



# NATIONAL TESTING SERVICE-INDIA



CENTRE FOR TESTING AND EVALUATION  
H.Q. CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES, MYSORE

Vol.2 No.6 8 pages

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2009



## NTS-India : A Great Mission to Fulfill the Evaluation Requirements of the Country - Prof. V.C.Kulandaiswamy

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009



From L-R : Dr. M.Balakumar (Coordinator, NTS Programmes); Prof. M.Ranganatham (Registrar, UOM); Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS-India); Prof. V.C.Kulandaiswamy (Former VC, IGNOU); Prof. S.Ramachandran (VC, UOM); Prof. M.R.Srinivasan (Dean-Academic, UOM)

National Testing Service-India (NTS-I) organized a convention on testing and evaluation at the University of Madras (UOM), Chennai. This was a follow up programme. The earlier one was held in the IIMC, JNU campus, New Delhi in the month of February. About 150 scholars representing the higher educational institutions located in the Metropolitan city of Chennai attended the convention. Prof. V.C.Kulandaiswamy (Former VC, IGNOU & the chief guest of the function) inaugurated the programme at 10 am on 7th May 2009 in the Senate Hall of the UOM.

In his inaugural address, Prof. V.C.Kulandaiswamy emphasised the importance of evaluation and expressed his concern over the current state of affairs. He said that the objectives of education was to develop certain knowledge, competencies, and values in the individual. If these objectives were not evaluated accurately, the work would not be completed. He made a reference about the knowledge era and its impact on the social, economic, and political developments of the country. While referring to the activities of NTS, he expressed his confidence that NTS would bring a better and uniform evaluation system throughout the country. He further added that fulfilling the evaluation

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requirements of the country is a gigantic task and to accomplish this great mission the scholars should give their inputs. He also released the draft version of the Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS) materials - one each for Language and Literature covering all the seven levels of education viz., primary, upper primary, secondary, higher secondary, graduate, post graduate, and research developed by NTS after decades of R&D.

Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS) introduced the objectives and activities of the NTS as part of his keynote address. He explained the need for taking up the task of evolving norms and establishing benchmarks so that they could serve as reference points for evaluating courses, institutions, and individuals at various levels of education. He also briefed about the activities undertaken through the task groups. Further, the twin objectives of the convention viz., dissemination of information and building up of consensus on the conceptual framework on assessing Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency were also introduced.

Prof. S. Ramachandran (Vice Chancellor, UOM) in his presidential address shared his experience with the audience about his visit to NTS during December 2008. He recalled his interaction with the Head and the staff of NTS on a variety of issues concerning the system of testing and evaluation being practised in the country. He stressed the need to create an awareness about the activities of NTS in general and the universal applicability of the CCGS materials. He hoped that the programme would help to create an impact on the entire system of education and assured that the UOM would collaborate with NTS-India by opening a Regional Field Unit of NTS in its campus.

Prof. M. Ranganatham (Registrar, UOM & special invitee of the programme) pointed out the need for a review of the system of evaluation. He conveyed that the instruments used for evaluation should be credible, valid, and reliable when applied on a large scale population. He was of the opinion that there is a need for improving and standardizing the evaluation and that NTS was doing a great service to the nation. He assured full support and cooperation of UOM.

Earlier Prof. M.R.Srinivasan (Dean-Academic, UOM) welcomed the gathering and introduced the dignitaries to the audience. NTS staff felicitated the Chief Guest, the President, and Special Invitee of the function. Dr. M.Balakumar (Coordinator, NTS Programmes) delivered the vote of thanks and the inaugural function concluded with the National Anthem.

After tea break, the Head, NTS made an elaborate (power point) presentation about the salient features of NTS-I and its RFUs. He explained the details of the background work which led to the development of Multipurpose Indian Language Evaluation System (MILES) and subsequently the NTS, along with the methodologies adopted for achieving that. Following this, the website (of the Centre for Testing & Evaluation) was demonstrated by Mr. Ancy Thomas and Mr. V. K. Dheeraj (JRPs-Tech). During the post lunch session, the Head, NTS continued his briefing about the Retrieval Facility developed under MILES. Mr. K.S.Raghavan and Ms. R.Kavitha (JRPs-Tech) demonstrated the Application Software developed for this purpose. The process of instant construction of tests in language and literature (for Higher Secondary and Graduate levels) was highlighted and samples produced. Subsequently, the issues related were discussed and debated by the scholars under the chairmanship of Prof. A. Panneerselvam (Former Director of Teacher Education, Govt. of Tamil Nadu). The queries of the



*A section of scholars attending the convention at the Senate Hall of the University of Madras*

participants were also clarified. The first day's programme was concluded at 5.00 pm with the formation of three groups (each with 45 to 50 members) - one each for Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency tests.

The second day's programme was devoted for group work. Each group was led by a Chairperson and a Convener chosen from the participants. A senior member representing the NTS/CIIL coordinated the respective group. The draft frames developed by the NTS were distributed among the members of the groups with a request to comment upon them. Separate questionnaires were supplied to each individual for obtaining feedback. The members were also requested to prepare question items on various components of the concepts of Aptitude, Achievement and Proficiency in the disciplines represented by them.

The composition of the groups is as follows:

**Group 1 : Concept of Aptitude** (49 scholars opted for this group)

<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Convener</i>	<i>Co-ordinator</i>	<i>NTS Team</i>
Prof. Swaminatha Pillai	Dr. S.Karunanithi	Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai	Dr. Biresh Kumar & Dr. G.Suseela

**Group 2 : Concept of Achievement** (47 scholars opted for this group)

<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Convener</i>	<i>Co-ordinator</i>	<i>NTS Team</i>
Prof. R.Panneerselvam	Dr. V.Rajagopalan	Dr. K.Pasumpon	Dr. R.C.Maurya, Dr. T.Janaki & Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak

**Group 3 : Concept of Proficiency** (48 scholars opted for this group)

<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Convener</i>	<i>Co-ordinator</i>	<i>NTS Team</i>
Prof. P.S.Balasubramanian	Prof. A.A.Manavalan	Dr. L.Ramamoorthy	Mr. M.Saravana & Dr. Mohd. Rizwan

The post lunch session which was devoted for obtaining the consolidated views commenced at 2.30 p.m. It was chaired by Prof. Swaminatha Pillai, (Former Director, NITTTTR, Chennai). The conveners of the respective groups presented their consolidated views. Apart from these, many other scholars also expressed their individual opinions. Majority of them lauded the efforts taken up by the NTS and hoped that it would pave a way to build up a better system of evaluation. The queries and doubts raised by the groups were answered by the Head, NTS and at the end of the programme, he thanked the participants as well as the authorities of the UOM for making this programme a grand success. The programme concluded at 5.00 pm on 8th May '09.



*Scholars working on Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency draft frames during the group work*

## 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

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Phase of Workshop on Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS)

1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009

The objective of the five day programme was to check the distribution of sub components of language & literature in the CCGS and to finalise it for the purpose of releasing the same at the convention scheduled to be held at the University of Madras, Chennai to get feedback from wider audience. This phase of the programme was held at the NTS H.Qrs, CIIL, Mysore. Prof. P.Ratnasabapathy (Counsellor, TIERA, Chennai), Prof. A.A.Manavalan (Former HOD of Tamil, University of Madras, Chennai), Prof. M.Suseela (Former HOD of Linguistics, Tamil

University, Thanjavur), Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai (Former Controller of Examinations, CIIL, Mysore), and Dr. Brunda Ravikumar (Lecturer, PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore) participated in the workshop. After a lengthy deliberation a few modifications were suggested by these scholars, which after due consideration were incorporated. Similarly, a few changes in the dimensions were also made after a thorough discussion. These modifications have contributed for the enrichment of the materials. Simultaneously the dimensional factors too were cross checked with reference to all the educational levels and prepared illustrative examples for the dimensions which were complex in nature. Necessary assistance was rendered by the academic staff of the NTS. Overall guidance was provided by Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS) and the programme was coordinated by Dr. M.Balakumar (RRO, CIIL).

## 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

NTS-India has been disseminating information about its activities through the NTS Newsletters, Websites, in addition to the press. As a result, like minded intelligentsia from different walks of life approach the NTS for various updates. Accordingly, the group working on information dissemination has been constantly engaged in updating its database with additional information pertaining to individuals and institutions to have a comprehensive database. Mr. K.S. Raghavan and Ms. R. Kavitha (JRPs-Tech) are continuously working on it.

The classified mail list includes the addresses of Members and Officials of different Councils, Commissions, Boards, Judiciary, Universities, Specialised Institutions, Institutions of National Importance, Professional Institutions, and Govt. Depts. The current additions include the relevant officers of MHRD, Academics from RIEs, Autonomous Colleges, Technocrats from Local District Offices, Public Sector Undertakings like BHEL, IOC, Small Industries Corporation, Scientists from Research Laboratories, etc. The task of collecting the Objectives and Activities of Specialised Institutions and their Social Relevance has also been taken up. Ms. Shaistha Anjum and Mr. T.S. Phaniraj (DEOs) are assisting the technical team for inputting the information.

## 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.

### Current Activities

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Introductory meeting for the representatives of the Institutions identified for RFUs

27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009

A two day Introductory Meeting for the representatives of the institutions identified for establishing RFUs of NTS was conducted at the NTS H.Qrs, CIIL, Mysore. 14 representatives from 7 regions of the country participated in the programme. The main objective of the meeting was to give a briefing about the activities (both academic & administrative) to be undertaken by the RFUs.

The meeting started at 10 a.m. on 27<sup>th</sup> May '09. The participants introduced themselves and the institutions they represented. CT&E Information Brochure, MILES & NTS writeups and other relevant materials were provided to them. Documentary film on CIIL and rough cut of the NTS documentary on Achievement and Proficiency Tests were shown to them. The feedback from the participants was also obtained. In the afternoon session, the Head, NTS interacted with them on all related aspects.

In the second day forenoon, the details of activities that are expected to be carried out by the RFUs and their other responsibilities were explained by Head, NTS. The queries raised by the participants were also clarified. Subsequently, the agreement documents were supplied to them for necessary endorsement.

Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh (Director, CIIL) addressed the gathering in the afternoon. He stressed the importance of testing and evaluation and also the role and responsibility of the RFUs which are going to serve as a major hub of academic activities in their respective regions.

Each of the participant was provided with a copy of the book 'An Introduction to Evaluation Terminology' published by the Institute. The programme was coordinated by Mr. M.Saravana (SRP) and Dr. R.C.Maurya (RP) of NTS.



*Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India (3rd from left) with the NTS staff and the representatives of the Institutions identified for establishing RFUs*

The following are the details of participants indicating their Region & Level, Name of Representative, and Address of the Institution:

Sl.No.	Region & Level	Names of the Representative	Address of the Institution
1.	H-Region-1: Himachal Pradesh College Level	Dr. Romesh Chand	Department of Education, Himachal Pradesh University, SHIMLA-171005
2.	H-Region-1: Himachal Pradesh School Level	Mr. Balbinder Singh Pathania Mr. Sumit Sharma	Dronacharya College of Education, Rait, KANGRA Dist.-176208
3.	T-Region-2: Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu of TN College Level	Dr. S.Vaitheeswaran Mr. F.B.Arul Vendhan	Adhiparashakti College of Arts & Science, G.B.Nagar, Kalavai, VELLORE Dist.-632506
4.	T-Region-5: Nilgiris, Coimbatore of TN School Level	Prof. P.J.Paul Danasekaran	St. Joseph's College of Education, P.Box.No. 29, Woodcock Road, St.Mary's Hill, UDHAGAMANDALAM-643001
5.	T-Region-6: Erode, Namakkal, Karur of TN School Level	Ms.V.Subbulakshmi Ms. D.Kamatchi	Geethaanjali All India Sec School (CBSE), Thindal, ERODE-638012
6.	T-Region-9: Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Karaikudi, Virudhunagar of TN School Level	Ms. M.Rajamuthu Ms.V.Jeyalakshmi	National Academy Montessori Matric Higher Secondary School, Pattinamkathan, RAMANATHAPURAM-623503
7.	T-Region-10: Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Kanyakumari of TN School Level	Ms. P.Latha Dr. M.Uma Maheswari	Annamal College of Education for Women, THOOTHUKUDI-628003
8.	U-Region-7: Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh School Level	Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Ansari Mr. Mohd.Nasir Khan	KGN Multi Purpose High School, Maha Maya Road, Post-Ambikapur, Dist-Surguja, CHHATTISGARH-497001

## Grant-in-Aid

### NTS-GIA: Details of Funds Granted

In order to encourage the individuals and institutions involved in the preparation of the basic materials and imparting training in the area of testing and evaluation, NTS-India is providing financial grants under its GIA sub scheme. The following scholars / researchers were paid the second installment of the financial grants (2008-09) during May '09.

Sl.No.	Name & Address of the Grantee	Amount of funds Granted	Activities for which the Grant is given
1.	Dr. S.K.G. Ganesh Asst. Professor Dept. of Management Studies BSA Crescent Engg. College, Vandalur Chennai-600048, Tamil Nadu	Rs. 25,000/-	Short Term Research Study on "Higher Order Ability Testing Questions in Management Education: A study on Application"
2.	Dr. M. Massey Principal Ewing Christian College Muttiganj, Allahabad-211002 Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 25,000/-	Two day training / orientation programme on "Testing and Evaluation"
3.	Dr. J.R. Nirmala Professor, Department of English R.M.K. College of Engineering and Technology, R.S.M. Nagar, Pudhuvoyal-601206, Thiruvallur Dt, Tamil Nadu	Rs. 25,000/-	Workshop on "Enhancing Second Language Teaching by Effective Evaluation Methods"
4.	The Principal Shri Guru Ram Rai (P.O.) College, Pathribagh, Dehradun-248001 Uttarakhand	Rs. 25,000/-	Training programme on "Revamping the Evaluation System"
5.	Dr. Sheela Ramachandran Principal PSG College of Arts & Science Coimbatore-641014, Tamil Nadu	Rs. 25,000/-	Training programme on "Testing and Evaluation with special reference to Part-I Tamil"

### NTS-GIA programme at Teresian College for Women, Mysore

26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009

The Department of English of Teresian College, Mysore conducted a two day seminar cum workshop on testing & evaluation by availing financial assistance and logistic support from NTS. The programme paved a way for the emergence of a group of teachers who could be the potential torch bearers of a holistic approach to evaluation in education. About 150 participants representing the disciplines of humanities and science attended the programme. Prof. T.R.S.Sharma, Dr. Bhamy V Shenoy of the city graced the occasion and interacted with the participants. Prof. H.A.Ranganath (Director, NAAC), Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS),



Scholars attending the seminar at Teresian College for Women, Mysore

Prof. A.S.Dasan (Dept. of English, Univ. of Mysore), Prof. P.Ratnasabapathy (Counsellor, TIERA, Chennai), Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh (Director, CIIL), Dr. M.Balakumar (RRO, CIIL), Dr. Brunda Ravikumar (Coordinator, NTS RFU at Coimbatore), and Mr. Manivannan, IAS (Dy. Commissioner, Mysore) spoke on various aspects of evaluation in the context of their need and importance. The stupendous work of the NTS-India was also made known to the participants. Scholars who could be prospective contributors for NTS were also identified. Ms. Nalini Xavier (Dept. of English, Teresian College) coordinated the programme under the guidance of Sr. Joyce, Principal of the college.

## Fellowships

In order to promote advanced studies in the inter disciplinary area of testing & evaluation, the National Testing Service-India has instituted 30 Doctoral and 15 Post Doctoral Fellowships per year for the young researchers from various disciplines of study. The details of fellowships released during the month of May'09 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Awardee	No. of Months	Amount Released	Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Awardee	No. of Months	Amount Released
<b>Post Doctoral Fellowships</b>							
1.	Dr. P.S. Ganeshmoorthy Sri Venkateswara University, Thirupathi-517502, AP	1	Rs.12,000/-	5.	Mr. Manikandan. M Alagappa University, Karaikudi-630003, Tamil Nadu	2	Rs.20,000/-
<b>Doctoral Fellowships</b>							
1.	Mr. Abdul Quddus Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad-500032, AP	1	Rs.10,000/-	6.	Mr. Muthamizh Selvan. A Bharathiar University, Coimbatore-641046, Tamil Nadu	3	Rs.30,000/-
2.	Mr. Ashwani Kumar CCS, Haryana Agricultural Univ. Hisar-125004, Haryana	2	Rs.20,000/-	7.	Mr. Prem Kumar. L.R. Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai-625021, Tamil Nadu	2	Rs.20,000/-
3.	Ms. Chandrika. J University of Madras, Chennai-600034, Tamil Nadu	3	Rs.30,000/-	8.	Mr. R. Ravi Kumar University of Madras, Chennai- 600005, Tamil Nadu	2	Rs.20,000/-
4.	Mr. Kamaraj. K Bharathiar University, Coimbatore-641046, Tamil Nadu	1	Rs.10,000/-	9.	Mr. Sankar. M Gandhigram Rural University, Dindigul-624302, Tamil Nadu	2	Rs.20,000/-

## News & Events

➤ A pre-programme meeting was held at Teresian College for Women on 15<sup>th</sup> May'09. Dr. M.Balakumar (Coordinator, NTS Programmes), Mr. M.Saravana (SRP, NTS), and Dr. R.C.Maurya (RP, NTS) attended the meeting and discussed with the Principal and other staff of the College. Prof. A.S.Dasan of the University of Mysore was also present in this meeting.

➤ The process of scrutinizing the 15000 raw question items prepared in the recently concluded short term (3 months) project is in progress. The question items are available in Hindi, Tamil & Urdu. The Junior Resource Persons (Academic) of NTS in the respective languages are involved in scrutinizing them.

## Forthcoming

- A workshop on Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi for the preparation of the illustrative examples for the uncovered sub components is scheduled to be held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at CIIL, Mysore.
- Mr. Virendra Valsangkar (Documentary Film Producer) will interact with NTS staff on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009 for finalizing the Film on Achievement Tests for certification.
- Prof. K. Karunakaran (Former VC, Tamil University, Thanjavur & Visiting Professor at the Michigan University, USA) will interact with the NTS staff on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.
- NTS finalised the release of press advertisements for inviting applications regarding establishment of RFUs in the uncovered regions. Also finalised were the details of advertisement for the award of Doctoral & Post Doctoral Fellowships and Financial Assistance under Grant-in-Aid sub scheme.

### What does it mean?

**Achievement Age (AA)** is the level of the educational development of an individual. It is determined by comparing one's score (on an achievement test) with the average score of individuals of the same chronological age. Some scholars regard it as *Educational Age* and some as *Age Equivalent*.

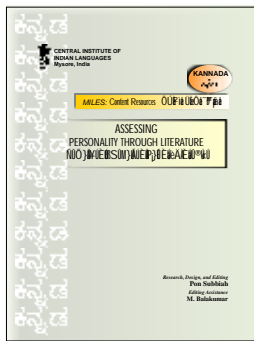
Source : *An Introduction to Evaluation Terminology, CIIL, Mysore, 2008*

# What do they contain?

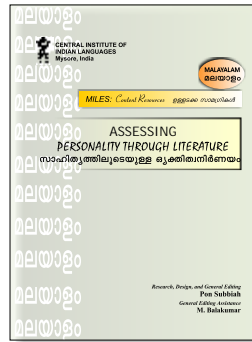
## Assessing Personality through Literature

These volumes highlight the concept of *contents in assessing personality through literature*. Scores of question (item) resources included here are constituent models for the construction of tests and examinations of varying lengths and difficulty levels. These items could be used as a tool for collecting and quantifying the details of personality factors (behavioural traits) acquired as part of all-round growth towards making objective assessment. Being built up on a dimensional problem, every item is presented in an Item File Card format with bilingual instructions. The item resources are prepared on each of the sub components and are hierarchically listed under *cognitive, affective, and psychomotor* domains as prescribed in the Taxonomy of Educational Objectives. They are intended to assess the all-round growth of a person in all its dimensions with sampling error free content coverage (drawn from genesis, generics, aesthetics, and affectives areas of *literature*). The introductory part includes a discussion on theoretical premises as well. This pioneering work in Indian Languages will be an indispensable companion to all those who want to construct personality tests in literature at various levels of education.

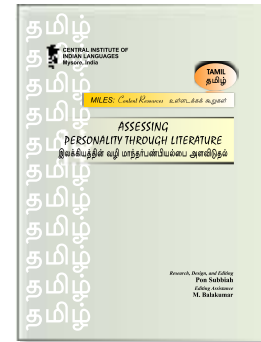
These volumes can be procured by placing orders to Sales Executive (Publication), CIIL, Mysore-570006, Karnataka. e-mail: [chandrasekhar@ciil.stpmv.soft.net](mailto:chandrasekhar@ciil.stpmv.soft.net), Ph: 0821-2345040



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## Reader's View

NTS monthly newsletter is coming out regularly carrying very useful information. The design and quality are impressive. The visits of important personalities are well covered. In addition to covering the current activities of NTS in its HQ in Mysore as well as in different places of our vast country, it presents the contents of its benchmark publications which are informative and inspiring. The publication successfully functions as a PRO and certainly evokes interest among the stake holders of testing and evaluation i.e., both the potential contributors and consumers. The minds and hands behind this labour deserve our appreciation. Let us hope the efforts of NTS-India bear fruits in abundance so that our country can march ahead with confidence.

*Prof. K. Anban, Retd., Professor of Linguistics,  
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