



National Council of Rural Institutes

Department of Higher Education

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India



Connect

December 2017

Vol.-3

Issue-12



“Let’s ensure that universities become the major gateway of prosperous India”

Prof. P B Sharma

President

Association of Indian Universities (AIU)



NCRI Orientation Program on SFDRR and Rural Resilience



“One third of the Telangana population is in Hyderabad, and the entire youth from my village is in Hyderabad and only the old people are living in the village, probably it is the case with large majority of villages in Telangana” said Prof S Ramachandram, Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University, Chief Guest of the Inaugural Program ‘Key Resource Persons Orientation on Curriculum Development on Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and Rural Resilience in Higher Education in Telangana’.

The Inaugural program of the three day workshop was held on 22nd November, 2017 at the ICSSR Mini Conference Hall, Osmania University campus, Hyderabad. While inaugurating the program, Prof Ramachandram said that the migrations from villages are going on for want of livelihood and inadequate facilities in the villages and they will increase in the coming days, if no proper measures are taken. Though certain audit courses like, disaster management and environment sciences are already introduced in the curricula, in the academic programs in the disciplines like engineering but they are not offered with seriousness

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Dr W G Prasanna Kumar
Chairman NCRI



Prof Mrunalini, Advanced Centre for Education, Osmania University

and hence became ineffective. Dr W G Prasanna Kumar, Chairman, NCRI in his address spoke about the theme of the Orientation program / workshop and its need for interventions in the curriculum of Higher Education institutions. He said that the objective of the NCRI is to take the rural subject to all the higher education institutions.

In the present orientation program the disaster impacts on ecology, natural environment and economy will be discussed and also SFDRR and its incorporation into the curriculum with better and relevant contents. Prof V P Sharma, MANAGE, Guest of Honour of the program said that our educational programs are either creating clerical positions or unemployment in large scale. The agenda should be to double the income of farmers but not just to increase the production. And he also said that the villages and districts of India should be made distress free, and the curricular intervention is a means to achieve it. Dr R Manoj Kumar, Member Secretary, NCRI welcomed the guests and participants whereas, Prof S Sudarshan Rao, Senior Consultant, NCRI proposed a formal Vote of thanks.



During the three days program, Dr V P Sharma, MANAGE, Dr G V Ramanjaneyulu, CSA, Prof Kiran Prasad, Sri Padmavathi Mahila University, Tirupati, Col Viswas Supanekar, YASHADA, Pune, Prof Mrunalini, Advanced Centre for Education, Osmania University, Dr Ravichandra Raju have acted as resource persons.

The faculty members from various state universities have participated in the workshop. The workshop participants and the resource persons together have improvised the existing NCRI

curriculum on five subjects, viz., Rural Engagement in Teacher Education; Rural Entrepreneurship Development;

Rural Communication; Rural Social Work; and Rural Engagement and Public Administration.



NCRI signs MoU with RGNIYD to take Higher Education towards Rural Community Engagement



To promote universities focus on the challenges concerning rural areas through academic courses and research, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) and the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) on 1st November 2017.

“The NCRI collaboration with RGNIYD will encourage participation of 32

“The NCRI collaboration with RGNIYD will encourage participation of 32 lakh university students belonging to National Service Scheme”

Dr Madan Mohan Goel, Director
Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of
Youth Development

lakh university students belonging to National Service Scheme (NSS) along with the 200 lakh non-students of Nehru Yuvak Kendra in academic activities like teaching, learning, and research on aspects of rural concern,” said Madan Mohan Goel, Director, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development. “With this pact, all the NSS coordinators, NSS programme officers and volunteer team leaders from various colleges and universities will get the academic support for a structured NSS rural camping-based learning which will be credited by the respective universities,” said Dr W G Prasanna Kumar, Chairman of NCRI.

The process would also include curriculum development standardization and curriculum accreditation through workshops, course material development, teaching, research, action research, advocacy and hand-holding of academic activities on issues relating to rural concerns by both the institutes, he explained.

Timely take off for rural

NCRI hailed for its unique and unflinching endeavours serving conferences held in

concerns at VCs' meet

the rural resilience, gets bigger and better audience at the annual Manipur and Gandhinagar

AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet 17-18 November, Imphal



We all are serious about the present and the future of the country - Dr. Sarvepalli Radha Krishnan, who was also one of the Presidents of the Association of Indian Universities.

Seriousness towards better future of the country and state will lead to a higher commendable position, bringing a positive change and overall development, as it was felt at the Two Day East Vice-Chancellors' Meet held in Imphal. There was a need felt to realise the people's expectations and concerns about the nation and states, especially in the field of education. The Two Day East Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet focused on hopes and aspirations and the main focus would be on employability as well as to bring out innovators or achievers who will guide and mentor the country.

The young minds must be guided in making the right decision for future consequences, as many students are found idle after passing out without proper skills" said Shri Radheshyam Minister Education Minister. He said

that serious focus on better future of the country and state will lead to a higher commendable position, bringing a positive change and overall development. The Minister stressed on the need to realise the people's expectations and concerns about the nation and states, especially in the field of education. Deliberation on the hopes and aspirations of people will increase the employability and bring out innovators or achievers who will

"The overall purpose of the University is to produce people of competency, character, peace and harmony so that they are seen as respectable, responsible person in the field of Higher education,"

guide and mentor the country. The Minister said young minds must be guided in making the right decision for future consequences, as many students are found idle after passing out without proper skills. He also said there is need to identify universities in need of infrastructures to support and improve the quality. He also said there is need to identify universities in need of infrastructures to support and improve the quality.

In his Presidential speech, Prof P B Sharma asserted that now onwards it's our responsibility to ensure Manipur and North Eastern states together March on the path of progress, prosperity and development ensuring that you becoming the major Gateway of prosperous India. The overall purpose of the University is to produce people of competency, character, peace and harmony so that they are seen as respectable, responsible person in the field of Higher education. In his opinion he pointed out that employment growth which is 25% on average should rise to 90% however it should go beyond 125% in the Field of Higher Education in the Universities.

With theme 'Future Universities: Challenges and Opportunists for Relevance and Excellence', 2-day East Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet was inaugurated at Manipur University on Friday.

Out of 800 universities, 700 universities are the member of AIU. It is a representative body of all the universities of India. It was established in 1925 but the resolution to establish this body was passed in another association. A journal called 'University News: A Weekly Journal of Higher Education' of AIU was also released during the inaugural function.

President, Association of Indian Universities, Prof. P. B. Sharma said that the NE states including Manipur must march together on the path of progress, prosperity and development to become one of the major gateways of the new India in the making.

Stating that the Government of India is giving major focus to the Act East Policy, Prof. P. B. Sharma said development of NE Region is important. Sensitization about the needs of the North Eastern Region and understanding their special requirements and responding to them through the universities of the region is necessary so that in the foreseeable future the universities become the lifeline for transformation into one of the developed regions of the country, he added.

The Meet was organised by the Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi hosted by the Manipur University. Problems and prospects of the universities in the North East India, Role of Higher Education in transforming NE India, Role of Education and Look East Policy were discussed. The meet was attended by Vice Chancellors from more than 40 universities, professors, research scholars and students of the Manipur University.

In all, about 35 participants representing VCs or their representatives attended the meeting. The interest of NCRI in this meeting was to interact with all the participating Vice Chancellors and explore the possible collaboration in areas of designing and developing curriculum on community engagement and other areas of academic interest. To enable this, a preformat was prepared and the same was presented to each of the VCs to know area of their common interest for collaboration. Further, attempts were made to meet with each VCs and appraise them the objectives and mandate of NCRI and possible

Employment-oriented courses should be introduced taking into account the needs of industry and the flagship programmes of the governments.

collaboration with the universities. Apart from contacting VCs attempts were also made to interact with officials of Association of Indian Universities (AIU) to brief them about the mandate of NCRI and objectives of the present visit. The officials contacted were (1) Prof. P.B. Sharma, President, Association of Indian Universities, (2) Prof. Furquan Qamar, Secretary General, AIU, (3) Dr. Y.C. Simhadri, Former President, AIU, (4) Dr. Amerendra Pani, Dy Director, Research, (5) Pradeep Kumar, Consultant AIU.

Pradeep Kumar Consultant to AIU, suggested including one representatives from AIU in the decision making body of NCRI.

Dr. Y.C. Simhadri former president of AIU expressed his willingness to associate with NCRI in any capacity.

In all, 14 VCs have shown keen interest in associating and collaborating with NCRI in various academic activities.

With an interest in promoting collaboration in areas of designing and developing curriculum on rural community engagement and other areas of academic interest NCRI met the Vice Chancellors attending the East Zone Annual Meet during Nov 17 - 18, 2017 held at Manipur University located in Imphal which was attended by 35 Universities from East India. NCRI utilised the opportunity to interact with

these universities for collaboration. 14 Universities have readily agreed to collaborate with NCRI while several others evinced interest in furthering the partnership.

Some of the recommendations emerged from the meeting which have certain relevance to NCRI are the following:

Employment and employability was the subject of detailed deliberations in the two day deliberations.

Traditional courses and curriculum need to be revised incorporating skill elements in to them to ensure employability among the students.

There is a need for regular and continuous revision of university courses taking into account the demand from the market.

Employment oriented courses should be introduced taking into account the needs of industry and the Flagship programmes of the Governments.

Benefits of the university research should benefit the common man.

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The meet deliberated on a plethora of issues keeping in view the global trends, national preparedness and requirements at achieving the objective of relevance and excellence.

NCRI Strategy: Associating with universities across the length and breadth

AIU West Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet 27-28 November, Gandhinagar



"NCRI's strategy of working with Universities across the country would get higher education systems adopt the agenda of NCRI of promoting serious academic activity and research on rural concerns" said Prof P B Sharma who is the President of AIU and Vice Chancellor of Amity University.

"We are happy to note the enthusiastic participation of NCRI and learn their activities. While we are trying to get a better orientation of NCRI by way of these associations, the day may not be far when we do a lot of collaborative work to evolve new mechanisms and interactions on a broader spectrum to chart out activities concerning higher education vis-à-vis rural India" said Prof Furqan Qamar who is the Secretary General AIU.

They were speaking on the sidelines of the two-day Vice Chancellors' Meet of the West Zone, organized by the Association of Indian Universities was held at Indian Institute of Teacher Education, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This was the second in the schedule after the East Zone meet for VCs was held at Manipur University, Imphal on November 17-18.

The event saw participation of the Vice Chancellors and senior professors representing several universities of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Goa. The theme of the West Zone meeting



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Prof Furqan Qamar, Secretary General Association of Indian Universities

was 'Implementation of Innovation in Education Issues and Approaches'. Aptly, this was well-deliberated and discussed with a special focus and concern on empowering universities on the technological front.

The meet was inaugurated by Honourable Governor, State of Gujarat, Mr O P Kohli while AIU President Prof P B Sharma and Prof Shashiranjay Yadav, Vice Chancellor IITE were present on the occasion.

On the sidelines, NCRI interacted with the VCs and elaborated on the mission concerning Rural India with respect to Higher Education.

It was a pleasant coincidence for NCRI as the post-inaugural business session took off with rural-relevant discussion wherein Prof Anil Gupta, eminent academician, President - National Innovation Foundation and Professor at Indian Institute of Management, spoke on Grassroot Innovation and expressed concerns over the existing gaps in knowledge access in rural and tribal areas. He made some timely observations about the importance of the academia reaching out to rural areas.

NCRI had fruitful and profound interactions with the VCs and other senior professors who appreciated the efforts and mission of NCRI in imparting capacity building, curriculum design and dissemination and interactive activities. Around 15 vice chancellors and senior professors expressed their interest in working together with NCRI.

A general impression was palpable that more focus should be laid on rural concerns, and agendas might be designed accordingly on such platforms to get more traction for rural related collaborations with NCRI.

NR Karmalkar VC- Pune University

These conferences give great impetus to evolving new ideas and initiating new discussions to reach to the rural India through academics and academia. Since innovation has been the buzzword for this meet, I feel that with diverse universities congregating, they will come out with more and better strategies to incorporate rural concerns. A lot of stigmas and challenges in rural arena can be addressed through academic activities.

NCRI is gearing up to speak to more VCs and drive the mission sensitizing the like-minded think tank and inviting associations, as part of North Zone VCs' Meet in Amity University, Haryana, Panchgaon, to be held on Dec 4 & 5. NCRI will invite them to associate on various areas including curriculum and subject matter incorporation, round tables and rural immersion activities.

New milestones...



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Council of Rural Institutes and Palamuru University on 6th November 2017.



The National Council of Rural Institutes entered MoU with Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh on 7th November at VC Chamber.

NCRI workshop on Rural Engagement at NIT Rourkela



A Round Table discussion on "Rural Community Engagement Program" was organised on November 8th to explore the possibilities of introducing curriculum on rural engagement in semester system.

On November 9, a workshop on 'Common Core Curriculum on Rural Community Engagement' was organized by NCRI at NIT, Rourkela. Dr. D.N. Dash, Academic Specialist stressed on the need of curriculum on community rural engagement and the role of higher education for the likes of NIT.

Field Visit

On November 10, a team of 20 Volunteers from School of Integrated Studies, NIT Rourkela visited Kerketa Village, in Rourkela Block in Sundargarh District, Odisha.

Nai Talim soon in Telangana Schools

"The rural challenge is adopting and practicing a method which will bring the students and teachers to the village context. As suggested by NCRI the Telangana State Council of Educational Research and Training is very keen and has decided that a full scale attempt will be made vocational education integral to school education, especially in the rural context, as envisaged by Gandhiji in his Nai Talim scheme of education" said Dr. N. Seshukumari Director TSSCERT, addressing the roundtable on 29th November 2017. In an attempt to bring curriculum nearer to both students and teachers lives and livelihoods in Rural India Telangana State Council of Educational Research and Training and National Council of Rural Institutes will especially collaborate and work on the method of transacting field based curriculum initially. During the deliberations it came up that, transforming the content in the context is easier and has been done several times. But what is required to

focus on the method, in order to bring students and teachers nearer to the rural context. This round table was attended by Dr GV Ramanjayulu Director of Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, who has earlier implemented successfully a project on rural orientation to school education in Madhya Pradesh.



"A full scale attempt will be made vocational education integral to school education, especially in the rural context, as envisaged by Gandhiji in his Nai Talim scheme of education,"

Dr. N. Seshukumari, Director TSSCERT

Training session on Rural Community Engagement



The National Council of Rural Institutes in collaboration with the National Service Scheme, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad has conducted a two-day training session on Rural Community Engagement for NSS Programme Officers at JNTU Hyderabad on 11th and 12th November.

On day one, the NSS Programme Officers were oriented on Participative Rural Appraisal, Priority Identification, Priority Setting and Preparation of Village Development Plans. On day two, NSS Programme Officers conduct a Participatory Rural Appraisal exercise at Bahadurpally and Dulapally villages.

NITs in Rural Engagement

A two day workshop was conducted during 29th to 30th November 2017 by the NCRI with faculty members of NITs for preparing a course curriculum for the engineering students of NITs. The work shop was held under the direction of Dr. Ved Prakash Sharma, Consultant NCRI. The workshop was aimed at designing a course titled Rural Engagement, covering Rural Resources, Alternate Technologies, ICT, Rural Interventions and Extension of Innovation Chain. The proposed course shall be of 4 credits with field work and a project report. The transaction methodology would include brain storming, case studies, Participative Rural Appraisal, field visits and documentation of interventions. This course will also provide curricular dimension and linkages to the efforts of National Institutes of Technology in Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. Faculty members from NIT Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Warangal and Karnataka have participated in this workshop and designed a skeletal curriculum on 'Technology Interventions and Rural Engagement'.



The National Council of Rural Institutes in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS), Osmania University has organized the Rural Immersion Orientation Programme for NSS Programme Officers at Osmania University on 8th and 9th November.

On the second day of the orientation programme, NSS officers from Medak, Siddipet, Sangareddy and Vikarabad districts of Telangana actively participate in 'Rural Immersion Orientation Program'.



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5-10-174, Bhavan, Ground Floor, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500 004

Telangana State. Tel : 040-23422112, 23212120, Fax : 040-23212114

E-mail : lo@ncri.in, Website: www.ncri.in

Editorial Team: Dr WG Prasanna Kumar, Chairman NCRI, Dr S Sudarshan Rao, M Abhilash,

Published by Dr R Manoj Kumar, Member Secretary NCRI

