



National Council of Rural Institutes

Department of Higher Education,
Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India



Connect

July 2017

Vol.-3

Issue-7

STRIVING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW...



Community Curriculum Workshop at Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda



“The destiny of an individual and the world will be changed in the classroom,” said HMDA Commissioner, T. Chiranjeevulu in his address at a two day workshop held at Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) Nalgonda and during 23rd and 24th June 2017. The workshop was organised to integrate and transform academic aspects relating to the rural community by developing curriculum on rural community engagement by the University in collaboration with the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI). The main objective of the workshop was to introduce Community Engagement Curriculum by conducting brainstorming sessions

for fostering Social Responsibility through Community Engagement. The workshop was organised in three sessions. The first session dealt with textual aspects of the syllabus. Field work aspect with an aim to convert the research data into layman’s text, was covered in the second session. The final session focused on how to evaluate the text and field transactions.

The faculty members attending the workshop were grouped on the basis of their respective departments. Each group was headed by experts from the National Council of Rural Institutes as well as the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat

The main objectives of the workshop were to introduce Community Engagement Curriculum for fostering Social Responsibility and Community Engagement.



A video on the two-day workshop is uploaded on National Council of Rural Institute’s YouTube channel.

Raj (NIRDPR).

While inaugurating the workshop, Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Khaja Althaf Hussain said, “Every student needs to have social concern and the approach needs to be scientific”. He also emphasized that the University is making necessary efforts to increase skill development programmes to make each student live-life-lively on the campus and the NCRI collaboration is one such attempt.

Prof. K Purushotham Reddy, an acclaimed academician, environmentalist, and political scientist said “It’s a wonderful initiative by NCRI and MGU to make students as resources for Rural Development in the context of impending climate change and disasters waiting thereon impacting the life as well as livelihoods”.

Addressing the gathering, T. Chiranjeevulu, Commissioner, HMDA who had earlier worked as the Collector Nalgonda said, “Village immersion is a very good programme and it needs to be district specific. India ought to have focused on education and skill development since independence. It



is high time that people develop critical thinking and good communication skills.” He highlighted that community spirit comes only when we reach villages and the possibility to change comes only from self-help, citing South Korea as an example.

Later, NCRI Chairperson Dr WG Prasanna Kumar pointed out that the most important quality of an individual within the University is to be interested but not entrusted with

rural engagement. Dr. Kumar said, “People need to give time to the village community and listen to them, students should learn from the village community by being with them.”

The Chairman further said, “tasks within the village are be carried out at individual level, family level, group level and through institutional involvement.” The MGU VC in this context said that the students would be facilitated to visit rural areas and the syllabi will be redesigned accordingly. There is a need to integrate the aspects of living and learning, the teachers and the students need to do something extra apart from their regular duties.

The workshop was concluded by a valedictory function where the Dr WG Prasanna Kumar was honored by Prof. Althaf Hussain, Dr C Dheeraja, Dr K Jayalaxmi, Dr G Rajani Kanth, Dr P Shiva Ram experts from NIRD and Dr S Vidya Rani, Central Social Welfare Department were also present at the workshop.



NCRI Launching a New Journal

An attempt to promote Rural Engagement of Higher Education Institutions

In line with its objectives and activities, NCRI has taken initiatives to publish a half yearly peer reviewed Journal titled, 'Indian Journal of Rural Education and Engagement'. The Council plans for its release on 2nd October to coincide with Gandhi Jayanthi. The journal is expected to generate, retain and foster academic interest in rural resilience and transformation, to promote rural engagement of students and faculty of higher education institutions across the nation. Research articles are invited from the authors. They can be sent to editor@ncri.in.

Flagship Programme on National Curriculum Framework



In order to focus on improvements in the current state of Rural Education in the country, NCRI is launching a flagship program on National Curriculum Framework for Rural Education. Currently, there is no guiding policy framework for Rural Education in India. As mentioned by the Review Committees of NCRI, which also underpinned the need for such a framework, it is proposed to conduct four consultations in four regions with curriculum experts and stakeholders from Universities to develop a National Curricular Framework on Rural Higher Education. Basing on the recommendations emanating from the consultations the National Curricular Framework will be evolved. This Framework will be designed and implemented by experts in the field.

NCRI to Take Gandhian Education to New Heights



One of the objectives of NCRI is to promote the Gandhian basic education. Titled as 'Nai Talim', the father of the nation, sought to promote an education curriculum which bolsters self-sustenance and self-resilience. It aimed at making mankind independent of the machinery used in our daily lives. Although it was conceptualized by Gandhi, it

was further developed by freedom fighter Vinobha Bhave. From Bhave's perspective, the student-teacher bondage is a lifetime relationship. Learning is a continuous process and the student will gain worldly knowledge by staying by the side of the teacher. Together, they would use handmade implements such as charkhas to spin threads. Using the earnings from these proceeds, the pupils of Nai Talim would lead their lives. It is similar to earn while you learn

To fulfill the Gandhian philosophy of Basic Education, the Council has proposed to work with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), State Council of Educational Research Training (SCERT) and District Institute of Educational and Training (DIET). NCRI will pitch in for the inclusion of aspects related to the Nai Talim curriculum in B.Ed, M.Ed and other courses. Initially SCERTs of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana will be covered by the NCRI for inclusion of Nai Talim aspects. NCRI will also conduct workshops to propagate Gandhian education across India.

Study of Farmers Resilience Through Local Universities

There are difficulties experienced in rural living due to agrarian imbalance, natural and man-made calamities, ignorance and inadequate intervention by the institutions and authorities concerned. Yet some progress is observed in the socio-economic indicators in Rural India. This is a serious issue that needs to be understood and studied to develop policy alternatives. In this direction, the NCRI is instituting three research studies in collaboration with the local universities in two regions in Andhra Pradesh i.e., Coastal Andhra & Rayalaseema and in dry region of Karnataka State.

UNICEF Sponsors Rural Resilience Programms

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has come forward to support workshops for curriculum related inputs in 10 Universities starting with the Telangana State through National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI). Based on these inputs and experience the support could be further extended to other states in their next plan which starts from January 2018.



The focus through this attempt will be to introduce various aspects of building rural resilience as per the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction for which India is a signatory. 10 Universities in Telangana State are being covered under this programme supported by Regional Office of UNICEF.

A fruitful interaction on furthering this effort has already been initiated with the Telangana State Council of Higher Education. All project costs will be met by UNICEF.

NCRI Celebrates International Yoga Day



National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI), assisted by Patanjali Yoga Samithi, celebrated the third International Yoga Day by conducting a Yoga training sessions every evening from June 15 June 23, 2017 at NCRI. Employees and staff from the Council enthusiastically took part and learnt various asanas under the guidance of the yoga instructors from the Samithi.

The Council employees were oriented on the benefits of Yoga and as to how it positively impacts one's health. The diligent instructors interacted with the Council staff and explained the challenges in performing asanas without guidance. Different asanas were prescribed to different age groups and the members performed the asanas accordingly. The instructors were felicitated on June 23 by the Chairman NCRI.

RALEGAN SIDDHI: An Exemplary Village for Sustainable Development

The tale of a man who led the village on development path



Anna Hazare in Ralegan Siddhi, Ahmednagar District.

Ralegan Siddhi, a village in Maharashtra once known for its barrenness, today cultivates two crops in its 1500 acres of land. It set an example as a model of the sustainable developed village. By doing so, it has made many people curious as to how it has achieved the otherwise impossible.

“The dream of India as a strong nation will not be realized without self-reliant and self-sufficient villages. This can be achieved only through social commitment and involvement of the common man,” said Anna Hazare who is India’s acclaimed social activist and a former soldier in the Indian army. The words of Anna were the prime movers behind the success story of the Ralegan Siddhi.

While serving in Indian Army, Anna used to visit his hometown Ralegan Siddhi and witnessed the miserable condition of farmers due to water

So far, in Ralegan Siddhi 48 nulla bunds, 5 cement check dams, and 16 Gabion structures have been constructed. The watershed development work helped in conserving rainwater in the village itself and in recharging the groundwater springs.

scarcity, unemployment and poverty. In the year 1975, Anna decided to dedicate his life to transform his village. He adopted Late Mr. Vilasrao Salunkhe’s watershed development project. Under the direction of the then Agriculture Director, Mr. Dikshit, Anna conducted water management experiments.

Soon after Anna’s informal adoption, Ralegan built many water harvesting structures. So far, 48 nulla bunds, 5 cement check dams, and 16 Gabion structures have been constructed. The watershed development work

helped in conserving rainwater in the village itself and in recharging the groundwater springs. Due to the availability of water, the cultivable land has increased from 300 to 1500 acres of land.

Today, the village is selling up to 4000 litres of milk per day to various cooperatives and private dairies. This became a major employment source for the youth in the village. There was a complete transformation in the economy of the village due to rise in the per capita income from Rs. 225 to Rs. 2500. After the economic transformation of

the village, villagers constructed buildings worth Rs.1 crore for school, hostel, and gymkhana.

The development of an individual, family, and the village is not possible by exploiting environment indiscriminately, but possible by sustainable use of available resources. Watershed development and water management are the right approaches in that direction. They certainly provide an adequate response to maintain ecological balance which is increasingly worsening daily.

Zero Budget Farming Inventor Appointed Advisor by Chief Minister Naidu



Palekar invented Zero Budget Spiritual Farming. As its name suggests, the farmer doesn't have to invest anything on farming, excepting on seeds and manual labour

We will strive to make Andhra Pradesh 100% organic in the coming years and eliminate the use of harmful chemicals and fertilizers in crop production, said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandra Babu Naidu. To make this initiative a success, the CM has appointed Subhash Palekar, the inventor of Zero Budget Spiritual Farming. For inventing the unique farming method, Palekar was awarded Padma Shri in 2016.

Born in Belora village of Maharashtra, Palekar invented Zero Budget Spiritual Farming. As its name suggests, the farmer doesn't have to invest anything on farming, excepting

on seeds and manual labour. Palekar propagates that a farmer shouldn't use fertilizers, pesticides and hybrid seeds for success in agriculture. All that one has to use is Jiwamrutha, a fermented bacterial solution which is a mixture of water, cow urine, dung and others.

Palekar concocted this mixture during his discontinued graduation programme in 70s'. In one of his academic assignments to study Melghat forest in Maharashtra, he was intrigued by the forest's flora which sustained itself against diseases and other pests. Even during the famines, the forests would be full of fruits and vegetables. After researching, he arrived at

the conclusion that the modern agricultural methods were not sound.

After Melghat study, Palekar quit his studies and started introducing Jiwamrutha to farmers in the 90s'. Through his various publications in English, Marathi and Hindi, his Jiwamrutha theory garnered him a lot of admirers including CM Naidu. After studying the process, Naidu has now appointed him as advisor to the AP state government. He will be creating a framework to promote the Zero Budget Spiritual Farming. Further, he would oversee the construction of an University in Amaravathi which is built with the sole aim to promote organic farming. Already, a budget of 100 crores and 100 acres of land have been allotted.

In 2016, Palekar's farming method was implemented in 2,000 villages in AP and another 260 clusters are likely to be added to this farming project helmed by this Padma Shri awardee.

Rural Engagement Courses in Indian Universities

NCRI has signed MOUs with the following twelve Universities across the country for offering courses on Rural Engagement.

- Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Kangra, Shahpur
- Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
- Central University of South Bihar, Patna
- Mahatma Gandhi Central University (MGCUB), East Champaran
- Central University of Punjab, Bhatinda
- Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda
- Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha
- Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar
- Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi
- Dr Hari Singh Gour Central University, Sagar
- Central University of Jammu, Samba District
- University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad

The Council has organized initial interactions, round table conferences, and workshops before initiating relevant courses on Rural Community Engagement in these Universities. Further, the Council is also offering Ph.D. fellowships for research scholars in these Universities.



National Council of Rural Institutes

Department of Higher Education,

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India
5-10-174, Shakar 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, Victor Paul
Published by Dr R Manoj Kumar Member Secretary NCRI