



Second National Convention on Testing & Evaluation The Tamil University, Thanjavur

March 29-31, 2008



The dignitaries on the dias at the inaugural function

Left to Right : Prof.G.Bhaskaran (Registrar, Tamil University), Prof. M Thangarasu (VC, Periyar University), Prof.Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS-India), Prof.C.Subramaniam (VC, the Tamil University), Mr.M.Kutralingam (School Edn. Secretary ,TN Govt.), Prof.P.Ramasamy (VC, Alagappa University), Prof.K.Ponnusamy (President, South Zone, NCTE, Bangalore) and Dr.M. Balakumar (Convention Coordinator, NTS-India)

As a continuation of February convention at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, the Second National Convention on Testing and Evaluation was held at the Tamil University, Thanjavur, Tamilnadu. It was organised by the NTS-India, CIIL, Mysore in collaboration with Tamil University, Bharatidasan University (Trichy), National Institute of Technology (Trichy) and Periyar Maniyammai University (Thanjavur).

The following were the broad objectives of the convention :

- ♦ To create awareness about the importance of evaluation as a quality control mechanism among the academics, educational planners, decision makers, administrators and policy implementing authorities .
- ♦ To obtain feedback & suggestions on the base materials developed by the NTS.
- ♦ To build up national consensus on the materials developed and methodology adopted.

The inaugural session of the convention began at 10 AM on 29th March 2008 in *Karikaala Choolan Kalaiyarangam*, the main auditorium of Tamil University. The session was attended by about 1000 scholars from various parts of the country including 600 registered participants. Prof. G. Bhaskaran, Registrar, Tamil University welcomed the gathering. Prof. C. Subramaniam, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University presided over the session. Thiru. M. Kutralingam, Secretary,

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School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, in his inaugural address observed that only 7% of the student community has access to higher education and called upon the NTS to look into such issues in order to ensure equal opportunity to everyone. Prof. P. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, drew the attention of the academics in general and NTS-India in particular to the declining trend in the standard of education. Prof. M.Thangarasu, Vice-Chancellor, Periyar University, Salem emphasized the importance of teaching mother tongue while Prof. G. Ponnusamy, President, National Council of Teacher-Education, South Zone, Bangalore, stressed the need for improving the assessment system in the country.

Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India, in his powerpoint presentation introduced the programme by enlightening the audience about the objectives, applications and beneficiaries of NTS along with the rationale behind the formulation of such a vital scheme of national importance. Dr. M. Balakumar, Coordinator of the convention proposed vote of thanks.



A section of scholars attending the convention at the Karikal Cholan Kalaiarangam

The technical session held in the afternoon was devoted to explain the work done by the Centre for Testing and Evaluation in general and NTS in particular. The centre's website www.ciil-miles.net also was introduced. This was followed by a demonstration of the MILES retrieval system by the NTS technical team consisting Ms. R.Shakunthala, Mr. K.S.Raghavan, Mr. V.K. Dheerajj, and Mr. B.L. Mahesh.

In the forenoon session on 30th March, the Head, NTS-India briefed about the innovative materials evolved by the NTS. It was followed by a general session in which scholars were given the copies of the materials with a request to record their views and observations about them. The session was moderated by Prof. Swaminathan Pillai, Former Director, NITTTR, Chennai.

In the afternoon session, five different groups were formed to have critical analysis and observations of the materials supplied to them. Each group was headed by a senior academician, and assisted by NTS representatives, as detailed below:

Group 1: Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi-Language

Head : Prof. A. Srinivasan, Former Head, Dept. of Grammar, MKU, Madurai.
NTS Rep.: Dr. T. Janaki, and Mr. Dheerajj.

Group 2: Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi-Literature

Head : Dr. P. Mathaiyan, Professor, Dept. of Tamil, Periyar University, Salem &
Dr. K. Panchangam, Reader, Dept. of Tamil, K.M.Centre for P.G. Studies, Puducherry.
NTS Rep.: Dr. K.R. Sarala, and Mr. K.S. Raghavan.

Group 3: General Frame of Reference for Language, Literature, and Personality

Head : Prof. R. Vadivelu (Retd.), ELT specialist, SCERT, TN.
NTS Rep.: Dr. T. Amudhan, and Dr. G.M. Ansari

Group 4: Glossary of Evaluation Terms

Head : Prof. Chitraputran Pillai & Dr. Vasantha, Dept. of Lexicography, Tamil University.
NTS Rep.: Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak, and Mr. Maria Arul Raj.

Group 5: Concepts of Aptitude, Achievement and Proficiency

Head : Prof. A. Panneerselvam, Former Director, Teacher Education, Govt. of TN.
NTS Rep.: Dr. Biresh Kumar, Dr. Nehal Ahmed, and Dr. M. John Jebaraj.

The brain storming sessions of the above groups continued in the next day i.e., 31st March too. Scholars who participated in the groups were trying to arrive at a consensus on the issues discussed.

The cultural programmes arranged by Prof. M. Ramasamy, Dept. of Drama, Tamil University (during the evenings of 29th and 30th) were well received and enjoyed by the participants.

On 31st March, valedictory function was held at about 12.30 PM. Prof. Pon Subbiah, welcomed the gathering. This was followed by a briefing about the activities held in the general as well as technical sessions. The academic reports were presented by the respective group leaders. Prof. M. Ponnaivaikko, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, presided over the function. In his presidential remark, he stressed the need for a mechanism to conduct tests at various entry levels. Prof. C. Subramaniam, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, in his special address, stressed the need for a well formulated testing and evaluation mechanism. Prof. M. Chidambaram, the Director, NIT-Trichy, in his brief address, welcomed the creation of NTS-India. He also



The dignitaries on the dias at the Valedictory Function

Left to right: Prof.G.Bhaskaran (Registrar, Tamil Univ.), Prof.Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS-India), Prof.Balasundaram Pillai (Former VC, Jaffna University), Prof.N.Ramchandran (VC, Periyar Maniyammai University), Prof.R.Radhakrishnan (VC, Anna University, Coimbatore), Prof.C.Subramaniam (VC, Tamil University), Prof.M.Ponnaivaikko (VC, Bharatidasan University), Prof.M.Chidambaram (Director, NIT-Trichy), Dr.S.Silamboli Sellappan (Member, Tamil Development Board) and Dr.M.Balakumar (Convention Coordinator, NTS-India)

emphasised the need for providing explanation of various concepts in the local languages concerned. Prof.N.Ramachandran, Vice-Chancellor, Periyar Maniyammai University, in his brief speech, stressed the need for collective wisdom in fulfilling the objectives of a national scheme such as NTS. Prof. Balasundaram Pillai, former Vice-Chancellor, Jaffna University, Sri Lanka, talked on the role of knowledge based society in economic growth. Prof. R. Radhakrishnan, Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, Coimbatore, suggested that the activities of the NTS should be extended to all the disciplines of studies. Prof. Silamboli Sellappan, Member, Tamil Development Board, in his valedictory address, insisted that the academics should find out a way to eliminate the inconsistencies and inadequacies that are found in the education system in general and evaluation system in particular.

With a vote of thanks from Prof. G. Bhaskaran, the Registrar, Tamil University, the convention came to an end in the after noon of 31st March.

Research and Development (R&D)

- In-depth analysis of the concepts of educational measurement & evaluation as well as the content inputs & consequential effects of teaching, & learning
- Inter-relating them with the objectives of education and the actual needs of the country

Current Activities

*Forthcoming

- ▶ A workshop on Framework for the Concepts of Aptitude, Achievement and Proficiency is proposed to be organised during the last week of May 2008 with a view to give a final shape to the draft framework developed for item preparation & test construction.
- ▶ Another workshop is planned during the first week of June 2008 with a view to give a shape to the Concept Based Continuum of Graded Syllabi formulated by the CT & E, CIIL.

- ▶ The third National Convention meant for Hindi speaking regions is proposed to be held in July-August 2008. The exact dates and venue will be decided in consultation with the host institutions.

Survey and Documentation (S&D)

- Collecting, consolidating, and creating a database of information resources pertaining to contents, methods, and purposes of evaluation
- Contact particulars of individuals and institutions preparing and using different types of tests
- Details of syllabi and corresponding question papers of various courses at different levels of education.

Current Activities

- ▶ The names and addresses of Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, Heads of departments (Language, Literature, Linguistics, Psychology, Education, Physics, Mathematics and Statistics with Hindi / Tamil / Urdu background) of Central and State Universities are being collected and documented for the purpose of involving them in the NTS activities. All the CEOs of school education and the Principals of higher educational institutions (mainly autonomous colleges) are also being identified and documented.

Consultancy and Training (C&T)

- Evolving a mechanism for periodical training
- Preparing teaching cum training modules
- Producing documentary films
- Creating trained manpower in various branches of evaluation
- Extending consultancy on matters related to testing and evaluation

Current Activities

- ▶ Developing Training Modules on Testing & Evaluation : So far 27 scholars (out of about 100 applicants) have been identified for preparing modules based on the synopses provided by them. Out of whom, 8 scholars have submitted final draft of the modules. Two scholars have been requested to revise their synopses. Thirty synopses have been received afresh which are under consideration for allotment by the committee constituted for this purpose.
- ▶ Documentary Films on Testing & Evaluation : The following are the Producers who have been entrusted with the task of producing documentary films on the topics shown against their names.

Documentary on Aptitude Test

Mr. Felix Gerald
17/8, Seethanagar 1st Street,
Sivaganga Road,
Nungambakkam
Chennai-600034, Tamil Nadu.
Mb.09962009894

Documentary on Achievement Test

Mr. Virendra Valsangkar
A/8, Vishrantinagar, Bldg. No.2
Sinhgad, Pune-411051
Maharashtra.
Ph.-91-20-24347107
Mb.-91-9422359990

Documentary on Proficiency Test

Ms. Usha Rajeshwari
H 21 F, South Avenue,
Kamaraj Nagar,
Tiruvanmiyur,
Chennai - 600041, Tamil Nadu.
Mb.09444902806

Regional Field Units (RFUs)

- To disseminate the outcome of NTS at the grass root levels
- To ensure wider participation for building up of national consensus on materials and methodologies
- To identify scholars and undertake the process of item preparation, test construction, field administration, data collection, and standardisation of tests for establishing norms

Current Activities

2nd Introductory Meeting of the Representatives of RFUs

12th & 13th March 2008

A two-day introductory meeting of the representatives of institutions (identified for establishing RFUs) where Hindi and Urdu are in active use, was held on 12th and 13th March 2008 at CIIL. Prof. Pon Subbiah,



Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Director, CIIL (front row 4th from right) and Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India (5th from right) with the Representatives of the Institutions identified for establishing RFUs

2nd Introductory Meeting of the Representatives of RFUs

12th & 13th March 2008

Details of Representatives from Hindi speaking regions

Sl.No.	Region	Name of Representative	Address of School/College
1.	Region-3 Uttarakhand (College Level)	1. Dr. Anand Kumar 2. Dr. Sumangal Singh	Shri Guru Ram Rai (PG) College, Pathribag, DEHRADUNE-248001
2.	Region-5 Rajasthan (College Level)	3. Dr. Y. Sudarshan	College of Agriculture Rajasthan Agricultural University, Beechwal, BIKANER-334006
3.	Region-6 Uttar Pradesh (School Level)	4. Shri. Onkar Nath Avasthi 5. Shri. K. G. Verma	Kanpur Kanya Maha Vidyalaya Inter College, Kidwai Nagar, KANPUR-208011
4.	Region-7 Bihar (School Level)	6. Shri. Ramdev Rai	+2 Purvanchal High School, R.S. Tank, Laheriasarai, DARBHANGA-846001
5.	Region-9 Madhya Pradesh (College Level)	7. Shri. Arun Shukla 8. Shri. Deepak Srivastava	Government Mahakoshal Arts & Commerce Autonomous Mahavidyalay, Pachepedi, South Civil Lanes, JABALPUR-482001
6.	Region-9 Madhya Pradesh (School Level)	9. Shri. Praveen Pawar 10. Smt. Shailaja Singh	Adarsha Samaj Seva Shiksha Samiti c/o New Model High School, Mall Road, Morar, GWALIOR-474006

Aptitude: It refers to the potential for learning or acquisition. In other words; it refers to the student's readiness for learning. As a potential, it is usually contrasted with the current level of proficiency of a person. It is further explained as the ability measured by the amount of time required by the learner to acquire mastery of a task.

Source : *Introduction to Evaluation Terminology, CIIL, 2008.*

Details of Representatives from Urdu speaking regions

Sl.No.	Region	Name of Representative	Address of School/College
1.	Region-1 Jammu & Kashmir (College Level)	1. Shri A.K. Kapoor 2. Shri Rahul Kapoor	Adarsh College of Education, Tarore Bridge,National Highway, SAMBA, JAMMU
2.	Region-1 Jammu & Kashmir (School Level)	3. Dr. Bashir Ahmed Dar 4. Shri Rais Ahmed Dar	Al-Huda Public School, Khayam-Munwarabad Link Road, SRINAGAR-190001
3.	Region-3 Rajasthan (College Level)	5. Shri. M.S.Ashraf 6. Shri Veerender Singh	Mufti Akhtar Hussain Urdu College, Darul olum Raza-e- Mustafa, Vigyan Nagar, KOTA-324005
4.	Region-4 Uttar Pradesh (School Level)	7. Mr.K.S. Faizi 8. Mr. H.M.Yasin	Eram Intermediate College, C-Block, Indira Nagar LUCKNOW-226016
5.	Region-4 Uttar Pradesh (College Level)	9. Dr. Sabahuddin Ahmed 10. Mr. Motiur Rahman	DOS in Linguistics, Faculty of arts, Aligarh Muslim University, ALIGARH-202002
6.	Region-5 Bihar & Jharkhand (College Level)	11. Dr. M Zakaria 12. Dr. Ahmad Badr	Karim City College, Sakchi, Jamshedpur, Dist. EAST SINGBHUM-831001
7.	Region-9 AndhraPradesh (School Level)	13. Shri P. Mohammad Ali 14. Shri V. Julfakir Valli	ZP High school (Urdu) Khazipet, V.Kota Mandal CHITTORE Dist.

Grant-in-Aid

National Seminar and Workshop on Language Pedagogy

26th & 27th and 28th & 29th March, 2008

A two-day National Seminar on Language Pedagogy organized by ELT department of Gauhati University with financial support from CIIL (through CT&E) was held at Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli, Gauhati. It was inaugurated by Prof. Amar Jyoti Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University. Prof. Abu Leis and Prof. D.N. Bezboruah, ELT experts of the state, were the guests of honour. The CIIL was represented by Dr. Bhamati Devi, Principal, NERLC, Gauhati, and the CT&E by Dr. Basanti Devi, SRP, NTS-India. The seminar focused on problems of



A view of scholars discussing in the National Workshop on Language Pedagogy



Prof. Amar Jyoti Chaudhary, VC, Gauhati University, Inaugurating the National Seminar on Language Pedagogy

Language Teaching in India in general and in Assam in particular with reference to English.

The seminar was followed by a two-day Workshop on Language Pedagogy. The following were the recommendations of the workshop :

- ⊙ Introduction of language specific courses at undergraduate level for improving proficiency.
- ⊙ Reformation of curriculum.
- ⊙ Refresher courses for college teachers.

Both the programmes were conceived and coordinated by Dr. Anita Tamuli, HOD of ELT, Gauhati University, in association with the Dept. of Linguistics with financial support from the CIIL through its CT & E.

More About NTS-India

What is National Testing Service-India (NTS-India) ?

National Testing Service-India is a mega scheme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. National Policy on Education and Programme of Action (1986) and Central Advisory Board on Education (1992) have recommended the implementation of this scheme. The Centre for Testing and Evaluation, an R & D unit of the Central Institute of Indian Languages, has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing this scheme. NTS aims to cater to all the testing and evaluation needs of the country at all the levels of education. Though the NTS has eventually to encompass all the disciplines of the study, initially, it will focus on language and literature.

Why is it called NTS-India ?

NTS is there in other countries also. There is one in Pakistan. India has been incorporated in the title to make a distinction.

Why is CIIL selected for this scheme?

Yes, there is a reason why CIIL was preferred. The Centre for Testing and Evaluation, CIIL has done original research in this relatively unexplored area and brought out a number of publications on testing and evaluation. Considering its track record in research, man power, infrastructure and also the training imparted to various sections of schools, the Govt. of India has rightly chosen CIIL to implement this scheme.

What are the objectives of NTS-India?

There are specific objectives. It is very difficult to maintain uniformity in education in India given her multitude, multilingualism, multi-culturalism and diversified education system. Thus the main objective of NTS-India is to establish national and regional norms. Formulation of concept based continuum of graded syllabi for the courses in various disciplines at all the seven levels of general education (to start with Indian Languages) is another main objective of NTS. The third important objective is to develop corresponding tools and scales of measurement for determining competence in respective disciplines. Fourthly, it aims to standardize these tools and scales. NTS proposes to develop a centralized mechanism of quality control to determine the competence (to begin with language competence) of an individual on a common scale keeping the whole nation under its purview. The development of 'sampling-error-free' graded tests to assess the students is another goal of NTS. As mentioned earlier, the focus will be on language courses initially and will be extended to other disciplines as well.

What are its applications?

NTS will help to maintain inter-language comparability across the different languages at the national level and intra-language comparability at the regional levels. It will accredit the courses of study and subsequently the institutes which are involved in teaching / training those courses. Besides, it will help in deciding one's aptitude, achievement and proficiency (in native, second and foreign language contexts before extending to other disciplines) for admission, certification and employment purposes by developing appropriate types of tests. Consequently, this will lead to delinking of degrees from jobs in the future. Apart from specialised and

One and the Same : Difference in the name

Selection Type Question / Item refers to any question item that is classified under objective category. It includes constant alternatives, multiple choice, multiple facet, matching and rearrangement types. Each of this type is provided with a few alternatives of which the correct / suitable one is to be selected. In other words, the items of this category require an examinee to select the correct / most suitable one as answer from among the alternatives provided.

Fixed Response Question / Item is one for which the responses are already fixed in the forms of options or alternatives. It requires the examinee to select the right one from among the given alternatives. Hence, it is nothing but a selection type item. These items find a place usually in objective category of tests.

Close Ended Question / Item also refers to an objective type one having a single predetermined correct answer. It is also characterized as fixed response question, and sometimes as selection type item.

Source : *Introduction to Evaluation Terminology, CIIL, 2008.*

general educational institutions recruitment agencies like UPSC, SSC, etc., will also be benefitted from the tools and scales developed by the NTS-India.

What is meant by inter-language and intra-language comparability?

There are about 400 Universities in this country most of which conduct language courses. There is no way of knowing whether these courses are comparable or not. NTS intends to evolve a centralized mechanism which will ensure comparability. When the comparison is between the courses of different languages we call it inter-language comparability. (For e.g., M.A course in Bengali is compared with an M.A course in Tamil or Marathi). We talk of intra-language comparability when we compare the degrees in a particular discipline awarded by different universities. (For e.g., an M.A course in Hindi from Banaras Hindu University with that of Mysore University).

Is NTS-India meant only for language testing?

No, it is not meant exclusively for language. As mentioned earlier NTS will take up all the disciplines in due course. However, we have decided to work on language in the beginning.

Is it for any particular language?

NTS will work on all the scheduled Indian languages in a phased manner. At the moment three Languages viz. Hindi, Tamil and Urdu have been taken up. The work is in progress in all the three languages. Another set of three languages will be added shortly.

News & Events

Pre-convention meetings

- The Head, NTS-India visited the Tamil University (Thanjavur), Bharatidasan University (Trichy), National Institute of Technology (Trichy), and Periyar Maniyammai University (Thanjavur) on 20th March, 2008 in connection with the proposed convention to be held from 29th to 31st March, 2008, at the Tamil University and a press meet was held in the after noon, at Bharatidasan University, Trichy along with the Vice Chancellors.
- In the following day i.e., on the 21st March, 2008 he met the Vice-Chancellors / Directors of the Universities / Institutions collaborating with the NTS-India, and the coordinators of various committees for organising the programme in order to discuss the details regarding the convention.

Announcements

Module Writing: Synopses on developing *Training Modules* on various topics of *Testing & Evaluation in Education* are invited from Scholars / Experts / Researchers / Teachers of interdisciplinary areas. The modules that are proposed to be prepared are required to equip the NTS Task Group on Consultancy & Training which in turn will impart training to about 50 lakh teachers of all the disciplines at various levels across the country in a phased manner.

No. of Modules still open for allotment	: about 60
Size of each Module	: Max. 15 to 16 pages including exercises (as per specification)
Language of the Module	: English (with an option of translating the module into one of the three languages viz., Hindi, Tamil, & Urdu)
Remuneration/Honorarium	: For each module Rs.40,000/- (Rs.30,000 - for English version & Rs.10,000 - for translated version)
Maximum time given	: 10 weeks (5+2+2+1 weeks) w.e.f. date of assignment

For details of topics, specifications, terms & conditions, payment procedures and model proforma (to furnish scholar details), please log on to www.ciiil-miles.net and look for Announcement

For further details please contact : The Head, NTS-India

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