



Superannuation of Prof. Pon Subbiah (*Head, NTS-I*)



The Head, NTS felicitated by Dr. M. Balakumar (Left) and Prof. K.S. Rajyashree (Right)

Prof. Pon Subbiah, the founder Head, CT&E and NTS-I superannuated on 30th September 2010 after serving the cause of educational evaluation for about three decades in CIIL, Mysore. He has made a significant contribution to the field of teaching, testing and evaluation. A farewell function was organised on the same day at 5pm at the conference hall of the Institute. All the staff members of CIIL, MILES and NTS were present. On this occasion, Prof. K.S. Rajyashree (Dy. Director), Dr. M. Balakumar (Coordinator, NTS-Programmes), Dr. G. Vijayarathi (AD (A) i/c), Dr. L. Ramamoorthy (Head, LDC-IL) and others complimented Prof. Pon Subbiah on his achievements as Head, NTS. While addressing the gathering Prof. K.S. Rajyashree lauded Prof. Pon Subbiah's works and mentioned that he is the spiritual head of NTS. She added that with his hard work the National Testing Service-India has come out as a big scheme, which would serve as a model to this country in future. She further said that whatever he has done in the field of testing and evaluation is a huge contribution for the whole nation. Dr. M. Balakumar told that though Prof. Pon Subbiah retires officially, he would never retire as an academician. Further he requested him to extend his consultancy and guidance to NTS-I. Dr. L. Ramamoorthy of LDC-IL focused on his sincerity, hard work, humble nature and humanity. Dr. G. Vijayarathi also expressed similar views and pointed out that only when the NTS-I becomes an institute of national importance Pon Subbiah's dreams will come true. Prior to this, Prof. K.S. Rajyashree presented a memento to Prof. Pon Subbiah. He shared his experiences at CIIL and told that his mission will not be completed till NTS becomes an independent entity.

Mr. S. Nandakumar and Mr. Pramananda Barik of CIIL who retired on 30th September 2010 were also bidden farewell during this occasion.

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R&D**Research and Development**

● 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 Conceptual Explanation of Evaluation Terminology:****Urdu**

27th July to 7th August 2010

This workshop was meant to scrutinize 'The Conceptual Explanations of Evaluation Terminology in Urdu'. Three hundred and twelve entries were cross checked during this phase of the workshop. Dr. Riyaz Ahmed, and Dr. Athar Hussain (Dept. of Education, MANUU, Hyderabad), and Mr. Abdur Rahman Khan (formerly of DIET, Mysore) were the experts. Dr. G.M.Ansari, Dr. Md.Rizwan, Dr. Jamshed Ahmed (JRPs, NTS) and Ms. Asma Javeria (JRP, MILES) assisted the experts.

**Kannada**

3rd August 2010 to 10th August 2010

A seven day workshop was organized to cross check the entries in the translated version of 'The Conceptual Explanations of Evaluation Terms in Kannada'. Prof. C.G.Venkataramana Setty (formerly of SKMK College of Education, Mysore), and Prof. G.H.Parvathamma (formerly of UOM, Mysore) were involved in this work. They were assisted by Mr. M.Manjunatha and Dr. S.Puttaraju (JRPs, MILES). Dr. M.Balakumar (Coordinator, NTS programmes) coordinated this programme.

Tamil

5th August to 31st August 2010

A workshop was held for the scrutiny of the translated version of the glossary of evaluation terms and their conceptual explanations in Tamil. Dr. Chidambaram (JRP, MILES) did the proof reading of the typed version and necessary modifications were carried out. He also added explanations for the terms left out during the previous workshops. Dr. P.Manthiri (Short term project) assisted in this process. Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak (JRP, NTS) provided necessary guidance in consultation with Prof. Pon Subbiah. Dr. M.Balakumar coordinated this programme.

Short Term Workshop on NLLT: (Preparation of Qn. paper-Beta version)

16th August to 16th October 2010

In order to achieve the objectives of NTS-I viz., establishing Local, Regional and National norms, it is proposed to conduct National Level Language Tests in Hindi, Tamil and Urdu at two levels. Towards this end a pilot study was conducted in April/May 2010. Based on the experience and findings of the pilot study, a short term workshop was held for the preparation of test papers for the NLLT (Main Study).

Two sets of the Beta version of the test papers for the NLLT (meant for main study) were prepared - one each for Hr. Secondary and Graduate levels. They were prepared in all the three languages (viz., Hindi, Tamil, and Urdu). These test papers will be further scrutinised before adopting them for field administration, as a step in the standardisation process. A total of 21 scholars (Hindi 04, Tamil 10, Urdu 07) participated in the workshop. Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP, Hindi), Dr. G.Suseela (JRP, Acad.-Tamil), and Dr. G.M.Ansari (JRP, Acad.-Urdu) coordinated the programme. Both the sets of the Beta version of the test paper will be field tested and analysed for item difficulty, reliability and validity before including them in the pool of items prepared and stored in the computer for the purpose of instant construction of test papers.

Workshop for Revision of the Graded Tests

2nd August to 31st August 2010

This workshop was initiated to remove the inconsistencies observed in the test papers. It was meant to ensure that the final version of the graded tests contained equal number of items in parallel forms (among all the four sets at each of the two levels). The graded tests consist of 7 sets of question papers at the rate of 4 sets for each of the seven levels of general education. Prof. R.Panneerselvam (formerly of Karnatak University, Dharwad) reviewed this material and suggested improvements. Dr. G.Suseela, (JRP, NTS) and Dr. B.Nehruji, (JRP, MILES) coordinated this programme under the overall guidance of Prof. Pon Subbiah.

“Activities of NTS should be extended to other areas of Study”-Prof. S.P.Singh

13th September 2010



Prof. Pon Subbiah briefing the activities of NTS-I to Prof. S.P.Singh (extreme right)

Prof. S.P.Singh (Advisor, State Planning Commission, Govt. of Uttarakhand and former Vice Chancellor, HNB Garhwal University) visited NTS Headquarters, CIIL, Mysore on 13th September 2010. The purpose of his visit was to have an interaction with NTS staff and also to extend consultancy. Speaking on the occasion, he suggested that the activities of NTS should not be confined only to language and literature, as testing and evaluation is an integral part of every discipline of study. He added that evaluation is an essential component of the job of every teacher. They should understand various aspects of evaluation so that they can perform their job in a better way. He emphasized that the marketing of the research outcomes of NTS has to be taken up seriously. In this regard, he suggested the use of simple language. Prof. Singh lauded the massive work done by the NTS in the field of testing and evaluation. During the interactive session he answered the queries raised by the NTS academic staff.

Prior to this, Dr. M.Balakumar (RRO, CIIL & Coordinator, NTS Programmes) welcomed the guest and introduced the dignitary to the audience. After felicitation, Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS) explained the activities of CT & E and the creation of Multipurpose Indian Language Evaluation System (MILES). He also traced the development of NTS and the establishment of the 60 Regional Field Units throughout the country. The two websites viz., www.ciil-miles.net & www.ciil-ntsindia.net were shown to the guest. The instant construction of question papers using the application software developed by the technical team of NTS was also demonstrated. The steps taken by NTS for creating a comprehensive basis for developing tools of evaluation were also explained by the Head, NTS. This programme concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP,NTS).

Workshop on Conceptual Explanation of Evaluation Terms in Kannada

17th to 20th September 2010

This phase of the workshop was conducted for checking the material that explains the various concepts used in the area of testing and evaluation. Prof. C.G. Venkataramana Shetty and Prof. G.H. Parvathamma went through the material keeping the NTS requirements in mind and suggested modifications. Mr. M.Manjunatha and

Dr. S.Puttaraju (JRPs, MILES) assisted them. The experts suggested that one more sitting was required for making the material ready for publication. The final copy will be submitted to the institute after making necessary modifications. The programme was coordinated by Dr. M.Balakumar (Coordinator, NTS Programmes) under the supervision of Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS).



Prof. Pon Subbiah with experts

Workshop on Dimensional factors of CCGS

29th September to 2nd October 2010

A Four day workshop was conducted to discuss the CCGS in detail and to prepare the illustrative examples for the components of psychomotor domain (personality growth and societal needs).

The following scholars participated in the workshop:- Prof. P.Rathnasabapathy (Counselor, TIERA, Chennai), Prof. T.Sethupandian (Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai) and Dr. U.Prabhakaran (Tamil University, Thanjavur) for literature part; Dr. S.Pasumpon (Asst. Director, Tamil Development, Madurai), Prof. M.Suseela (Formerly of Tamil University, Thanjavur), and Dr. Muralidharan (Tamil University, Thanjavur) for language part; Prof. C.Shunmugom (Formerly of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore), and Prof. R.Pannerselvam (formerly of Karnatak University, Dharwad) and Prof. P.Veerappan (RIE, Mysore) for societal factors. The experts thoroughly checked the distribution of the components among the 7 levels of education and made certain modifications for more accuracy. They suggested to have one more sitting for finalising the material. Several question items were prepared for different sub-components of the CCGS. This programme was coordinated by Dr. M.Balakumar (Coordinator of NTS Programmes).

Short Term Project concluded

16th October 2010

The short term project comprises of young scholars from Hindi, Tamil and Urdu speaking regions (commenced on 16th August 2010). They were involved in the process of the development of two sets of Beta version of NLLT question papers (in three languages and for two levels-Higher Secondary and Graduate). This programme was concluded on 16th October 2010.

Research Projects Assigned

October 2010

Individual research projects covering various aspects of testing and evaluation were assigned to NTS academic and technical resource persons as a routine work of research and development in this highly specialized field of study. They were requested to give interim reports of progress of their study by the end of Jan. 2011 and final report to be prepared and presented before March, 2011 for further refinement. The outcome of these exercises may serve as an eye opener as far as prevailing situation / condition of educational testing and evaluation in our country is concerned.

The topics selected and approved by the Head, NTS are as given below:

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Scholar</i>	<i>Name of the Topic Allotted</i>
1.	Dr. Biresh Kumar, RP-Academic	A Study of Components of Testing and Evaluation in Syllabus of NCTE w.r.t NTS Objectives.
2.	Dr. R. Senkuttuvan, RP-Academic	Assessing the Mastery/Proficiency of Language of the Learners of Tamil at UG Level.
3.	Dr. M. Yesudass, RP-Academic	Analysis of CET Question Papers for Recruitment of High School Physical Education Teachers Conducted by Govt. of Karnataka.
4.	Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak, JRP-Tamil	A Comparative Study of Tamil Language Achievement Tests with the NLLT Pilot Study w.r.t. +2 Level of Tamil Nadu State Board.

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Scholar</i>	<i>Name of the Topic Allotted</i>
5.	Dr. G.M.Ansari, JRP-Urdu	Analysis of Urdu Question Papers of Jharkhand State for Degree Level with reference to CCGS prepared by NTS-India.
6.	Dr. Md. Rizwan, JRP-Urdu	Analysis of Aptitude Test Question Papers and Syllabus especially for admission for B.A. Courses in accordance with NTS Framework.
7.	Dr. Jamshed Ahmad, JRP-Urdu	Assessment of +2 level Urdu Books of UP Board namely 'Adab Par Nazm' and 'Adab Par Nasr' with reference to CCGS prepared by NTS.
8.	Dr. Md. Saleem Ahmed, JRP-Urdu	Analysis of KPSC Urdu Question Papers with reference to NTS aims and objectives.
9.	Mr. Arvind Kumar Gautam, JRP-Hindi	A Comparative Study of the Syllabuses of Hindi at Higher Secondary Level of UP w.r.t. CBSE Syllabus.
10.	Mrs. R.Shakunthala, JRP-Tech.	Assessment of Higher Secondary Tamil Text Books used in language part (State Board) of Tamil w.r.t CCGS of NTS.
11.	Mr. Ancy Thomas, Mr. V.K.Dheerajj, Ms. R.Kavitha, and Mr. K.S.Raghavan (JRPs-Tech.)	Web Conferencing
12.	Mr. Murali Mohana N., PRO	Educational Testing and Evaluation News Coverage in English and Kannada Newspapers: A Content Analysis (w.r.t. Deccan Herald and Prajavani).
13.	Mr. Harsha P., PRO	Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Education Related Supplements of Major newspapers of Karnataka (w.r.t. Times of India and Vijaya Karnataka).

NTS positions - screening cum selection committee

9th November 2010

NTS-India published advertisement for filling various academic positions such as CRPs, SRPs, and RPs. In response to the advertisement, NTS received a number of applications from the scholars from various parts of the county. Preliminary scrutiny of the applications was done by NTS staff. Then it was proposed to hold a screening committee meeting to check the suitability of the applicants for the post they had applied. In this connection, one day screening cum selection committee meeting was held at NTS Head Quarters. Dr. Jacob Tharu (Former Prof. CIEFL, Hyderabad), Dr. B.N.Patnaik (Former Prof. of Linguistics, IIT Kanpur), Prof. K.Dorasamy (Principal, RIE, Mysore), Dr. A.S.Dasan (Prof. Dept. of English, UOM), Dr. Kedutso Kapfo (RRO, CIIL, Mysore) were the experts engaged. The main objective of this meeting was to check whether the applicants are fulfilling the eligibility criteria and other requirements for the posts. The programme was coordinated by Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-India) under the guidance of Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL).



From (L-R) - Dr. M.Balakumar, Prof. A.S.Dasan, Prof. K.Dorasamy, Prof. Jacob Tharu, Prof. B.N.Patnaik

- To collect, consolidate, and create an electronic grid of information pertaining to contents, methods, and purposes of evaluation
- To enlist the contact particulars of individuals and institutions involved in preparing and using different types of tests
- To develop a grid of material resources with syllabi of various courses and question papers there on, at different levels of education
- To build up a specialized library with rare reference on this area and documenting various related news items.

Current Activities

NLLT (Pilot Study) Preliminary report

The data obtained from the pilot study and stored in the database specially developed for this purpose was analysed by Dr. G. Vishwanathappa (Reader in Education, RIE, Mysore). Dr. V. Ilangoan (SRP, NTS) provided all the required details to the statistician in consultation with the Head, NTS.

The preliminary analysis of the pilot study revealed that the NLLTs held across the country were reliable and valid to a greater extent. Incorporating these details, the preliminary report was prepared and submitted to the Ministry. Further analysis of the data are being worked out.

Updating of Mailing List

Many of those in the NTS mailing list (who were getting the newsletter in their official capacity of being a member / the chairperson of the committees / commissions / statutory bodies) have requested to send the Newsletter to their residential addresses. Hence the task of updating the mailing list was initiated. During the process some addresses were deleted and some were added and in some cases certain changes were effected.

Question paper Generation - Database

The database meant for the instant construction of test papers in Hindi and Tamil was enriched by the additional input of 971 question items (Hindi - 429, Tamil-542).

Application Softwares Developed

Doctoral & Post Doctoral Fellowship

A software has been developed for the purpose of storing the details of applications received in the prescribed format for the award of Doctoral and Post Doctoral fellowships. This enables the retrieval of the data region wise (Hindi, Tamil, Urdu and North East Region) and subject area wise (Linguistics, Literature, Education, Physical and Natural sciences, etc) and qualification wise. The other details such as total number of applications received, number of applicants found eligible, etc., can be made available at any given moment.

NTS-GIA

NTS-India has developed an application software to store and retrieve the records of Grant-in-Aid sub-scheme of NTS in a systematic way. This application software contains the details such as name, address, mobile numbers and e-mail address, city and state, etc., of the grantees. It also keeps details such as the grant demanded by the applicant and the grant sanctioned by the Institute. The details regarding the 1st and 2nd instalment of the amount released with DD No. and Date, submission of the Academic Report and Expenditure Statement, total amount utilised, amount refunded by the grantee can be verified at the click of a mouse.

Library

Besides the books purchased by NTS-I, the library has books gifted by the faculty, the research scholars and others who are associated with NTS-I and CIIL. • **Seventy one** books (English-08, Hindi-63) were purchased during this period. • Srinivasan, a doctoral fellow and Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak (JRP, NTS-I) donated books to the library.

- To evolve a mechanism for providing periodical training and to create specialized expertise
- To develop teaching cum training modules in various branches of evaluation
- To produce supplementary materials such as documentary films, charts, tables, etc.
- To extend consultancy on various matters related to testing and evaluation.

Current Activities

Documentary Films

23rd to 28th August 2010

In connection with the production of the documentary films on various topics on evaluation, the producers visited NTS Head Quarters, for finalizing the shooting script and also to have an interview with Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS). The Institute's studio was used for this purpose on different dates as given bellow:

23rd & 24th August 2010 - Aptitude Test 25th & 26th August 2010 - Proficiency Test
24th & 25th August 2010 - Achievement Test 27th & 28th August 2010 - General Evaluation

Simultaneously, the different teams constituted (as given bellow) for the purpose of providing necessary academic guidance to the producers scrutinized the four documentaries in committee room No. 2 on the above dates.

Documentary	Team Members
Aptitude	Dr. R. Senkuttuvan (RP & Convener), Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak, Dr. Md. Rizwan, Dr. Shyama Singh and Ms. Kavitha (JRPs)
Achievement	Dr. Biresk Kumar (RP & Convener), Dr. T. Janaki, Dr. G.M.Ansari, Mr. Ancy Thomas (JRPs) and Ms. Usha Nandini (PS to Head, NTS)
Proficiency	Dr. M. Yesudass (RP & Convener), Dr. G.Suseela, Dr. Jamshed Ahmed, Mr. V.K.Dheerajj and Mr. B.L.Mahesh (JRPs)
General Evaluation	Dr. V. Ilangovan (SRP & Convener), Ms. R.Shakunthala, Mr. A.K.Gautam, Dr. Md. Saleem and Mr. K.S.Raghavan (JRPs)

The producers interviewed Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva, the Director, CIIL. He has spoken elaborately on the objectives and functions of CIIL. This will be incorporated in the documentaries.

The producers held discussions with the Head, NTS-I and also with the respective teams who were assigned this responsibility. Dr. R.Senkuttuvan (RP), Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak (JRP, Acad.), Mr. V.K.Dheerajj, and Mr. B.L.Mahesh (JRPs, Tech.) coordinated these activities under the overall guidance of Prof. Pon Subbiah. Mr. A.P.Hoysala Kumar, Mr. Shashikanth, and Mr. B.N.Vijay Kumar of the TV studio of the Institute assisted in this process. Mr. Harish (TV studio, CIIL) assisted the NTS team in the conversion of the video tapes into CDs. Dr. R.Subbakrishna (RRO, CIIL, and incharge of TV studio) granted the necessary permission to use the studio and Mr. S.Tholkappian (Cameraman, CIIL) arranged for the use of the studio and the equipments.



The production teams in action



A view of the Workshop

Workshop on Training Modules

15th & 16th September 2010

A two day workshop for scrutinizing the synopses of the training modules on testing and evaluation was held on 15th and 16th September 2010 at CIIL. Prof C.G. Venkataramana Setty (formerly of SKMK College of Education, Mysore) and Prof. G. H. Parvathamma (Formerly of UOM, Mysore) were the experts. Out of 17 synopses 6 were short listed for further processing. Dr. M.Yesudass (RP, NTS) coordinated the programme. Ms. Lepakshi (Asst. General - Grade II) assisted in scrutinizing the modules.

Later a workshop will be held for presentation of their modules in the presence of a panel of experts. This is to fine tune the modules as per the requirements of NTS-I.

Documentary Film screened for review

27th August 2010

The rough cut of the documentary on Aptitude Test by Mr. Virendra Valsangkar was screened at CIIL preview theatre for feedback from the academic and technical staff of NTS. Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS), Dr. M.Balakumar (Coordinator, NTS Programmes) were present in the preview theatre along with Mr. Virendra Valsangkar to offer their valuable suggestions to improve the documentary. The producer took note of all the suggestions and promised to carry out the necessary modifications in the documentary.

15th & 24th September 2010

As a part of dissemination of information, NTS assigned the task of producing documentary films, one each on Aptitude, Achievement, Proficiency and General Evaluation to Mr. Virendra Valsangkar (Pune), Mr. Gautham Sharma (Kolkata), Mr. Visnu Nagarajan (Chennai), and Mrs. K.S. Aarathi (Mysore) respectively.

In this connection, the pre-final version of the documentary films on General Evaluation (by Ms. K.S.Aarathi) and Proficiency (by Mr. Visnu Nagarajan) were viewed by the academic and technical staff of the NTS on 15th and 24th September 2010 respectively. They suggested some modifications on the academic aspects of the films. Both the producers had an interaction with Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS) for academic clarity. During the interaction Head, NTS clarified their doubts and suggested necessary modifications which have to be incorporated in the films.

5th October 2010

A documentary film on the concept of Achievement in education was screened on 5th October 2010 for the NTS resource persons in the preview theatre of the Institute to seek their views for further improvement and modification of the existing material. This film is being produced by NTS as a part of series of documentaries on different aspects of evaluation such as Aptitude, Proficiency and General Evaluation, etc. Mr. Gautam Sharma, a film maker from Kolkata, who has been assigned the documentary film on Achievement was also present on this occasion. This is a part of our nationwide exercise for dissemination of information among the stakeholders of this field. These documentaries will be used as a training material in the future programmes.

Documentary Film - Discussion on the Script for Aptitude Test

24th to 25th October 2010

A two day meeting was held to discuss the improvement of the script of the documentary film on Aptitude sent by Mr. Virendra Valsangkar (Producer of this film). Several suggestions for modification in this film were made by the NTS academic and technical resource persons of the group constituted for this purpose. Dr. Md. Rizwan, Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak (JRPs-Acad., NTS), Ms. R.Kavitha (JRP-Tech., NTS) and Dr. Shyama Singh (JRP, MILES) were present in this meeting. This programme was coordinated by Dr. R. Senkuttuvan (RP, NTS).

Training-cum-Workshop organized

26th to 30th October 2010

A five day Training-cum-workshop on testing and evaluation and item preparation in Tamil was held at Sreemath Sivagnana Balya Swamigal Tamil Art and Science College, Mailam, Tindivanam from 26th to 30th October. An NTS team led by Dr. M. Balakumar attended this programme organized with the financial and academic assistance provided by NTS. Altogether 60 participants drawn from different parts of this region took part in this programme and produced around 600 question items to be added to the huge database of about 16,00,000 question items meant for instant test construction programme developed by the technical team of NTS-India. The other member of the NTS team was Dr. M. Yesudass (RP, NTS).



Dr. M. Balakumar addressing the gathering at the Training-cum-workshop

Faculty Development Programmes

National Testing Service-India has been organizing series of special lectures on different aspects of testing & evaluation. A few select luminaries of academic field are invited to give their critical views and suggestions for formulating policies on testing. It has been proposed to bring out these lectures in print for the benefit of the researchers, teachers and others. The first lecture of this series organized for academic upliftment of NTS professionals was delivered by Dr. N. Nadaraja Pillai, a former senior academics of CIIL.

Lecture Series on Second Language Teaching and Testing

18th October 2010



Dr. N. Nadaraja Pillai presenting the powerpoint presentation as others look on

Dr. N. Nadaraja Pillai (Former Controller of Exams., CIIL, Mysore) delivered a lecture on “Second Language Teaching and Testing” at NTS Head Quarters, Mysore on 18th October 2010. He emphasized that the National Testing Service (NTS) should be encouraged to venture into the preparation of an exclusive mechanism for testing second language. He added that second language teaching programmes need to be restructured and rejuvenated with graded tests. Teaching of basic vocabulary, situational presentation of teaching items and genuine communication in the class room were emphasized.

He opined that every course must have more options and flexibility enabling students to have desired combinations of subjects. The learners should have uniform test patterns. Testing is the engine that drives forward the whole teaching process. Teaching a language is an art. Teachers should adapt different methods and techniques appropriate to the content and the level of the learners and it depends upon the objectives of the learners too. While teaching second languages one should use the articulatory phonetics and audio visual aids to improve the learners’ pronunciation of the words and phrases, Dr. Pillai said.

Prof. A. Balasubramanian, Director, EMMRC, University of Mysore will deliver the next lecture in this series on 11th November 2010.

Lecture on Evaluation System in Higher Education

11th November 2010

Prof. A. Balasubramanian (Director, EMMRC, University of Mysore) during his special lecture, said that the evaluation systems in universities should be streamlined with the adaptation of various tools and techniques. He suggested that the services of NTS which is striving to systematize the educational evaluation system in India can be utilized for this purpose.

He added that the discussions going on in our country right now is about the unified syllabus and examination process. Therefore, the NTS-I should reach into every nook and corner of the country and all walks of life. He also called upon the NTS faculty to work on establishing benchmarks applicable to all the levels of Indian examination system.

He regretted that the system of examination as it exists today did not assess the real worth and intelligence of the students and it is nothing but a matter of chance, with no certainty and reliability. He suggested introduction of a single national level entrance and certification test for university level courses for encouraging uniform development. This challenging task may be taken up by the central organizations like National Testing Service-India. The programme was coordinated by Dr. M. Balakumar (Head, NTS-I).



Prof. A. Balasubramanian making his presentation

Orientation Lectures for Doctoral & Post Doctoral Fellowship Awardees

23rd November to 31st December 2010

A lecture series was arranged for the orientation of NTS-I doctoral & post-doctoral fellowship awardees at CIIL. The purpose of this programme was to make the scholars aware of the basic concepts of testing and evaluation, so that they can incorporate these elements in their research work and thereafter in their profession. The faculty members of NTS delivered the lectures on the different aspects of testing & evaluation. During this period, Dr. V. Ilangoan, Dr. Biresh Kumar, Dr. R. Senkuttuvan, Dr. M. Yesudass, Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak, Dr. Md. Rizwan, Dr. G.M. Ansari, Dr. Jamshed Ahmad, Dr. Saleem Ahmed, Mr. Arvind Kumar Gautam, Ms. R. Shakunthala, Ms. Usha Nandini, Mr. V.K. Dheerajj, Ms. R. Kavitha, Mr. Ancy Thomas and Mr. K.S. Raghavan delivered lectures. The different topics discussed were: Testing & Evaluation- A Mission of National Importance; MILES; Basic Concepts of Evaluation; Vicious Circle of Evaluation; Purposes of Evaluation; Contents of Evaluation; Different kinds of Evaluation; Item File Card; Tools of Evaluation; Scoring Procedures; Concept of Language; GFR; Achievement Test; How to Prepare Objective type Questions; Multiple Choice Question; Communication Skills; Writing Skills; Aesthetics; Generics; Reading and Understanding; Knowledge; Note Taking and other technical aspects etc.

RFUs

Regional Field Units

- 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

Visit to the applicant institutions for RFUs

31st August to 6th September 2010

For the inspection of the applicant institutions that aspire for opening RFUs of NTS-I, inspection teams were constituted and sent to ascertain the availability of infrastructural and other facilities. The two member team consisting of Dr. Jograj (Principal, UTRC, Solan) and Dr. Saleem Ahmed (JRP Academic, NTS) visited Dinanath School, Pisor on 31-8-2010. Mr. Vivek Tripathi, the Principal of the school, welcomed the NTS team and provided

all the required information. The details were collected and consolidated by the team.

The same team visited the following applicant institutions from 31st August to 5th September 2010 in connection with the establishment of Regional Field Units of NTS-India of Hindi Regions.

1. NGF College of Engineering and Technology, Palwal, Faridabad, Haryana
2. Adarshila College of Education, Meerut, U.P.
3. MCAT College, Meerut, U.P.
4. Shri Ram Sahai School, Meerut, U.P.
5. Sarvajanic Arya Inter College, Bijnor, U.P.



During the inspection, the NTS-I team briefed about the objectives of NTS and the activities that are expected to be carried out by the RFUs. All the necessary information was collected from the applicant institutions and the reports were submitted to the Head, NTS for further action.



The team inspecting the applicant institutions for establishing RFUs

The heads of the institutions and the representatives of the management provided the necessary information and they ensured fullest cooperation. Based on the reports, the personnel from the institutions found suitable for establishing RFUs will be invited to NTS Hqrs., Mysore for further interaction and finalisation of MOU.

← Inspection of applicant Institutions for RFUs

8th – 15th November 2010

A two member team led by Dr. M.K.Koul (Principal, UTRC, Lucknow) and Dr. Md.Saleem Ahmed (JRP-Urdu, NTS) inspected the various colleges / institutions in order to find out the feasibility for establishing RFU of NTS, in Hindi and Urdu regions. The NTS team explained the aims and objectives of opening of RFUs. They also briefed the role of RFUs in the region identified as a nodal agency established by NTS. The following institutions were visited by the team:

- Eram Convent College, Begumganj, Barabanki, U.P. • Eram Convent College, Khursi Road, Lucknow, U.P.
- Unity Degree College, Hardoi Road, Lucknow, U.P. • Shibli National P.G. College, Azamgarh, U.P.
- Children Sr. Secondary School, Azamgarh, U.P.

21st November to 1st December 2010

A two member team led by Dr. M.K.Koul (Principal, UTRC, Lucknow) inspected the three colleges / institutions listed bellow in order to find out the feasibility for establishing RFU of NTS. The team briefed the aims and objectives of opening the RFUs. They also explained the functions to be carried out by the RFUs. Dr Md. Rizwan (JRP-Urdu, NTS) was the other member of the inspection team.

- Nehru Academy Junior High School, Shasdhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

- Hamidia Girls College, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
- New Model High School, Mall Road, Morar, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Intermediary visit to RFU at Delhi University, Delhi

22nd September 2010

An intermediary visit was undertaken for extending orientation and guidance to the Local Coordinator and other academic staff associated with this RFU-3, on 22nd September 2010 by Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS. Dr. G. Sandhya Nayak, Dr. G.M. Ansari (JRPs-Acad.) and Mr. V.K.Dheerajj (JRP-Tech) accompanied him. The team interacted with Prof. Irteza Karim (LC, RFU) and other members of the staff. The Head, NTS-I pointed out the necessity of organising training programmes for the teachers and taking active part in all the activities of NTS. The Local Coordinator assured full support and cooperation in all the activities of NTS. This visit also enabled the NTS team to assess the infrastructure facilities available at the RFU to hold workshops, training programmes, seminars, etc.



From L-R:- Mr. V.K.Dheerajj, Prof. Pon Subbiah, Prof. Irteza Karim, Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak, and Dr. G.M.Ansari

Orientation Programme at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh

23rd September 2010



Head, NTS addressing the Faculty and scholars of AMU

Prior to this Prof. Pon Subbiah inaugurated a separate building allotted for the RFU of NTS. Prof. A.R Fatihi (Local Coordinator) welcomed the gathering and Prof. V.P.Mohd. Kunju gave the presidential remarks. The Head, NTS was accompanied by Dr. G.M.Ansari, and Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak, (JRPs-Academic) and Mr. V.K.Dheerajj (JRP-Tech). This RFU has the jurisdiction of the whole state of U.P. for higher education.

NTS Regional Filed Unit (No. U-4B) of the Urdu speaking areas meant for higher education has been established in the premises of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. It was formally visited and orientation was given by Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head NTS). In his presentation, he explained the objectives of the NTS and the activities that are expected to be carried out by the RFUs. Subsequently, there was an interactive session wherein the queries raised by the scholars were clarified. Prof. A.R.Fatihi, Prof. V.P.Md.Kunju, Prof. K.S.Mustafa and Prof. S.Imtiaz Hasnain were present on this occasion. The function was attended by a large number of scholars and students of the University.

Orientation-cum-Training programme on item writing w.r.t. Hindi at Govt. Mahakoshal Arts and Commerce College, Jabalpur M.P.

10th to 12th November 2010

The NTS team headed by Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP, NTS) visited Regional Field Unit (No.H-9B) of the Hindi speaking areas meant for higher education, established on the campus of Govt. Mahakoshal Arts and Commerce College, Jabalpur, MP. Dr. Biresk Kumar (RP, Acad.), Mr. Arvind Kumar Gautam (JRP, Acad.), and Mr. Ancy Thomas (JRP-Tech.) were the other members on the team.



NTS team on the dais with the Principal of the College

Dr. Deepak Srivastava, a faculty member of the college welcomed the gathering and provided a brief sketch of the programme. It was inaugurated by Shri. Ishwar Das Rohani (Speaker, Legislative Assembly, MP) Dr. V. Ilangoan explained the role of participants and the purpose of programme. Dr. Biresh Kumar explained in detail the objectives of NTS-I. He also explained the principles to be followed while writing question items and preparing the scoring key. Mr. Arvind Kumar Gautam briefed the various aspects of different types of question items with appropriate examples. Along with the teaching staff of the college, Prof. Pankaj Shukla, Principal, Govt. Mahakoshal Arts and Commerce College was also present. Dr. Ram Rajesh Mishra (Vice-Chancellor, Rani Durgavati Vishva Vidyalaya, Jabalpur) presided over the programme and he distributed the certificates to the participants. Dr. Arun Shukla (Local Coordinator) proposed vote of thanks. About 32 teachers of different disciplines such as Language, Literature, Science, and Social Science participated and about 300 questions were prepared during the programme. This RFU has the Jurisdiction of the whole state of Madhya Pradesh for higher education.

Orientation-cum-Training Programme at Citizen Welfare Education Society, Malegaon, Maharashtra

24th to 26th November 2010



NTS team members on the dais with Dr. Ayyubbi in the middle

(Chairman of the Society) inaugurated the programme. Dr. Biresh Kumar explained the philosophical, theoretical, and practical aspects of testing and evaluation. Dr. G.M. Ansari explained the purpose of the programme, and Dr. Jamshed Ahmed explained about the question items and the principles to be followed while writing question items. Documentary films on CIIL, Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency were screened in order to give them a general idea about CIIL and the different concepts floated by NTS. About 36 teachers of different academic backgrounds such as Language, Literature, Science and Social Science participated. Around 350 questions were prepared during the programme. On the third day during the valediction Dr. Asif Saleem proposed vote of thanks. This RFU has the jurisdiction of the whole state of Maharashtra for school education.

The NTS team led by Dr. Biresh Kumar visited NTS Regional Field Unit (No.8A) of the Urdu speaking regions meant for School Education established on the campus of Citizen Welfare Education Society, Malegaon, Maharashtra to conduct a 3 day orientation-cum-training programme on item writing in Urdu. Dr. G.M. Ansari, Dr. Jamshed Ahmad (JRP-Urdu), and Mr. K.S. Raghavan (JRP, Tech.) were the other members on the team.

Mr. Javed Ayyubi (Local Coordinator of the RFU) welcomed the gathering and briefed on the activities of the programme. Dr. Manzoor Hasan Ayyubi (Chairman of the Society) inaugurated the programme. Dr. Biresh Kumar explained the philosophical, theoretical, and practical aspects of testing and evaluation. Dr. G.M. Ansari explained the purpose of the programme, and Dr. Jamshed Ahmed explained about the question items and the principles to be followed while writing question items. Documentary films on CIIL, Aptitude, Achievement, and Proficiency were screened in order to give them a general idea about CIIL and the different concepts floated by NTS. About 36 teachers of different academic backgrounds such as Language, Literature, Science and Social Science participated. Around 350 questions were prepared during the programme. On the third day during the valediction Dr. Asif Saleem proposed vote of thanks. This RFU has the jurisdiction of the whole state of Maharashtra for school education.

GIA

Grant-in-Aid

- To create awareness among the members of the teaching community on this essential component of education : testing and evaluation
- To encourage the individuals and institutions (involved in this specialized work) by extending financial assistance
- To facilitate developing materials, methodologies, and trained manpower to meet various evaluation requirements.

Scrutiny of Applications for availing NTS-GIA

26th & 27th August 2010

NTS has been giving grants for individuals / institutions to organise programmes (workshops, seminars, conference, etc.,) on testing and evaluation. In response to the advertisements (published in the various newspapers) inviting proposals for the NTS-GIA for the year 2010-11, a total of 151 proposals were received (including 17 from North-East Region).

In this connection, a two day meeting was held on 26th and 27th August 2010 to scrutinise the proposals. The following experts were involved in the process.

1. Prof. K.S.Rajyashree (Deputy Director, CIIL)
2. Dr. I.S.Borkar (Asst. Director (Admn.), CIIL)
3. Prof. P.T.Abraham (formerly of RG University, Arunachal Pradesh)
4. Prof. Panneerselvam (formerly of Karnatak University, Dharwad)
5. Mr. B.D.Jayaram (formerly of CIIL, Mysore).

Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS) briefed the objectives of the GIA and the criteria for shortlisting the proposals. The Programme was coordinated by Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP) and Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak (JRP) under the guidance of Dr. M.Balakumar (Coordinator, NTS Programmes). Dr. Jamshed Ahmad (JRP) and Mr. P.Harsha (PRO) assisted the committee.



A view of workshop

Release of Grants Under GIA:

An amount of ` 21,85,829/- was released to the grantees who had completed the programme during 2009-10 under NTS-GIA.

Institution	2009-10					Total Amount Released (`)
	No. of Programmes					
	Hindi	Tamil	Urdu	* NER	Total	
RFUs	05	08	03	-	16	10,25,929/-
Non-RFUs	The grant released to the institutions under Hindi, Tamil and Urdu was 10			05	15	11,59,900/-
	Gross Total				31	21,85,829/-

*NER-North East Region

D&PDF

Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships

- To promote advanced studies in the multidisciplinary area of testing and evaluation
- To extend financial support and to create a band of specialized manpower in every discipline, and in every region of the country to meet the shortage of trained manpower
- To evolve a system of eclectic intelligentsia by pooling together the potentials available across the disciplines.

Meeting for short-listing the applications for NTS fellowships

3rd & 4th September 2010

To encourage young scholars to take up research in the interdisciplinary area of testing and evaluation, NTS-I has instituted 30 doctoral and 15 post doctoral fellowships (10,000 & 12,000 respectively per month). Each year NTS invites applications from the scholars pursuing research in recognized universities and research institutes located in Hindi, Tamil and Urdu language regions and also in North East Region. A certain amount has been earmarked exclusively for North East region. In response to the advertisement calling for applications for award of fellowships for the year 2010-11, three hundred and twelve applications were received.



A view of the meeting

A two day meeting was held for short listing the applications. Prof. Thippeswamy, Prof. V.D Hegde (formerly of UOM, Mysore), for Hindi, Prof.P.Veerappan (RIE, Mysore), Prof. R.Panneer Selvam(formerly of Karnataka University,Dharwad), Prof. M.Suseela (formerly of Tamil Universtiy, Thanjavur) and Dr. N.Nadaraja

Pillai (formerly of CIIL, Mysore) for Tamil, Prof. Masood Siraj (Dean, UOM, Mysore) and Dr. Mahjabeen Najam (HOD, Department of Urdu, Yuvaraja College, Mysore) for Urdu, Prof. P.T. Abraham (formerly of Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh) for NER participated as experts. Dr. I.S.Borkar (AD(A), CIIL, Mysore) interacted with all the three groups and provided the necessary inputs and suggestions.

Out of 312 applicants, 31 (26 for doctoral and 5 for post doctoral) in Hindi region, 40 (33 for doctoral and 7 for post doctoral) in Tamil region and 23 (19 for doctoral and 4 for post doctoral) in Urdu region and 1 for Doctoral from NE region were shortlisted and they will be called for a workshop cum interview. The meeting was coordinated by Dr. M.Balakumar (Coordinator, NTS Programmes) under the overall guidance of Prof. Pon Subbiah. Mr. Arvind Kumar Gautam (for Hindi), Dr. T.Janaki and Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak (for Tamil), and Dr. Md. Rizwan (for Urdu) JRPs of NTS assisted Dr. M.Balakumar.

Release of NTS fellowships to the Awardees (from September -December 2010):

Month	2007-08				2008-09				2009-10				Total
	Doctoral		Post Doctoral		Doctoral		Post Doctoral		Doctoral		Post Doctoral		
	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	
Sept 10	04	40,000	01	12,000	09	90,000	01	12,000	15	1,50,000	04	60,000	3,64,000
Oct 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Nov 10	02	50,000	-	-	11	1,60,000	01	12,000	15	1,60,000	03	48,000	4,30,000
Dec 10	02	20,000	-	-	10	1,00,000	01	12,000	14	1,50,000	02	36,000	3,18,000

Contingency grant (for Fellowship Awardees):

Month	Contingent grant (Amount released)		
	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10
Sept 10	-	-	-
Oct 10	12,469/-	36,070/-	-
Nov 10	-	-	-
Dec 10	6,060/-	-	-

News Capsule

← 04-08-2010

Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS) met Ms. Vibha Puri Das (Secretary, Higher Edn, MHRD) at the latter's office, (Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi) and briefed about the academic activities undertaken by the NTS-I.

What does it mean ?

Mastery Test as a general term indicates whether or not the examinee has achieved enough to satisfy the minimum requirements of the teacher or the board. It is not intended to indicate how much he has achieved in relation to his peers. These tests usually consist of items with low difficulty level and provide longer time to the examinees for completing their response. The general expectation is that the performance of all the examinees is perfect on mastery tests. The CIIL has classified all the available tests into two categories viz., Mastery Tests, and Personality Tests.

According to this perception, the scope of the term 'mastery' is limited and refers to only the knowing, comprehending and recalling of a subject matter in terms of their rules, etc., implying that the one who has mastered a subject as above has acquired 'competence' which is different from 'performance' according to Chomsky. Hence, a mastery test is intended to measure only 'competence' and the measurement of 'performance' goes with a 'personality test'.

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

➤ **05-08-2010:** The Head, NTS-I met Dr. Anitha Bhatnagar Jain (Joint Secretary (Languages)) and submitted a copy of the Interim (preliminary) Report of the NLLT (Pilot study) conducted during April & May 2010. He also handed over his comments and observations on a ten page note (on the merger of entrance tests) received from MHRD. The Joint Secretary went through the introductory part of the report and got certain doubts clarified by the Head. Dr. V. Ilangoan accompanied Prof. Pon Subbiah.

➤ **19-08-2010:** On invitation from the NCTE, New Delhi, the Head, NTS attended a meeting held on the subject of Teachers Eligibility Test to be implemented nation wide w.e.f. 2011 and offered his observations and suggestions.

➤ **Send off party to Prof. Pon Subbiah**

09-10-2010: A send off party for the outgoing Head of NTS Prof. Pon Subbiah was organized on 9-10-2010 in Grand Maurya Hotel of the Mysore by the staff members of NTS and MILES projects of Centre for Testing and Evaluation of the CIIL.

About 100 personnel engaged in the projects of the CIIL including the young scholars and researchers assembled with their family members on this occasion. After a grand lunch, cultural programmes like recitation of the self composed poems, singing and events such as musical chair were arranged. Before that staff members of CT&E, MILES and NTS as well as of CIIL complimented Prof. Pon Subbiah on his dedication to the work in the field of Testing and Evaluation for more than two decades. Dr. M. Balakumar, Coordinator, NTS Programmes and Dr. I.S. Borkar, Assistant Director (Administration), CIIL were also present on this occasion.



A View of the NCTE meeting



Dr. I.S. Borkar, AD(A) with Prof. Pon Subbiah



➤ **Dr. M. Balakumar, RRO, CIIL who was coordinating NTS Programmes succeeded Prof. Pon Subbiah as Head, NTS-I**

➤ **Presentation of NTS Progress Report**

24-11-2010: A review meeting of the CIIL projects and schemes was held at MHRD, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi. Dr. M. Balakumar, Head, NTS presented the different activities undertaken by NTS-India in detail. After the briefing, he clarified the queries raised by the Joint Secretary (Languages) and other members. Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva, Director i/c CIIL, Prof. Aditi Mukherji (Head, NTM), Dr. L. Ramamoorthy (Head, LDC-IL), were also present during the discussion.

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