Open and Distance Learning at Secondary Level

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Funded By: MacArthur Foundation
Why study Open and Distance Learning (ODL)?

• Right to Education → universalisation of elementary education → higher demand for secondary education

• Very low transition rates
  - Supply is low
  - Rigid System
  - Individual constraints (to supplement household income + care-work)

• Open and Distance Learning Model:
  - Flexible Model – facilitates access and inclusiveness
  - Lower costs
3

ODL System in India: National and State level

- National Institute for Open Schooling (NIOS)
  - Academic
  - Vocational

- State Open Schools (SOS)
  - Academic

- Secondary
- Senior Secondary
What is ODL in India – NIOS and SOS

- Targeting Marginalised Sections
- Flexibility – Subject, Stream, Duration
- Accessible Processes
- Self Explanatory Curriculum
- Institutional accreditation (AI, SAIED, AVI)
- Future Prospects
Present Study

- Review of processes, practices and impact, especially on marginalised sections -- physically, socially, geographically and economically
- Analyse quality of education provided in ODL system vis-à-vis conventional education
- Three focus States: Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh
How the Study is being conducted

Status Review
- ODL Literature Review
- Secondary Data Analysis
- Curriculum Review
- ODL Process Review

Current Scenario
- NIOS Student Data for 2008-13
- Student Survey
- Tutor and Principal Survey
- ODL Officials interviews

Assessment of Future Prospects
- Higher Education Eligibility Criteria of Universities
- Career Trajectories through interviews of past learners
NIOS Learner: Social Category Wise (2013)

NIOS Enrolment

Population Distribution

Andhra Pradesh
Gujarat
Rajasthan
India

AP
Gujarat
Rajas
India

General
SC
ST
OBC
NIOS Learner: Sector Wise (2013)

NIOS Sector-wise Enrolment (%) 2013

Andhra Pradesh
Gujarat
Rajasthan
India

Urban
Rural
So, is NIOS reaching its desired population?
Different types of NIOS Learners

- Individuals who enroll independently
- Agent Enrolled Learners
- Coaching Institutes Driven Learners
- So-Called Elite Schools Driven Learners
NIOS Learner: Choice of Subject, Stream and Medium

• Flexibility wrt transfer of credits:
  - About 12% of students took <5 subjects in Secondary
  - In Andhra Pradesh, about 30% took <5 subjects in Senior Secondary – used more by Females and English Medium Learners

• Choice of Stream:
  - Concentration around Science subjects in Andhra Pradesh
  - Fair-mix of subjects across streams in Gujarat and Rajasthan

• Choice of Medium
  - Secondary – majority non-English
  - Senior Secondary – majority English (except Rajasthan)
Predicted Probabilities of completion by Course taken by an ODL learner - All India
Predicted Probabilities of completion by Income

Predicted Probability of Completion by Annual Family Income of ODL Learner - All India

- Upto Rs 50,000
- 50,001 - 1,00,000
- 1,00,001 - 1,50,000
- Above 1,50,000

Not Completed, 1 Year, 1.5 Year, 2 Year, 2.5 Year, 3 Years and above
Predicted Probabilities of completion by Caste and Sex

Predicted Probability of Completion by Caste and Sex - All India

- General#Male
- General#Female
- SC#Male
- SC#Female
- ST#Male
- ST#Female
- OBC#Male
- OBC#Female

Not Completed
1 Year
1.5 Year
2 Year
2.5 Year
3 Years and above
Predicted Probabilities of completion by Past Education

Predicted Probability of Completion by ODL Learner's Past Education - All India

- No Education
- Primary
- Upper Primary
- Secondary

Not Completed | 1 Year | 1.5 Year | 2 Year | 2.5 Year | 3 Years and above
Snapshots from Primary Data Analysis (1)

1. Four kinds of Subversions in the System

- Presence of Intermediaries (Agents, Coaching Institutes etc)
- Motivations seems to be institutionalised (except for organised groups like Mahila Shikshan Kendra and Pratham)
- Equivalence to other systems lacking – e.g. use of guidebooks as reading materials are too difficult
- Deficit in the proper implementation of processes
2. Training versus Certification

- Certification – major reason for enrolment in NIOS
- Most learners had failed their last class in regular school
- Accredited Institutions promote NIOS as an time-saving option for failures
Who is a State Open School Learner?
Rajasthan SOS Learner: Sex Wise

Rajasthan SOS Enrolment -- Sex Wise and Social Category Wise (2013)
Rajasthan SOS Learner: Social Category Wise

Course Wise Rajasthan SOS Enrolment (2013)

- **Secondary Male**: 27,320
- **Secondary Female**: 26,821
- **Secondary Total**: 54,141
- **Higher Secondary Male**: 10,766
- **Higher Secondary Female**: 13,195
- **Higher Secondary Total**: 23,961
Rajasthan SOS Learner: Sector Wise

Sector Wise Rajasthan SOS Enrolment (2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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## Preliminary Conclusions (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature of ODL Model</th>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Norm Prescribed</th>
<th>Actual Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flexibility</strong></td>
<td>All year admissions</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Choice of Subjects and Streams</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Attempts / Duration</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transfer of Credit</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√ - highest in AP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessible Processes</strong></td>
<td>No Role for Middlemen</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Significant Role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading Materials Sent</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Not Always</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact Classes</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Rarely (for Academic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tutor Marked Assignments</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stringent Examination and Evaluation</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
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## Preliminary Conclusions (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature of ODL Model</th>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Norm Prescribed</th>
<th>Actual Practice</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easy Self-Explanatory Curriculum</td>
<td>Parity with NCERT/NCF</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>To some extent</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ease of Self-Study</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Reliance on Guide Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profile of Learners</td>
<td>Marginal Population</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Difference in NIOS and SOS profiles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Future Prospects</td>
<td>Collaborations with certain Universities/Institutions</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Not specified explicitly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acceptance of NIOS Certificate</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Not Always</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Questions?