Prof. Akhtar Siddiqui, Chairperson, NCTE, New Delhi
visits NTS-India

5th & 6th November 2008

Prof. Md. Akhtar Siddiqui

A view of the participants of the programme

Prof. Md. Akhtar Siddiqui, Chairperson, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), New Delhi, visited NTS-India, on 5th & 6th November 2008. His maiden visit to the NTS came as a response to the invitation from NTS for an interaction with him to avail consultancy as part of the consensus building endeavour on the methodologies and materials developed by this national mission. He was received by the NTS team at the IGH of the Institute. Prior to his visit to the NTS, he had an interaction with Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Director, CIIL, who had given a briefing to the Chairperson about various academic activities undertaken by the Institute.

The afternoon session was devoted to provide him a briefing about the NTS. The programme commenced with invocation by Mrs. G. Usha Nandini and welcome by Prof. P.T. Abraham. This was followed by the demonstration of the centre's website *www.ciil-miles.net* and the application software developed by NTS for the instant construction of tests for various levels of education. Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India explained the role and objectives of NTS under the broad headings such as R&D, S&D, C&T, RFUs, etc., through a power point presentation. Various steps taken for creating a band of specialized manpower in the area of testing & evaluation such as the award of Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships, extending lumpsum financial grants to the institutions as well as the individuals, etc., were also discussed. These measures are intended to overcome the difficulties in getting the required number of trained personnel for item preparation. In the whole process, the Head, NTS was assisted by the technical team comprising Ms. R. Shakunthala, Mr. Ancy Thomas, Ms. R. Kavitha, and Mr. K.S. Raghavan (JRPs). These briefings as well as a brief speech of the NCTE Chief went up to the evening of 5th November 2008.

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The next day, the 6th November 2008 forenoon session was devoted for the address by Prof. Siddiqui. This was followed by an interactive session wherein the academic & technical staff of NTS sought the views of the visiting dignitary on a host of issues and also the challenges that are being encountered in carrying out this national mission. All these were responded by Prof. Siddiqui in detail. The excerpts from the transcribed version of his response are as follows:

" *It is indeed a rare learning opportunity for me to be here in this state of the art institution in the field of Research and Development in Indian languages as well as in the seminal area of Testing and Evaluation.*

It has been a rewarding experience for me since this morning as I interacted with Prof. Udaya Narayan Singh and other colleagues through their presentations over the rich area of language education as also evaluation; and at the same time a realization that how ignorant and perhaps less caring we have been through the decades after independence, paying a limited attention to this particular aspect. It is through the languages that we are able to substantially preserve and transmit the diversity and variety of Indian culture; so thanks to Prof. Pon Subbiah for giving me this opportunity to be here in this institution.

This institution has travelled a long way starting from working in the area of pedagogy and branching out into Testing and Evaluation. I understand you have enriched the corpus of Indian Education System, qualitatively strengthened it and of course, as you have rightly pointed out that the task is not over, it is still in progress. It is a stupendous task which is continuously growing, developing and emerging. The people at the helms of affairs in the country have to appreciate its importance, and enormity.

Though at the planning and policy making level at the top, the value and significance of language education as well as evaluation have been found conscious yet there is a need to be more proactive at the action taking level on continuous basis. In the process we sometimes get bogged down with the kind of issues relating to sanction of positions, release of grant, etc. which are essentialities to the effective working of the institution. There is a need to highlight the rich dividends that the society will receive on any investment on education.

I profoundly wish to congratulate the team of workers in the NTS, who is dedicatedly involved in Research and Development, in the areas of Evaluation and Testing and it is because of their sincere and honest involvement and engagement that they have been able to travel far steadily. I feel that those days are not much far from here now; when all the stake holders at the school level, university level or at the employers level, will realize the place and worth of this Institution and the contribution, they are making despite the constraint of resources. I am sure that with the kind of dedication, you will surely come out with the desired outcomes seen in material development activities, research work, tests, etc. I was amazed to see how far and how deeply despite limited resources your team has been able to penetrate across the country, to the last and the farthest corner.

Before coming to this institution, I had thought that only the NCERT is doing a significant job by way of developing the study materials, text books, etc., and training the teachers as well in Indian languages; but now I realize that CIIL with NTS is also performing these jobs and therefore it is doing a great National Service by way of developing materials and training of teachers, etc., so it is certainly a valuable service to the nation. Once again I thank the authorities of the CIIL and NTS to have given me this gainful opportunity."

Staff of NTS and resource scholars of the Short Term Project were present in the interactive session. Mr. M. Saravana (SRP of NTS) proposed vote of thanks.

Director, CIIL and Head, NTS with the Chairperson, NCTE.

"I am much impressed by the seminal work being done by the NTS team in the area of testing and evaluation which has definite implications for quality of education at all levels. I wish that the educational administrators realise the significance of their work and extend them whole hearted support as needed by them so much. I was moved by the kind of dedication with which these people are devoting themselves to the mission of NTS despite all odds. This is all the more a reason to strengthen their resources and encourage their efforts. My best wishes."

- Prof. Akhtar Siddiqui

Dr. P.A. Ramiah, Chairman,TN TRB, Chennai
visits NTS-India

7th & 8th November 2008

Chairman, TN TRB addressing the participants of the programme   *Dr. P.A. Ramiah*

Dr. P.A. Ramiah, Chairman, Teachers Recruitment Board (TRB), Chennai visited NTS-India, on 7th & 8th November 2008. He was received at the IGH by the Head and the Coordinator of NTS. The guest was taken to the institute where Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh (Director, CIIL) gave a briefing about the activities of the CIIL. In the afternoon, Prof. Pon Subbiah explained the objectives and activities of the NTS. Following this, the centre's website and the MILES retrieval system were demonstrated by the technical team.

The forenoon of the next day i.e. 8th November 2008 was devoted for interaction between the guest and the NTS staff. Following are the excerpts from the transcribed version of his response :

" Teachers at all levels of education are expected to be well-versed in the nature of their responsibility. They are supposed to possess adequate knowledge pertaining to the areas of their specialization as it is a valuable asset in education. In view of this, great care is being taken by the TRB in the selection of teachers so that quality of education is not compromised. Teachers are expected to teach sincerely so that the evaluation of their students could become feasible. Quickness with social relevance is to be kept in mind while making advice to the decision makers. Amendment made by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on the advice of various commissions could be seen as an example. I am of the view that the system like testing and evaluation must be evolved with social relevance".

During the concluding session, the Head, NTS thanked Dr. Ramiah for sparing his time to interact with the NTS staff. He assured that the experience of Dr. Ramiah would be kept in mind while developing materials and methodologies of evaluation. Staff of NTS and resource scholars of the Short Term Project were present on the occasion. The queries raised by the scholars were clarified by the TRB Chairman during the interactive session. Mr. M. Saravana (SRP) proposed vote of thanks.

TN TRB Chairman visits NTS Library   *A view of the Participants*

" The eye opening I had during my stay and interaction at NTS is something I shall cherish and carry forward. The effort put in by Dr. Pon Subbiah and his team to create a benchmark for evaluating education (both inter / intra) with reference to individuals, institutions, and courses of study - overcoming many hurdles and impediments, deserves congratulations."

- Dr. P.A. Ramiah

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

III Phase of the Workshop on developing the Framework for Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency Tests

10th to 14th November 2008

Left to Right : Prof. Swaminatha Pillai, Prof. K. Anban, Dr. M. Balakumar, Prof. Pon Subbiah, Mr. M. Saravana and Prof. P.T. Abraham.

Third Phase of the Workshop on the Framework for Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency Tests was conducted from 10th to 14th November 2008 at CIIL, Mysore. Scholars from outside institutions as well as the academic staff of NTS were participated in the workshop.

The workshop began on 10th November 2008 with the introductory note by Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India wherein he provided the background information and the *modus operandi* to be adopted in this programme. He also pointed out the need for reconsidering some of the modifications suggested by the group of scholars working on Achievement. The objective of the workshop was to prepare illustrative examples for every constituent elements (major, minor, sub components) and sample questions to represent each of them.

The scholars were divided into three groups – one each for Aptitude, Achievement & Proficiency and involved in the preparation of question items with illustrative examples. A general session was arranged in the last day of the workshop to have an overview of the task accomplished. The workshop ended with the concluding remarks and observations by the participants.

The list of external experts who have participated in the workshop were Prof. Swaminatha Pillai (Former Director, School of Distance Education, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore), Prof. Ratnasabapathy (Counsellor, TIERA, Chennai), Prof. K. Anban (Dept. of Linguistics, Karnatak University, Dharwad), Prof. Adiyaman (Head, Dept. of Epigraphy & Archaeology, Tamil University, Thanjavur), and Dr. R.Saranya (Reader, CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University, Annamalainagar).

Academic assistance were given by Dr. Biresh Kumar, Dr. R.C. Maurya (RPs of NTS), Dr. T. Janaki, Dr. T. Amudhan, Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak, Dr. G.M. Ansari, Dr. Md. Rizwan (JRPs of NTS).

The deliberations in the workshop helped to improve the framework in order to make it a tangible one. The NTS-India places on record its gratitude to all the participants and also those who contributed to the success of the workshop.

The programme was coordinated by Prof. P.T. Abraham and Mr. M. Saravana (SRPs of NTS).

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

In order to create an awareness about the formulation of NTS and its activities, monthly Newsletter brought out by NTS are being sent to individuals, institutions, members of the scholastic world associated with NTS from different parts of the country. To facilitate this, two technical staff of NTS viz., Mr. K.S. Raghavan, and Ms. R. Kavitha are continuously involved in equipping electronic database by adding more and more addresses of language universities and institutions. Some of them are EFL University, Dravidian University, Hindi University, Kannada University, Sanskrit University, Tamil University, Telugu University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, etc. and institutions like CIIL, CHI, NCPUL, Sindhi Council, etc.

They are also preparing user friendly retrieval facility for NTS Library.

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

Short Term Project for scholars to work for Hindi, Tamil and Urdu

NTS-India has invited young scholars with Hindi, Tamil and Urdu background from different parts of the country to participate in a Short Term Project for a duration of about three months starting from 15th October 2008. They belong to the disciplines of Linguistics, Language, Literature, Education, Psychology and Statistics. 15 scholars from Hindi, 22 scholars from Tamil

Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS addressing the participants of the workshop

and 15 scholars from Urdu have been engaged in this project. For the first two weeks, they have been provided with all the background information covering various concepts of testing & evaluation by the Head and NTS faculty. Special lectures by faculty members of CIIL were also arranged. Ms. Rekha Sharma (Lecturer SG), Mr. Narayana Devaraiah (Academic Secretary), Mr. Ranjit Singh Rangila (Faculty Retd.), Dr. C.V. Sivarama Krishna (RRO) and Dr. Nadaraja Pillai (Reader) of CIIL have delivered lectures on a range of topics related to language education.

One and the same difference is in the name

Concurrent Evaluation is sometimes referred to as *continuous evaluation* or *monitoring*. It is an internal evaluation carried out as a parallel activity in order to provide constant feedback for the successful implementation of a programme or project. It is a kind of formative as well as diagnostic evaluation being linked with the planning and implementation process.

Monitoring is one of the six purposes of evaluation. It is defined as the process of regulating and controlling the implementation of a programme / project. Hence, it is often called 'concurrent evaluation'. As on inbuilt system, it plays a vital role at every stage of a programme / project to check whether the movement, growth, or implementation process takes place along expected lines or according to a predetermined course of action. Basically, monitoring will help to diagnose the problem areas requiring closer examination.

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

Regional Field Units (RFUs)

● To disseminate the outcome of R & D 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.

Inauguration of RFU at Eram Intermediate College, Lucknow, UP.

19th November 2008

Head, NTS with the Founder of Eram Collge at the RFU Inaguration

NTS Regional Field Unit [No. U-4 A] of the Urdu speaking areas meant for school education, has been established in the campus of Eram Intermediate College, Lucknow, UP. It was inaugurated and preliminary orientation given on 19th November 2008 by Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India followed by an interactive session wherein more than 120 teachers from different disciplines participated. Dr. K.S.M. Yunus (Founder, Eram Group of Institutions), Mr. K.S. Faizi (Local Coordinator) were present on the occasion. The NTS was represented by Dr. R.C. Maurya (RP), Dr. T. Janaki, Dr. Anand Ravi, Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak and Mr. V.K. Dheerajj (JRPs). This Unit has the jurisdiction of the whole state of UP including Aligarh, Lucknow, Allahabad, and Saharanpur.

RFU Preliminary Meeting at Kanpur Kanya Mahavidhyalaya Inter College, Kanpur, UP.

20th November 2008

NTS Regional Field Unit [No. H-6 A] of the Hindi speaking areas meant for school education, has been established in the campus of Kanpur Kanya Mahavidhyalaya Inter College, Kanpur, UP. It was formally visited and preliminary meeting was conducted on 20th November 2008 by Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India followed by an interactive session wherein more than 80 teachers from different disciplines participated. Mr.O.N.Awasthi (President of the Institution), Ms. Rita Saxena (Local Coordinator) were present on the occasion. The NTS was represented by Dr. R.C. Maurya (RP), Dr. T. Janaki, Dr. Anand

Head, NTS with the President of the Inter College

Ravi, Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak and Mr. V.K. Dheerajj (JRPs). This Unit has the jurisdiction of the whole state of UP including Meerut, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Saharanpur.

Inauguration of RFU at Ewing Christian College, Allahabad, UP.

21st November 2008

NTS Regional Field Unit [No. H-6 B] of the Hindi speaking areas meant for college education, has been established in the campus of Ewing Christian College, Allahabad, UP. It was inaugurated and preliminary orientation given on 21st November 2008 by Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India followed by an interactive session

Head, NTS addressing the academic staff of Ewing Collge

wherein more than 100 teachers from different disciplines participated. Dr. M. Massey (Principal), the heads of the departments, Faculty members, Principals of neighbouring Institutions, Members of Alumni, Mr. Solomon (Physical Director) and Ms. Romala Ruth Lall (Local Coordinator) were present on the occasion. The NTS was represented by Dr. R.C. Maurya (RP), Dr. T. Janaki, Dr. Anand Ravi, Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak and Mr. V.K. Dheerajj (JRPs). This Unit has the jurisdiction of the whole state of UP including Meerut, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Saharanpur.

Inauguration of RFU at +2 Purvanchal High School, Darbhanga, Bihar.

26th November 2008

NTS Regional Field Unit [No. H-7 A] of the Hindi speaking areas meant for school education, has been established in the campus of +2 Purvanchal High School, R.S. Tank Road, Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Bihar. It was inaugurated on 26th November 2008 by Mr. Ashish Ranjan, DEO, followed by an interactive session wherein more than 130 teachers from different disciplines participated. Dr. Deo Narayan Yadav (Director, Mithila Research Institute), Mr. Daya Nidhi Roy (Protector, L.N.M.U., Darbhanga) were the Chief Guests of the programme. Dr. Pravakar Pathak (HOD, L.N.M.U., Darbhanga), Dr. Ram Narayan Singh (Hindi, Malayalam Translator) were also present on the occasion. This Unit has the jurisdiction of the whole state of Bihar including Patna, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Muzaffurpur and Darbhanga.

A scene at the Inauguration of RFU

Grant-in-Aid

Interactive Meeting on selected GIA Proposals

7th & 8th November 2008

Head, NTS addressing the participants of the interactive meeting

The NTS has invited proposals from scholars, university departments, etc., for providing lump sum grant to undertake short term studies / research in the area of testing & evaluation. A total of 24 proposals were received. To identify the suitable ones, a committee consisting of Prof. Masood Siraj (Chairman, Dept. of Urdu, University of Mysore), Prof. Sethumani Manian (Special Invitee for translation, NTS-India), Dr. S.N. Burman (RRO, CIIL), Dr. G. Kulanthaivel (Asst. Professor, NITTTR, Chennai) was constituted. Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India, has briefed about the objectives of the scheme to the committee members. Dr. M. Balakumar (Programmes Coordinator), Prof. P.T. Abraham, Mr. M. Saravana (SRPs), Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP), Dr. G.M. Ansari (JRP) of NTS-India were also present in the meeting. Out of the 24, 10 proposals were short listed and recommended by the committee. The scholars (whose proposals were short listed for the financial assistance) are as follows:

Homoscedasticity is the property of a bivariate distribution when the variance is the same i.e., homogeneous at all points along the regression line. It is also the property of a scatter diagram or double entry table, whose rows and columns have the same standard deviation within the limits of chance variability. This property of variability is useful for the proper interpretation of a validity coefficient.

Heteroscedasticity is the unequal variability or, more generally, dissimilarity of frequency distributions of the arrays of a double - entry table. It is the property of a scatter diagram (or a double entry table) wherein the column and/or standard deviation exceeds chance variability. This property of relative variability is useful for the proper interpretation of a validity coefficient.

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

① Dr. P.C. Sai Babu, Guntur.
② Dr. J.R. Nirmala, Chennai.
③ Dr. S.K.G. Ganesh, Chennai.
④ Dr. Dasarathi Bhuyan, Ganjam.
⑤ Dr. P. Ganesan, Vellore.
⑥ Dr. N. Murugaiyan, Thanjavur.
⑦ Dr. L. Saraswathi, Madurai.
⑧ Mr. C. Paramasivam, Trichengode.
⑨ Mr. Chetan Sharma, Delhi.
⑩ Dr. K.P. Suresh, Kannur.

The committee further recommended that all these short listed scholars be invited for an interactive meeting. Accordingly, it was held on 7th & 8th November 2008 at CIIL. Among the 10 individuals invited, only 9 have attended the meeting. They were asked to make a brief presentation of the proposals sent by them. The Head, and other staff of NTS suggested certain modifications in the proposals submitted by the individuals. The scholars were also asked to submit revised version of their proposals incorporating the suggestions given by the NTS staff. Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak (JRP) coordinated the programme.

News & Events

☛ The young scholars of the Short Term Project (Hindi-14, Tamil-22, and Urdu-14) were given on the job training / orientation in the area of testing & evaluation by the Head, NTS and the academic staff of the project. Special emphasis has been made on the details of 10 parameters to be incorporated for every question item prior to its inclusion in the MILES database. Following this, the individuals were also given field assignments.

Forthcoming Events

☛ In response to the invitation of the NTS, Prof. M. Anandakrishnan (Chairman, IIT-Kanpur & Rajasthan), Prof. S. Ramachandran (Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, Chennai), Prof. Abdul Azis (Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh) and Prof. Ved Prakash (Vice-Chancellor, NUEPA, New Delhi) have confirmed their participation in the interactive sessions with the NTS staff during December 2008.

☛ NTS has proposed to hold next phase of the workshop for the finalisation of the draft framework for Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency in the first week of December 2008. The scholars who had already participated are being contacted over telephone for this purpose.

Announcement

Developing Modules

Synopses are invited for developing Training Modules on various topics related to testing and evaluation in education (list provided in the website) from the scholars of any discipline / field of study.

Language of the module: English (with an option of translating the module into one of the three languages viz., Hindi, Tamil and Urdu); Size of the synopsis: About 700 words (as per specification) on any one of the listed topics displayed; Size of the full module: Maximum 15 to 16 pages including exercises (as per specification); Remuneration / Honorarium: For each module with translation in one of the above 3 languages Rs.40,000/- (Rs.30,000/- for main English version and Rs.10,000/- for translated version).

For details such as application pro forma, list of topics, specifications, etc., please log on to www.ciil-miles.net and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW). The pro forma may be downloaded from the website. The duly filled in prescribed application (with synopses) should reach the **Head, NTS-India, CIIL, Mysore-570006.**