

# **Newsletter**

# **The rural Connect**

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## महात्मा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण शिक्षा परिषद

### **Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education**

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India



"Vital to Provide
Psychosocial Support to
Students, Staff and Teachers
.... Educational Institutions
need to Help Students Cope
with the Ongoing Health
Crisis" ....

Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Union Education Minister urged Higher Educational Institutions to ensure and suggest advisories for the mental health and well-being of students. The education ministry has also launched an initiative called "Manodarpan" to provide

psychosocial support to students. These initiatives, along with counselling, aim to help students to cope with academic-related stress, self-care and health issues. During these COVID times, parents need to put special efforts into taking care of the mental health of their teenage children.

The Education Ministry called out for students to include physical activity and healthy diet in their daily routine as they play a key role in reducing and preventing the effects of stress during this COVID-19 pandemic.

On separate occasions,

Shri Pokhriyal extolled the the Ministry's commitment to implementation of the National Eduation Policy (NEP) 2020. Large scale virtual consultations were undertaken, involving stakeholders from all over India. Social media was used extensively to spread information.

Regulations for setting up of an academic credit bank have been approved and is in the process of being notified.

Speaking on the occasion of **World Environment Day**,



### ONE STUDENT ONE TREE

Keeping our promise

of green Earth

Shri Pokhriyal called for students to help in raising saplings. Launching the **One Student One Tree** campaign, he said "This campaign is not merely an activity, but an effort to help students imbibe the values and ethos of conserving environment."

#### **MGNCRE Review June 2021**

- 2 MoUs Signed for Capacity Building in HEIs
- 36220 Students oriented and engaged in BEAT COVID Quick Response Student Volunteer Teams 1357 Disaster Response Teams formed in 373 districts in the country
- 988 Higher Educational Institutions involved
- 6789 Student Volunteers / 3972 Faculty involved
- 487 Community Engagement Workshops conducted
- Preparatory Work for Mandated Workshops and Faculty Development Programmes - User-friendly Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)/Manuals with Specified Deliverables on Community Engagement/Experiential Learning/Rural Management/Action Research Projects/Video Recordings/PhD Fellowships/Internships
- Manual on Psychosocial Care and Volunteer
   Management in HEIs developed and utilised in Vernacular also
- UBA Competitions on Poster Presentation and Video Making on Covid Management conducted by RCI MGNCRE for Telangana (11 Districts)



MGNCRE is working in tandem with State NCC Units for spreading the message of Psychosocial Support in Higher Educational Institutions through Community Engagement during these COVID times. "Psychosocial Support Helper Skills are very much essential and connecting to people with these skills is now possible with mobile and communication aids. The principles of the counselling are based on listening skills. Listening and avoiding giving advice helps the client. Respect, humility and being non- prejudiced form the basis for the helper. This program provides an opportunity to serve community at large", shared Col. Ramanuj Singh, Commanding Officer, 1(T) Girls BN NCC, Secunderabad Group AP&T DTE at the training session on Psychosocial support Service Helper Skills. " NCC ANOs, Cadets and students could reach out to the people in villages and cities in Telangana State through Psychosocial Support and Helper Skills. "Reaching people on daily basis on mobile is significant. We formed a WhatsApp group in this program. We will serve the community in an organised way and form incident response team" said Lt.Dr.V.Deepika Rao. She added that service activities offered in-time brings impactful work in the pandemic.



On the occasion of 7th International **Yoga Day** on 21<sup>st</sup> June, Shri Pokhriyal emphasized on the holistic nature of yoga and said that it takes care of physical health as well as mental

health. "I firmly believe that it is an effective tool to reduce stress" he said.

### **Editor's Note**

The World Environment Day brings with it renewed enthusiasm and motivation for conserving and preserving the ecology of our planet. The Ministry of Education's 'One Student One Tree Campaign' with the aim of planting one million trees across the world spreads awareness about the threat to the environment due to various aspects. MGNCRE has called for Higher Educational Institutions to conduct activities on this day and spread the message of environment friendliness. The HEIs have documented their activities and shared with us. This brings immense sense of satisfaction that our efforts have borne fruit in mobilizing students to contribute to environment.

Community Engagement with Higher Educational Institutions is part of MGNCRE's mandate. Keeping the current pandemic situation in consideration and the need for psychosocial skills and training for students to provide support physical and emotional, the Council conducted workshops along with the aspects of Swachhta. Student volunteers were made aware of Swachhta, sanitation and hygiene practices and also trained to provide counselling to COVID affected patients and their families and friends. This works as a double goal of engaging with students and also making them work for a social and noble cause as per the need of the hour.

Every year on 5<sup>th</sup> June, World Environment Day is observed across the globe with an aim to reinforce and sustain the awareness around environment. The theme of 'One Student One Tree Campaign' has indeed brought about lot of efforts by educational institutions to respect the environment. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, counteract climate change and stop the collapse of biodiversity. The emergence of COVID-19 has also shown just how disastrous the consequences of ecosystem loss can be. By shrinking the area of natural habitat for animals, we have created ideal conditions for pathogens - including coronaviruses – to spread.

We conducted a 3-day training workshop for Resource Persons to guide Higher Educational Institutions to conduct Workshops on Psychosocial Support Guidance to Student Volunteers. We developed our inhouse training materials and resources and motivated our team members.

Consequently, 36220 students were oriented and engaged in 1357 BEAT COVID Quick Response Student Volunteer Teams belonging to 373 districts in the country from 988 Higher Educational Institutions. 6789 Student Volunteers and 3972 Faculty managed this effort. 487 Community Engagement Workshops were conducted for this during the month.

Providing Psychosocial Support Guidance Student Volunteers of Higher Educational Institutions as part of promoting Swachhta in and through the Higher Education Institutions which is integral to Swachhta Action Plan being implemented by MGNCRE. In the current pandemic scenario MGNCRE resilient steps towards the national distress and contributed its mite to the cause of social responsibility. alignment with the Government's commitment towards Mental Wellbeing (Manodarpan), MGNCRE conducted Institutional Workshops on providing Guidance for Psychosocial Counselling and COVID 19 Volunteer Skills. Disaster Response Teams were formed.

We have started aggressive groundwork for our activities for the current year. This

The 2021 World Environment Day is being observed at the most difficult of times with India battling the second wave of Covid-19. Water and air continue to be as polluted, and forest degradation continues.

MGNCRE's mandate of community track. is well on engagement Workshops on Guidance for Psychosocial Counselling and COVID 19 Volunteer Skills are the need of the hour and the Council has done voluminous work in this regard. During these pandemic times, mental well being is vital for all sections of society, and the Ministry is committed to the cause of emotional and psychological health of students.

year's action plan includes - Promotion of Rural Higher Education; Curriculum development; Development of Rural Management Course curriculum (including Nai Talim Teacher Education); Capacity building (workshops/ Faculty Development Programmes); Conducting Projects Action Workshops; Rural Immersion Training Programmes; Institutional workshops: Internships: Ph.D Fellowships: Development of textbooks and audio visual resource material on BBA Rural Management; along with the mandatory publications. We have commissioned development of User-friendly Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)/Manuals in Codified, Systematic and Outcome Formats with Oriented Specified Deliverables. The simplified handbooks focus on the 'How' of doing things. The Manuals are in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

We have also developed a user-friendly Manual on Psychosocial Care and Volunteer Management in Higher Education Institutions which has been translated and used in the vernacular also.

We look forward to making these Manuals great tools for conducting programmes that would greatly aid Resource Persons and bring out the desired outcomes.

### Dr. W G Prasanna Kumar Chairman MGNCRE

Psychological support can prevent distress and suffering developing into something more severe; help people cope better and become reconciled to everyday life; and help people to resume their normal lives.

The Manuals being developed for conducting workshops and faculty development programmes are the steps towards effective operations for the upcoming months. These are guiding tools with focus on the 'How' of doing things.

Dr. Bharat Pathak
Vice Chairman MGNCRE



#### **MGNCRE Signed MoU with**

- 1. Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Deemed to be University, Odisha
- Malla Reddy Group of Institutions, Hyderabad, Telangana

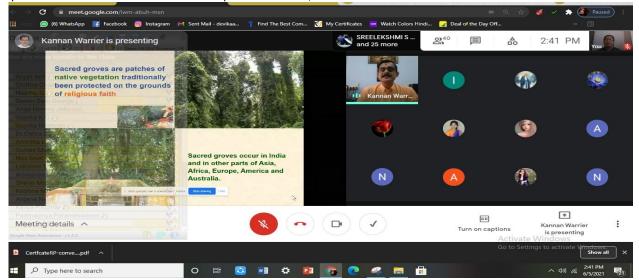
The MoUs were signed for exploring, extending and strengthening mutual relationship for promotion of professional education in Rural Management by sharing the facilities and expertise.

### **World Environment Day**

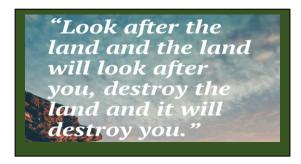
World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June was celebrated and activities conducted in Higher Educational Institutions on the call of MGNCRE. Few Glimpses of the activities -

Pandalam **Bhoomitra** (Biodiversity Club) in collaboration with Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Dehradun organized a two week Workshop on 'Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management' from 22<sup>nd</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June. This was as part of MGNCRE's Community Engagement association with the Institute. The theme presentation on 'Conservation of Sacred groves' was delivered by Dr. Kannan C. Warrier, Senior Principal Scientist (F), Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education with the Ministry of Environment,

Forest and Climate Change, Government of India & Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Coordinator & Liaison Officer Nodal Officer, VVK & KVK Kerala & Green Skill Development Programmes, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division. A detailed and illustrative presentation on Sacred Groves in India and those seen in Kerala were discussed highlighting the significance of conserving them giving due respect and concern to their innumerable services to biodiversity sustenance. Sri. Abhilash D., IFS (Faculty, CASFOS graced the function.



Birla Vishwakarma Mahavidyalaya, Engineering College, Anand, Gujarat celebrated World Environment Day. My Campus Clean Campus, arranged webinar on the topic "COPING WITH THE CLIMATE CHANGE". Er. Prashant Khankhoje, Advisor, Independent Power Producers Association of India and expert in renewable energy, from Pune was the expert speaker. Tree Plantation was done in the campus with full zeal and energy to keep the environment and campus green. Principal Dr. Indrajeet Patel addressed staff and students and conveyed best wishes on the occasion of World Environment Day and thanked MGNCRE for giving the call to celebrate the day.





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Madhuben and Bhanubhai Patel Institute of Technology (MBIT), Anand Gujarat, the Constituent institution of CVM University, IEEE Power and Energy Society under IEEE organized PIXEL event on 5th June 2021. There were 22 participants. A competition was held on Photography,

Short Film and Digital Poster Making on Biodiversity and 'Save your mother: The Earth'. This was in response to MGNCRE's call for celebrating World Environment Day as part of Swachhta and Community Engagement activities.

#### The Winners

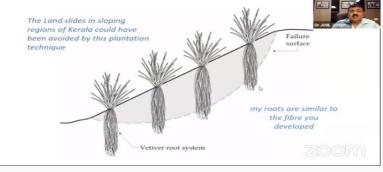


Sree Vidyanikethan Engineering College Tirupati Andhra Pradesh organized an online National webinar on "ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY" to create awareness on the said topic for the students and staff on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Dr. Hemadri Prasad Raju, Associate Professor/Dept. of Civil Engineering, Convener of Social Entrepreneurship, Swachhta and Rural Engagement Cell (SESREC), Sree Vidyanikethan Engineering College started the proceedings with the welcome address. SESRE Cell was constituted as an outcome of MGNCRE's Swachhta Action Plan earlier which carries out related

Swachhta activities. Principal Dr. B. M. Satish delivered the inaugural address and explained the Environmental sustainability in a very crisp manner. Dr. M. M. Kesavulu, Associate professor, BS&H, member, SESRE Cell introduced the speaker of the program Dr. Anil Joseph, Managing Director of CECONS (P) Ltd., Director of Geo structurals (P) Ltd., & Director of Engineers Diagnostic Centre (P) Ltd., Cochin, Kerala. Dr. Joseph spoke on **Reimagine, Recreate and Restore** with an introduction to the Environmental issues we are currently facing and the importance to safeguard our environment.



WEBINAR on ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



WEBINAR on ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

K S Rangasamy College of Technology Tiruchengode, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu - World Environment Day was virtually celebrated in association with NGO Vaergal, Erode at K.S.Rangasamy College of Technology, Tiruchengode as Green India Movement initiative. The speaker Dr.K.Ramesh, Senior Manager, Process Engineering, R&D, Tamil Nadu Water Investment Company Limited, Tirupur insisted on water utilization and its significance on saving for future. Dr.BijinvinRaj, Public Health Dentist, Secretary, Vaergal highlighted the importance of

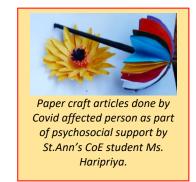
social service during this pandemic. Activities like tree plantation and seed ball supply to public were done. In addition to kindling the interest among students to protect the environment, online competitions like Meme Theme, Slogan Writing Competition, Photography, Video making, Calligraphy and Drawing and poem writing were conducted. MGNCRE's association with the Institution was the basis for celebrating the key event as part of Community Engagement.



Winner-Best Photograph



Winner -Best Poster







Swachhta Activities as part of Environment Day Celebrations by Emerald's Degree & PG College, Kodandaramapuram, Tirupati Andhra Pradesh

Mercy College, Palakkad observed World Environment Day by encouraging a green revolution movement by planting saplings.



### **Community Engagement**

### "Each One Reach One"

MGNCRE conducted a 3-day Training Workshop on *Providing Psychosocial Support Guidance to Student Volunteers* of Higher Educational Institutions as part of promoting Swachhta in and through the Higher Educational Institutions which is integral to Swachhta Action Plan being implemented by MGNCRE. In the current pandemic scenario MGNCRE took resilient steps towards the national distress and contributed its mite to the cause of social responsibility. In alignment

with the Government's commitment towards Mental Wellbeing (Manodarpan), MGNCRE conducted Institutional Workshops on providing Guidance for Psychosocial Counselling and COVID 19 Volunteer Skills. Disaster Response Teams were formed as an outcome of the efforts. MGNCRE Resource Persons guided 988 HEIs in conducting 487 Community Engagement Worksh

Total Workshops	Total Institutions Covered	Number of Districts Supported	Total Student Volunteers	Total Faculty Oriented	Total Students Oriented
487	988	373	6789	3972	36220

The following are the outcomes of 20 days community engagement activity with higher educational institutions:

- Formation of Disaster Response teams among various higher educational institutions and distributing food to the needy people
- Conducting door to door health awareness camps, village surveys to make people aware of CoWin app, helping them to register for vaccination.
- Celebrated international yoga day through online platforms and spread awareness on significance of yoga during pandemic in the rural areas.
- Distributed vegetables, groceries, medical kits to the people for the covid affected families.
- Checking body temperatures and distributed masks and sanitizers to the needy people.

- Setting up of helpline numbers to provide information on availability of oxygen cylinders, hospital beds and other medical supplies.
- Several higher educational institutions donated money to respective district level government administration and chief minister's relief fund.
- Some of the volunteers also extended support by chlorinating covid patients home after quarantine
- Providing psychosocial and emotional support to the covid affected families through help desks. Conducting online sessions on Anxiety reduction, Breathing techniques, Stress Management and Depression overcoming Techniques

#### MGNCRE – HEI Community Engagement Programmes - Glimpses



MEd first semester students of St Ann's CoE Secunderabad volunteering at mega vaccine drive

DIET Pudukkotai faculty members Prof M .Mariappan and Dr V. Narayanan who were involved in the Volunteers work in Primary Health Centre , Kamarajapuram Pudukkottai on 26<sup>th</sup> June in the pandemic situation. A medical camp was shifted to Middle School, Thaila Nagar, Pudukkottai. They helped in transportation logistics. 25 persons took the COVID vaccination on 25 June as per their records.





Jaya College of Arts & Science Chennai: 23 MGNCRE-HEI volunteers worked in the areas of provision of verified sources of oxygen supply, food supply, ambulance services, mask distribution, pet care, awareness programmes and psychosocial counselling led by faculty members.



Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Arts and Science College for Women under the management of SKPD & Charities started Vasavi Anna Prasadam Centre for Covid patients from  $10^{\rm th}$  May to  $10^{\rm th}$  June. More than 200 families utilised this annaprasadam and benefitted during the pandemic situation though whatsapp and social media.

Shree Tejendra Prasad T.T. College, Abu Road, Rajasthan affiliated to MLSU, Udaipur conducted Covid-19 awareness programmes including a Rally, Nukkad Natak, creation of Slogans and Posters and awareness on Standard Protocols to be followed





Vidyasagar College of Education Phansidewa Darjeeling West Bengal Nature of Service: Non-Hospital Management Support. Location: Phansidewa No. of students: 50 No. of Beneficiaries: 150 Student volunteers along with two teachers went to an isolated village.

The volunteers packed about 200 ration kits having potatoes, onions, dal, rice, oil and packets of biscuits in each of the ration kit. Those were distributed while maintaining proper social distance.



Faculty and Students from Shrinathji Institute of Biotechnology and Management, Nathdwara, Rajasthan conducted various activities for the welfare of local community that includes awareness campaign on wearing mask through rally, Corona awareness programme through poster Making and door to door interaction, Conducted webinar on the environment day. The Management of the institute donated Beds to the Nathdwara and Khamnore Hospitals, also contributed ECG Machines and computers to the local hospitals under the leadership of Dr. Deepti Bhargava, Principal..

#### Free online Pranayama Workshop



Department of Management, MET'S College of Advanced Studies Mala jointly with MGNCRE organized online workshop on "Breathing exercises to strengthen lungs" from 11th June to 30th June. The resource Person for the program was Mr. Baiju Varghese Director Athma Yoga Academy Sahrudaya Welfare Services Ernakulam. Participants from India and abroad participated in the workshop. About 60 students from Chetna Bharti Gurukul, Chatra district of Jharkhand state attended the program by logging in from a single device. Participants were given the option to attend the whole 20 days or the days of their convenience. The workshop offered a platform for the participants to learn, practice and understand different breathing exercises that can strengthen the lungs during this pandemic.





Faculty and Students of Institute of Engineering & Technology, Alwar, Rajasthan conducted various community engagement activities in nearby villages by conducting door to door health awareness campaigns, importance of vaccination, coordinating vaccination drives and organized yoga, meditation camps through social media campaigns.





Cooperative Arts & Science College, Madayi, Kannur district Kerala provided psychosocial support to the Covid patients and their families through help desks, distributing masks and sanitizers, making posters and banners to share through social media, Collecting and sharing vaccination camps related information, food distribution, providing information on availability of medical essentials, chlorinating Covid patients' homes after quarantine as part of the 20 days community engagement initiative of MGNCRE.



Faculty and Students of Northern Institute of Engineering Technical Campus, Alwar, Rajasthan conducted various community engagement activities including door to door awareness on Covid appropriate behaviour, coordinating vaccination drives in nearby villages and conducting practice sessions on yoga, meditation and breathing exercises with the support of Art of Living. They provided information on availability of oxygen cylinders, hospital beds, medical supplies through social media campaign. Apart from that the Institute sanitized different places in the village. Students and faculty members organised 50 days Streak Activity in which water and food facility were provided for birds on their house roof. The Institute conducted various awareness programs to understand importance of plants and donated 551 plants.



Food being distributed as part of community engagement activities during pandemic times by SS Jain Subodh PG College Jaipur Rajasthan "When the whole world has united to fight against Covid -19 Pandemic, the role of Higher Education, Colleges and Universities couldn't be ignored" said Prof.K.B.Sharma, Principal



#### MGNCRE coordinated Community Engagement activities of Higher Educational Institutions through the following teams

- Team 1: Hospital Management Team –
   Sharing information on availability of ICU,
   Hospital Beds, Ventilators, Covid Vaccine,
   Crowd Management at Vaccination Centres
- Team 2: Non Hospital Management Team –
  Sharing information and services provided
  by NGO's, Covid helpline numbers and Food
  Distribution to the Covid patients/Covid
  affected families
- Team 3: Family Support Team Providing assistance to the Covid affected families in getting house hold essentials, sharing information of care takers for elderly people or children of Covid affected patients.
- Team 4: Medical Supplies Team Providing assistance to the home isolated patients by sharing information on tele-medicine suppliers, online doctor consultation, etc.
- Team 5: Psychosocial Support Team Providing emotional support to the Covid affected patients and their families.--- Institutional Workshops on Community Engagement with Higher Educational Institutions

You must be the change that you wish to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi

Volunteers of Erode Arts and Science College (Autonomous), Tamil Nadu distributed food to roadside elders, distributed masks and sanitizers, checking body temperature in the local community in collaboration with Erode City Municipal Corporation as part of MGNCRE's Community Engagement Programme.



#### Few more ----

















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### Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education

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Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India



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