

Experiencing Open Schooling in the Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University): A Case Study

Running Title: Impact of Open Schooling: Case Studies From GRI-DU, Gandhigram

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Abstract: The study is based on Cases documented in The Gandhigram Rural Institute during February 2019. The Researcher as identified a list of Aluminates of NIOS and working in the institute. Personal interview was conducted with ten staff members who have studied in NIOS. The Case Study Research's primary purpose is to understand how the open schooling system enabled persons who could not complete their formal schooling. However, the case study research aims to determine reasons for discontinuing schooling, Motivation to Joint NIOS, and the direct benefit of completing NIOS. The study identified that all the participants are from socially excluded and economically poor, and they are influenced by advice and motivational efforts by the Department of Life Long Learning and Extension faculties.

Keywords: Open Schooling, NIOS, Gandhigram Rural Institute

1. Introduction

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), earlier National Open Schooling (name changed in 2002), is the board of education in India's union government. It was established by the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India in 1989 to deliver education to remote areas under the motive to increase literacy and aimed to advance for flexible learning. The Gandhigram rural institute plays a vital role in empowering rural communities through education and skill enhancement, filling NIOS's objectives by educating the backward communities.

Objectives of NIOS

- Formulating the National Strategy on Education and to ensure that it is applied in letter and spirit.
- Designed growth, including the advancement of access and advancement of the efficiency of educational institutions
- All over the world, they include in regions where educational opportunities are not easy for citizens.
- Significant emphasis is paid to marginalised communities, such as the young, women and minorities.
- Provide financial support to eligible students from inferior parts of society ingrants, loan subsidies, and more.
- Promote foreign partnership in education, including partnering closely with UNESCO, foreign governments and universities, to improve the nation's education opportunities.

Present Status of NIOS

NIOS tends to work both in India and abroad across a network of five departments, eleven regional centres and 3367 accredited institutions (study centres). It has a current enrollment at secondary and senior secondary levels of about 1.5 milli

on students, making it the most extensive open school system.

Advantages of learning with NIOS Education system

- Right to select topics; continuing evaluation by Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA).
Online Enrollment Facility for Accumulation of Admission and Review Credit
- Nine probability of completing a course in 5 years
- Re-admission clause after five years.
- Help for learning through the Personal Communication Program(PCP);
- Move of credits from any other boards (up to 2 subjects).
- Promotes educational programmes through Media
- Easy to access study Materials
- Annual open learn magazine
- Influence of peer learners to achieve maximum benefits

Enrolment

Year	Academic	Vocational	
2009-10	419702	61811	Secondary-54%
2008-09	371625	36111	
2007-08	340342	23674	Senior
2006-07	290983	22166	Secondary-37%
2005-06	267026	22879	
Cumulative Enrolment	1689678	166641	Vocational-9%

Certification

Year	Secondary (class X)	Sr.Secondary (class XII)	Vocational	OBE
2009-10	104356	54659	12474	25996
2008-09	73471	60683	13682	62886
2007-08	84543	70364	12420	73131
2006-07	94391	80825	12622	52913
2005-06	103410	95213	13784	30547
	120739	114893	13438	

2. Research Method

The case study research is based on data collected through interviews with selected Staff members in the Gandhigram rural institute who completed their education with NIOS's help and having regular work contract interviewed with a semi-structured interview schedule.

The objective of the study

- To identify the factors influencing the learner for opting the open schooling system.
- To examine the performance of NIOS education in Gandhigram rural institute

Case 1: P. Chanthiran

Mr P. Chanthiran (47, Male) belong to a backward community. He is residing in Anna Nagar colony of Gandhigram Panchayat. He has studied secondary (10th class) level under NIOS during 2017-18 and completed the studies. He is working in Gandhigram Rural Institute. He is the main Job is Plumbing works. He is one of the staff Member working in Institutes water purifier plant. He is also involved in delivery drinking water within the campus.

He is married and has two daughters. It is interesting to know that he is daughter have completed schooling bypassing 10th standard. MrChanthiran could not complete his schooling because he has to earn livelihood in support of his father. His father was a Shepherd and required assistance from his son in earning livelihood for the family. Therefore MrChanthiran could not study and left school after completing the ninth standard. In the farm, MrChanthiran has been working in GRI, Daily wage plumber for a long time. He has been noticing that many Aged people study under NIOS. In the meantime, whenever he has approached GRI officials for Revision of wages and continuation of Job, They have advised in to complete the 10th standard (SSLC) as it would help him get a Job.

In This Background, Mr Chanthiran got motivated to join for secondary level under NIOS. The compulsion of minimum educational qualification to work as a GRI plumber is also motivated to complete schooling under NIOS. Therefore the reward in the form of a regular job in the University system is motivated to join NIOS to qualify.

The Supervisor in the water plant, the estate officer and faculties in the extension department are the source of information and support. They have encouraged in to complete this schooling by guiding in every stage. As a result, he could complete a study under NIOS.

The Major benefit of MrChanthiran is his service as a plumber in the water plant. He has emotionally expressed during the interview that though he has skills in plumbing and electrical works, for not qualified as SSLC pass; he was facing the problem in continuation of his service in GRI. Therefore, the expected reward for completion of 10th standard has been the significant factor of influence for joining the NIOS.

Case 2: P. Mariyammal

Mrs Mariyammal (51, Female) is living in Gandhigram. She has discontinued as studies as getting married. Her husband is working in GRI. As she was one among the four daughters to his parents, they have not supported her to go to school beyond eighth standard. She could not live with her parents when they have desiccated to send her for wage-earning. It is natural in the low-income family, focusing more on income generation then sending to school. After Marriage with the family responsibility, MrsMariyammal had to help his sisters to complete their schooling. Born as an elder's daughter and elder's daughter in law her dream of completing the 10th standard was not possible until recently, however after observing the benefits and advantages of education through his son and daughters who have studied in GRI. MrsMariyammal decided to complete the 10th standard under NIOS. When she was motivated by her children, a situation wherein completion of 10th standard is necessary for continuing her service as supporting staff in GRI. Mariyammal's husband has been a significant force behind her to join in NIOS. Moreover, on seeing a situation wherein minimum educational qualification is compulsory to continue her GRI service, she firmly decided to join NIOS and complete secondary level.

Confirmation of services and continuation in GRI has motivated Mrs Mariyammal to joint NIOS and complete her studies.

Case 3: M. Manimegalai

Mrs M. Manimegalai (52, Female) living in Anna Nagar, Gandhigram Panchayat, She has born and Grown in Gandhigram. She is a widow. She has two sons; one is working as a driver. At the same time, another son studied in NIOS and is currently a GRI student at Post Graduate level. She was married at a young age and lost his husband. She was working in GRI for daily wage employment. The Teachers and local people motivated to complete 10th standard under NIOS. Because pass in secondary level is essential to get a job as a supporting job in the institute.

The encouragement was given by the teachers of the extension department and also observing the rewards for those who have completed has a student of NIOS in the institute attracted Manimegalai to join the NIOS. The primary motivating factor that made Manimegalai complete her schooling under NIOS is 'Demonstration Effect'. It means that she has noticed many who have completed NIOS got the benefit of entering into regular service in the institute. Her son's significant implication is a product of NIOS and Grown to PG student's level.

Therefore, NIOS's impact is more on this rural family by providing an opportunity for schooling and growth in the profession currently Manimegalai is currently working as supporting staff in the Gandhian Thought and Peace Science Department.

Case 4: P. Danaram

Mr P. Danaram (47, Male) is living in Anna Nagar, Gandhigram Panchayat. Danaram is working in water plant of the GRI. Is also an electrician and having working knowledge in plumbing. He has only once an is also

working as an electrician in the GRI. From the young age is interested in electrical related works and therefore his not continued in the school. Differently is started working with senior electricians as a helper. Gradually got trained in electrical Servicing and Repairing.

With the skill, he got an opportunity to work in the GRI, particularly hostels for electrical maintenance work as a wage worker. As a plumber, MrDanaram got the job in the Institutes water plant with the condition that it has to qualify in 10th standard therefore in the year 2017 he has passed 10th standard under NIOS.As there is a compulsion to have a minimum qualification of 10th standard, he has joint NIOS on GRI's faculty members' suggestion. Moreover, many office co-workers have also joint this program which made Danaram complete its 10th standard under NIOS.

3. Major Findings

- Male and female are getting the opportunity to enrol for Open School Learning.
- The learning Experience in Gandhigram is helping the candidates to complete the course successfully.
- The department of Lifelong learning and extension influences the candidate to register and fulfil their educational goals.
- The opportunities in GRI helped the candidates to overcome the vulnerability in their life and nearby.

4. Suggestions

The students enrolled in the NIOS system should get some scholarship or financial assistance to fulfil their living means.

Attendance in the classroom session creates barriers for students to attain their livelihood needs.

There should be massive campaigns and job opportunities of reintegrated students to enhance their living conditions.

5. Conclusion

The cases' analysis reveals that the open learning system participants are very poor and from socially excluded sections. Therefore the NIOS helping to take primary education to the doorsteps of rural families. The reward is linked with the level of education that is the completion of at least 10th standard. It encouraged rural people to complete primary education are have at least secondary level certificate. Moreover, it is understood that as Parents, the aluminise of NIOS have influenced the nearby families to take up open schooling and get rewarded.

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