

Newsletter



# PRAGATI



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***Better Environment... Better Tomorrow...***

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## Cover Story

# Environment and the Virtue of Selfishness

It was Adam Smith – father of modern economics - in his ‘Wealth of Nations (1776)’ made visible the ‘invisible hand theory’. He laid bare the potential of a free-market economy and posited that there is nothing wrong with people acting in their self-interest. Let everyone run to their full potential, privatise, decontrol and deregulate. In a free-market of that nature, the combined force of everyone pursuing his or her own individual interests is to the benefit of society as a whole, enriching everyone. In 1980s again, Gordon Gekko declared that ‘Greed is good’.

Today as travellers on this bus of free-market economy that runs at reckless speed, we find that when economies go after decontrolled, deregulated market-based growth and the people go after a wasteful consumption, there will be two apparent side-effects: (i) pushing half of earth’s species to extinction; and (ii) ‘unmanageable waste generation’. There was a time when this was considered a phenomenon of the West; and later of the cities of the fast emerging economies; and currently it is everywhere including the villages in India. The villages in general and those on the periphery of cities and towns in particular are at the frontline as far as waste generation is concerned, rendering livelihoods unsustainable.

There are melancholic comedies on YouTube (Shah, 2014). They are videos of social experiments conducted on Swachh Bharat Mission by some youngsters who seemed serious about India becoming clean. They have recorded video of people from a distance while men throwing cigarette butts with no signs of guilt, college-going girls disposing of used paper hankies on the road, literate housewives chucking out kitchen waste in drainages, etc. After a while, these guys (experimenters) go to the same persons (errant citizens), posing as if they are collecting views of people on Swachh Bharat, and seek their view. These people who were on the wrong side of Swachh Bharat a little while ago talk big on Swachh Bharat and blame



everybody else of littering and being irresponsible. After giving a patient hearing to their lecture for 2 to 3 minutes, the experimenters show them the evidence of their littering and irresponsible behaviour recorded.

When their two sides come face to face with each other, it really falls flat on their face. This exposure twists one’s arm to self-disclose. This exposes that their ‘presenting-self’ is markedly different from their ‘real-self’. They tell lies to everyone, and especially to themselves. They put on a bogus ‘self-image’ and present it to the world as if that’s their ‘real-self’. Feeling ashamed, they try to slip away, while the experimenters go past asking them to talk more about Swachh Bharat.

To put it in plain language, it shows how glib we are with words; and we often mistake ‘talking for doing’. Given a chance we are ready to blame others, while we are in no way better. Words come easily to us. We have repeated it so many times that we fail to realise, our video is not in alignment with our audio. Such social experiment exercises are great indeed to help enhance the social awareness on responsible well-being, and of caring about environmental cleanliness, and protecting the eco-systems.

This social experiment also strongly indicates that everybody desires to live in clean India, but nobody ever thinks of doing his/her bit at least not to add to the garbage heap that is there. They seem to reason, the street is unclean anyway; how my not throwing this piece of paper going to help keep the entire place clean; or what can I alone do, when everybody else is irresponsible? It appears that along with the kitchen waste, we also discard the values of responsible well-being. Ayn Rand (1964) puts across that 'selfishness entails a hierarchy of values set by the standards of one's personal self-interest, and the refusal to sacrifice a higher value for a non-value'. Adam Smith talked about wealth creation for an economy, and its trickledown effect on the citizens. Perhaps, he thought selfishness although is a non-value, could be an acceptable value when our rationality or the intent is societal well-being. His analysis of selfishness was straight. He did not seem to have gone into the dark side of human rationality, where I can tell lies to myself.

My rationality today is 'I wish to live in clean India'. But, I look forward to everybody else to keep India clean and then I shall 'consider stop littering'. What else is the Municipality doing? What else is the Panchayat doing? Because cleaning up India is not my responsibility.

My rationality is clear. The reason for my chucking my kitchen waste on the street corner is: everybody else does the same. What can I alone do? We fail to realise that something which is rational for me, is rational enough for everyone else. Prof. V Raghunathan of IIM, Ahmedabad puts it succinctly that since we ourselves are unfair to varying degrees, it does not shock us when we encounter unfairness in others. We tolerate people littering because in our heart of hearts, we know that we too do the same thing, or trashy of a different kind.

That I can sidestep from this crowd, and be a positive deviant is what is required of 'educated people'. It's not enough being 'literate', we need to demonstrate that we are 'educated'. Being literate – especially being 'highly literate' prevents me from carrying my own shopping bag from home. It's below my dignity to carry one. Accepting a use-and throw carry bag from shopkeeper doesn't hurt me. It doesn't hurt because everybody does that.

I am no ordinary person, because everybody cannot give as big a talk as I do on the harmful effects of use-and-throw

carry bags on the environment. I can deliver a big talk because I am highly literate, because I am quite knowledgeable about the environmental problems that this planet endures from extinction of sparrows to melting glaciers from depleting groundwater levels to the scientific reasons behind Chennai Floods. But pardon me, I am too busy to plant a tree or water one planted by someone else; I am too busy to remember about carrying my own bag while I set out for shopping; I am too concerned about the global warming and climate change, yet it doesn't occur to me that I could put the lights and fans off when they are not in use. I often become pensive about the injuries that the eco-system is sustaining. I keep contemplating and do nothing about it.

NIRD&PR is making efforts to convert every trainee who enters this campus into a 'Swachh Citizen'. NIRD&PR is a plastic water bottle-free zone. We have got rid of use-and-throw carry bags, and promote reusable bags. One shall find only fresh flower bouquets, and no plastic wrapper in the bouquets presented to special guests who visit the campus. NIRD&PR has a mesmerising green cover, which we keep expanding almost week after week, including by the BVV school children in the campus. NIRD&PR builds in the trees, forestry area, grassland, and the water bodies while planning for infrastructure expansion. The campus is gradually shifting towards increased use of renewable sources of power, especially expanding the coverage under solar. Watershed treatment works within the campus are in progress. There are other plans underway in the campus, for instance, to manage solid waste in a scientific manner so as to be able to set this campus as an iconic example for: 'Take responsibility for the waste you create'.

Care as a social value has got to be a component of behaviour at all stages of development. Caring is the opposite of indifference. Gekko was wrong: Greed isn't good, caring is good. Caring for the environment is central to the quality of life and of survival, for other species as well as our own. The earth's carrying capacity depends on the caring concern of us humans. They say: The best time to plant trees was 20 years ago, and the second best time is....NOW. There is no plan B. Let's keep it clean. Let's keep it green.

**Dr R Ramesh**

Assistant Professor, CRI

## National Colloquium

# National Colloquium of Extension Training Centres (ETCs) at NIRD&PR

The National Colloquium of ETCs was organised at NIRD&PR on June 2 and 3, 2016. The Principals, Heads and Senior Faculty Members of 56 ETCs, faculty members of NIRD&PR, officials of Ministry of Rural Development, a few representatives of SIRDs, State Governments and State Link Officers of NIRD&PR participated in the deliberations.

The National Colloquium has been planned to review the performance of ETCs in the emerging context of new initiatives for rural development and growing significance of capacity building of development professionals. Besides reviewing the annual performance of ETCs, the issues relating to infrastructure, faculty and normative pattern of recurring grants provided under the Central Sector Scheme were part of the agenda and deliberations. In addition, the role and contributions of ETCs in capacity building for PRIs and RD&PR flagship programmes were discussed. Specifically, the objectives of the Colloquium are as follow:



- To review the existing training capacity of ETCs vis-à-vis the number of functionaries to be trained, assess its adequacy, identify the gaps and suggest measures for greater coverage with special reference to flagship programmes of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Ministries
- To suggest a standardised complement of faculty with relevant disciplines that a typical ETC is expected to have including measures for capacity building of the faculty members.
- To review the existing resource base of the ETCs and funding support under Central sector scheme and provide feedback on the revised guidelines of the scheme.
- To discuss the ETC related recommendations of the Alagh Committee and suggest measures for their operationalisation.

Keeping in view above objectives, the issues have been identified on different dimensions of institutional management and performance of ETCs. These include review of training and research performance with focus on capacity building for flagship programmes of rural development and panchayati raj, faculty and administration, review of funding and Central Sector Scheme and guidelines and norms for physical infrastructure.

The deliberations have been planned to facilitate sharing of experiences and best practices so that the same can form the basis for discussion of the agenda. The deliberations were facilitated through working groups followed by presentation and discussion on the group outputs. Thus, after the opening and inaugural session, which set the tone for deliberations, the participants were formed into six groups to discuss the flagged issues and to workout proposals for further action.

The same were presented and recommendations were fine-tuned after their presentation and feedback from the other groups in the plenary sessions. As part of the programme, the participants had the benefit of a video-conference based interaction with S. M. Vijayanand, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala and former Secretary, Rural

Development, MoRD, on various issues relating to training and institution building for rural development and panchayati raj.

The colloquium started with welcome of the Chief Guest for the inaugural session and the participants by Dr. P. Durgaprasad, Head of the training wing. Briefing on the programme schedule and issues for deliberations, Dr. Prasad referred to the growing importance of capacity building and highlighted the key role of ETCs in this endeavour. He also observed that the colloquium gains significance in the context of the recommendations of Alagh Committee on restructuring of NIRD&PR and streamlining of SIRDs and ETCs.

Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR in his inaugural address touched upon a wide range of issues involved in capacity building in general and for rural development and panchayati raj in particular. He highlighted the expectations from ETCs and the need for out of box thinking to make these institutes more dynamic agents of change. Referring to the role of NIRD&PR, the Director General said that the endeavour of the Institute is to assist and develop linkages to facilitate further strengthening of the institutions.

In this context, he recalled the pioneering work of S. K. Dey at Nilokheri during the days of Community Development Programme which had served as a model of rural development in the years to come. He referred to one of the initiatives of NIRD&PR to liaise with State Governments, SIRDs and ETCs in the form of State Link Officers (SLOs) Scheme and indicated that the existing roles and responsibilities of SLOs will be reviewed and revised for greater performance and accountability.

As part of it, their role in facilitating performance of ETCs in the respective State will be included in their annual performance assessment (ACR) so as to bring a new dimension to their responsibilities. In this context, the Director General shared his views on aspects relating to impact of training in particular. He observed that the tendency has been to achieve the targets in terms of number of functionaries trained rather than the outcomes and quality of achievements.

Dr. R.P. Achari, Associate Professor, Dr. V.K. Reddy, Adjunct Faculty and Dr. P. Durgaprasad, Adviser & Head (Training and Networking) of CRTCN have coordinated the programme.

## NIRD&PR Initiative



National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) and Riddhi Foundation, Kolkata signed an MoU for jointly working in research in rural development, decentralised planning and rural local governance, training and capacity building in GIS applications. Dr M N Roy, President, Riddhi Foundation and A Praveen Kumar, Assistant Registrar (E), NIRD&PR signed the MOU in the presence of Dr. W. R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR. The Riddhi Foundation has been working in several States in assisting State Governments to assess the health, education, panchayati raj system and have earlier worked with CGARD, NIRD&PR in UNICEF Project in Attapady, Kerala and Mobile based asset capturing in Waynad District, Kerala and also in mapping Panchayat Boundaries.

## Meetings

# Research Advisory Committee Meeting

The Meeting of Research Advisory Committee was held on June 3, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. Mahendra Dev. The members i.e., Dr. Ravi Srivastava, Dr. S. Parasuraman, Dr. T. J. Rao, Dr. R. Siva Prasad, Dr. Gyanmudra and Dr. W.R.Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR were present in the meeting.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General of NIRD&PR emphasised the importance of the meeting and informed that this Institute aims at enriching the quality of research projects, which would lead to better policy formulations for the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. He requested the members of the RAC to provide the critical observations with a view to fine-tuning the proposals proposed by the NIRD&PR faculty members for the year 2016-17.



All the faculty members of the 24 research studies which were submitted to the committee members were invited to present their studies. The Committee members discussed these proposals and offered their observations and suggestions against each study.

# Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) Meeting



The first meeting of Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) was conducted at NIRD&PR on June 8, 2016 under Chairmanship of Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR. Praveen Kumar, Assistant Registrar (E) and Member Secretary of the TOLIC has welcomed chairman, TOLIC and guests.

Techchand, Deputy Director (Implementation), Regional Implementation office, Bengaluru, was the chief guest of the programme and Dr. Ramsingh, In-charge Officer, Hindi Teaching Scheme has also addressed the gathering on the matter of Praveen, Prabodh, Pragyan and Parangat.

A total of 49 Central government officers from Hyderabad and Secunderabad participated in the meeting and reviewed the implementation of official work in Hindi.

At the end of the programme, the Chairman of the Committee discussed with members and taken stock of difficulties and problems faced by various offices while implementing Official Language Policy.

Anita Pandey, Assistant Director (OL) has presented a brief report of TOLIC and E. Ramesh, Senior Hindi Translator has anchored the programme and proposed a vote of thanks.

## Yoga Day

# International Yoga Day Celebrations at NIRD&PR



The UN International Yoga Day was celebrated with great energy and enthusiasm at NIRD&PR. Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR has sent greetings to all the participants and urged them to realise the importance of Yoga and adopt it with all sincerity and purpose. Exposure to Yoga, he said, was one more step towards sustained poverty alleviation initiatives.

In his opening message, the Director General stated, “Soft aspects such as compassion for the poor and a fierce commitment to their upliftment are the shared responsibilities of every concerned citizen of the country. Therefore, every effort should be made to reach the last person in the vast number of villages in the country. Yoga is a sure way of surging ahead in the noble endeavour of rural development for improved quality of life.”

Chanda M Pandit, Registrar & Director (Admn), NIRD&PR, inaugurated the programme in the morning. She highlighted the critical contributions of Yoga to the well-being of human beings. Listing the benefits of physical health, she impressed the gathering with her insights relating to development of emotional balance and spiritual progression. “The health benefits apart, aspects of personal discipline and

sincerity would also exponentially grow with age and application over time”, the Registrar stated.

Nookala Gurudeep, Yoga Master from Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad delivered a session on the importance of Yoga and the need to provide a new momentum to the growing precept and practice of Yoga. He demonstrated the versatility of different Yoga Asanas, even while guiding a large group of participants comprising faculty members, officer trainees, post graduate students and campus residents in practicing a set of meditation and physical exercises at the Community Hall.

Dr. P. Durgaprasad, Programme Coordinator and Adviser & Head (Training & Networking), Centre for Research & Training Coordination and Networking (CRTCN), urged the participants to make every effort for integrating Yoga in to one’s own DNA of discipline and mental health. In his concluding message, he said, “Rural development and poverty alleviation can be effectively tackled significantly through Yoga and the mental strength it bestows on rural development workers and professionals too.” The programme team comprised N.M. Naik, OSD, K.C. Behra, PRO, Srikanth, Training Associate (CRTCN) and Zareena, Sr. Project Assistant (CRTCN).

## Initiative of Change

# Training and Development Programme for Officers and Staff

As part of the Training and Development Programme for the Officers and Staff including project staff of NIRD&PR, a training programme for the development of the administration personnel was conducted by the 'Initiatives of Change (IofC)', Panchgani, Maharashtra from June 20 to 22, 2016. Administration officers, Accounts Officers, Security Officer, Hostel Managers, Ministerial Staff and Project Staff comprised the participants. As many as 150 participants attended the customised three-day programme, where about 50 different participants attended each day.



The programme was inspired by the thought process of Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR. Chanda Pandit, Registrar and Director (Admn.), introduced the IofC team and contextualised its development endeavours. The programme was coordinated by Dr. P. Durgaprasad, Advisor & Head and Dr. R.P. Achari, Associate Professor of Centre for Research and Training Coordination and Networking (CRTCN).

Based on the articulated motivation and learning needs of the NIRD&PR officers and staff, a series of high energy academic and life skill-oriented activities were custom designed and meticulously delivered by the IofC facilitators, spearheaded by Suresh Khatri.

The participants were asked to voice their major concerns of rural development and administrative support strategies, their priorities of interventions vis-a-vis the mandate and strengths of NIRD&PR. Hectic activity followed by way of an exercise on 'What is in my Glass,' which referred mainly to individual follies and the concomitant notions of 'rights and wrongs in one's life and living'.

The need for group thinking and planning was conveyed through a group exercise of Tower Building with newspapers.

'Involvement of team members and optimal use of human resources was the bottom line'. Thematic songs, skits and video clippings were used to drive home the spirit of group work and ethics. A film on the negotiation abilities of activists of the North-East was shown to drive home the point that nativity and cultural tradition are as important as modernisation.

Next item was the lesson on overcoming the problem of little or no confidence through another exercise. The substance of this exercise was "We need to become a part of the problem resolution exercise, otherwise you are the problem", as summarised by the facilitators.

The workshop concluded with a resolution that 'whatever it takes, we must strive to achieve the overall objective of NIRD&PR with utmost sincerity and professionalism'.

Dr. P. Durgaprasad, Adviser and Project Head, CRTCN capped up the learning objective and its outcome, even while appreciating the critical contribution of life-skills, training methods, ethics and values. The honesty and purpose with which the IofC has facilitated the programme was applauded by the officers and staff.

## Workshop

### One-day Workshop on Hindi Language for NIRD&PR Staff

A one-day Hindi Workshop was organised on June 15, 2016 for MTS Staff of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. As many as 35 employees were nominated for this workshop. Topic of the workshop was 'Karyalyon mei Rajbhasha Hindi'. Awadesh Kumar Sinha, Manager (Admin), who inaugurated the workshop, has also taken a session on the functional Hindi language. Praveen Kumar, Assistant Registrar (E) was the chief guest of the programme. Dr. Kamaluddin, a Pradhyapak from Hindi Teaching Scheme and Awadh Nath Rai, project staff took sessions on Hindi Grammar and Saral Hindi. Anita Pandey, Assistant Director (Official Language) and E. Ramesh, Senior Hindi Translator, coordinated the programme.



## Training

### Training-cum-Exposure Visit of Panchayati Raj Elected Representatives from Tripura

The Training-cum-Exposure visit of Panchayati Raj Elected Representatives from Tripura State on 'Panchayati Raj and Good Governance Initiatives' was organised by Centre for Decentralised Planning (CDP) from June 20 to 23, 2016 at NIRD&PR.

Dr. K. Jayalakshmi, Professor and Head, CPR inaugurated the programme and shared her thoughts about the Panchayati Raj and best practices that were implemented by the Gram Panchayats which helped them to implement Governance mechanism for the effective delivery of the services for the villages.

The programme was attended by 24 elected PR representatives including five women Sarpanches, 17 men Sarpanches and Panchayati Samiti members. Two senior officials also accompanied and coordinated the programme. The programme was sponsored by the State Government of Tripura.

The basic objectives of the programme, inter-alia, were:

- To understand the concept and approaches for Good Governance initiatives by Gram Panchayats
- To focus on best practices initiated by State governments under the framework of Fourteenth Central Finance Commission (GPDP)
- To highlight the Own Source of Revenue (OSR) augmented by Gram Panchayats;
- To expose to the field and observe the best performed Gram Panchayat in a holistic manner.

During the programme important topics have been arranged according to the title of the programme. Majority of the sessions covered topics like Panchayati Raj and Good Practices, Resource Mobilisation by the Gram Panchayats in Telangana State which empowered the Panchayats as a case,



the 14th Finance Commission and the convergence resource from the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for benefit of the Gram Panchayats. A group exercise was also given to participants to find problems and solutions for the betterment of the Gram Panchayats.

The participants were taken to Ibrahimpur Gram Panchayat, Siddipet Mandal of Medak district, thereby the participants were exposed to many good practices which are followed by the respective Gram Panchayats, such as providing

individual latrine to every household which was connected with the underground drainage system. As part of the field visit, the participants were taken to another panchayat called Hajipalle Gram Panchayat, which was also awarded by MoPR, Government of India.

The participants expressed that this field visit was very helpful and they were satisfied in all aspects like course content, practical orientation, boarding and lodging and skilled effectiveness obtained from the guest speakers, ultimately the change of attitudes after the visit. The overall effectiveness of the programme was 86 per cent.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Y. Bhaskar Rao, Professor and Head, Centre for Decentralised Planning (CDP) under the guidance of Dr. K. Jayalakshmi, Professor and Head, CPR, on behalf of School of Local Governance.

## Workshop-cum-Training for Senior Officials of Union Territories

As per the directions from the Ministry of Rural Development, a Workshop-cum-Training for the Secretaries, HoDs and other Senior Officials of Union Territories was organised on June 7, 2016 at NIRD&PR

The programme has been conducted by Dr. Shankar Chatterjee, Professor and Head, (CPME) and Dr. N. Kalpalatha of CPME. The following seven senior officials from UTs who are dealing with centrally sponsored schemes of Ministry of Rural Development including the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Drinking water & Sanitation attended the workshop.

- **K.Narsimha, IAS, Secretary Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Chandigarh**
- **Sunder Lal, BDPO, Chandigarh**
- **Tej Bahadur, Superintending Engineer (PRIs), South Andaman**

- **P. Parthiban, IAS, Director, Rural Development, Puducherry**
- **Prakash P. Parmar, DPO, Dadra & Nagar Haveli**
- **Sagar S. Thakkar, BDO, Daman**
- **L. P. Hamzakoya, Lakshadweep**

Several important topics such as self-employment and impact of NRLM across India, impact of MGNREGS in employment generation and asset creation in rural India, housing, drinking water and sanitation: policy and programmes, role of panchayats in rural development, policy and programmes in conserving land resource in India, were covered during the course of training programmes. The schedule was approved by the Ministry of Rural Development. All the sessions were dealt by senior faculty of NIRD&PR including four Professors and Heads of the respective centres and one Associate Professor. The sessions were interactive and participants took part enthusiastically.

Apart from this, the activities of NIRD&PR were shown to the participants through a small film. Further, few short video films pertaining to field cases on SHG, MGNREGS, marketing support to SHGs and consequences of using plastic were also exhibited to the participants.

As a part of training programme, participants were taken to Rural Technology Park (RTP) of NIRD&PR where they were briefed about the activities of the RTP and also explained how RTP can facilitate through dissemination of information, demonstration, skill upgradation, capacity



building and entrepreneurship development for adoption of technologies / establishment of units.

## Training on Solid Waste Management

The Centre for Rural Infrastructure (CRI) conducted a five day training programme on solid and liquid waste management for rural sanitation professionals. The participants were from State and district level Offices of Swachh Bharat Mission. There were 28 officials participating from States like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Sikkim, and West Bengal. The CRI has prepared a handbook on Solid Waste Management (SWM), which is an outcome of a series of case studies on successful SWM units across the country. It included waste assessment, preparation of DPR (Detailed Project Report), etc.

Many State governments are making good progress in construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs). But they have only a foggy idea of how to plan and put in place a SWM system. This programme on SWM conducted by the NIRD&PR gave insights on where to start, and how to go about doing it. The handbook, which is called 'A Step-by-Step Guide' for the facilitators of Swachh Bharat Mission is really handy for them to put in place a SWM system. This is also a good reference material for them to consult, in case of doubts.

As part of the training, they were taken to Gantlavalli Gram Panchayat, which is almost a model village, but for the haphazard waste disposal methods. The participants made waste assessment, educated the villagers, and have prepared a



DPR for setting up SWM project in Gantlavalli. The participants also underwent a practical session on waste segregation, carried out by manager of Solid and Liquid Resource Management Unit from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The participants got an orientation that viewing waste as waste is incorrect and erroneous. Waste can be a resource, if we use our creativity for reuse and recycling it. With shrinking resource-base on earth, it is a necessity as well. The participants have left assuring that they shall come back to NIRD&PR after a year or so, in order to share their success stories after grounding SWM projects in their States / districts. The programme was conducted by Dr. R. Ramesh, Assistant Professor, CRI and Dr. P. SivaRam, Professor and Head, CRI.

# Training Programme on Financial Management for Panchayati Raj Functionaries



A Training Programme on 'Financial Management for Panchayati Raj Functionaries' was organised by Centre for Decentralised Planning (CDP) from June 13 to 17, 2016 at NIRD&PR. Dr. K. Jayalakshmi, Professor and Head, CPR inaugurated the programme and shared her thoughts about Panchayati Raj and Financial Management. The programme was attended by 23 members consisting of 10 Accounts Officers, three Chief Executive Officers, two DPOs, and two BDOs. The rest of participants were elected representatives from PRIs from Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The objectives of the programme were:

- To review the aspects of Financial Management in PRIs
- To understand the other sources of revenue
- Mobilisation by the Gram Panchayats for strengthening of its own resource base
- To highlight the GPDP and Fourteenth Finance Commission
- To share the deliberations with participants on funds flow from the schematic funds, untied funds, CFC and SFC Grants to the PRIs

- To highlight the process of preparing Budget, Accounting and Auditing procedures.

The programme included important sessions such as 14<sup>th</sup> Central Finance Commission funds for strengthening Gram Panchayats, Revenue Generation by Gram Panchayats in Telangana State as good practices, GPDP, Gram Jyothi and Convergence of resources from RDPS with Gram Panchayats.

The participants were taken to Hajipalle to examine the resources mobilisation by Gram Panchayats and development works which were implemented by Gram Panchayat. The participants discussed with elected members about the OSR and utilisation of CFC funds, SFC funds and Schematic funds. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Minati Biswas, Chairperson of Zilla Parishads from South Andaman.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Y. Bhaskar Rao, Professor and Head, Centre for Decentralised Planning (CDP) under the overall guidance and supervision of Dr. K. Jayalakshmi from the School of Local Governance (SLG).

# Training Programme on Participatory Planning for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development

The training programme titled 'Participatory Planning for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development' is a repeat programme conducted by the NIRD&PR every year based on the immense response from the participants. The programme was organised from June 20 to 24, 2016 at NIRD&PR. The major objective of the training was to discuss the present status of poverty in villages across the country, problems and various issues attached with the strategies addressing the poverty alleviation.

It was also aimed at finding ways and means for sustainable development through participatory planning. In addition to the major focus of discussion on poverty reduction, many sessions were arranged to update the knowledge level of the participants on effective planning, community mobilisation, resource mobilisation and participatory monitoring of Rural Development schemes with special focus on Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

The programme was organised with following specific objectives:

- To provide basic knowledge on the concepts, approaches and strategies of poverty reduction, planning and sustainable development.
- To give hands-on experience to the participants on the participatory methods and techniques for effective planning at the grassroots level.
- To equip the participants with skills on participatory monitoring and evaluation.
- To discuss on the field based problems for appropriate solutions and presentation of success stories for replication.

The programme was attended by 33 participants including three elected representatives representing at block and district level Rural Development and Panchayati Raj departments from 12 States. Functionaries directly concerned with planning and implementation of poverty reduction and rural development projects have also attended.



The training contents were delivered through participatory learning process. The sessions were dynamic and interactive in nature. Few sessions were delivered through lecture-cum-group discussion. Presentation of successful cases of documentaries motivated the participants and enabled them to actively involve in group work and discussions, brainstorming, field work and practical exercises.

The programme covered various topics such as the understanding issues of rural poverty, methodology and stages of participatory planning at the grassroots level, participatory planning techniques, important features of gram panchayat development plan (GPDP), effective strategies for mobilisation of people for participatory planning, geo-informatic techniques in planning and monitoring of RD programmes, NRLM intervention in strengthening of rural livelihoods, participatory monitoring and soft skills related to human resource development. During the training programme, a one-day field visit was also arranged for the participants to get practical exposure by visiting various Rural Development Projects at the Gram Panchayat level and to get hands on experience on identifying livelihood activities for the people.

This programme was organised by Dr. R. Chinnadurai, Associate Professor, Centre for Decentralised Planning and Dr. R. Aruna Jayamani, Assistant Professor, Centre for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (CPME) of NIRD&PR.

## NIRD&PR Events



**Workshop on official language at NIRD&PR**

**Special lecture-cum-workshop on sustainable housing at NIRD&PR**



**Renowned Scholar Prof. Anil K Gupta delivering a Special lecture at NIRD&PR**



**Arjun Munda, Former Chief Minister of Jharkhand visiting Rural Technology Park**





### Update for JRD

The Journal of Rural Development, a quarterly journal published by NIRD&PR would be going online with regard to the submission of papers. Henceforth, the contributors are requested to follow the procedure given in Online Journal Management System (OJMS). One can access the OJMS site on the link <http://nirdprojms.in>.

OIGS

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