



## Followup Workshop on Framework for Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency Tests

9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008



(L - R) : Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India, Ms. Rashmi Chaudhary, Director (Languages), MHRD, New Delhi, Shri. M. Saravana, Prof. P.T. Abraham (SRPs of NTS), Dr. M. Balakumar, RRO, CT&E, Prof. Mamota Das, Pondicherry University, Prof. S.K. Thakur, H.P. University - at Inaugural Session.

NTS-India proposes to develop tests of different categories to meet various evaluation requirements of the country at different levels of education. Hence, it becomes imperative to evolve a common frame of reference which could be used as a comprehensive basis for preparing question items of different types to construct tests for various purposes. In this context, the purposes of all the tests that are used across the globe have been analysed and classified into the 3 broad categories viz., Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency. Further, steps were taken to develop a common framework to identify the major, minor, and sub components that constitute the above concepts with each one of them explained in terms of its structure and nature. In order to differentiate the scope of one type of test from the other, three different draft materials on these three categories have been developed in phases.

It was in this context that a three-day followup workshop was conducted at CIIL, Mysore from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008 to review and finalize the materials. Fifteen scholars from different parts of the country representing language, literature, linguistics, education, psychology, statistics, etc., participated in it. Ms. Rashmi Chaudhary, Director (Languages), MHRD, Govt. of India, New Delhi was present along with other invitees in the introductory session. The objective of the workshop, methodology adopted for developing the above materials, intricacies involved in providing examples, etc., were explained by Prof. Pon Subbiah, the Head of NTS.

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The draft framework was taken up for a detailed discussion in the session that followed. Then the participating scholars were divided into three different groups to work on Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency. The members of each group went through the materials to examine the relevance and comprehensiveness. After an in-depth discussion, few additions were suggested by them for enriching the materials.

Members of the group that worked on *Aptitude Test* were Prof. Swaminatha Pillai (former Director, School of Distance Education, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore), Prof. P. Arun Kumar (Director, NITTTR Extension Centre, Bangalore), Dr. Jagannath Patil (Deputy Advisor, NAAC, Bangalore), Dr. Mamota Das (Professor, School of Education, Pondicherry University, Puducherry) and Dr. B. N. Biswal (Professor, Srusti Academy of Management, Bhubaneswar). NTS was represented by Dr. Biresh Kumar, RP, Dr. Amuthan,



The group working on Aptitude



The group working on Achievement



The group working on Proficiency

## 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 Concept Based Continuum of Graded Syllabi

26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Comprehensive basis acceptable to all those involved in imparting education under different systems, is prerequisite for developing different types of tests. In order to create such a basis, a draft version of Concept Based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS) has been formulated by incorporating the details available in the General Frame of Reference (GFR) meant for language, literature & objectives of education developed by Centre for Testing and Evaluation, CIIL, for the purposes of *assessing mastery* and *personality*. CCGS is a novel idea as it is context free in the sense that it does not subsume any particular text of an author and therefore, is independent of any school or university system. In order to make it comprehensive, all the common concepts abstracted from the syllabi of language & literature courses being followed by various institutions across the country, have been identified and incorporated after making an in-depth analysis of their hierarchical order delineating the major, minor, and sub components. The CCGS consists of two sets of materials - one for language and the other for literature with each of them having seven parts meant for the seven levels of general education (viz., primary, upper primary, secondary, higher secondary, graduate, postgraduate, and research). The body of the text has been presented under three major columns : the first one for the structural elements (of language / literature), the second one for the associated properties / characteristics (dimensions), and the third one for consequential effects (behavioural changes) that happen as a result of learning (the inputs provided in the first two columns). The third column is further divided into three divisions in order to accommodate the details of thinking, feeling, and action.

It was in this background that a three day follow up workshop was conducted at CIIL, Mysore, from 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008 to review the comprehensiveness of the CCGS. It was attended by the following scholars of allied disciplines from different parts of the country : Dr. Panchanan Mohanty (Professor, University of Hyderabad), Dr. Bashir Ahmad Dar (former Director - Academic, J&K Board of School Education, Jammu), Dr. Mamota Das, (Professor, School of Education, Pondicherry University, Puducherry), Dr. V. Ganapathy (former Professor, IASE, Chennai), Dr. P. Ratnasabapathy (Counsellor, TIERA, Chennai), Dr. R. Sethumani Manian (former faculty, Lady Doak College, Madurai), Prof. Mohammad Zaman Azurdah (former Dean - Faculty of Arts, Kashmir University, Srinagar) and Dr. B. N. Patnaik (former Professor, IIT-Kanpur). The sessions were chaired by Dr. Bashir Ahmad Dar a distinguished educationist .

The focus of the workshop was to finalise the draft version of the details furnished under the second column of the CCGS meant for highlighting the properties / characteristics associated with the components of language and literature so that they could be distributed across the seven levels of general education.

Dr. Basanti Devi (SRP) and Shri. M.V. Thomas (Officer-General) of NTS coordinated the programme.



Workshop in session : A section of participants

## 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 contact particulars of educationists/members representing high level advisory/policy making bodies (such as the Central Advisory Board of Education, Central Planning Commission, University Grants Commission), the Institutes of National Importance, Central & State Universities, Autonomous Colleges, etc., have been collected and documented in the database of NTS. The details of the participants of NTS workshops / National Conventions (Hindi, Tamil, Urdu) have also been included in the database. This part of the S&D activities is taken up by Ms.R.Kavitha, and Sri. K.S. Raghavan, Junior Resource Persons (Technical) of 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

S hri Virendra Valsangkar, a Pune based documentary film maker nominated by NTS for producing a documentary on Achievement Tests, has contacted the top officials of the education departments of Kolkata and Guwahati regions. They include representatives of Calcutta University, Council of Higher Education, Boards of Secondary Education, Primary Education, Madrassa Education, and Rabindra Mukta Vidyalaya (all located in Kolkata); Tezpur University, Assam Higher Secondary Education Council and Board of Secondary Education (both located in Guwahati). Their interviews on *achievement tests* have been documented. The Institutions located in Delhi and Mumbai regions are proposed to be covered shortly.

## 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.

### Current Activities

N TS is setting up Regional Field Units (RFUs) across the country. Each RFU will be entrusted with the responsibility of undertaking various activities of NTS and serving as the Nodal Agency in the concerned region. The process of identifying potential teachers of schools and colleges located in the jurisdiction of RFUs concerned is going on at present. These details are collected for the purpose of arranging periodical training programmes on testing & evaluation so that the trained personnel could undertake the job of preparing question items. To maintain uniformity in the sign Boards of the RFUs located in different parts of the country, soft copies of the boards have been designed with uniform specifications and sent to all the RFUs located in TN regions in the first consignment. CT&E Brochures and other related materials have also been sent to them for circulation in their jurisdiction.

## One and the Same : Difference in the Name!

*Criterion Referenced Test (CRT)* : The criterion is the domain of subject matter that a test is designed to assess. CRT makes an attempt to measure a person's performance with reference to an arbitrary standard of mastery of instructional objectives. It may be determined as a reflection of attainment of a particular objective. The criterion-referenced interpretation of a test score identifies the relationship to the subject matter e.g., a. Mahendra has pronounced 80 w.p.m. in reading. b. Arun has scored 90 marks in mathematics. In these examples, the performance is rated on how best the individuals mastered the objectives 'reading' & 'maths'. It may however be seen that no reference or comparison has been made with the performance made by the peers or other candidates.

*Objective Referenced Test (ORT)*: It is constructed with the question-items to match the objectives without any reference to the performance of others on the same measure. In this test, the score of a student is viewed in the light of the standard criterion. The objective is simply to see whether the student has learned the material or not. ORT is often referred to as CRT.

## Grant-in-Aid

### Lumpsum Grant to Institutions / NGOs:

In order to encourage individuals and institutions to undertake the work of developing reference materials and to create trained manpower in the area of testing and evaluation, it is proposed to extend logistic supports in the form of lumpsum grants under GIA, a sub scheme of NTS. It is also proposed to get certain specialized works done under this scheme within a prescribed time limit. Proposals (in the prescribed pro forma) have been invited from interested individuals and institutions for this purpose. The details have been provided in the centre's website <http://www.ciil-miles.net>.

## Forthcoming Events

### ♦ *Followup Workshop on the framework for Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency Tests*

Second phase of the workshop on the above framework is proposed to be conducted in the first week of July 2008. The scholars participated in the first phase of the workshop have been invited and their consent is being awaited. The workshop is expected to give a final shape to the framework.

### ♦ *Workshop for the award of Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships*

In order to identify suitable candidates for the award of Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships, an interactive workshop is proposed to be conducted during the last week of July 2008. Research scholars who have applied for the NTS fellowships are invited to Mysore for the purpose of motivating them to focus their advanced research studies on testing and evaluation.

### ♦ *Third National Convention on Testing and Evaluation (Hindi)*

As part of its consensus building endeavour, the NTS is planning to hold an All India Convention on Testing and Evaluation with reference to Hindi. It will be organised by involving educational planners, decision makers (like Vice-Chancellors of Universities, Secretaries / Directors of Government Departments, academicians and other such functionaries involved in policy making) and programme implementing authorities (like Executive Officers for school education, and Principals of higher educational institutions). This event of national importance is proposed to be conducted sometime during Dec. 2008 in collaboration with reputed institutions located in the regions where Hindi is in active use.

## Do you know?

**Two Tailed Test** is a statistical test used in inference, in which a given statistical hypothesis will be rejected when the value of the statistic is either small or large. The test is named after the 'tail' of data under the far left and far right of a bell-shaped normal distribution curve. In general a test is called *two-tailed* if the null hypothesis is rejected for values of the test statistic falling into either tail of its sampling distribution.

# Publications on Testing & Evaluation

Published by the CIIL under **Testing & Evaluation Series**

Sl.No.	Name of the Book	Year	Pages	Cost in Rs.
1.	An Introduction to Evaluation Terminology (Revised)	2008	xxxi+280	200.00
2.	Evaluation & Testing : A Descriptive Bibliography	1997	xiv+414	172.00
3.	General Frame of Reference : Language, Literature, Objectives of Education (with Glossary) - Kannada I	2002	xx+169	140.00
4.	Assessing Mastery of Language - Kannada II	2002	xx+242	200.00
5.	Assessing Mastery of Literature - Kannada III	2003	xx+367	300.00
6.	Assessing Personality through Language - Kannada IV	2004	xx+210	160.00
7.	Assessing Personality through Literature - Kannada V	2004	xx+180	160.00
8.	General Frame of Reference: Language, Literature, Objectives of Education (with Glossary) - Malayalam I	2002	xx+165	140.00
9.	Assessing Mastery of Language - Malayalam II	2003	xxi+438	300.00
10.	Assessing Mastery of Literature - Malayalam III	2003	xx+491	300.00
11.	Assessing Personality through Language - Malayalam IV	2003	xx+188	140.00
12.	Assessing Personality through Literature - Malayalam V	2003	xx+173	140.00
13.	General Frame of Reference: Language, Literature, Objectives of Education (with Glossary) - Tamil I	2002	xx+165	140.00
14.	Assessing Mastery of Language - Tamil II	2003	xx+357	200.00
15.	Assessing Mastery of Literature - Tamil III	2003	xx+439	200.00
16.	Assessing Personality through Language - Tamil IV	2004	xx+306	160.00
17.	Assessing Personality through Literature - Tamil V	2004	xx+288	160.00
18.	Tests of Language Proficiency : Assamese	2007	xii+269	250.00
19.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Bengali	2005	xiii+341	250.00
20.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Gujarati	2007	xii+395	250.00
21.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Hindi	2005	xii+353	200.00
22.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Kannada	2003	viii+262	250.00
23.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Kashmiri	2000	x + 358	220.00
24.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Malayalam	2005	xii+329	200.00
25.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Marathi	2007	xii+315	250.00
26.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Oriya	2006	xii+433	250.00
27.	Tests of Language Proficiency : Punjabi	2007	xii+265	250.00
28.	Tests of Language Proficiency : Sindhi (Devanagari Script)	2005	XII+235	250.00
29.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Tamil	2003	xiii+270	250.00
30.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Telugu	2003	xii+402	280.00
31.	Tests of Language Proficiency: Urdu	2003	xvi+309	280.00
32.	Advanced Course Reader in Tamil *	2003	xxv+307	160.00

\* includes exercises to generate various forms of language units at discourse level. They are meant for assessment of language in use, lesson planning, and lexicography work.

For purchase of books contact :

Publications Unit, Central Institute of Indian Languages,  
Manasagangotri, Hunsur Road, Mysore - 570006, Karnataka, India.

Phone (office): 0821-2345100 Pub. Sales Counter : 0821-2345040 Press Manager : 0821-2345038

## News & Events

### ♦ *Visit of the MHRD Officers*

09<sup>th</sup> June 2008 : Shri S. Mohan, Director (Finance), and Ms. Rashmi Chaudhary, Director (Languages), Dept. of Higher Education, MHRD, GOI, New Delhi, visited CIIL. During the course of their stay in the Institute, they had a brief discussion with the Director, CIIL and the Head, NTS about the progress made by the NTS.



(From Left to Right) Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India, Shri S. Mohan, Director (Finance) Department of Higher Edn., MHRD, Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Director, CIIL, Ms. Rashmi Chaudhary, Director (Languages), Department of Higher Edn. MHRD.

### ♦ *Visit to NAAC & IIM-B*

18<sup>th</sup> June 2008 : The Head, NTS visited the office of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore and had an interaction with a group of academic staff. The group included Prof. S. Ravichandra Reddy, Director i/c, Dr. Jaganath Patil, Deputy Advisor, Dr. Ponnudi, Asst. Advisor, and a few more academic staff. In the afternoon, he visited the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIM-B) and had a brief discussion with Prof. Malathi, a senior educationist in the Department of Public Systems. The possibility for making a joint initiative in the areas of common interest was discussed.

### ♦ *Pre-Convention Meeting*

23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 : A pre-convention meeting of NTS was held at Central Hindi Institute (CHI), Agra, in connection with the National Convention on Testing and Evaluation (Hindi). Those present on the occasion on 24<sup>th</sup> were Prof. Shambhunath Shaw, Director, CHI, Prof. M. Gnanam, Regional Director, CHI Mysore Centre, Dr. Tripathi, Registrar, CHI, and Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS. In the afternoon, a presentation about the salient features of NTS was made to the members of the CHI-Academic Council.

### ♦ *Documentary Film*

27<sup>th</sup> June 2008 : Shri Felix Gerald visited the Institute and had a discussion with the Head, NTS on the academic details that are to be included in the proposed documentary film on various types of testing.

## Announcements

### 1. 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 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](http://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**.

## 2. Setting up of Regional Field Units

Applications in the prescribed format are invited from the managements of reputed schools and colleges to establish Regional Field Units (RFUs) of the NTS-India in Hindi, Tamil and Urdu speaking areas of the country. Out of 60 RFUs proposed, 29 are yet to be established in the regions specified. The details are provided in the NTS-advertisements released through National English Dailies and also in the Dailies of concerned Indian languages besides University News (a higher education journal of the AIU, New Delhi). The details have also been uploaded in the Centre's website. Any school or college located in the specified regions is eligible to become an RFU of NTS provided it fulfills the terms and conditions laid down for this purpose. RFUs will be required to assist NTS in matters related to test construction and standardization. All the expenditure incurred in this connection will be borne by the NTS, in addition to the monthly maintenance cost payable to the institution which functions as RFU.

For operational details, terms & conditions, prescribed format of application, geographical jurisdiction, etc., please log on to [www.ciil-miles.net](http://www.ciil-miles.net) and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW). The application format may be downloaded from the website. The duly filled in application should reach the **Head, NTS-India, CIIL, Mysore-570006**.

## 3. Award of Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships

In order to promote advanced research in the inter-disciplinary area of testing and evaluation, the NTS invites applications for the award of 30 Doctoral and 15 Post Doctoral fellowships for the year 2008-09 from researchers / scholars of *any discipline of study*. The researcher may work in any field or in any discipline but the work should have a component on testing and evaluation - either basic or application.

The applicants should have studied any one of the 3 languages (Hindi / Tamil / Urdu) either as a major subject or as a part I or II upto graduate level. *If the applicants are from technical courses such as engineering, medicine, etc.*, they should have studied one of these languages at least up to higher secondary level.

Value of fellowships: For doctoral research Rs. 10,000/- per month and a contingency fund of Rs. 20,000/- per annum. For post doctoral research Rs. 12,000/- per month and a contingency fund of Rs. 30,000/- per annum.

For operational details, terms and conditions, prescribed format of application, etc., please log on to [www.ciil-miles.net](http://www.ciil-miles.net) and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW). The application format can be downloaded from the website. The duly filled in application should reach the **Head, NTS-India, CIIL, Mysore-570006**.

## 4. Lumpsum Grants for Short term Work on Evaluation

The NTS-India provides financial assistance to the Individuals / Group of Scholars / Departments of Universities or Research and Specialized Institutions / NGOs and others in order to encourage and promote activities such as the preparation of basic reference materials and imparting training in the area of testing and evaluation. Proposals are invited from those who are interested in :

1. undertaking short term studies on testing and evaluation.
2. developing reference materials on testing and evaluation.
3. organizing workshops, seminars, training programmes, etc. on various branches of testing and evaluation - either on basic concepts or on applications.

For further details such as terms & conditions, etc. please log on to [www.ciil-miles.net](http://www.ciil-miles.net) and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW).

The proposals should reach the **Head, NTS-India CIIL, Mysore-570 006**.

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