



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

learning for development

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# Open Schooling





# COL's EDUCATION SECTOR

Quality Assurance

Teacher Development

**Open/Alternative Schooling**

Higher Education

eLearning for Education  
Sector Development



# Open Schooling – Why?





# Open Schooling – Why?

To address the consequence of  
achieving  
**Universal Primary Education,**  
which will be to send a tidal wave  
of children towards secondary  
school...



# Open Schooling – Why?

...that countries already struggling to achieve UPE will not have the resources to accommodate using conventional approaches.



# Open Schooling: Who?

- Drop outs from the Conventional System
- Push outs from the Conventional System
- Girls
- People in rural areas
- Youngsters beyond school age
- Disadvantaged youth





# Open Schooling: **How?**

- Open/distance learning  
with local personal support
- Emphasising the OPEN in ODL
- State/NGO partnerships
- Operate at scale
- Curricula & exams of state system
- Ease of transfer





# Open Schooling: **Impact?**

- Address issues of equity and social justice
- Establish centrality of TVET in the conventional curriculum
- Foster innovation  
(e.g. on-demand exams.)



# Open Schooling: COL's work

## Involvement:

- *COL is involved in Open Schooling, partnering with Governments and Local institutions in:*

India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Trinidad & Tobago, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Botswana, Zambia, and Tanzania

*(All at the Junior and Senior Secondary level)*



# Open Schooling: What COL does

## Capacity building

- Staff Development: *COL has trained staff on materials development, instructional design, radio broadcasting, learner support, eLearning*
- Professional Development: *Funding for open school staff to gain ODL qualifications: PGDDE, MADE at IGNOU and CDEP at UNISA*



# Open Schooling: What COL does

## Advocacy

- *Workshops for Educators from all Commonwealth regions*
- *Sponsoring ministerial visits*
- *Supporting conferences (e.g. on TVET and open schooling)*



# Open Schooling: What COL does

## Policy

- *Developing policy and proposals for open schools in:*
  - *Trinidad & Tobago,*
  - *Nigeria,*
  - *Pakistan*



# Open Schooling: What COL does

## Materials Development

- *Good quality print materials developed for countries in SADC*
- *Material for carers of orphans and vulnerable children*



# Open Schooling: What COL does

## Development of Resources

- *COL instructional design template*
- *Quality assurance guidelines*
- *Handbook for decision makers: Planning and Implementing Open and Distance Learning Systems.*



# Open Schooling: Numbers

Figures for:

- India (national and states)
- Bangladesh
- Namibia





# Enrolments: India NIOS

Year	Academic	Vocation	TOTAL
2005	267,026	21,294	288,720
2004	238,069	20,985	259,054
2003	321,010	24,194	345,204
2002	278,234	22,501	300,735
2001	214,582	17,849	232,431
TOTAL	1,318,921	107,223	1,426,144



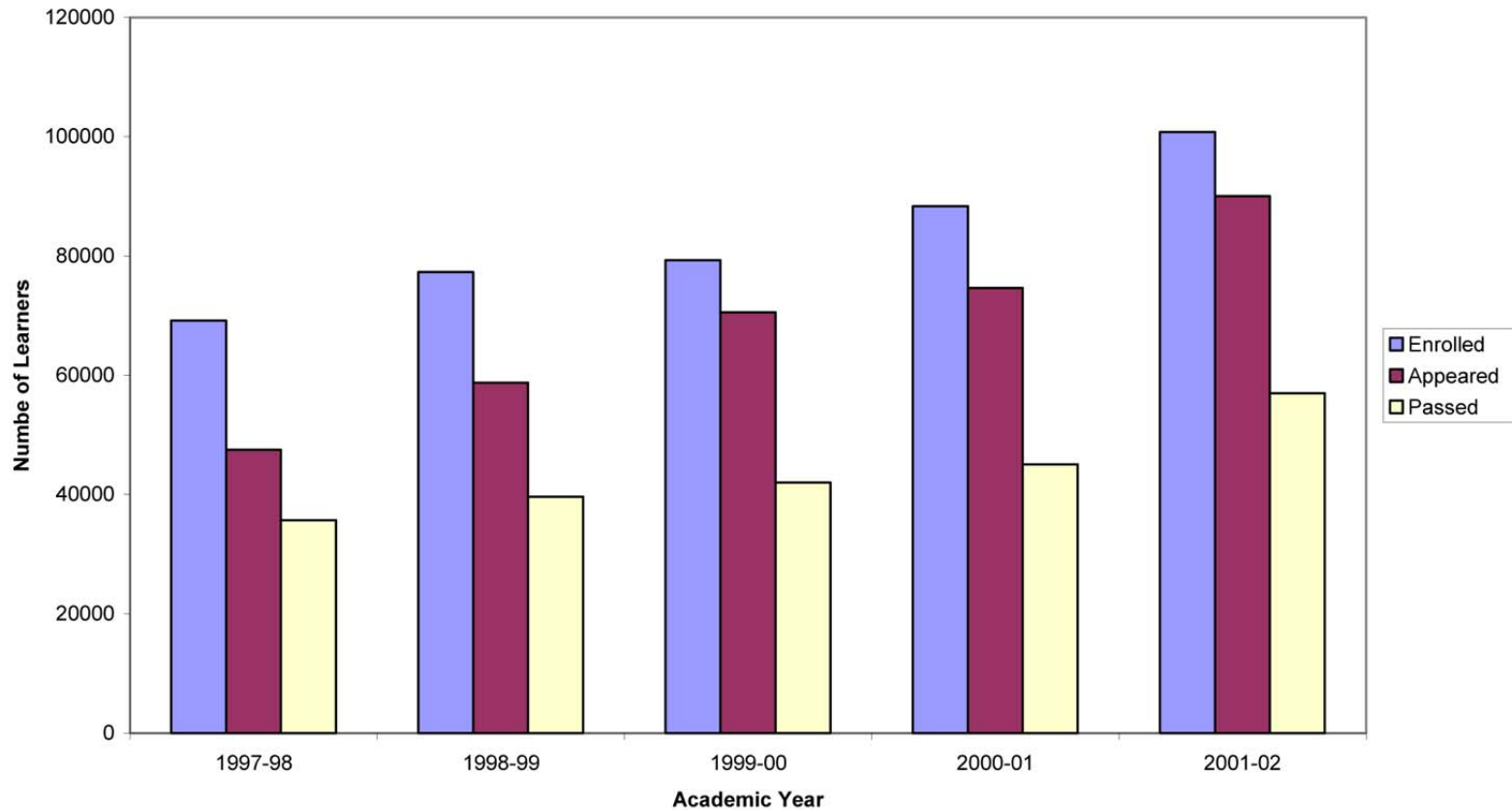
# Enrolments: State Open Schools

State	Basic	Secondary	Snr. Second	Total
Andhra Pradesh	98,222	8,073		106,925
Haryana		13,916	12,388	26,304
Karnataka		1,705		1,705
Kerala			4,605	4,605
Madhya Pradesh		15,672	46,145	61,817
Punjab		17,195		17,195
Rajashthan		38,298		38,298
W. Bengal		15,328	1,242	16,570



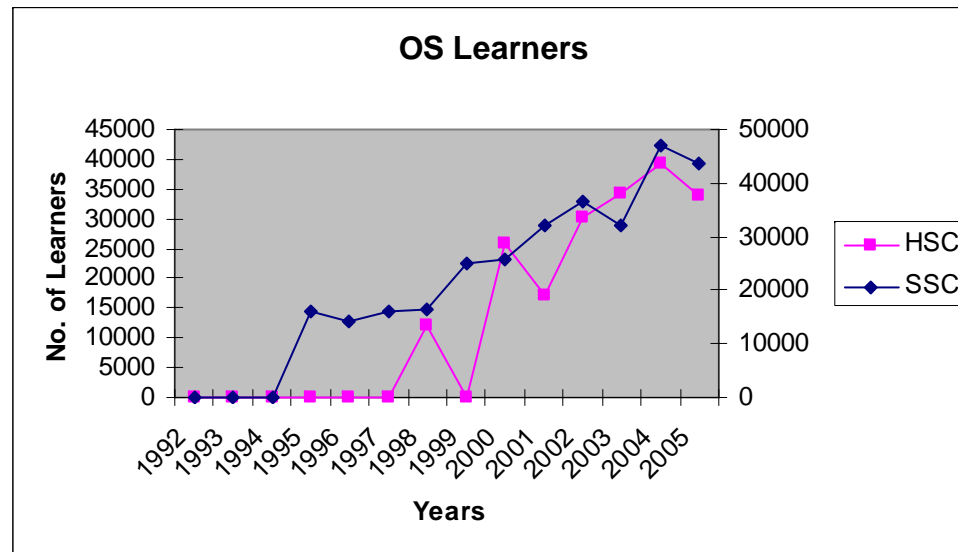
# Andhra Pradesh State Open School

Results By Year





# Bangladesh Open University Open School





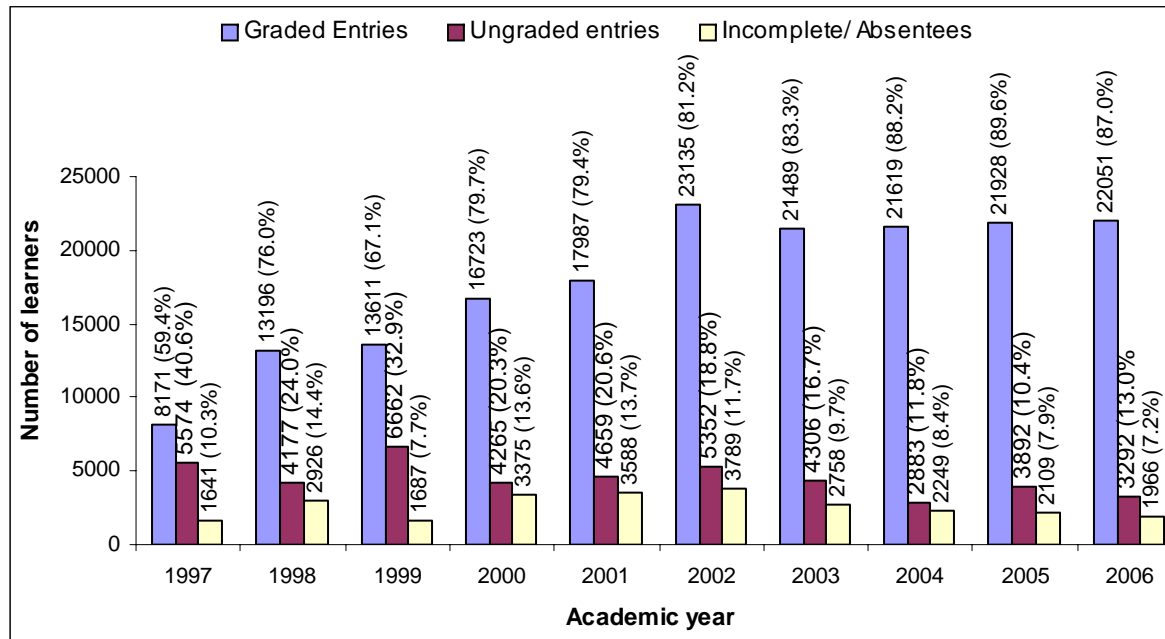
# Open Schooling: Results

**Results for:**

**- Namibia (NAMCOL)**



# NAMCOL Results





# Lessons Learned

- Economies of scale in schooling are possible
- Political will and policy are vital
- Low-end technologies (radio, TV) can reach the unreached
- Open schooling has its own dynamic and requirements, therefore...



# Lessons Learned

- Adequate resources required
- Adequate staff required
- Staff development is vital
- Partnerships are critical
- Research is needed





## Open Schooling: Research needed

The World Bank and other development agencies need more and better data on *open schooling* before it can be a major element in their response to the looming challenge of secondary education



## Open Schooling: COL's Research

COL is undertaking a 6-month research project focused on:

- *National Institute of Open Schooling (India)*
- *Namibian College of Open Learning (NAMCOL)*



# Open Schooling: COL's Research

## *Objectives:*

- *Cost-effectiveness and cost benefit compared to conventional approaches*
- *Student profile open vs. conventional*
- *Learner success re employment, etc.*
- *Linkage of courses to HE and job market*
- *Quality assurance processes*
- *Planning and management*



thank-you



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