

## NATIONAL TESTING SERVICE & ITEM BANK

### Innovations in Evaluation and Testing Services

#### Introduction

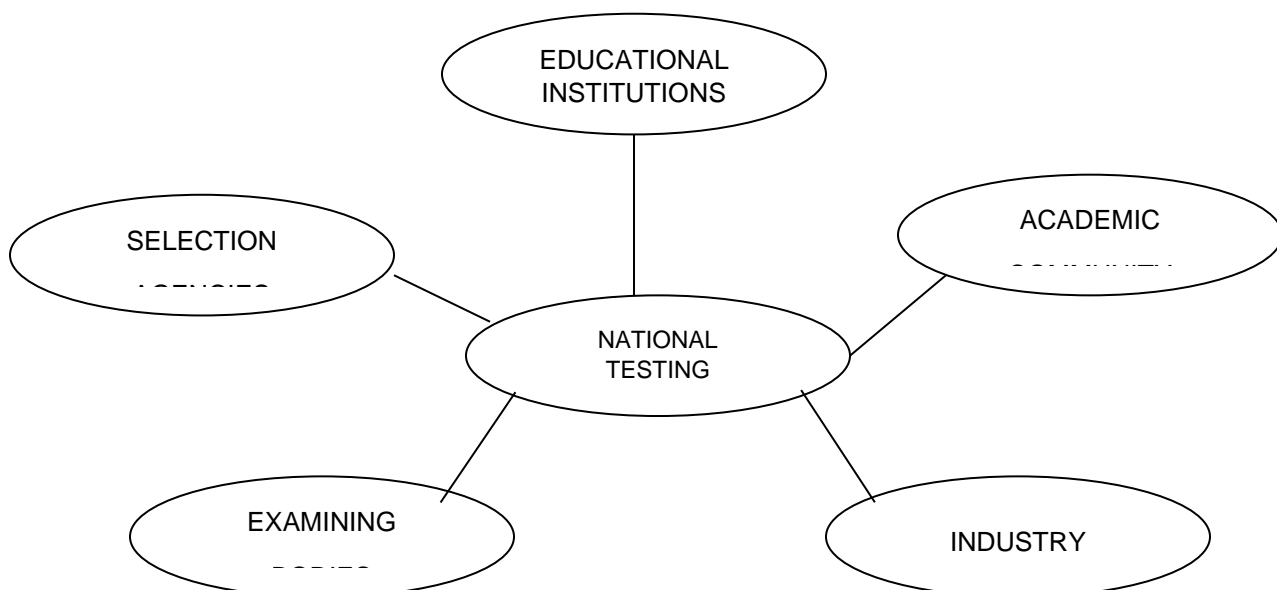
The educationalists, administrators, teachers as well as the student community had expressed concern for improvement in the examination system. Along with the introduction of the New Curriculum in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, NITTTR Bhopal initiated efforts in the improvement of examinations in the two States. Establishment of National Testing Service was one of the project activities of the UNDP aided project for technician education. It was a collaborative venture of the Government of India, the United Nations Development programmes and United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The National Testing Service provided a forum for initiating organized efforts, and gave an opportunity to the teachers and professionals in the fields of assessment and evaluation to contribute to the betterment of testing procedures.

The four NITTTR located at Bhopal, Kolkotta, Chandigarh and Chennai were working in close cooperation for the growth of National Testing Service in pooling expertise of teachers, test designers and psychologists at the national level to initiate a testing movements in the country, conforming to the sound principles of educational measurement. The Headquarters of National Testing Service was located at NITTTR, Bhopal.

#### Services

The Figure VI.P.1 below gives the interrelationship between National Testing Service and various kinds of organizations. Although National Testing Service worked primarily for technician education system, it also provided supportive role to other organization involved in selection, testing and research.



## **Fig. VI P 1 National Testing Service Stake holders**

The National Testing Service provided different types of services to different users:

### **Academic Community**

- Encouraged and developed professionalism by participation in development of item bank and by organizing short courses, workshops, seminars etc.
- Provided assistance in research in the area of evaluation, designing of tests and analysis of results.

### **Educational Institutions**

- Improved existing procedures in the institution.
- Developed special aptitude and general ability tests for selection of students and for allocating the branches.
- Designed formative tests to improve teaching learning.
- Analysed and interpreted test results.

### **Examining bodies**

- Designed achievements and selection tests for different purposes.
- Conducted studies on standards, comparability and any other areas of concern.
- Computerization of data for expediency and efficiency.

### **Industrial Organization and Selection Agencies**

- Provided know how for test construction for use in diverse situations.
- Designed personnel selection tests to match the attributes of persons with the requirements of the jobs.
- Analysed and interpreted test results.

### **Project Outcomes**

- An item bank was established at NITTTR Bhopal that had about 25,500 validated items with known statistical parameters. A scientific procedure was used to develop the item bank and maintain quality of items.
- Selection tests for admission to polytechnics was designed and analysed for a State.
- Examination papers for Diploma Courses in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering was designed by National Testing Service.
- Computerization of results, marking, ranking, placement etc. was done with computer facilities.
- Consultancy was provided to a number of industrial organizations for designing tests and training of officers of such organizations.
- Consultancy was provided to State Selection Commissions in test preparation, test and item analysis, and conducting studies and researches in examinations.

- A large number of polytechnic teachers developed skills in improving examination papers and in understanding the salient principles of educational measurement.
- Examination procedures in the States in the Western Region got radically improved.
- A number of monographs and papers related to different areas of educational measurement were published.
- Assistance was provided for improving internal assessment procedure to a number of polytechnics.

Some information about the of the item bank is as follows:

• No. of subjects	50
• No. of banked items	25500
No. of contributors	410