



National Council of Rural Institutes

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



Connect

Vol.-3

Issue-5

May 2017



Common vision for Rural Community Engagement

Joining hands for Engagement

Central University of Tamil Nadu Thiruvarur is located in one of the most fertile areas in Kaveri belt. In the past, it experienced huge resistance from local farmers while land acquisition was happening. Similar experiences are cited by most universities where land was acquired from the local community. For instance, in the area where the present University of Hyderabad Campus is located,

We need to construct Community Social Bridges for our strife torn Village India. Where they already exist and are intact, we need to preserve and strengthen them.

way back three decades ago, there was a claim by local villagers for the right of way.

The Central University of Tamil Nadu has in fact accepted the right of way even for the river which passes between academic campus and faculty residential campus. The river bridges both shores.

Now, we need to construct Community Social Bridges for our strife torn Village India. In places, where these bridges already exist and are intact, we need to preserve and strengthen them. Universities have a lengthy history of land acquisition. They need to have a present and a future of community engagement to learn and contribute to the neighbourhood communities-which gave-up generations of rights over their own lands for larger public good.

In this context, a roundtable on Curriculum Interventions for Rural Community Engagement was held on the 21st April 2017 jointly by Central University of Tamil Nadu and NCRI.

April 2017 was a marathon run for the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) - with roundtables at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, (A Central University) Bilaspur, Central University of Tamil Nadu, 2 day workshops followed by signing of MoUs with Doctor Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (DHSGSU), Central University of Karnataka and Central University of Jammu.

Central University of Tamil Nadu



Baby steps for a giant leap...

“Have intellectuals of this nation ever seen the sorrows of people of Jammu and Leh..... Engage with Jammu and Leh..... Study and learn the aspects of integration of these peoplein spite of continued deprivation and negligence”

- Central University of Jammu



Gram Sabha at Samba District

With the blessing and encouragement of Honorable Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Shri NN Vohra, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by NCRI and Central University of Jammu. The Governor stated, “Rural community engagement should become a reality”. Prof Ashok Aima Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu announced that, “From the next academic year every student of the University will get engaged with Rural Communities through a domain specific credited input.”

Central University of Jammu in collaboration with NCRI organized a 2 day workshop on 26th – 27th April on Transacting Students Engagement for Rural Community Development at Bagla in Jammu. The event was enriched by the gracious presence of dignitaries including Shri NN Vohra Hon'ble Governor J&K, Prof Ashok Aima Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu Dr WG Prasanna Kumar Chairman NCRI and Smt Sheetal Nanda IAS DC Samba and faculty members from the University.

On the first day of the Workshop, during the inaugural session, in his special address, Chief Guest Dr WG Prasanna Kumar Chairman NCRI highlighted the importance of students engagement for rural community development. Speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the idea of village field visits and the relationship between District Collector (DC) and Central University of Jammu (CUJ). Role of District Collector is very important in community development. He focused on allocation of budgets, regular village visits and human and natural resource map of the place in

village plans and rural communications, rural journalism and rural tourism. He recommended that CUJ could start a course on rural engagement.

In his presidential remarks, Prof Ashok Aima the Vice Chancellor of CUJ highlighted the importance of student's engagement for rural community development. He expressed his interest in establishing a research centre which relates with rural community development carrying forward studies on rural domain. Commenting on the situation of the J&K, he highlighted the importance



Workshop at Central University of Jammu

of studying the society and social system of the state, which in turn can provide high level policy inputs to the stakeholders, as J&K State is like Mini India, with three regions having different physical, economical and socio-cultural traditions. Dr CM Seth former Chairman J&K Pollution Control Board stressed the need for inclusive development with the specific role for the poor in it. Huge spending without community participation is futile.

Earlier, Dr J Jeganaathan Community Engagement Officer from CUJ, explaining the workshop theme, welcomed the participants associated with the workshop and wished for its success. The inaugural session of the workshop was gracefully wound up by a formal vote of thanks by Shri Ravi Kumar Registrar of Central University of Jammu.

On the second day, the workshop participants along with NCRI Chairman visited Jang village.

These field visits are organized for students in the neighbouring villages providing them with first hand insight into functioning of rural communities and the perennial challenges faced by them. Discussions were also held regarding avenues for rural communications, rural journalism and rural tourism as part of the rural community engagement programme. Consultation meeting was held with Sarpanch and Block Development Officer of the village. Rural teacher education, rural communication, health, sanitation and self-help groups were the focus areas in discussion. Finally, a report on the visit was presented to Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Commerce

Shri Chander Parkash Ganga while urging students to undertake community outreach engagements stated that it is essential to incorporate social responsibility among youth and encourage regular interactions with rural communities for their development.

Shri Chander Prakash Ganga, who was the chief guest of the Valedictory Session. He urged the students to undertake community outreach engagements. He stated that it is essential to inculcate social responsibility among youth and encourage regular interactions with rural communities in their neighbourhood for their development. Academic Coordinator of the Central University of Jammu Prof Lokesh Verma, besides a large number of students were present on the occasion. The Minister appreciating this initiative by the university said that, such initiatives are need of the hour to halt continuous rural-urban migration as it is also increasing the rural-urban divide. He said that the only way to combat this is by youth engagement and collaboration with rural communities.

Those who participated in the deliberations include Prof SK Khosa of Department of Physics, Dr Pramod of Department of Education, Dr Pankaj of Environmental Studies and Rahul Jalali from Journalism.

Path towards Community Engagement

A two days workshop on “Methods and Process of Introducing Rural Engagement and Inculcating Social responsibility” was organized on 19th & 20th April at Doctor Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University) Sagar Madhya Pradesh which was graced by the Vice Chancellor Prof R P Tiwari. Also present on the occasion were Dr R Manoj Kumar Member Secretary of National Council of Rural Institutes Prof Uday Jain Former Vice Chancellor Awadhesh Pratap Singh University and Prof R A Singh Director Academic Affairs.



Forty Seven participants including senior faculty members of the Departments of Social Work, Sociology, Political Science & Public Administration, Education, Journalism & Mass Communication, Adult Education, Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Management and Business Administration along with research scholars of various departments participated and contributed to the development of curriculum on rural engagement of students.

In his presidential address Prof R P Tiwari Hon'ble Vice Chancellor emphasized that "the requirement of today is an 'engaged model of university outreach' which is far more collaborative than the customary conventional approach. There is an urgent need to promote rural community-student engagement through the Rural Camps, Village Visits and Village studies". He lauded the efforts of NCRI in promoting introduction of curriculum for Rural Engagement in the universities. He declared that at least one course



with curriculum on rural engagement emerging out of the workshop will be taken up for consideration of the Academic Council. An MoU was also signed between the University and NCRI to formalize and facilitate further academic collaboration in the form of Internships, Fellowships, capacity building and curriculum development.

Nurturing lives.....



MoU entered between NCRI and Central University of Karnataka

The signing of MoU by Central University of Karnataka (CUK) with NCRI happened amidst the hustle bustle of the exam schedule. Participants in this workshop organised in Central University of Karnataka felt that the participation of NCRI in the consultation was creative, constructive and at the same time critical. This paved way for the framing of the interdisciplinary papers on rural community engagement. Prakash Bhat's inspirational inputs further ignited the spark of philanthropic intention for community engagement. With NCRI as the mentoring guide, Central University of Karnataka felt it was a historic step towards a long term rural engagement.

Gram Sabha is a great source of learning. The essential role of Panchayat bodies in line with the opinion of PM Narendra Modi who stated that the Panchayat Institutions and the people serving through these institutions are very essential for the development of the nation as well as for helping the rural community realize their aspirations. Participating in Gram Sabha in Jung Panchayat in Ramgarh Block in Samba District located in Jammu conducted on the 20th April, Chairman NCRI felt that there is a lot to learn from these gram sabhas. They have rich experiences to share on how they appropriate and misappropriate resources, responsibilities and authority.

Community Engagement in Gujarat Glows



A workshop was organized on Community Engagement and Social Responsibility jointly by Central University of Gujarat (CUG) Gandhinagar and National Council of Rural Institutes Ministry of HRD Government of India on 4th & 5th April at Seminar Hall of CUG Gandhinagar.

Chairman NCRI Dr WG Prasanna Kumar in his inaugural address mentioned that Gujarat can work on community engagement easily considering the cultural tendency of the people to work together and as seen in the cooperative movement of Amul and women enterprise of SEWA.

“Community engagement is community immersion experience with the village life, environment, people, surroundings, culture, emotions and sentiments. Learning by being in villages makes a lot of impact on our thought process. Though the villages have a lot of strengths and resources, due to limited documentation our interventions are in very limited areas”

Prof Bari Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Gujarat linked the initiative of NCRI and CUG with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan UBA and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan of Government of India. He said sometimes small initiatives are instrumental in bringing changes which give a lot of satisfaction. The President of India in a meeting conducted in the presence of Prime Minister made a mention that if every central university can adopt five villages and five schools then a pilot project can be started with 200 villages and 200 schools which would go a long way in developing and promoting models of Rural Upliftment.

It was underlined that rural community engagement curriculum should include 4 parts: Contents, Methods of Transaction, Field Mentoring and Evaluation.

The Special Secretary to Government of Gujarat - Department of Agriculture and Cooperation Shri Sanjay Prasad IAS who interacted with the participants on the occasion stated that, the State Government of Gujarat is interested in working on Community Engagement in: Sensitization, Protection of Children and Child Rights & Rehabilitation, Child Labor, Health & Nutrition, Sanitation, Health and Education. Students and Research Scholars should focus on: Social Practices, Social Movement, Tribal Movement, Women Movement, Labor Movement, Role of Non farm sector in employment and Effect of Food Technology on Labor Employment. He emphasized the need to undertake Village Studies and Surveys and assured to extend all help for sponsoring the projects for research and extension submitted by CUG.

Prof Rajaram said that it is easy to make a curriculum, if it is to be delivered by those who make it, but it is very difficult to make the curriculum if it is not known who will eventually deliver the same. Prof N Rajaram explained that the participants were selected from all faculties covering relevant disciplines and the expertise available in the university. Dr Litty Denis proposed the vote of thanks.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on the occasion between NCRI and Central University of Gujarat on academic partnership for promoting rural community engagement in the courses offered by the University.



NCRI Internship Programme in Rural Community Engagement

The internships are the carrots to enable students to explore rural landscape and get a feel of what a real time rural India looks like. This short stint of rural exposure can be a stepping stone and an eye opener for many aspiring students who would like to involve themselves in a career that embraces rural engagement. Out of 136 applicants sponsored by 21 Universities and IITs for the NCRI Internships for Rural Community Engagement, 50 participants were short-listed. The tenure of two months community engagement would start in May - June 2017.

University	Intern
ARUNACHAL PRADESH Rajiv Gandhi University Itanagar	Embi Megha Dogin Yami Menuka Kadu
ASSAM Assam University Silchar	Nishant Kumar Aparna Chattopadhyay David Thanggou Haouip
BIHAR Mahatma Gandhi Central University Motihari	Swasti Sahay Shyam Manohar Mishra Vivek Kumar Gupta
Central University of South Bihar Gaya	Vikas Kumar Ayush Anan
DELHI University of Delhi	Sunil Amandeep Singh
GUJARAT Central University of Gujarat Gandhinagar	Rathod Chetan Kumar H Sonu Kumar Ajay Raut
HARYANA Central University of Haryana Mahendergarh	Rahul Tripathi Shikha Chauhan Neetu
KARNATAKA Central University of Karnataka Kalaburagi	Divya Shree K Veena Shetty Deepika R Hugur
MADHYA PRADESH Doctor Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar	Shubhangi Jain
MAHARASHTRA Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Wardha	Aditi Shukla Mahesh Kishtayya Durgam Monali Dinkar Bhitre

University	Intern
PUDUCHERRY Pondicherry University Kalapet	Jazila Lulu PP
RAJASTHAN Central University of Rajasthan Ajmer	Krishna
TAMIL NADU Gandhigram Rural Institute Dindigul District	V Kiruba Devi Venkateshwarlu Unnam S Sangeetha
Indian Institute of Technology Madras Chennai	Meera M Panicker Ashni AL B Mounika
Central University of Tamil Nadu Thiruvavur	Roberto J Baggio Amala T Chako
TELANGANA Hyderabad Central University Hyderabad	Sindhu Nepolean Swati Pant Nisha Dagar
UTTAR PRADESH Banaras Hindu University Varanasi	Ankit Kumar Wats Piyush Kumar
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Lucknow	Devender Kumar Prajapati Ashish Kumar Harshali Arora
Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh	Raghvendra Pratap Singh
University of Allahabad Allahabad	Shubhanker Yadav Prayrana Verma
WEST BENGAL Visva Bharati University Santiniketan	Sudeshna Mitra
University of Burdwan Burdwan	Sekhar Sarkar Anirban Roy Chowdhary

NCRI PhD Fellowships in Rural Community Engagement 2017-18

NCRI is offering PhD fellowships with an interest to enable aspiring students who are willing to engage in rural community engagement, to take up research work. This is way ahead of short term Internships. It involves getting into the fold of rural communities for a longer stint. The engagement will enable the growth of knowledge of and from rural communities. The serious researchers will be selected to explore possible responses to the rural challenge. These researchers would add to the field of knowledge and are expected to be solution engineers for rural distress. 12 Universities are initially part of this program. They are:

Universities in Rural Community Engagement Research

Central University of Punjab Bhatinda Punjab
Central University of South Bihar Gaya Bihar
Mahatma Gandhi Central University Motihari Bihar
Central University of Himachal Pradesh Dharmashala Himachal Pradesh
Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidhyalaya Wardha Maharashtra
Rajiv Gandhi University Itanagar Arunachal Pradesh
Mahatma Gandhi University Nalgonda Telangana
Central University of Jammu J&K
Central University of Karnataka Gulbarga Karnataka
Doctor Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar Madhya Pradesh
Central University of Gujarat Gandhinagar Gujarat
Hyderabad Central University Hyderabad Telangana

Research leads to theorisation... which further generates interest among young researchers to work for furthering of knowledge and practice in and through Rural Community Engagement

A round table discussion on “Rural Community Engagement Programme” was held at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh on 11th April under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof Angila Gupta. In the inaugural address she explained the importance of the involvement of academic community and the students in rural concerns. She also informed that Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya have already taken initiative for community engagement and social service in the form of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and National Service Scheme. In her speech she agreed and gave consent to introduce community engagement curriculum at PG level and decided to sign an MoU with NCRI in its forth coming workshop.



34 faculty members participated in this workshop in which along with University Registrar, Deans from various schools, HODs, NSS programme officers, Nodal Officer from Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and University NSS Coordinator were also present.



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 : ms@ncri.in, Website : www.ncri.in



Editorial Team : Dr WG Prasanna Kumar Chairman, Dr DN Dash Asst. Director and VA Malarvizhi, Published by Dr R Manoj Kumar Member Secretary