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पंचायती राज संस्थान
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TRAINING
& CAPACITY
BUILDING



RESEARCH &
APPLICATION
DEVELOPMENT



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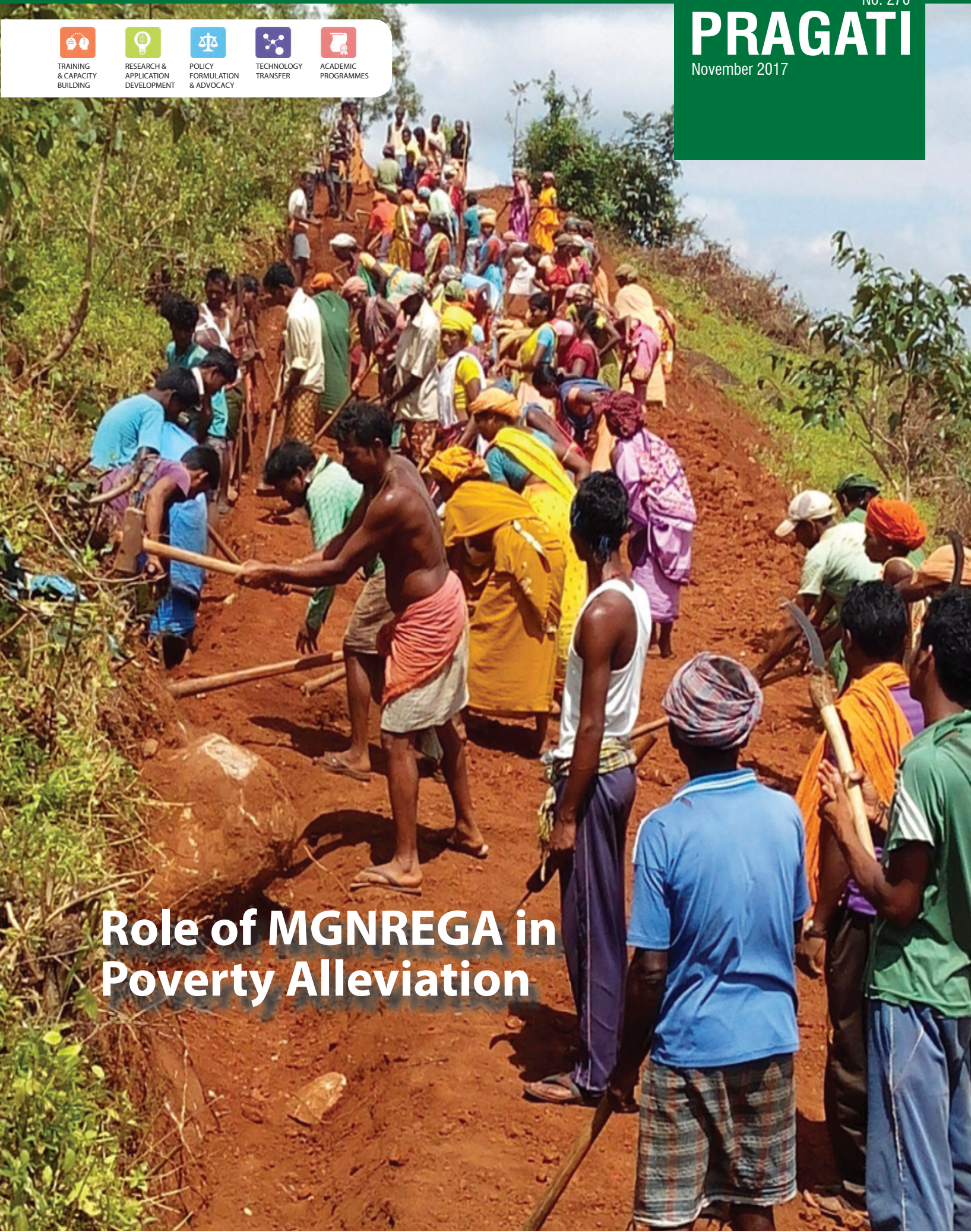


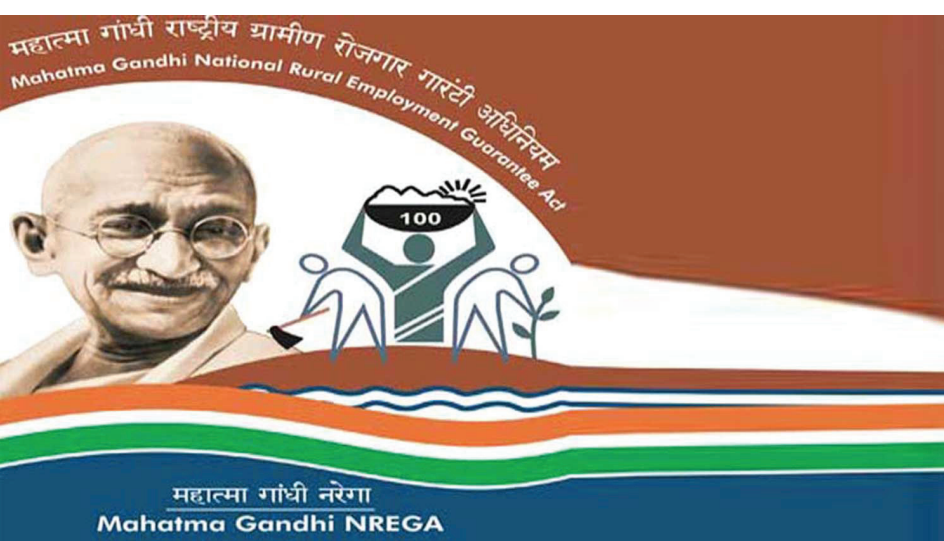
TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER



ACADEMIC
PROGRAMMES

Role of MGNREGA in Poverty Alleviation





3 | Role of MGNREGA in Poverty Alleviation

CONTENTS

5

59th Foundation Day Lectures
Organised at NIRD&PR

7

'Pragati' – National Film Festival
on Rural Development Held at
NIRD&PR

8

National Conference on Health,
Gender and Rural Development

10 & 11

NIRD&PR Events

10

Regional Level ToT Course on
Skill Development for Rural
Youth

12

RSETI Directors' Conclave at
NIRD&PR

13

Workshop on Field Data
Aggregation Using Open Data
Kit (ODK)

15

NIRD&PR Editor Attends
International Conference on
Publication Technologies and
New Initiatives at Singapore

16

Workshop on Science Film
Making



Role of MGNREGA in Poverty Alleviation



Poverty is a multi-dimensional concept that covers all basic aspects of life including food, nutrition, shelter, education, health, etc. The Five Year Plans of Government of India addressed the issue of poverty through various programmes since the Independence. But poverty still remains a central issue of country's economic and social development. Most of our poverty alleviation programmes focused on providing income by generating employment through public programmes starting from 1960s. These programmes have been supply-driven and have been implemented by the government departments. In many cases these programmes suffered due to little transparency and accountability. As a result, bulk of the unskilled labourers continued to face poverty and experienced seasonality in employment. The notification of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Scheme in 2005 was a paradigm shift in the history of employment generation to address the livelihood security of rural poor. It is designed as a rights-based, demand-driven programme, overcoming problems of targeting through self-selection. This scheme is aimed at enhancing livelihood

meet the unexpected risk as well as to ensure the social resilience. It is a unique programme in the sense that it generates not only employment opportunities but also the durable and productive assets for sustainable rural livelihoods. The scheme also helps to strengthen decentralised governance through village level development planning which in turn assumes empowerment of grassroots level institutions like gram sabhas, self-help groups and civil society organisations.

Various studies conducted in the National Institute of Rural Development and other institutions reveal that the implementation of MGNREGS has helped rural people to come out of the vicious circle of seasonal poverty and distress migration. In many parts of the country, the programme influenced the real rural wage for agricultural labourers positively and broadened the occupational choices available to them within their villages.

Various studies conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and other Institutions reveal that the implementation of MGNREGS

has helped rural people to come out of the vicious circle of seasonal poverty and distress migration. In many parts of the country, the programme influenced the real rural wage for agricultural

security by guaranteeing 100 days of unskilled employment in a year to a rural household. The scheme has provisions to provide 150 days of employment during the time of natural calamities like floods, draughts and cyclones, etc., to



labourers positively and broadened the occupational choices available to them within their villages. Today, the programme provides employment to 11.1 crore unskilled workers of rural India as against a total of 25.14 unskilled rural workers. The MGNREGS contributed to the reduction of poverty in rural India by contributing supplementary income to the poor households particularly during lean season. Some studies observed a higher share of MGNREGS income to total household income which indicates the significance of the MGNREGS programme in high poverty areas; especially for achieving food security. Households spend their MGNREGS income exclusively on food in areas with high incidence of poverty. MGNREGS income is a safety net for these poorer households especially in lean periods, for the purchase of food items. Therefore, the wages they receive and associated spending has nutritional implications for them.

Beyond its immediate aim of employment guarantee, MGNREGS was designed to have a far reaching impact with regard to livelihood security through creation of community assets, empowerment of women and other marginalised groups, indirectly improving working conditions in the casual labour market, and strengthening PRI functioning. Thus it touches other dimensions of rural poverty as well. It is also observed in many parts of the country that the MGNREGS performs a social security function for many people especially women who are deprived within the house (due to old age, widow, separation, etc.). Some of the elderly workers reported that they will not get work in a farm because of their age, whereas there is no age ceiling under MGNREGS. Hence, the scheme comes as a relief for many in the sense that it makes them less dependent on other family members.

The holistic approach of MGNREGS through preparation of a development plan and labour budgeting are central to the success of the scheme. Nevertheless, the scheme is not free from various shortcomings at implementation stage. Lack of proper labour budgeting made the programme implementation less effective in various parts of the country. The work identification, work-demand elicitation and timing of work are crucial activities to address the issue of poverty and distress migration. In reality, few panchayats have created holistic development plans in the country with a perspective to integrate labour budget of MGNREGA with Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj initiated a massive capacity building programme in this respect with a focus on improving the quality of labour budgeting under MGNREGA. The programme also aims to facilitate localisation process of sustainable development goals (SDGs) which emphasise that local governments are essential for promoting inclusive sustainable development. The integration of labour budgeting under MGNREGA with Gram Panchayat's Development Plan has a great potential to generate synergies at grassroots level that helps to achieve many SDGs having direct links with poverty alleviation and rural development.

Dr. Jyothis Sathyapalan

Prof. & Head,
Centre for Wage Employment &
Poverty Alleviation (CWEPA)





59th Foundation Day Lectures Organised at NIRD&PR

The Foundation Day of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj was held at NIRD&PR campus on November 9, 2017.

The Central Institute of Study and Research in Community Development was set up in 1958 at Mussoorie to offer orientation courses in the development programmes. The Institute of Instruction in Community Development, established in December, 1958 at Dehradun was entrusted with the task of training in the area of community development. In April, 1962, both the Institutes were merged into one and named as National Institute of Community Development (NICD). The NICD was shifted to Hyderabad during 1964-65. Subsequently, the Institute was renamed as National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and later the name of NIRD has been changed to National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) in the year 2014.

With the glorious heritage of 59 years in Rural Development, the Institution organised its Foundation Day Celebration on theme of "Skilling & Entrepreneurship – A Way Forward for Transformation". Eminent personalities and practitioners with vast experience

youth to improve their skills that would fetch employment.

Ms. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director of the Apollo Hospitals Group who is widely acknowledged as the pioneer of private healthcare in India and a proponent of integrated healthcare, was the chief guest on this occasion. Moreover, being cognizant of the acute need for well-trained skilled manpower in the country, she pioneered establishment of Apollo Medskills and led a partnership between Apollo Hospitals, DDU-GKY and National Skill Development Corporation, which has now

“On November 9th, the NIRD&PR marks its Foundation Day. The month-long celebrations of the Foundation Day include various activities such as Lectures, Seminars, Film Festival, RTP Mela and cultural and sports competitions for the staff and students of the Institute”

and expertise in the area of skilling and entrepreneurship were invited to deliver the lectures on this auspicious day.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General of NIRD&PR, welcomed the speakers and in his opening remarks, he gave emphasis on the need to encourage the

emerged as a purpose-driven public private partnership with a goal to skill half a million individuals before 2020. Speaking on this occasion, Ms. Reddy mentioned about the job creation for the local youth at the village level. She stressed upon exploring innovative opportunities for self-employment at the Rural Areas wherein the unemployed



youth can engage themselves for full-time or part-time. Citing an example, she mentioned about the demand for about two lakh tele-medicine technicians who can contribute to medical treatment at remote villages. Ms. Divya Jain, Chief Executive Officer, Safeduce was the special speaker on the occasion. She shared her experiences with skilling sector and highlighted on the methods for simplifying the skill training delivery methodology.

Mr. Narendra Kumar Shyamsukha, Founder Chairman, Institute of Computer Accounts, addressed the audience on the need for entrepreneurs and not managers. He emphasised on the fact that now-a-days MUDRA loans are easily available for entrepreneurs.

Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar was the keynote speaker on this occasion. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, a visionary social architect who embarked on a social development mission using education as the strategic medium to eradicate poverty and alienation from the surface of the earth, a goal envisaged today by global leaders that goes as sustainable development goals. He is the founder of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), world's largest fully-free residential



Kindergarten to Post Graduate Institute for 25,000 poorest-of-the-poor indigenous aborigine (Scheduled Tribe) children and an institute with "Special Consultative Status" with United Nations. Dr. Achyuta Samanta is empowering about two million people through education and skill development in collaboration with a number of organisations like UNFPA. Currently he is working for establishment of 20 branches of KISS covering 20 districts of Odisha and another 20 branches across the country besides 2 branches abroad under his "New Mind New Dream Programme", a vision for empowering socio-economic uplift.

In his keynote address, he shared his experience of working with youth on skilling and entrepreneurship by empowering tribal youth through education in general and vocational

education in particular. He shared about the challenges faced by him and the change that has been brought about by his endeavours in the lives of hundreds of people coming from the marginalised sections of the society.

Dr. Franklin Laltinkhuma, IAS, Registrar and Director (Admn.), NIRD&PR, Hyderabad concluded the programme with a vote of thanks after reflecting upon the Institute's 59-year-old legacy.

The foundation day lectures were attended by heads of the neighbouring institutions, faculty, staff of NIRD&PR, and PGDRDM students. The foundation day lectures were coordinated by Dr. A. Debapriya, Associate Professor, Centre for PG Studies and Distance Education and his team.



'Pragati' – National Film Festival on Rural Development Held at NIRD&PR

As part of the Foundation Day celebrations of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, the Centre for Development Documentation and Communication (CDC) organised a workshop on film-making and a national film festival on rural development, the 'Pragati', on November 7 & 8, 2017, respectively. Both the events were aimed at providing insights on film-making and dissemination of information through the medium of films.

On November 7, 2017 the two-day programme began with a workshop on film-making. Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR inaugurated the workshop. Addressing the participants at the workshop, the Director General highlighted the importance of media, specially the visual medium. He advised the scholars, students and faculty to document their observations during field visits and disseminate the

information to various stakeholders through photographs, videos and films.

Dr. Gyanmudra, Prof. & Head, CDC delivered the welcome address and explained the objectives of programme and introduced the resource persons to participants. Speaking at the event, Dr. Gyanmudra urged the participants to make the best of this two-day event.

Film-makers Ms. Neela Subramanian and Ms. Akshara Subramanian were the resource persons of the workshop. The workshop concluded with a presentation on film-making techniques by both the speakers and an exercise for participants to practise the techniques discussed in the presentation. The participants were divided into groups and were given a photo-feature exercise. The work done by participants was discussed in the concluding session and a



feedback was given by the speakers. This exercise was meant to teach basics of film-making to the participants. NIRD&PR staff, students and participants of international training programmes attended the workshop.

On the second day i.e November 8, 2017, the 'Pragati – a Film Festival on Rural Development' was organised. As part of the film festival, several films submitted by film-makers from across the country were screened. This film festival named 'Pragati' was the second edition of the film festival organised by the Institute. A similar event was successfully organised in the year 2016.

The film festival featured short films, feature films and documentaries on topics related to rural development. The main themes of films for this festival included Literacy and Education, Water, Health & Sanitation, Environment Protection & Climate Change, Gender Issues & Women Empowerment, Agriculture & Allied Sectors, Communalism – Terrorism, Financial Inclusion, Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Disaster Management, Poverty Alleviation, etc. After the screening, best of the films were awarded with cash prize, memento and certificates.

List of Winners

Title of the Film	Names of Film-makers	Prize
Aambaya	Sanjay A Dherange, Windle House Production	1st Prize
No Small Change-Enterprise	Shri Padmavathy Mahila Abhyudaya Sangam	2nd Prize
The Healing Touch	Ayan Maity	3rd Prize
Child Brides of Mainpat	Anjali Nag	Consolation Prize
The School in Darkness	Dinesh Kumar	Consolation Prize

National Conference on Health, Gender and Rural Development



The Centre for Gender Studies and Development, NIRD&PR, hosted the National Conference on 'Health, Gender and Rural Development: Research, Practice and Policy' in collaboration with Indian Association of Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) on the occasion of

15th Annual Conference of IASSH from November 16 to 18, 2017 at NIRD&PR Hyderabad.

The pre-conference Workshop on 'Approaches to Social Sciences Research' was organised from November 13 to 15, 2017 for research scholars who

participated in the workshop. Nearly 35 research scholars from different universities and academic institutes participated in the pre-conference workshop.

Dr. Gyanmudra, Prof. & Head, Centre for Training Coordination, Research and



Networking, NIRD&PR, in her welcome speech pointed out that a good research work in the field of social sciences must lead to improvement in the Human Development Index (HDI). An important research work leads to emancipation of society, ushers in meaningful and sustainable changes and creates some value and impacts the lives of people positively.

Dr. W.R.Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR in his speech mentioned that there is a deficit in the field of social science research in India and an acute deficiency of body of knowledge in social science which plays an instrumental role in policy formulation. He emphasised on the necessity of quality research work in the Indian context, and the need to work for the plight of poor, uneducated and underprivileged masses that are waiting for resources to improve their situations. He continuously reiterated the significance of focussed and passionate work and how a research community must step further to become better equipped to handle unexpected emergencies that project threat to our communities' well-being and progress. The sessions were about the topics related to social sciences research, research design and selection of research problem, quantitative and qualitative research and writing research proposal, relevance of policy research, case study application: how and what to report; qualitative research methods and secondary data analysis, publications of research papers in scientific journals. Besides the members of IASSH, NIRD&PR

faculty members also were roped in as resource persons for the workshop.

Ms. K. Sujatha Rao, Former Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India delivered the keynote address in the inaugural session of the conference on November 16, 2017, held at the Vikas Auditorium on NIRD&PR campus. In her speech, she reiterated that illnesses and diseases can be avoided if we invest on health, education, communication and community empowerment in tandem with investments in providing access to toilets, tap water, nutrition and ventilated housing. She emphasised on the role of social scientists in conducting policy oriented research, which will greatly help policy makers and programme managers in bridging the existing gap between the policies and the programme implementation. She requested the conference delegates and the experts attending the conference, to contribute to the policy making through their research and insights.

On this occasion Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR appreciated the efforts of IASSH in collaborating with NIRD&PR. He emphasised on the need for evidence-based policy research to understand the social cultural determinants of health for improving the overall quality of life of community members in rural India.

He also suggested the delegates to come forward and work with NIRD&PR in their mission to attain sustainable rural development in the country by

implementing effective programmes and schemes for the common populace of the country.

Prof. Siva Raju, IASSH President traced the evolution of association for last 15 years and its relevance in the present day context and expressed keen interest to collaborate with NIRD&PR for achieving rural development especially in the area of rural health.

Prof. T V Shekhar, General Secretary, IASSH outlined the three-day conference programme and the various themes and sessions. Two memorial lectures were held on the second day of the conference. The Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Parasuraman, Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences on 'Is India the hope for the troubled world' and was chaired by Dr. Venkatesh Srinivasan, Assistant Country Representative, UNFPA, and India. This was followed by Prof. K E Vaidya Nathan Lecture by Dr. Amar Jesani, expert in public health and bio-ethics from Mumbai who delivered a talk on 'Ethics in Public Health Research'. This session was chaired by Prof. Siva Raju, President, IASSH.

The NIRD&PR faculty members also participated as chairpersons and judges in different technical sessions and in the youth best paper award competition. Nearly 250 delegates from all over India attended the conference and nearly 200 scientific papers were presented under different thematic areas during the three-day conference. Dr. Sucharita Pujari, Assistant Professor, CGSD was the local organising convener.



Officials of Press Information Bureau



Winners of Essay Writing Competitions on Vigilance Week Awareness Programme organised by NIRD&PR, receiving Mementos from the Director General

NIRD&PR

Regional Level ToT Course on Skill Development for Rural Youth

Centre for Livelihoods (CFL), NIRD&PR organised a ToT Course on Skill Development for Rural Youth from November 6 to 10, 2017 at SIRD&PR, Ranchi, Jharkhand. Altogether, 31 participants attended the course. The participants were from Nehru Yuva Kendra Sanghathan (NYKS), State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLMs); State Skill Development Mission (SSDM) and District Rural Development Agency (DRDA).

Activities on the first day including the course design, induction of the course, ice-breaking through seed-mixing exercises and familiarisation exercise to know each other were organised by Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Course Director & Assistant Professor. In summary of the session, he also stressed on the

need and role of Skill and Entrepreneurship Development for Youth Development in India.

The following topics had been dealt by NIRD&PR faculty members and guest faculty:

- Rural Youth Population in India/Global Scenarios and Challenges
- Basic Concepts of Adolescent and Youth Population
- National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Policy-2015
- Youth Entrepreneurship and Sustainability
- Strategies for Increasing Production Capabilities



from Chandigarh Visiting NIRD&PR

EVENTS



Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR Administering Pledge to Employees of the Institute on Constitution Day

- Self-Employment Opportunities for Rural Youth through DDU-GKY, PMKVY and RSETI
- Innovative Opportunities for fine-tuning the deliverables
- Marketing Skills for increasing Promotion of Productivity, Value Chain and Income Generation
- Soft Skills (Building Positive Attitude and Time Management)
- Participatory Tools and Techniques
- Participatory Training Methodologies, etc.

The course team had also conducted a session on 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' related to Personal Hygiene, Environmental Sanitation, and Open Defecation-free, etc., through lecture-cum videos and presentations. All participants were given cotton cloth bags from the course as part of the training session on Swachh Bharat awareness, importance and

promotion of environment-friendly culture in the society through cotton bag distribution.

Training Methods

A variety of conventional and participatory training methods had been used in the training programme. They include lecture-cum-discussion, role plays, large scale



interactive event (LSIE), video film-based discussion, flash card exercises, energies, field-cum-exposure visit, panel discussions, case presentations, etc.

Field-cum-Exposure Visit

A one-day field visit was organised to IL&FS- India Skills Academy, Ranchi for exposing the participants to skill training and entrepreneurship development. The participants had also interacted with trainees of different skill development courses/ trades like electrical, plumbing, welding, carpenter, tailoring, housekeeping, medical attendant, restaurant steward trainees, soft skills like, M.S office, DTP, English communication skills trainees, etc., under DDU-GKY programme at IL&FS- India Skills Academy. Shri R. Vijaya Kumar, Team Lead, IL&FS- India Skills Academy, explained the entire Institute's profiles and courses that are offered to the unemployed youth in rural areas of Jharkhand State through IL&FS- India Skills Academy with the support of Government of India through DDU-GKY Scheme. Based on the field visit, the participants had prepared a group report and the same was presented before course team.

The following important lessons are learnt by the participants:

- Identifying the needy rural youth for skill training
- Upgrading knowledge and skills in preparation of curriculum and designing of various skill training programmes
- Placement-linked training courses
- Tracking the participants post-training.

The participants in the valedictory session said that they have upgraded knowledge, skills and attitudes in the area of youth and skill development. Furthermore, they assured that they would organise awareness programmes in their places at block-level. They had also appreciated the knowledge and skills of faculty members of NIRD&PR who had conducted the sessions in the training programme. The participants also appreciated the course team for their relentless efforts to make the training programme a grand success.

The course team for this training programme included Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor & Course Director, Dr. U. Hemantha Kumar, Associate Professor, Centre for Livelihoods and Mr. Anil Kumar Yadav, Assistant Professor, SIRD&PR, Ranchi, Jharkhand.



RSETI Directors' Conclave at NIRD&PR

Conduct of RSETI Directors' Conclave is an annual feature. Bank-wise RSETI Directors' Conclaves are organised by various banks at different locations. Common conclave for RSETI Directors with less than 10 RSETIs for the year 2016-17 was organised by the RSETI Project Team at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad on November 16 & 17, 2017. The objectives of the conclave were to update the directors about latest developments in the RSETI movement and sharing of best

practices followed by other RSETIs. The conclave was also aimed to review the individual performance of each RSETI and to draw action plan for the next year.

The conclave was attended by Directors and Nodal Officers from Bank of Maharashtra, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Punjab & Sind Bank, Vijaya Bank, Corporation Bank, ICICI Bank, IDBI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tripura Gramin Bank, Meghalaya Rural Bank, Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank,

Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank, and Bidar District Cooperative Bank. The resource persons for conclave were Shri K N Janardhana, National Director, RSETI, National Centre for Excellence of RSETIs (NACER), Bengaluru, Director General, National Academy for RUDSETI (NAR), Bengaluru, Executive Director, Central Secretariat, RUDSETIs, Ujire, Karnataka, Shri O N Bansal, Project Director, RSETI, NIRD&PR, Shri A S Ramayya, Assistant General Manager,

SIDBI, Hyderabad and Shri A G Pai, Senior Faculty, NACER, Bengaluru and Shri H S Krishna Murthy, Ex-Faculty, NACER Bengaluru.

Shri K N Janardhana talked about expectation of MoRD from the RSETIs, latest development in RSETI Movement, grading parameters and best practices followed by other RSETIs. Shri R R Singh discussed about implementation of National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) guidelines, alignment of RSETI courses with NSQF, methods of reimbursement of training expenses, assessment and certification of RSETI trainees and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for RSETIs. Shri O N Bansal made a presentation on infrastructure development on RSETIs at national level and discussed about latest guidelines on infrastructure and review the progress made by individual RSETIs in creation of infrastructure. Shri A S Ramayya discussed about objectives of

MUDRA Portal, need of uploading RSETI trainees' proposal to portal and how to keep the watch on the portal, etc. Shri A G Pai and H S Krishna Murthy reviewed the progress made by individual RSETIs and suggested ways and means to improve the same.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR also addressed the participants and said that working for skilling of rural unemployed youth is a very great job in today's context. The RSETIs are doing a great job in this direction and the same is reflected in the statistics of number of RSETIs trained and settled through RSETIs. He further said that there is a need of deepening the connect of the skill sector through RSETIs. Simple training and skilling are not sufficient. The skilling should change the attitude of the persons, increase their productivity and create further employment opportunities. In this context, long-term voluntary mentoring

of the trainees is important to create sector-specific entrepreneurs. The RSETIs have to play greater role in this direction.

The participants were taken for a short visit to Rural Technology Park (RTP) of NIRD&PR where Shri M D Khan, Senior Consultant & Shri Mani, Project Engineer briefed the participants about the various low-cost housing technologies and about training and launching of entrepreneurs at RTP. The participants had glimpse of various demonstration units of housing technology and entrepreneurs. The participants appreciated the efforts and contribution of NIRD&PR in this direction.

The conclave was organised by Shri O N Bansal, Project Director, RSETI, NIRD&PR, and assisted by RSETI Project Team Shri R Naga Lakshmaiah & Shri S K Niamathulla, Project Managers Smt. Anusha Keerthi Edara, Project Assistant and Shri Santosh Roy, Project Attendant.

Workshop on Field Data Aggregation Using Open Data Kit (ODK)



NIRD&PR being an Apex Institute for Training, Research and Consultancy in Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, involves in various field-based researches for social sector, GIS and IT up to grassroots/household level. In NIRD&PR research and consultancy projects data are collected in survey forms which can be replaced with location-based multilingual survey forms and data can be collected in 'Open Data Kit' (ODK), a free and open-source set of tools which help organisations, author, field, and manage mobile data collection solutions using a multi-lingual interface. The collected data can be stored on the server machine and later downloaded at any point of time for visualisation and analysis in GIS, spreadsheets and statistical

software. Keeping in tune with development in the digital field data collection for research and field investigations, a three-day workshop on 'Open Data Kit (ODK)' was organised from November 2 to 4, 2017 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad.

Open Data Kit (ODK) is a free and open-source set of tools to promote mobile data collection solutions. ODK provides an out-of-the-box solution for users to:

- Build a data collection form or survey
- Collect the data on a mobile device and populate a server
- Aggregate data on a server and extract it in useful formats

In addition to socio-economic and health surveys with GPS locations and images, ODK is being used to create decision-support by providing multimedia-rich field mapping tools. ODK can be used in any survey related to management of natural resources, disaster mitigation, public health, asset/facility management and environmental monitoring.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR graced the inaugural function with a spirited address to the participants, and welcomed the resource persons. The workshop commenced with an introduction to ODK in NIRD&PR research by Dr. Gyanmudra and Dr. Madhava Rao. The first two days of workshop were mainly on introduction and use of ODK tools like building a form, uploading to the server, download to mobile, collection of field data, sending the collected data

to server and downloading for analysis. Initially, participants created the forms individually and then in groups. Soon, refined forms as per their areas of work materialised. The collected data were demonstrated and plotted on Open Source QGIS software for spatial visualisation. The method to prepare multi-lingual forms and creation of forms using spreadsheet in offline mode were also dealt.

OSGeo Charter Meeting: On the evening of November 2, 2017, after the sessions, the first meeting of Indian Charter members of OSGeo was organised. President, OSGeo India, Dr. Swarna Subba Rao, Surveyor General of India (Retd.) and other charter members of OSGeo Foundation including Shri H. K. Solanki, Assistant Professor, CGARD, participated. In the meeting, many issues related to OSGeo India and widening of its activities and collaborations with National and State organisations on training and research were discussed.

On November 4, 2017, the NIRD&PR server was configured on computer allocated by CICT in their lab. The

server was tested very well by resource persons, CICT staff and faculty members. Once the Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN) for the server is configured and user authentication mechanisms are put in place, the data can be seamlessly uploaded by researchers and field parties.

Resource persons of the programme included Dr. Venkatesh Raghavan, Professor, Osaka City University, Japan; Shri Ravi Kumar Vundavalli, Director(Retd.), Geological Survey of India & Secretary, OSGeo India; Shri Natraj Vaddadi, Charter Member, OSGeo Foundation; Shri Ramamurthy, Director (Retd.), Geological Survey of India & Charter Member, OSGeo Foundation; V. Balasankar, Assistant Professor, Aditya College of Engineering, Andhra Pradesh and Shri H K Solanki, Assistant Professor, CGARD.

The programme was attended by 61 participants including faculty members and supporting staff of various centres. The participants were able to create forms, upload to the server for mobile data collection. Sample data were



collected by the participants from NIRD&PR campus. On November 4, 2017, ten participants including CICT faculty members and staff attended the sessions.

NIRD&PR server is capable to cater, not only to the needs of NIRD&PR research and projects but also in field investigations of SIRDs/ETCs. In later phase it may support the research studies and projects of neighbouring institutes also. The data may also be rendered on Web-GIS using Open Source tools for real time monitoring. After the initial testing of server, it is possible to plan workshops for SIRDs/ETCs.

Considering data security, one CICT faculty/staff member may be assigned as moderator with secure UID/passwords to upload forms and download collected data from server and communicate to respective teams for further analysis/use. Research teams can concentrate on quality data-collection, with the server maintained by a few domain experts.

Participants of the workshop may be encouraged to join ODK user forum, and benefit along with thousands of novices and experts alike <https://forum.opendatakit.org/>. A mailing list is created by resource persons for follow-up discussions

with the participants of the workshop. This web-list may be used by researchers to initiate discussion on ODK usage in NIRD&PR and research/projects.

In continuation of workshop, further training/workshop can be held in NIRD&PR for the benefit of faculty members of NIRD&PR and SIRDs/ETCs on the following aspects:

- Creating GIS layers using collected field data
- Multi-thematic data analysis using GIS
- Serving the data on the web
- Statistical data processing

The multi-disciplinary workshop was coordinated by Shri H K Solanki, Assistant Professor, CGARD under the guidance of Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor and Head, CRTCN, Dr. V. Madhava Rao, Advisor and Head, CGARD, and Dr. Nagaraja, Senior Fellow, CGARD with encouragement of Director General, NIRD&PR.

The data aggregation server is slated to be inaugurated by Director General on an appropriate day by uploading ODK collect data using a mobile device.



NIRD&PR Editor Attends International Conference on Publication Technologies and New Initiatives at Singapore

Dr. K Papamma, Editor at Centre for Development Documentation and Communication (CDC) attended an International Conference on Publication Technologies and New Initiatives, the 'CrossRef Live 17', held at Singapore on November 14 and 15, 2017. The conference was organised by 'CrossRef'. The NIRD&PR Publication Section is already associated with CrossRef for the journal services. The Institute is currently utilising the Data Object Identification (DOI) services from 'CrossRef'.

The conference was a platform for publishers across the globe to explore new technologies and recent developments in the field, and share inputs with other participants. Since the Journal of Rural Development (JRD) is in the initial stage of e-Publishing, this conference was helpful for the Publication Section to learn the following aspects of publications such as:

- Data Object Identification (DOI)
- Impact Factor
- Similarity Check

- Abstracting Services
- Indexing Services
- Open Access Services
- Database Services
- Ethics in Publication
- Networking with Global Publications and Databases
- Web Depositing

During this two-day conference, Dr. K Papamma interacted with a number of large publishers from different countries. The sessions held at the conference had addressed key issues of publications. Besides the sessions in the conference, the interactions with executives from CrossRef, Committee on Publications Ethics (COPE) on various issues related to Journal Publishing were very helpful.

After observing the best practices of Journals - both the government funded and privately financed ones - from different countries at the conference, it is realised that the Journal of Rural Development, published by NIRD&PR

is on par with most of the International Journals in terms of quality of content, standards of processing and timely publication.

Based on the learnings from the Conference, the Publication Section decided to focus on the following aspects to further improve the quality of Journal:

- Encourage online publications (All publications of the Institute)
- Gradually convert the journal into full-pledged e-journal
- Obtain new ISSN registration for e-journal
- Strengthen the editorial board by including international experts (On the lines of international journals)
- Encourage contribution from within the Institute
- Develop a strong pool of Referees/ Reviewers for Journal
- Increase the number of exchange journals



Workshop on Science Film Making

Centre for Post Graduate Studies and Distance Education of NIRD&PR in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, New Delhi organised a three-day workshop on Science Film Making from November 16 to 18, 2017. A total of 54 students from PGDRDM batch- 14 participated in this workshop.

The trainers at this workshop included some of the renowned personalities in the field of film making from around the globe like Ms. Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky, International Film-maker known as Swiss Ambassador for Elephants in India, Mr. Nimish Kapoor, Scientist E and Head, Science Films Division, Vigyan Prasar, Mr. Jalal-ud-din Baba, Renowned National Short Film-maker from Kashmir, and Dr. Syed Kaleem, Director, EMRC.

At the end of the workshop, the participants made five documentaries as an end product of this workshop and were

lauded for their effort by the resource persons for picking up the skill in such a short duration. These movies are slated to be sent for competitions in the future.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR addressed the participants during the valedictory session and highlighted the importance of film-making in digital documentation. In his concluding remarks, he mentioned that audio visual documentation can become a credit component and a part of the PG Diploma in Rural Development Management.

Dr. Akanksha Shukla, Associate Professor, Centre for PG Studies and Distance Education coordinated this workshop. Professor C. S. Singhal, Head, Centre for PG Studies and Distance Education, Dr. A. Debapriya, Associate Professor and Dr. Sonal Mobar Roy, Assistant Professor were also present during workshop.

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