



Meeting of the Working Group on Concept Based Continuum of Graded Syllabi

2nd - 6th June, 2008

One of the objectives of NTS-India is to create Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS) in language and literature applicable to all the seven levels of general education. Accordingly the NTS has formulated a *model framework of CCGS* on the basis of this General Frame of Reference (GFR) created for the purpose of assessing *mastery of language & literature* and subsequently of *personality*. Since the initially



A view of Scholars presented at the workshop: (clockwise) Prof. V. Ganapathy, Dr. Muralidharan, Prof. Pon Subbiah, Prof. M. Gnanam, Prof. R. Panneerselvam, Prof. Sethupandian, Dr. R. Thirumavalavan.

formulated CCGS was not comprehensive enough to meet various requirements, it was taken up for gradual improvement from time to time by involving different groups of scholars in workshops and follow up meetings.

It was in this context that the NTS-India organized another workshop of 5 days duration at CIIL, Mysore, for the purpose of improving the CCGS based on the feed back received from the participants of the 1st and 2nd National Conventions on testing & evaluation held at Aligarh and Thanjavur respectively. The group of scholars invited for the present meeting examined the feasibility of further improvement. Accordingly, a few more dimensions of literature were identified and incorporated in the CCGS draft. However, the scholars who participated in this meeting felt that this draft version of CCGS should be placed for further discussion in the next meeting of the interdisciplinary scholars comprising educationists,

CONTENTS

- MEETING ON CCGS
- RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
- SURVEY AND DOCUMENTATION
- CONSULTANCY AND TRAINING
- REGIONAL FIELD UNITS
- GRANT-IN-AID
- ANNOUNCEMENTS

psychologists, and linguists. The following scholars have participated in the present meeting: Prof.V.Ganapathy, Prof.Ratnasabapathy (both Retd. from IASE, Chennai), Prof.M.Gnanam (Regional Director, CHI, Mysore), Prof.R.Panneerselvam (Retd. from Karnatak University, Dharward), Prof. Sethupandiyam (Retd. from MKU, Madurai), Dr.R.Thirumavalavan (Lecturer, Kalavai College, Puducherry), and Dr.Muralidharan (Lecturer, Department of Indian Languages, Tamil University, Thanjavur).

The philosophy behind the whole initiative was explained by Prof. Pon Subbiah, the Head, NTS-India, during the first session of this programme which was coordinated by Dr.M.Balakumar of CT&E and Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak of NTS-India.

Research and Development (R&D)

- In-depth analysis of the concepts of educational measurement & evaluation as well as the content inputs & consequential effects of teaching, and learning
- interrelating them with the objectives of education and the actual needs of the country

Current Activities

5th, 27th & 30th May, 2008

- ◆ A series of in-house discussions was organized by the Resource Persons of NTS-India in order to revise, and improve the framework meant for developing different kinds of tests.

Programmes planned

- ◆ For the purpose of providing definitions (with examples) to various components that constitute concepts of Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency, an inter disciplinary meeting has been proposed some time during the second week of July 2008 at the NTS Headquarters, Mysore. It is also intended to give a final shape to the framework already prepared. Senior Scholars who are working in the field of education would be invited in addition to those who are already involved in this work.

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 preparing and using different types of tests
- Syllabi and corresponding question papers of various courses at different levels of education.

Current Activities

- ◆ Names and addresses of scholars of Hindi as well as the Hindi knowing Subject Experts are collected, categorised and documented, for the purpose of inviting them to the forthcoming National Convention on Testing & Evaluation for Hindi. I Phase of the convention is expected to be held in MGAVH, Wardha, Maharashtra.
- ◆ NTS Newsletters (January, February and March 2008 issues) are being dispatched to four different groups of addressees. They represent Central/State Universities, Government Departments, Scholars with different specializations, and so on. The total in the mail list being about 5000 to 6000.

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

- ◆ Some of the educational institutions located in the Mumbai Region which include the western states have been identified and the details passed on to the producer involved in the production of documentary film on Achievement Tests. A similar exercise was completed for Chennai Region which includes the 4 southern states of the country apart from the UT of Puducherry.
- ◆ The documentaries on Achievement, and Proficiency tests are in various stages of progress. The progress in respect of Aptitude tests, is still in an infant stage. Mr. Gerald Felix, a Chennai based documentary producer who has expertise in this field discussed with the Head, NTS-India, to obtain necessary details in this connection.

Regional Field Units (RFUs)

- To disseminate the outcome of NTS at the grass root levels
- To ensure wider participation for building up of 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

- ◆ Packets containing 50 copies of write-up on NTS-India, Information Brochure of 2007-08 (in English & Regional languages) have been sent to the Institutions identified for establishing RFUs.
- ◆ Details to be incorporated in the RFU signboards as well as their common pattern have been designed by the Graphic Artist and Officer (RFUs). The format and other technical details of the signboards have been specified. This exercise is undertaken with a view to maintain uniformity in the shape and appearance of the signboards in all the RFUs across the country.
- ◆ Information regarding the inauguration of RFUs has been received from three regions viz., Puducherry, Trichy, and Palayamkottai - all in Tamil speaking areas. They have also invited the Head and the staff of NTS-India, to participate in the inaugural function.

Grant-in-Aid

Current Activities

Workshop for the Applicants seeking Research Fellowships

- ◆ In response to the advertisement inviting applications for the award of doctoral and post doctoral fellowships for the year 2007-08, a total of eighty nine applications have been received at the NTS Head Quarters. Seventy five are for Doctoral and fourteen are for Post- Doctoral Fellowships. A screening committee has been constituted to scrutinize and select suitable applicants who could be invited for a discussion in a workshop for determination of their suitability for the award of fellowships.

One and the Same : Difference in the name

Grade refers to a position on a scale. It indicates usually 'a letter mark' (A, B, C, etc.) assigned to an examinee after being grouped on the basis of his / her scores or marks. The five and seven-letter grade systems are the most popular ones. Each one has got its own rationale. The seven-letter grade system has been emphasised by the Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi, in view of its plus points. In school education, the term 'grade' refers to a particular standard or class of a learner (eg., '7th grade pupil')

Rate (n) refers to an assigned position or a relative condition or quality. It may be a grade, a class or a rank. The one who is rated is called 'ratee' and the one who rates is 'rater'. Usage of this term is quite common in affective measures, i.e., the measures of non-scholastic behaviours.

Score is a number assigned to an examinee to provide a quantitative description of his/her performance on a particular test or examination. 40 out of 50, 75 out of 100, etc., are the examples. A mark may also be expressed in percentage viz., 75%, 80%, etc.

Credit means greatness, commendation or honour given for some action, achievement, or quality, etc. In the area of evaluation and testing, it usually refers to scores or marks or grades or some points awarded to a student in recognition of his/her growth or learning achievement.

Mark refers to a score or point or credit obtained by a student in an examination or in a test. In view of it being marked, it has acquired the name 'mark'. It is of two types: (a) absolute mark (awarded in percentage eg., 75%) which is independent of other students' marks. (b) relative mark (awarded in letter grade eg., A, B, C, etc.) which is in relation to that of his peers.

Source : *Introduction to Evaluation Terminology, CIIL, 2008*

Announcements

For Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships

In order to promote research in the interdisciplinary areas of testing and evaluation, the NTS-India 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 research may be in any field and in any discipline but with a component on testing & evaluation.

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

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

For operational details, terms & conditions, application format, etc., please log on to www.ciil-miles.net and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW). The application format may be downloaded from the website. Formal advertisements (for public consumption) will be released in popular News dailies during August, 2008.

For Writing Training Modules

Synopses are invited for developing Training Modules on various topics of *Testing & Evaluation in Education* from Scholars / Experts / Researchers / Teachers of interdisciplinary areas. The modules that are proposed to be prepared are required to equip the NTS Task Group on Consultancy & Training which in turn will impart training to about 50 lakh teachers of all the disciplines at various levels across the country in a phased manner.

No. of Modules still open for allotment	: about 60
Size of each Module	: Max. 15 to 16 pages including exercises (as per specification)
Language of the Module	: English (with an option of translating the module into one of the three languages viz., Hindi, Tamil, & Urdu)
Remuneration / Honorarium	: For each module Rs. 40,000/- (Rs. 30,000 - for English version & Rs. 10,000 - for translated version)
Maximum time given	: 10 weeks (5+2+2+1 weeks) w.e.f. date of assignment

For details of topics, specifications, terms & conditions, payment procedures and model proforma (to furnish scholar's details), please log on to www.ciil-miles.net and look for ANNOUNCEMENT. Formal advertisements (for public consumption) will be released in popular News dailies during August, 2008.

For Setting up of Regional Field Units

Applications in the prescribed format are invited from the management of reputed schools and colleges to function as Regional Field Units (RFUs) of the NTS-India.

NTS-India intends to open Regional Field Units (RFUs) in Hindi, Tamil and Urdu speaking regions of the country. Out of 60 RFUs, 31 have already been established for certain regions. The remaining 29 RFUs need to be opened in the regions specified in the detailed advertisement and in the centre's website. Any school or college located in that region is eligible to become an RFU of NTS provided it fulfills certain terms and conditions. RFUs will be required to assist NTS in matters related to **test construction** and **standardisation** for which the expenditure will be borne by the NTS-India.

For operational details, terms & conditions, prescribed application format, etc., please log on to www.ciil-miles.net and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW). The application format may be downloaded from the website. Formal advertisements (for public consumption) will be released in popular News dailies during August, 2008.

For further information, please contact **Head, NTS-India** through email subbiah@ciil.stpmv.soft.net or Fax : 0821-2515032.

CHIEF EDITOR

Prof. UDAYA NARAYANA SINGH

EDITOR

Prof. PON SUBBIAH

EDITORIAL TEAM

Dr. M. BALAKUMAR
Prof. P.T. ABRAHAM
Mr. M. SARAVANA
Dr. ANAND RAVI

DTP & LAYOUT DESIGN

Ms. R. SHAKUNTHALA
Mr. B.L. MAHESH

NATIONAL TESTING SERVICE-INDIA

CENTRE FOR TESTING AND EVALUATION

Central Institute of Indian Languages

(Ministry of HRD, Dept. of Higher Education, Govt. of India)

Manasagangotri, Mysore - 570 006

KARNATAKA, INDIA.

Reader's views may be e-mailed to the editor subbiah@ciil.stpmv.soft.net

FAX: 0821-2515032 (Attn. NTS Newsletter)

For online NTS Newsletter log on : www.ciil-miles.net

Ph: 91 821-2345011 / 2345113 / 2345334