Evaluation in Education : *A Proposition by NTS*

*E*quality in education is possible only when there is *comparability* among the *courses* (of study), *institutions* (imparting them), and the *individuals* (associated with this process). The existence of a wide *disparity* among the *school boards* and also among the *universities* with respect to all these factors is evident from the facts that are highlighted through various *reports on education,* from time to time. As of now, no mechanism is available to check • whether a course of M.A in Kannada is comparable with that of M.A in Kashmiri (*inter language courses*). • whether a course of M.A in Kannada offered by the University of Bangalore is comparable with that offered by the University of Mysore (*intra language courses*). Similarly • whether MSc. in Maths. University of Delhi is comparable with that of Madurai Kamaraj University (*inter university courses*). • whether the two institutions offering the same course (eg. BE Mech.) under the same university are comparable (*inter institutional*) • whether the *learners* who passed out 10th std. examination of WB board are comparable to those of Maharashtra board (*inter state school certificates*).

Maintenance of such comparability would naturally demand a *common reference point* (standard / benchmark). At present, the country does not have any such *reference point* either at the *national* level (e.g., Indian standard) or at the *regional* level (e.g., Madurai Standard, Lucknow Standard, etc.). Establishing such a standard or benchmark would be possible only if the *norms* of comparability among the courses, institutions and individuals are evolved at every level of education. Since, education is a continuous process with a *gradual progression*, no norms of comparability could be evolved (in an isolated way) just for *one or two levels* of education, in the absence of a clearly defined & demarcated academic levels. Hence, the process of fixing up of the norms is to be taken up only in a *holistic way* by taking into account all the *seven levels* of general education (primary, upper primary, secondary, higher secondary, graduate, post graduate, and research).

At the same time, no *norms* of comparability could be evolved at the *national* level in the absence of obtaining it at the *regional* levels. Similarly *regional norms* are possible only when *local norms* are worked out. Thus, evolving a national norm is an *inter dependent* process and the achievement of which is possible only when there is a *consensus* among every section of the society representing every *region* of the country. It is necessary for wider acceptability in view of the fact that the subject 'education' is included under the *concurrent list* of the constitution, managed by central and state governments with a host of private managements. This vast country of more than 100 crore people, has a network of about 25 lakh schools under 34 Boards and 25 thousand colleges under 450 Universities of different types. Each one of them has a system and standard of their own. Above 5 million teachers are taking care of around 50 million learners covering hundreds of disciplines of study. This *heterogeneity* matters a lot.

In the midst of all such complexities, establishing a consensus based, *common reference point* to ensure comparability, without affecting the individuality, is a massive task. No doubt, the outcome will have *far-reaching implications* on the entire education system. Therefore, it has to be taken up as a *major initiative* like National Telecom Revolution, National Rural Employment Scheme, etc. of the Government of India. Accordingly, the NTS is making an *action plan*.

- Editor

(to be continued)

CONTENTS

Research and Development (R&D)

● To undertake in-depth analysis of the concepts of measurement & evaluation in the context of education ● To identify the content inputs & consequential effects of teaching, and learning ● To interrelate the outcome with the objectives of education and the actual needs of the country ● To develop appropriate methodology to meet all the evaluation needs.

Current Activities

Workshop on Item preparation

7th to 11th July 2009

The objective of this five day workshop was to deliberate on the draft version of conceptual framework developed by NTS for assessing various aspects of *human growth* and to make use of it for item preparation. The workshop was held at the NTS H.Qrs. 13 scholars of eminence belonging to various disciplines participated in the programme. After getting the salient features of the framework explained by the Head, NTS, the participants were divided into three groups and undertook the job of item preparation. Prior to this, the resource materials collected by the academics of the NTS were discussed and the feasibility of preparing sample question items under each component was explored. Thus, the programme was devoted to develop illustrative examples (under each component of the framework) representing different subject areas like Chemistry, Statistics, and Sociology in addition to Language, Literature, Linguistics, and Education. More than 100 samples were developed during this workshop.

The participants include Prof. K.Anban (Rtd. from Department of Linguistics, Karnatak University, Dharwad), Prof. P.T.Abraham (Former Director, Centre for Tribal Languages, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar), Prof. C.Shunmugom (Former HOD of Linguistics, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore), Prof. A.Karuppiah (HOD of Sociology, University of Madras, Chennai), Dr. Man Singh (Associate Professor, Dept of Chemistry, University of Delhi), Prof. N.Rajasekharan Nair (Former Director, CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University, Chidambaram), Dr. M.Rengaraj (Principal, Christ College of Education, Chennai), Prof. M.R.Srinivasan (HOD of Statistics, University of Madras, Chennai), Dr. Sunitha Teotia (Assistant Professor, Dept of Biochemistry, University of Delhi), Prof. N.Mohan Madhyasta (Rtd. from Department of Statistics, University of Mysore), Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai (Former Controller of Examination, CIIL, Mysore), Mrs. Shobha Anban (Former Principal, BMPU College, Dharwad), and Prof. M.Suseela (Former HOD of Linguistics, Tamil University, Thanjavur).

The programme was coordinated by Mr. M.Saravana, and Dr. R.C.Maurya (SRPs of NTS). Dr. R.Senkuttuvan (RP), Mr. G.Arvind Kumar, Dr. Jamshed Ahmed (JRPs) of NTS assisted the respective groups on Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency. The overall guidance was provided by Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS-India).

Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS) briefing the scholars on the techniques of item preparation

Workshop on 'Societal Needs' to build up CCGS in Literature

14th to 18th July 2009

The objective of this phase of the workshop was to identify the components that constitute the concept of 'Societal Needs' along with their dimensions. These details were needed to build up Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS) for demarcating them across the seven levels of general education. This programme was held at the NTS H.Qrs., Mysore, and the participants were requested to prepare definitions for each of the dimensional factors with illustrative examples. The details were later related to the constituent elements of literature. Prof. P.Ratnasabapathy (Counsellor, TIERA, Chennai), Prof. C.Shunmugom (Former HOD of Linguistics, Bharathiyar

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The critical views expressed by the participants were taken note for necessary modifications in future while presenting the dimensional factors across the seven levels. Half of the number of factors could only be covered with illustrative examples. A few more dimensions of 'Societal Needs' were identified for further discussions. The need for a few more sittings for this purpose was felt by the scholars after going through the complexities involved in this exercise.

Follow up workshop on 'Societal Needs'...
31st July to 2nd August 2009

In this follow up programme, a tentative demarcation of dimensional factors (of the 'Societal Needs') into the seven levels of education was worked out. Those attended this part of the programme include Prof. P.Ratnasabapathy

A view of the experts discussing in the workshop

What does it mean?

Discrimination Index (DI) is one of the factors which determine the quality of a question item. It is a measure of how the question discriminates between candidates of different abilities and of how it matches with other questions on the test. Discrimination is usually measured by the correlation between the score on the item and the score on the total test. The higher the correlation value, the better is the discrimination power of the item. Another method of computing item discrimination power is to compare the responses of the top scoring and bottom scoring students on each question item. The procedure is as follows: On the basis of the total score, two groups of students are selected (with equal size of top and bottom scoring groups). For each item, the proportion of bottom scoring students who get the item right is subtracted from the proportion of top scoring students who get the item right. The result arrived at is Discrimination Index or Index of Discrimination. For example, if 0.75 of the upper group gets an item right and 0.25 of the lower group gets it right, the item has a DI of 0.5. The higher the value of index the greater is the discrimination power of the item. The value of discrimination index ranges from +1.00 to -1.00. Items with positive discrimination indices discriminate in the same manner as the total score does. Items having the DI value of +0.30 and above, are considered as having the satisfactory degree of discrimination power, and hence they could be retained. The items with negative value have to be discarded. Dictionary of Education defines it as a numerical designation of the extent to which a test item discriminates among subjects or examinees of varying ability.

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

Survey and Documentation (S&D)

- Collecting, consolidating, and creating a grid of resources pertaining to : Contents, methods, and purposes of evaluation ● Contact particulars of individuals and institutions involved in preparing and using different types of tests ● Syllabi of various courses and corresponding question papers at different levels of education.

Current Activities

A survey has been initiated to collect the details pertaining to *assessment, accreditation, examination*, and *evaluation* in the field of education which are being practiced in the country. Details of information pertaining to different types of evaluation requirements such as textbook evaluation, student evaluation, teacher evaluation and institutional evaluation are being collected. Specifications in terms of content coverage, difficulty level, duration, etc., and other details such as various patterns of education, quantum & scope of academic inputs, manpower requirements, etc., are also being gathered.

The purpose of the survey is to create a comprehensive database comprising a variety of evaluation purposes that are required to be fulfilled such as grading, ranking, diagnosis, admission, etc. The need for creating such a database has been felt, for planning and formulating strategies to meet innumerable types of evaluation requirements. It would also be useful to decide the type of monitoring process required (concurrent, periodical, etc.).

The task of collecting the above details has been initiated through personal interaction with all those concerned (both in-house & external), print media of different types (like books, reports, journals, newspapers etc.) and electronic media of different types (like internet, television, telecom, etc.). This responsibility has been taken up by Ms. R.Kavitha and Mr. K.S.Raghavan (JRPs-Tech.) with assistance from Mr. N.Murali Mohana and Mr. P.Harsha (PROs) under the guidance and supervision of the Head, NTS.

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

Multipurpose Indian Language Evaluation System (MILES) Workshop

From 15th July 2009

NTS invited the following young scholars with Hindi, Kannada, and Urdu language background from different parts of the country to participate in a short term MILES workshop. Dr. Puttaraju, & Mr. Manjunath (University of Mysore) for Kannada; Dr. Md. Saleem Ahmed (University of Hyderabad) for Urdu; and Dr.Rishi Bhushan Choubay (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi), & Dr. Shyama Singh (Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi) for Hindi. This programme is meant for developing question items and also to prepare conceptual explanations of testing and evaluation in the language they represent.

Training Modules

The training modules (which are under preparation) are required to be used for equipping the NTS Task Group on Consultancy & Training which in turn will impart training to the teachers of various levels across the country. The total number of modules proposed to be prepared is about 80 to 100. The topics for these modules have been arrived at by accommodating the 1000 and odd components that are explained in the Institute's publication 'Introduction to Evaluation Terminology'. As of now, the module topics have been identified and classified under the following 6 categories :

A. Preliminaries : The philosophy of evaluation and its fundamentals. It consists of two major headings A.1 and A.2. **A.1** has ten topics including A.1.1 to A.1.10, **A.2** has ten topics including A.2.1 to A.2.10.

B. Contents : The contents of Evaluation. It consists of three major headings B.1, B.2, and B.3. **B.1** has four topics including B.1.1 to B.1.4, **B.2** has four topics including B.2.1 to B.2.4, **B.3** has six topics including B.3.1 to B.3.6.

C. Methods : Methods of Evaluation. It consists of four major headings C.1, C.2, C.3, and C.4. **C.1** has five topics including C.1.1 to C.1.5, **C.2** has five topics including C.2.1 to C.2.5, **C.3** has five topics including C.3.1 to C.3.5, **C.4** has eight topics including C.4.1 to C.4.8.

D. Purposes : The purposes of evaluation. It consists of three major headings D.1, D.2, and D.3. **D.1** has five topics including D.1.1 to D.1.5, **D.2** has five topics including D.2.1 to D.2.5, **D.3** has two topics including D.3.1 to D.3.2.

E. Computer Aids: The use of computers at various levels of evaluation. It consists of two major headings E.1 and E.2. **E.1** has two topics including E.1.1 and E.1.2, **E.2** has three topics including E.2.1 to E.2.3.

F. Influencing Factors : Influencing factors of evaluation. It consists of two major headings F.1 and F.2. **F.1** has seven topics including F.1.1 to F.1.7, **F.2** has two topics including F.2.1 and F.2.2.
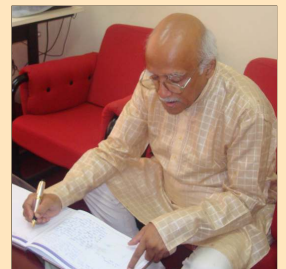
The complete details are made available in the centre's website www.ciil-miles.net. The details of the in-house allotees, section code, topics (as per website list), etc., are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name	Section Code and Topic
1.	Mr. M.Saravana, SRP(A)	C.4.7 - Item & Analysis : Standardisation & Norm Establishment
2.	Dr. R.C.Maurya, SRP(A)	A.2.8 - Self vs. Peer Evaluation, and Individual vs. Group Evaluation
3.	Dr. Biresh kumar, RP(A)	B.2.4 - Informatory : Literature - Affectives + Corresponding Question Items
4.	Dr. T.Janaki, JRP(A)	B.1.1 - Informatory : Language - Phonology + Corresponding Question Items
5.	Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak, JRP(A)	B.1.2(a) - Informatory : Language - Noun Morphology + Corresponding Question Items
6.	Dr. G.Suseela, JRP(A)	B.1.4 - Informatory : Language - Semantics + Corresponding Question Items
7.	Dr. G.M.Ansari, JRP(A)	B.2.2 - Informatory : Literature - Generics - Prose & Drama + Corres. Question Items
8.	Dr. Md. Rizwan, JRP(A)	B.2.1 - Informatory : Literature - Genesis + Corresponding Question Items
9.	Ms. R.Shakunthala, JRP(T)	B.1.3(a) - Informatory : Language - Syntactic Structure + Corresponding Question Items
10.	Mr. Ancy Thomas, JRP(T)	E.2.1 - Computer Assisted Administration & Valuation of Tests
11.	Ms. R.Kavitha, JRP(T)	E.2.2(a) - Computer Aided Item Analysis & Interpretation of Values
12.	Mr. V.K.Dheerajj, JRP(T)	E.2.2(b) - Computer Aided Test Analysis & Interpretation of Values
13.	Mr. K.S.Raghavan, JRP(T)	E.2.3 - Computer Aided (Question) Paper Setting & Valuation

From the Visitors' Diary:

"NTS is mini CIIL. People from many disciplines from different parts of the country are working with devotion for achieving a single goal. What convinced me about their contribution is the fact that they have accepted multilingualism and pluriculturalism as their starting points. Prof. Pon Subbiah has been an excellent leader and his team is devoted and committed."

-Prof. D.P.Pattanayak,
Founder Director, CIIL, Mysore

"It was a great educational visit to NTS-India, and learning of the great strides it is embarking upon in the area of evaluation. The nation needs the product of their efforts far more at this stage of its development. I am sure their work and wisdom would lend great weight and purpose to quality improvement in our expanding educational endeavors."

-Prof. G.K.Chadha,
Chief Executive Officer, South Asian University, New Delhi

Regional Field Units (RFUs)

● To disseminate the R & D outcome at the grass root levels ● To ensure wider participation for building up 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

Inspection of Applicant Institutions

29th to 31st July 2009

A four member team constituted by the NTS comprising Mr. S.B.Biswas (Manager, Printing Press, CIIL), Dr. M.Yesudass (Resource Person), Mr. B.M.Lingaraj (Officer-in the RFUs section) and Mr. S.Murali (Assistant) of NTS visited and inspected the applicant Institutions in connection with establishment of Regional Field Units of NTS in the Tamil speaking areas. The institutions include Maha Engineering College (Salem), St. Mary's Hr. Secondary School (Dindigul), Government Arts College (Paramakkudi), and Thassim Beevi Abdul Kader College for Women (Kilakarai), all in Tamil Nadu.

Maha Engineering College, Salem, TN

The team visited this college on 29th July 09. It was received by Dr. V.M.Sriramachandran, Director of the college. The team briefed the Principal and his colleagues about the objectives of NTS and the activities that are expected to be carried out by RFUs. The team also inspected the availability of infrastructure and other facilities which are required for opening the RFU. The members also had an interaction with the Principal and other staff members who were very enthusiastic.

Inspection team with the authorities of Maha Engineering College, Salem(TN)

Inspection team with the authorities of St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School, Dindigul (TN)

St. Mary's Hr. Secondary School, Dindigul, TN

The team visited this school on 30th July 09. It was received by Fr. Ignatiuous Britto, Head Master and correspondent of the School. The team briefed about the objectives of NTS and the activities that are expected to be carried out by the RFUs. They inspected the infrastructure and other facilities which are required for opening the RFU. The institution was found to be rendering a great service for the rural and downtrodden.

Govt. Arts College, Paramakudi, TN

On the same day, NTS team visited this college. Dr. G.Raja Ram, Principal-in-charge and Dr. M.Manimaran (Reader, Tamil Department) received the members of the team and briefed about the infrastructural facilities available with them. After an interaction with the Principal and faculty members, the team left Paramakudi on the same evening .

Inspection team with the authorities of Govt. Arts College, Paramakudi (TN)

Inspection team with authorities of Thassim Beevi Abdul Kader College for women, Kilakarai (TN)

Thassim Beevi Abdul Kader College for Women, Kilakarai, TN

The team visited this college on 31st July 09. It was received by Dr. S.Sumayaa, Principal of the College. The team briefed about the objectives of NTS and the activities that are expected to be carried out by the RFUs. All required information were collected from the college. This institution was found to be equipped with modern facilities like e-library, seminar hall and also providing education to rural womenfolk.

Grant-in-Aid

In order to encourage the individuals and institutions working in the area of testing & evaluation, NTS is extending financial support under its GIA sub scheme. Those identified for this purpose during 2008-09 were already paid the I installment of the grants. The II installment of the same was released during July 2009. The details are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name & Address of the Grantee	II installment Released	Activities for which the Grant is provided
1.	Dr. Anbarasu. K. Principal, National College, Tiruchirapalli-620001, Tamil Nadu	Rs. 17,640/-	*Workshop on* Testing & Evaluation
2.	Dr. Bashir Ahmad Dar, Chairman, Al-Huda Public School Khayam Link Road, Srinagar-190001	Rs. 25,000/-	*Training programme* for practicing Urdu lecturers at +2 stage on testing Urdu
3.	Dr. Suresh. K.P., Director, School of Pedagogical Sciences, Kannur University Campus(P.O.), Kannur-670567, Kerala.	Rs. 25,000/-	*National Seminar on* Recent Trends in Testing and Evaluation

Fellowships

In order to promote advanced research in the inter-disciplinary area of testing & evaluation, NTS is awarding doctoral and post doctoral fellowships to research scholars of various disciplines of study. The details of the scholars and the amount released during the month of July 2009 are given below:

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Awardee	For the Month of	Amount Released	Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Awardee	For the Month of	Amount Released
I. Doctoral Fellowships:				5.	Mr. Sankar. M Gandhigram Rural University, Dindigul-624302, Tamil Nadu	June	Rs.10,000/-
1.	Mr. Ashwani Kumar CCS, Haryana Agricultural Univ., Hisar-125004, Haryana	June	Rs.10,000/-				
2.	Ms. Chandrika. J University of Madras, Chennai-600034, Tamil Nadu	May & June	Rs.20,000/-	*II. Post Doctoral Fellowships*			
				1.	Dr. Ganeshmoorthy. P.S Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupathi-517502, AP	June	Rs.12,000/-
3.	Mr. Manikandan. M Alagappa University, Karaikudi-630003, Tamil Nadu	June	Rs.10,000/-				
4.	Mr. Prem Kumar. L.R Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai-625021, Tamil Nadu	June	Rs.10,000/-	2.	Dr. Premkumar. S University of Madras, Chennai-600034, Tamil Nadu	May & June	Rs.24,000/-

News & Events

☞ The Head, NTS participated in the UGC innovative meeting organised by University of Mysore held at the Crawford Hall, Mysore on 9th July 2009. The programme was chaired by the Director, Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies (KIKS).

☞ The NTS had invited applications for the award of 30 doctoral and 15 post doctoral fellowships for the year 2009-2010 from post graduates / researchers. The advertisement was published on 1st and 2nd July 2009 in all leading Newspapers of the country. In response to the advertisement, 136 applications have been received as on July 2009.

Forthcoming

• Sri. R.P.Sisodia, (Director-Languages, MHRD, Govt. of India) and Sri. T.V.A.Ram (Under Secretary, IFD, New Delhi) are likely to visit NTS on 20th August 2009

• NTS has proposed to hold a follow up workshop on 'Societal Needs' to build up Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS) in Language and Literature from 28th to 31st August 2009.

- The Head, NTS with his team is expected to provide preliminary orientation to the academic staff associated with RFU located at Alagappa University, Karaikudi (TN). There is also a proposal to make an interim visit to the RFU located at National College, Trichy (TN) during 14th and 15th August 2009.

- The Head, NTS with his team is expected to provide orientation to the academic staff associated with RFUs located at Geethaanjali All India Secondary School, Thindal, Erode (TN) and Vivekananda College of Arts and Science for Women, Tiruchengode, Namakkal (TN) on 22nd August 2009.

What do they contain?

Tests of Language Proficiency
Secondary (Std. X) Level

These volumes in Assamese, Bengali, and Gujarati consist of innovatively cultivated *item resources* on a variety of content areas applicable for secondary (Std. X) level of general education. They are presented under seven broad categories of which the following five have been provided with examples. *Reading Comprehension* (main idea, direct information, sequence, cause and effect, inference, and vocabulary), *Lexical Skills* (lexical meaning, contextual meaning, synonyms, and antonyms), *Structure* (sequence completion, error detection, sentence comprehension, transformation, and formal grammar), *Writing and Composition* (spelling, idioms and proverbs, precis writing, text organization, letter writing and composition). Specifications needed for the remaining categories viz., *Listening Comprehension*, *Speaking* and *General Language* related Information, have been left to the decision of item writers in view of their familiarity with those details. Tests of required length and time can be constructed from these resources to *assess language proficiency* for such purposes as job *selection*, and *training*. *Teachers, learners* and *evaluators* of language education will find these volumes very useful.

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2007, Rs.250/-

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Series Editing
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GUJARATI
ISBN : 81-7342-165-X
6.5" X 9.5", xii + 358
2007, Rs.250/-

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Reader's View

NTS does justice in terms of standard...

The newsletter published by NTS-India reflects its series of activities such as National Conventions, Seminars, Workshops and Training programmes organized in different parts of the country. It has excelled and does justice in terms of standard, both in academic content and physical get up. All the entries in the newsletter are highly informative which would certainly help the readers in understanding the entire gamut of evaluation. The layout with excellent photographs is highly appreciable. The coverage of VIP visits highlights the endeavor of NTS in standardising procedures of evaluation which is an urgent need of the country. The current activities listed make the readers feel the in depth-study that the NTS has been making in the field of Evaluation.

Prof. T.Sethupandian, Former HOD of Grammar, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai