



CREST News Bulletin

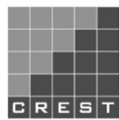
(September – December 2014)

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Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)

An autonomous institution under Government of Kerala
KIRTADS Campus, Chevayur, Calicut – 673 017 Kerala India
Tel: + 91 495 2355342, 2351496 Fax : +91 495 2355342 www.crest.ac.in
Email: cex@dataone.in crest.calicut@gmail.com

About CREST



Centre for Research & Education for Social Transformation (CREST) is an autonomous institution under Government of Kerala. CREST has been conceived as a national institute of humanities, science and professional studies, addressing the needs of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other marginalized communities of India while integrating with the informational society. The Centre was incubated by Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode. The governing council headed by the Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities as Chairman monitors the activities of the Centre. Dignitaries like the Governor of Kerala, Chief Minister of Kerala and the Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly are the patrons of this autonomous institution. The Governing Council has representation from institutions like Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, Thiruvananthapuram and Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.

Activities

Self Enrichment Workshop for first year MBBS students of DRPGMC Kangra and Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla.

On invitation from the Government of Himachal Pradesh, orientation program for entry level students of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, (DRPGMC) Tanda during 5 to 10 September 2014. The program was held with the objective to enhance the self-confidence level of students, particularly hailing from Scheduled and backward communities. The Six Day training



program began on September 5, 2014. The programme started with a brief introductory session which was well represented by the faculty members of DRPGMC and CREST. The students were introduced to the objectives and the content of the workshop. Dr. Parveen Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology was the coordinator of the programme. Ninety two

students who attended the programme were divided into two classes. The six days course covered modules in (a) Communication Skills (b) Self Enhancement for Professional Excellence and (c) Theatre. Each session was held by two faculty members at a time. Along with the programme a peer level mentoring workshop also was conducted by CREST. Sixteen senior students who volunteered to mentor the first year students were given a short session on peer level mentoring skills. The session was conducted on September 9, 2014. Tips on mentoring skills were shared and strategies were formed to constitute a mentoring cell. The valedictory ceremony for the workshop at DRPGMC was conducted on September 10, 2014. Dr. Anil Chauhan, Principal, DRPGMC presided over the function. Dr. Parveen Sharma welcomed the students. Padmashri Dr Kshama Metre was the Chief Guest. Vinod Krishnan, Associate programme Coordinator CREST gave the felicitation

A two day workshop was held for the first year MBBS students of Indira Gandhi Government Medical College , Shimla on 11th &12th of September 2014. The students were engaged in exhaustive activities oriented on peer network building. Methodologies derived from behavioral sciences and theatre were used to achieve the desired objective. Within the limited time available,



the students were oriented on team building; Communication Skills; Effective Public Speaking Skills; Body Language; Positive Self Image and the Peer level networking. Dr. P. K Koundal, Professor, Department of Pharmacology coordinated the programme. The programme was concluded with an informal function attended by the Dr. S S Kaushal, Principal, IGMC, Dr. P. K Koundal and other faculty members of IGMC. During the function, several students spoke on the positive impact of the program on them both individually and as a batch.

Faculty Mentor Workshop at DRPGMC, Tanda Kangra



The one day faculty mentor workshop was conducted by Mr. Balachandran Gopinath, Faculty CREST. Fifty faculty members of the DRPGMC, Kangra attended the one day program which began at 9:30 and ended at 5:00. The workshop covered the techniques of effective mentoring. The themes covered Mentoring Overview, accountability in mentoring, Mentor - mentee relationship, One-on-one mentoring models, and strategies for developing formal mentoring systems.

Special Lecture by Prof. Madhav Gadgil at IIMK



Students of the PGCCPD were invited by the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode to attend a special lecture, titled 'Moving from a predatory to a mutualistic economy,' by noted ecologist Prof. Madhav Gadgil, author of the 'Gadgil Committee Report' on the conservation of the Western Ghats, delivered at the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode on September 16.

Water-Beyond a Natural Resource

A one day workshop "Water-Beyond a Natural Resource" conducted by Mr Premkumar, a Water Specialist of Water Quality Association, USA on 26 September 2014. Mr. Premkumar is an independent water consultant working towards sustainable models of water management. He is also a Certified Solidworks Professional. He is one amongst the only two Indians to be awarded with these certifications.

Private Sector & Public Sector Employability: A Realistic Perception

A one day workshop on Private Sector & Public Sector Employability was held at CREST on 29 September 2014, conducted by Ms. Remya Roshni and Mr. Arun PT. Themes covered included Skills, Values and Competencies, Skill development and Employability and Innovations in Skills development. Remya Roshni was in the Indian Police Service (IPS). She has authored a self help guide book on the Myths and Realities on IAS Exams which was published by DC Books. Mr. Arun PT was in the Indian Postal Service and founder of DOOR Centre for Civil Services in Chennai.

Workshop by Balachandran Gopinath



Balachandran Gopinath, Faculty, Ahmadabad Management Association and International trainer JCI, conducted a two day workshop , “you the Miracle” for the new batch of PGCCPD on 20&21 October 2014 . The lecture covered themes on preparing a career map, long-term professional goals and action steps for achieving them, work style and analyzing strengths and weaknesses and professional reputation development

Workshop on Career Management

On 22 October 2014 Dr. T N Krishnan , Associate Professor in the area of Organizational Behavior and Human Resources at Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode conducted a workshop on Career Management. . He was a Fulbright Senior Fellow, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He was awarded Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship (2013-14). The academic positions include Senior Fellow, Center for Human Resources, The Wharton School (2013-14) and Chairperson, FPM (Doctoral Programme), April 2012 - March 2013 .

Workshop on effective communication in Malayalam

Prof.MN Karassery , renowned Malayalam literary critic conducted a workshop on communication skills for the students on 15th October 2014. The workshop covered themes on



local dialect , Malayalam in formal setting , and writing in Malayalam . He also insisted the importance of communicating effectively in Malayalam . Knowing the language forms the

foundation , but effective communication requires skills one needs to develop through reading , writing and interacting with people. However simple, lucid and direct prose has its charm, provided it is used in specific contexts., Prof.Karassery told the students.

Special Lecture by Anna Lindberg

On Friday 31 October 2014, SASNET Director Anna Lindberg visited the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST) in Kozhikode . Prof. Anna lectured to the students on Globalization and Migration, with examples taken from Europe, the Gulf countries, and India. Her



talk was attended took part in the discussion and showed what an engaged group they were. Anna Lindberg specializes in contemporary Indian history. Her focus is on South Indian history in a global perspective and her approach is interdisciplinary, embracing gender, development, and anthropology. She seeks to integrate social history and interdisciplinary analysis with postmodern and postcolonial theories. She is the director of Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) CREST has academic collaboration with SASNET and Swedish students – especially from Lund University – regularly intern with CREST for two to three months for the past few years.

Special Lecture on the Epic of Gilgamesh



Teddy Primack, Director Academics Documents Associates, USA did a special lecture on the *Epic of Gilgamesh* 31 October 2014. The Epic of Gilgamesh is an epic poem from ancient Mesopotamia. Dating from the 2100 BC, it is often regarded as the first great work of literature. The literary history of Gilgamesh begins with five Sumerian poems about 'Gilgamesh', the king of Uruk. These

independent stories were later used as source material for a combined epic. The first surviving version of this combined epic, known as the "Old Babylonian" version, dates to the 18th century BC . The later "Standard" version dates from the 13th to the 10th centuries BC and bears the incipit .

Teddy Primack is the director of Academic Documents Associates based in the USA and a long-time editor of journal articles and dissertations submitted for publications. Teddy introduced the students the epic and its influence on both ancient and modern literature and culture.

Theater Workshop

From 7 to 13 November 2014 a theatre workshop was conducted for the students by Pallavi



Chander. The workshop which was held at Maria Eugenie Centre , Malaparamba focused on communication skills. Ms.Pallavi Chander is a theatre person based in Bangalore . She is attached to ' Purple Mangoes ' a theatre group that perfect opportunities and experiences for students to find their own connections with themselves and the world around them. On 13th November , the participants of the workshop performed an English play before an invited audience at Maria Eugenie Centre



Valediction of the 22 Batch of PGCCPD

The valedictory function for the 22nd batch of Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development was held on November 15 2014 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium , Kozhikode. Dr. Prabhakaran Paleri, Former Director General, Coast Guard was the chief guest and Dr. Mahesh Bhava, Faculty IIMK, was the guest of honor.

23rd Batch of PGCCPD

Classes for the new batch of Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development commenced on December 4, 2014. The Ice-breaking was held at Maria Eugenie Centre . 40 students joined for the program. Of the 40 students selected for the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development, 24 are girls. Orientation workshop for Batch 23 was conducted by Anil Menon. Two day orientation program was held on December 6th & 7th at Prateeksha Training Centre, Sultan Bathery , Wayanad

Orientation Programme for SC/ST B.Tech Students of Kerala

A six day orientation programme was conducted for first year BTech Students of Kerala at Cochin University of Science & Technology (CUSAT) with the to enhance the relevant competencies and overall learning skills of students . The six day in-house workshop conducted with the support of Equal Opportunity Cell , CUSAT was held from 19th to 24th of December 2014 which was coordinated by Dr.Sasi Gopalan, Associate Professor, School of Engineering & Coordinator, Equal Opportunity Cell, Cochin University of Science & Technology and Vinod Krishnan TY Associate



Programme Coordinator CREST .The programme was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of Cochin University, Dr. J Latha. The Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. K Paulose Jacob and Registrar, Dr. David Peter S addressed the audience which included the parents of the participants. Mr. Vinod Krishnan T Y,

Associate Programme Coordinator, CREST outlined the structure of the programme and spoke on the importance of it. Dr. Sasi Gopalan, Coordinator, Equal Opportunity Cell proposed the vote of thanks. The ten days course covered modules in (a) Communication Skills (b) the Self Enhancement for Professional Excellence and (c) Theatre (d) Engineering Graphics (e) Engineering Mechanics (f) Mathematics

The sessions were conducted in four different batches. The students were divided into these four batches. There were 328 teaching sessions (each of 1 Hour 15 minutes). Most of the sessions had a team teaching strategy. The teaching sessions included team teaching sessions and one to one



mentoring sessions as well. Students who were weak in certain areas and those needed mentoring support were given either small group sessions or one on one sessions. Students from 30 different engineering colleges participated in the programme. A total 116 students attended the training out of which 69 were girls and 47 were boys. It had representation from 6 universities including NIT Calicut which is a deemed University. The objective of the workshop was to improve the communication skills, interpersonal skills and confidence



Mentoring Programme at Schools

The students of batch 22 in association with Safeway, a voluntary organization, held motivating sessions classes for the underprivileged children from two government schools in Calicut. They conceptualized and delivered modules on mathematics and personality development. On every



Sunday, the students of CREST went to the schools to conduct sessions on these subjects. They took mentoring roles motivating the students to achieve excellence in studies. Classes were held in Narikkuni and Kakkoor schools in Kozhikode.

Interns



Melisa Samaruga, from Argentina and Ms. Zuzka Novakova from Czech Republic interned with CREST during September - December 2014. The interns were working with the students of CREST providing sessions on communication skills, and issues of global concern. They were also mentoring the students of the PGCCPD

CREST in Media

National Print as well as the visual media have given coverage to various programmes of CREST

Helping Students Tackle Challenges of Life in a 'Dramatic' Way

by Ananya Mili



Students of the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation taking part in a theatre workshop on the premises of the Assumption convent, Malaparamba, on Wednesday.

Kozhikode: "You have brain in your head/ You have feet in your shoes/ You can steer yourself any direction you choose/ You're on your own..."

There is no better shortcut to success than realising one's potential, stresses a group of youngsters from the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST), while taking part in a seven-day theatre workshop being held at Assumption Convent, Malaparamba, as part of their Postgraduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PCCPD).

The workshop aims at helping the students open up among the peer group, realising their potential and tackling the challenges posed by society. The group of an students was assisted by art practitioner Pallavi, who is based in Bangalore. This is the first time that she is taking part as a theatre workshop in Kozhikode.

"We will develop the ideas that we collected during these seven days as a script. It will be presented at the end of the programme. The students were given choice to open up and share their dreams, hopes and apprehensions. We chose a book to nurture their feelings with the addition of some folk tunes," Pallavi said.

But Pallavi said the students must that it is not the end product as a drama that is important but the coming together, working together and strengthening of emotions that matter. As the first step, the students listed their fears on the first day. Most of them had fears on their upcoming job, job interviews and marriage. "Whether we would be able to live up to the expectations in a world of competition, would I be forced to end up in a marriage if I don't fit well in the job interview, what kind of a partner will I get - all of us have fears of some kind or the other," said Ananya, an MBA graduate.

Thereafter, a mechanical engineer, said that most of the students had anxieties regarding the job market. "This is a stress-relieving and learning platform. As a mass theatre, students tend to raise their voice louder and it is heard. These socio-economic status improvement gestures," he said. The book they selected for the drama is a children's book by Dr Seuss. The 20-minute drama will be presented on the premises of the convent on Thursday at 8.30 pm. The students cheered up again. "You can steer yourself any direction you choose/ You're on your own."

First-year MBBS students tips to cope with new env

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KANGRA, SEPTEMBER 12

A six-day 'Self-Enrichment Programme' for first-year MBBS students of Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College (DRPGMC), Thinda, organized by the Aman Kachroo Trust was held from September 5 till today. The programme was designed and conducted by the Centre for Research in Education for Social Transformation (CREST), Calicut, Kerala, as envisaged by Additional Chief Secretary (Health).

Dr Anil Chhabra, Principal, Thinda medical college, today said the senior students were imparting mentoring skills during the programme. The programme would be followed by a day-long workshop on mentoring skills for teachers on September 15.

The principal said the programme was being conducted at AHMS, Delhi, for the last four years and had been held at the Thinda medical college for the first time.

Dr Chhabra said the resource persons from CREST were Vinod Krishnan, Nirmal Jay and Vinod. Two resource persons, Prof. Abhilash Pillai and Jitendra, were from the National School of Drama, New Delhi.

He said the main three modules of the programme were confidence building, communication and stress management skills. It had been observed that whenever students entered profession-

Margins rising

How the Kozhikode-based Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST) is ensuring that the Scheduled communities too partake in India's growth story

In just another day in 40 public institutions of Kerala (AICTE), CREST, has just been listed as one of the best NGOs in India. The award is given by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi. CREST is a 10-year-old NGO that is leading colleges to engage by take stock of their social conditions.

In Coimbatore, distance education quality along the lines of other colleges, the organization of students, staff and faculty, the quality of teaching and learning, the quality of infrastructure, the quality of research and development, the quality of management and the quality of the institution's contribution to society.

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held during September – December 2014 . Leading Malayalam news channel “ Mathrubhumi News” did coverage on various programs of CREST. B-Link of the Hindu did a special cover story on CREST on 4th September 2014.

Faculty Activities

Prof. D.D.Nampoothiri , Executive Director did a presentation on skill development programs designed by CREST at National Institute for Advanced Studies, Bangalore on December 22, 2014 . He delivered a Felicitation Address at the Inaugural function of the Regional Workshop on “Skill Development of Youth for Efficient Water Management and Sustainable Development” held at CWRDM, Kozhikode on December 27, 2014.

Forthcoming Events

Access Programme

Scheduled Castes Development Department, Government of Kerala has to assigned CREST a three year Self-Enrichment Programme for High School and Higher Secondary school students of Model Residential Schools of SC Development Department, Kerala' The objective of the proposed project is to enhance the competencies, skills, and aspiration of higher secondary / high school attending students from Scheduled communities that would allow students to expand their horizons. The project will also address problems of alienation, lack of confidence, and disenfranchisement of children caused by forms of discrimination, exclusion and practices linked to societal stereotypes. The goal of this programme is to ensure access for students from Model Residential Schools to tertiary education in reputed institutions in India. The programme, referred as "CREST Access Programme" will commence from Mid-January 2015.

Special Lecture by Dr.KV Kunhikrishan

Dr.KV Kunhikrishan, historian and Chairman of the Executive Committee CREST will conduct a special lecture on Environment and Society on January 20, 2015 .

Consultation on schooling

A two day consultation on interventions in schooling of the underprivileged will be held at Hotel Monad , Kunnamangalam on 1st&2nd of March 2015. The workshop is organized in connection with developing modules for the "Access Program " initiated by CREST at Model Residential Schools of Scheduled Castes Development Department Kerala.

