology of the study includes design of the study, sample, tools used, procedure of data collection and statistical techniques used, which has been discussed in below,

#### B. Design of the Study

The study has been designed as descriptive survey in order to analyze the distance education system at secondary level by collecting information from the reaction of Counsellors, coordinators and Regional Director of Eastern Region.

#### C. Sample

The researchers of the study selected 104 Counselors from 26 AIs (04 Counselors from each AIs). Further 26 coordinators of the concerned Institutions and Regional Director of Eastern Region, BBSR, Odisha constituted the sample of the present study.

#### D. Tools Used

The researchers selected the self-made questionnaire for the counselors. Further self-made interview schedule for Co-ordinator and Regional Director on NIOS to remark the reaction of distance education system at Secondary level.

#### E. Procedure of data collection

The counselors were given questionnaire with instruction to fill it properly. The researchers personally visited the AIs and collected the information from counselors, Co-ordinators and Regional Director of Eastern Region, Bhubaneswar by using different tools.

#### A. Statistical techniques used

In the present study to achieve the objective of the study simple descriptive statistics were used for analyzing the data. Then percentages were calculated according to the responses of the counsellors, coordinators and Regional Director.

### 3. Findings

The following findings of the present study were discussed in below:

- The students, parents, counsellors and newspaper advertisements were the first source of information for the learners about NIOS programme.
- With the help of AI's the students took admission in the NIOS programme.
- The people are attracted towards NIOS programme only the reasons of less expenses and expecting sure success.
- The students have taken admission in distance mode to acquire knowledge.
- There is more emphasis as theory paper in comparison to practical.
- Distance Education course produce more job facility and provides self-satisfaction. In distance education centre,

sometimes the counsellors acts as a substitute for course material.

- Print materials are mostly used by the student of distance mode.
- Reading materials of NIOS are highly appreciated by the students.
- Text Books and reference Books are used by majority of students whereas Journal and work books are never used.
- The counseling and PCP sessions are not sufficient.
- Tutor marked assignments (TMAs) are submitted regularly in each subject.
- The counselors viewed that there is more emphasis on theory papers than practical this course produce more job facility and provides self-satisfaction.
- A majority counsellor agrees that PCPs are useful to student, personal attention is essential in PCP classes, teacher student rapport is satisfactory and PCP can initiate the learners towards proper learning.
- The counsellors are viewed that more training programme should be organized for the NIOS teacher.
- The counselors are of strong opinion that assignment helps the students to improve the skill of reasoning.
- The majority coordinators did not appreciate the admission twice a year.
- Some of the coordinators are of view that in some AIs the printed study materials and reference books are provided to the students' in library. Occasionally the audio, video, and CDs provided by NIOS.
- The coordinators viewed that the model answer and the evaluation procedure should be provided the learner and evaluator in time. There is no need or orientation training to evaluators.
- The Co-ordinators viewed that students do not come prepared with relevant doubts and there is a lack of seriousness towards regularity in attending counseling.
- The Co-ordinators viewed that the assignment helps the students to develop proper learning habits and study skills.
- The students are not serious in submitting assignment regularly.
- The existing examination system helps in identifying learning difficulties.
- There is no difficulty in conducting examination once in a year.
- Limited time is given for preparation of assignments.
- Assignments help the students to improve the skill of reasoning.
- The delay of result publication is a major problem for the learners in distance system of education.
- The Regional Director suggested that more flexible time frame should be adopted for admission. The NIOS should conduct admission by planning to introduce 'Walk in admission' i.e. possible at any time of year.
- The Regional Director of NIOS wants separate library,

laboratory, hostel and bus for all the AIs. So that the students' strength can be increased. The Regional Director also needs facility for multimedia course productions and interactive digital communication for all AIs.

- The Regional Director viewed that handicraft is one of the most important sectors of Odisha state economy. It involves a large number of people all over the state. The areas, which can be addressed through distance mode, may include application of new technology in handicrafts.
- The Regional Director also viewed that Odisha as a land of mine, mining studies can also be introduced through distance mode at secondary level.

#### 4. Conclusion

Odisha as a state has made great stride in the field of distance education. This can be resumed from the improvement desirability towards distance education programme. From the above study it was found that the course offered by distance mode in NIOS are difficult in comparison to courses offered by formal mode, The NIOS proposes to have content free and a competency-based examination, which means that no particular book will be used to formulate questions, but the questions would be set from general reference.

Besides providing education to out of school children through distance mode, NIOS has introduced 'Examination-on-Demand Scheme' to reduce the burden of examination among the distance learners. The NIOS proposes to have a content free and competency-based examination, which means that no particular book will be used to formulate questions, but the questions would be set from general reference.

NIOS has adopted a multi-level delivery mechanism and AIs

approach with print material as the main source of learning. NIOS not only regularly revises the course materials, but also designs these as self-learning materials with simple language and adequate illustrations and graphics. Flexibility and innovation are the hallmarks of NIOS, which have adopted a student-focused approach. Unless proper counseling and guidance are provided, the students may not really benefit from the flexible system. As a result, NIOS plays a vital role in developing a network among the state open schools for maintaining quality and relevance. It can be concluded that NIOS authorities should take necessary steps to remove the problems for expansion of secondary education in distance mode.

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