

## EvSum123

# ALAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (AIOU), PAKISTAN

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## The Project

The AIOU was established in 1974 to provide distance learning (via the media and course materials) for teachers and the rural poor, and to reduce shortages of trained manpower. For 1976-78, ODA agreed to provide a three-man management team to provide administrative and planning support for the Vice-Chancellor at the AIOU, short-term consultants to investigate more specific administrative problems, and training for staff at the UK Open University. The AIOU's request for aid for 1978-81, estimated at some £1m, involved long and short term TCOs, equipment and training attachments in the UK.

## The Evaluation

The evaluation was carried out by a five-person mission, Mr J Carstairs, Mr P Collister and Ms L Mountford of ODA, Mr A Hall from TETOC and Mr J Kehler from the British Council's Media Department. Their objective was to review progress under the first phase of ODA's aid and to make recommendations for further inputs to AIOU under the second phase.

## The Main Findings

- AIOU appears to have achieved a fair level of administrative competence, but there was a need for greater liaison with government departments and the broadcasting organisations.
- There was a lack of effective monitoring and follow-up of the effectiveness of courses.
- Although much remains to be done, the AIOU is a potentially effective instrument for providing functional education in rural areas. However, there was a tendency for staff to design functional education courses without adequate reference to the needs of local people and government.
- The quality of teaching materials should be improved.
- The training attachments with UKOU had been useful, although the inevitable differences between UKOU and AIOU led to difficulties. Training should also take place at other UK institutions.
- The British TCOs made a significant contribution to developing the AIOU.
- The Primary Teachers' Orientation Course, designed to up-date and improve teaching skills was the major focus of attention and main achievement of the

AIOU but the team drew attention to the lack of proper monitoring and the almost complete lack of any professional follow-up in the classroom to ascertain how effective the course has been on teachers' performance.

The team also made concrete suggestions to improve the training made available in the UK to AIOU staff. Some of the UK Open University experience is directly relevant and to study their techniques and procedures is very valuable. However, in science teaching UK institutions get most of their equipment from reliable local suppliers; the AIOU needs to test and develop local equipment and hence the standard training available in the UK may be largely irrelevant in this area while being very relevant to other topics.