



Joint Secretary (L), MHRD, Govt. of India, New Delhi Visits NTS-India

18th September 2008



From left : Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India, Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Director, CIIL, and Dr.(Ms.) Anita Bhatnagar Jain, JS (L).

Dr. (Ms.) Anita Bhatnagar Jain, Joint Secretary (Languages), MHRD, Govt. of India, New Delhi was in the CIIL on 17th & 18th September 2008. On this occasion, a brief meeting was arranged exclusively for NTS staff at 9 am on 18th. Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Director, CIIL was also present with her. The extensive work being carried out in the NTS was briefed to them by Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India. He also informed about the difficulties being faced by the NTS due to frequent migration of project staff because of their position being contractual at the NTS. During the course of discussion, Director, CIIL suggested that the NTS should concentrate their work of developing materials in the first three languages (Hindi, Tamil & Urdu) already brought under the purview of NTS. He opined that extending the NTS work to other areas of study at this stage would be very difficult. The JS(L) in her brief observation, suggested to think about the possibility of retaining the trained members of the faculty in the NTS in order to reduce disruption of work due to their leaving the project after acquiring knowledge and work-experience; also she enquired about the kind of activities to be taken up by the Regional Field Units being established across the country.

In this context, Prof. Pon Subbiah explained the need for taking the whole country into confidence as the objective of NTS was to evolve *national* and *regional norms* and subsequently to establish *bench marks / standards* for the *courses of study*, *Institutions* (involved in imparting such courses) and the *individuals* at various stages of their educational career. The meeting came to a close after a shortwhile. When leaving the meeting hall, the JS(L) informed that she would take another opportunity for visiting the NTS to know more about it.

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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

The instruments of evaluation being developed should focus the content inputs of various types that are required for nation building that encompasses every area of work. Considering the fact that education is the mother of all professions, and the evaluation has to play its role everywhere, developing an electronic database of information becomes a foremost component in the NTS. Further, to undertake any systematic R&D or C&T planning too, a clearly defined database is very much needed in order to decide various courses of action. Accordingly, objectives and other details such as contact particulars related to various organizations located in the country are being collected, consolidated, and stored under classified headings for easy retrieval. Progress is continuously made on this count. NTS Newsletters are proposed to be sent to all these organizations and the individuals, as part of dissemination of information. The academic & technical team are jointly putting their effort in this regard.

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

Workshop for Module Writers

10th & 11th September 2008

In order to develop training modules in the area of testing & evaluation, NTS has invited synopses from interdisciplinary scholars/module writers. A number of scholars across the country had sent their synopses on various topics related to testing and evaluation. The selected module writers were asked to submit draft version of their modules for circulation among the academics of the NTS to get their views. Subsequently, the materials were revised by the individuals in the light of the feedback given by NTS academics and were brought here for presentation in person. The first phase of the presentation took place in a two-day workshop conducted on 10th and 11th September 2008 at the NTS headquarters, Mysore. The following were the details: 'Tests and Examinations as Tools and Scales' by Prof. N. Sukumaragowda (Puttur); 'Integrated Skills and their Manifestations: Productive (Speaking & Writing)' by Mrs. J. Al Muzzamil Fareen (Salem); 'Teaching, Learning and Testing & Evaluation: An Interdependent Process' by Dr. Jyoti Raina Anand (Delhi); and 'Personality Development & Taxonomies of Educational Objectives' by Mrs. Nalini P. Rajagovindan (Puducherry). The Head and the academics of NTS suggested a few modifications and requested the module writers to send back the final views after incorporating the suggestions. The programme was coordinated by Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak, JRP, NTS.



Module writers on Testing & Evaluation presenting their draft Modules.

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.

RFU Preliminary Meeting at Umamaheshwara Higher Secondary School, Thanjavur

4th September 2008

NTS Regional Field Unit [No. 7 A] of the Tamil speaking areas meant for school education, has been established in the campus of Umamaheshwara Higher Secondary School, Karanthai, Thanjavur. It was formally visited and preliminary meeting was conducted on 4th September 2008 by Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India. This was followed by an interactive session wherein more than 70 teachers from different disciplines participated. Sri Sundara Vadan (Vice-President of the Karanthai Tamil Sangam), Sri. M. Balasubramanian (Head Master & Local Coordinator), Sri G. Shanmugam and Sri Ravichandran (members of the faculty from their composite college) were present on the occasion. The NTS was represented by Mr. B. M. Lingaraj, Officer RFUs. This unit has the jurisdiction of Trichy, Pudukottai, Thanjavur and Tiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu.



Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India addressing the academic staff

Inauguration of RFU at Jaya College of Education, Thiruninravur, Chennai

19th September 2008

Regional Field Unit [No. 1 A] of the Tamil speaking areas meant for school education, has been established in the campus of Jaya College of Education, Thiruninravur, Chennai. It was inaugurated and preliminary orientation provided on 19th September 2008 by Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India, followed by an interactive



Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India addressing the academic staff of the college

session wherein more than 50 teachers from different disciplines participated. Prof. A. Kanagaraj (Chairman, Jaya Educational Trust), in his welcome address, explained various activities undertaken by Jaya Educational Trust. Dr. T.R. Srinivasan (Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Chennai), Dr. G. Govindasamy, (Principal, Jaya College of Education) were present on the occasion. The NTS was represented by Dr. G. M. Ansari, Mr. A. K. Singh and Mrs. R. Shakunthala, JRPs. This unit has the jurisdiction of Metropolitan city of Chennai and Thiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu.

Grant-in-Aid

Quite a number of applications have been received from the individuals and institutions for lumpsum grant under the sub scheme GIA of NTS-India. It has been proposed to involve these institutions and individuals for the development of reference materials with a view to create trained manpower in the area of testing and evaluation. A committee is in the process of being set up to screen these applications, shortly.

Forthcoming Events

Short Term Workshop

A short term workshop is proposed to be conducted from the month of October 2008 by inviting young scholars for the purpose of providing on-the-job training for writing question items as per the NTS requirement. The participants of the workshop will be selected from the candidates applied for various faculty positions, and also for doctoral & post doctoral fellowships of NTS.

Pre-Convention Meeting (Hindi)

As part of its consensus building endeavour, the NTS is planning to hold an All India Convention on Testing and Evaluation w.r.t. Hindi in the region where Hindi is in active use. They will be organized by involving educational planners, decision makers (like Vice-Chancellors of the Universities, Secretaries / Directors of Government Departments, Academicians & other such Functionaries) besides the Authorities responsible for implementing programmes (like Education Officers for school education, and Professors / Principals for higher education). This event of national importance is proposed to be conducted sometime during Feb. 2009 in collaboration with reputed institutions located in the regions concerned.

News & Events

- 1. Signboard specimen** alongwith other details were sent to 13 Regional Field Units across the country - 16th September 2008.
- 2. Release of Remuneration / Honorarium for the module writers - 25th September 2008**
1st instalment of Rs.20,000/- has been released to the module writers who have completed their modules in various topics as announced in the advertisement. The details of Module writers and the topics of their modules are as follows : **1.** Prof. S. Krishna Murthy (Scores, Marks, Rating, Grades, Ranks and Normalization Process), **2.** Mr. M. Saravana (Lesson Plan and Components of a Lesson or Module), **3.** Mr. Vinay Kumar Midha (Data: Types, Categories and Methods of their Elicitation), **4.** Dr. Jyoti Raina Anand (Teaching, Learning, Testing and Evaluation: An Interdependent Process), **5.** Mrs. Nalini P. Rajagovindan (Personality Development & Taxonomies of Educational Objectives), **6.** Mrs. J. Al Muzzamil Fareen (Integrated Skills and their Manifestations: Productive (Speaking and Writing)), **7.** Prof. N. Sukumaragowda (Tests and Examinations as Tools and Scales), **8.** Prof. C.P.S. Chauhan (Instruments of Evaluation: Rules, Scales & their Constituents).

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.**

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