



CREST News Bulletin

18

(January – April 2015)

Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)

An autonomous institution under Government of Kerala

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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

Access Program for Model Residential School Students

CREST with the support of Scheduled Castes Development Department has taken up a three year project in Model Residential Schools of Kerala to improve the overall educational outcomes of students. The Model Residential Schools (MRS) were started by the Scheduled Castes Development Department, Government of Kerala, to provide quality secondary education for students from Scheduled Castes. There are nine such schools in Kerala which are different from Model Residential



Schools, run by Scheduled Tribes Development Department with similar objectives. School

admission is given from 5th standard, based on the marks they obtain in the state level entrance examinations. In order to provide best learning experience, low teacher-student ratio is retained with only 35 students in a class room so that individual attention is given , extra class room tuition facilities are provided and students are given inputs in computer skills and general subjects through a programme called 'chuvaduveppu' (footsteps) . Students are expected to acquire better schooling in comparison with other Government/Aided schools where in fact the vast majority of SC/ST students are enrolled. Schools follow the syllabus of the Kerala State Boards of Examinations. Teachers are appointed by Education Department of Kerala. Schools are under the supervision of Scheduled Castes Development Department and personnel from the Department function as the superintendents of schools to provide students with adequate support in terms of their overall welfare. Of the nine schools, four schools have Plus Two level education where students have facility to undergo science education with Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics as subjects.



Most MRS students hail from hugely disadvantaged households often poorer than the households of their counterparts studying in other government or aided schools. Majority of the parents are first generation literates, who cannot provide effective mentoring for their children in terms of their education. The performance level of students in MRS is not at a desired level; with only a small segment obtaining good results that are comparable with their counterparts studying in other Government or Aided schools . Though Model Residential Schools offer a framework to provide best possible school education for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, 'underachievement' is a serious issue and it is in this backdrop the Government assigned to CREST a three year pilot project to improve the overall educational outcomes of the students. The project is fully funded by Scheduled Castes Development Department of Kerala.

The three year project began in mid January 2015 and the objective of the project is to enhance the competencies, skills, and aspiration of higher secondary / high school attending children in Model Residential Schools that would allow them 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 long term goal of this project entitled as "Access Programme" is to ensure that a large number of students have access to higher education in institutions of national repute in India.

Training Programme at MRS Thrithala

On 29.01.2015 a one day training programme was conducted for the students of MRS Thrithala. The Resource team composed of four external faculties and project staff. The training programme for 8th, 9th and 11th standards were held simultaneously. Sessions were focused mainly on programs to motivate the students and on confidence building. Five sessions were conducted for 8th, 9th and 11th class students. Further, one session on career guidance was conducted for Plus Two students and two sessions on communication and cultural diversity was conducted for 10th class students.

Meeting with the parents of MRS Thrithala

On 29.1.2015 a meeting was held at Model Residential School Thrithala for which 150 parents participated. Parents were informed about the objectives of the project and the nature of the programs planned for the students as part of the project.

Workshop at Model Residential School, Ulliyeri (Kozhikode)

Workshops were conducted for the 8th & 9th Standard students of the Model Residential School Ulliyeri on from 06.02.2015 to 21.02.2015. Sessions were mainly focused on team building,



communication skills and motivation.

Consultation on interventions in improving the overall educational outcomes of students at Model Residential Schools

A Consultation on interventions in improving the overall educational outcomes of students at Model Residential Schools consultation was held on 1st & 2nd of March 2015. Participants includes experts from Azim Premji University, Bangalore, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, National

Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, Scheduled Tribes Development Department, Scheduled Castes Development Department, Calicut University, Navodaya school, Regional College of Education, Mysore, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode among others. Independent educational experts like Dr. Saraswathi (Bangalore) Prof. NP Hafiz Mohammed, Dr. Khaddar, former regional director NCERT, Dr.K.V.Kunhikrishnan , former director Sarva Siksha Abhiyan Kerala, Sri.VK Mohankumar , Visiting Faculty KILA, also participated.

Science Workshop for 9th Standard students of Model Residential School , Kuzhalmannam (Palakkad)

A Science Workshop was conducted for 9th standard students of Model Residential School Kuzhalmannam. Subjects covered included physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics and geography. The workshop was held at Integrated Rural Technology Centre (IRTC), Mundur Palakkad. The workshop included lab experiments, nature walk, bird watching, sky watching etc.



Activity oriented, feel and touch methodology was used in the teaching learning process. 35 students participated in the workshop which was held from 11th to 18th of March 2015. Along with the science workshop sessions on career guidance and personality development were also conducted.

Communication Skills Workshop for 8th Standard students of Model Residential School, Kuzhalmannam

Communication Skills Workshop was held at IRTC Mundur for 35 students of 8th standard of MRS Kuzhalmannam . The sessions were held by Ms.Pallavi Chandar from Bangalore. Theatre was the method used to provide the skills. The in-house programme was held from 11th to 18th of March 2015.

Science Workshop for 9th Standard students of Model Residential School, Thrithala

A Science Workshop was conducted for 9th standard students of Model Residential School Thrithala. Subjects covered included physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics and geography. There was facility for lab experiments, nature walk, bird watching. The workshop was held at Integrated Rural Technology Centre (IRTC), Mundur Palakkad. The workshop included lab experiments also. 35 students participated in the workshop which was held from 19h to 22nd of March 2015

Communication Skills Workshop for 8th Standard students of Model Residential School, Thrithala

A Communication Skills Workshop was held at IRTC Mundur for 35 students of 8th standard of MRS



Thrithala. The sessions were held by Ms. Pallavi Chandar from Bangalore. Theatre was the method used to provide the skills. The in-house programme was held from 19th to 22nd of March 2015.

Meeting with the parents of MRS Keezhmad, Aluva

On 30.03.2015 a one day workshop was held at Model Residential School Keezhmad, Aluva, for which 50 parents participated. Workshop was mainly on parent's role in educating their children and the possibilities to reach them in prestigious institutions for higher education.

Private Sector & Public Sector Employability: A Realistic Perception

A two-day day workshop on Private Sector & Public Sector Employability was held at CREST on 6 & 7 January 2015, 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. Follow-up session was held on 28 February 2015. 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 P T was in the Indian Postal Service and founder of DOOR Centre for Civil Services in Chennai.

Strategic Management: A personal Planning perspective



A one day workshop on strategic management was conducted by Dr. Arun Abraham Elias on 9 January 2015. Dr. Arun Abraham Elias is the Director, MBA and Post Experience Programmes at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He is a Senior lecturer in Management. He is also a visiting faculty at Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode. His main research interests are in the areas of stakeholder management, systems thinking and modeling, and environmental conflict management. His PhD was on the analysis of stakeholder dynamics in environmental conflicts, using a systems thinking and modelling approach.

Stepping out in the Corporate World



A one day workshop, "Stepping Out in the Corporate World" was held at CREST on 12 January 2015, conducted by Mr. Ramesh Chandran formerly General Manager, AEGON Asset Management (AAM), based in The Hague in The Netherlands. This workshop focused on the aspect of professionalism, the traits of professionalism and the impact of showcasing a professional image. The students were also apprised about the workplace etiquette and the dos and don'ts of workplace behavior in corporate sector.

Special Lecture on Environment & Society



A special Lecture on Environment & Society was held on 20 January 2015 by Prof. KV Kunhikrishnan . Dr. K V Kunjikrishnan is an eminent historian. He is the chairman of CREST Executive Committee. He was the former registrar of Cochin University of Science & Technology (CUSAT) and also the former Director of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA). He is currently Visiting Professor, School of Social Science, Mahathma Gandhi University and Sree Shankara University of Sanskrit. He has engaged himself in the environmental issues of Kerala including the Conservation of Nilgiri Thars in the Western Ghats.

Workshop on effective communication in Malayalam

Prof.MN Karassery , renowned Malayalam literary critic conducted a workshop on communication skills for the students on 19 January 2015. . 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 Kancha Ilaiah

Prof. Kancha Ilaiah, renowned academician, writer and activist for Dalit rights gave a special lecture on 24 March 2015 on higher education of the Dalits at CREST. Former Head of Political Science at Osmania University, Hyderabad, who is the author of *Why I Am Not a Hindu* insisted the students to understand the concept of dignity of labor, and respect the jobs their forefathers did to build the



nation. He urged them to be proud of the skills of their parents who enriched India. However the benefits were reaped by the leisure class who never understood “without mud there is no food,”



he said. He insisted the importance of mastering English as it would contribute breaking the societal barriers. Prof. Kancha Ilaiah has been a recipient of the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Award and was a Nehru Fellow between 1994-97. His books include *Why I am not a Hindu*, *Post-Hindu India*:

A Discourse in Dalit-Bahujan, Socio-Spiritual and Scientific Revolution, *God As Political Philosopher: Budha's challenge to Brahminism*, *A Hollow Shell*, *The State and Repressive Culture*, *Manatatwam* (in Telugu), and *Buffalo Nationalism: A Critique of Spiritual Fascism*. Currently, he is serving as director of the Centre for Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in Hyderabad.

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 30 & 31 March 2015 . 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

Special lecture on Life Goals and Career Design



Dr. Priya Nair Rajeev , Assistant Professor, Organizational Behavior and Human Resources at Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode gave a special lecture on career planning on 3 April 2015 . 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

Special lecture on Career Planning



Dr. TN Krishnan , Professor, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode gave a special lecture on career planning on 3 April 2015 . 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 .

Peer level mentoring workshop at IIMK



A peer level mentoring workshop was held for PGCCPD students at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, on March 1, 2015. The workshop served as an introduction to the regular peer-level mentoring sessions conducted by IIM

students for CREST students. Sessions covered included communication skills, inter-personal skills, CV writing and interview skills

Theater Workshop



From 26 April to 2 May 2015 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 2 May 2015, the

participants of the workshop performed an English play before an invited audience at Maria Eugenie Centre

Mentoring Programme at Schools

The students of batch 23 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



Ms.Samantha Svardh Lund University , Sweden , Sara Christensen , Sydney Lang , Shannon McKechnie and Sam Tait from University of Toronto , Canada interned with CREST during January – April 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 as well as for the high school students of Model Residential Schools.

Cleaning drive on the Kozhikode beach

Students of PGCCPD organized a cleaning drive at Calicut Beach On Friday 15 February 2015.



Students collected plastic cups, bottles and others that were found littered around the beach.

CREST in Media

മോഡൽ റെസിഡൻഷ്യൽ സ്കൂൾ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു ഉന്നതികളിലേക്ക് വഴികാണിച്ച് 'ക്രൈസ്റ്റ്'

പാലക്കാട്: തലയോട്ടി ഉയർത്തി നടക്കണം, സരോജം കൊണ്ട് ഉറവയിലായി നിന്നാൽ ആരും നോക്കരുത്, പിന്നീട് മാത്രം നോക്കൂ. മിടുക്കനായ കുട്ടികൾ.

ഭാവിയിൽ പ്രവേശനമായ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിൽ പാർശ്വകരണം നേടിയെടുക്കുകയും, അതിലൂടെ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവന്ന അധ്വാന പരിഹാരം വാങ്ങുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതുമാണ്. കൂടുതൽ വിവരങ്ങൾ കണ്ടെത്താൻ ഇവിടെ ക്ലിക്ക് ചെയ്യുക.



എം.ആർ.എസ്. വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കുള്ള ശിക്ഷണനടപടിയെ പറ്റി ചർച്ച

സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിൽ പ്രവേശനം നേടാൻ വഴികാണിച്ച് പ്രവേശന സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾക്കായി നടപ്പിലാക്കിയ പരിപാടിയിൽ പങ്കെടുത്ത എം.ആർ.എസ്. വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ.

അതാൽ ധാരാളം കുട്ടികളിൽ കൈനിയോഗം ചെയ്ത് പ്രവേശനം നേടാൻ വഴികാണിച്ച് പ്രവേശന സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾക്കായി നടപ്പിലാക്കിയ പരിപാടിയിൽ പങ്കെടുത്ത എം.ആർ.എസ്. വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ.

കഴിഞ്ഞുവന്ന പരിപാടിയിൽ പങ്കെടുത്ത എം.ആർ.എസ്. വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ.

ഒരു വ്യക്തിത്വപരമായ പാഠ്യ പരീക്ഷയ്ക്കായി പാലക്കാട് ക്രൈസ്റ്റ് വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് പങ്കെടുത്തു. 2015-ൽ ആദ്യമായി ക്രൈസ്റ്റ് വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് പങ്കെടുത്തു. ഇതിൽ പങ്കെടുത്ത കുട്ടികൾ 12-ാം ക്ലാസ് ന്റെ കഴിഞ്ഞുവന്ന പരിപാടിയിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു. ചർച്ചകൾക്കായി പങ്കെടുത്ത കുട്ടികൾ 12-ാം ക്ലാസ് ന്റെ കഴിഞ്ഞുവന്ന പരിപാടിയിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു. ചർച്ചകൾക്കായി പങ്കെടുത്ത കുട്ടികൾ 12-ാം ക്ലാസ് ന്റെ കഴിഞ്ഞുവന്ന പരിപാടിയിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു.

Project to Improve Living Standards, Edn of ST Students

by Anupama Mili

Kozhikode: A three-year project has been started by Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST) aiming to improve the educational and living standards of Scheduled Caste students studying in Model Residential Schools (MRS) in the state.

including 60 days extra classes, complementing the syllabus," he added. The selected model residential schools are in Punnappara (Alappuzha), Peer-made (Idukki), Keezhmad, Aluva (Ernakulam), Vadakkanchery and Chelakkara (both in Thrissur), Thirithala and Kuzhalmannam (both in Palakkad), Ulliyeri (Kozhikode) and Udinoor (Kasargod).

Print as well as the visual media have given coverage to various programmes of CREST held during January - April 2015. "Kerala Calling ", the monthly magazine of Public Relations Department, Kerala published a full length feature on CREST in its April 2015 issue. Mathrubhumi Daily and New Indian Express covered the activities conducted by CREST in Model Residential Schools.

Forthcoming Events

Valedictory function

Valedictory function for the 23rd Batch of PGCCPD will be held on 3 May 2015 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium , Kozhikode of Prof. Dr. Nandakumar, Director METRO International Cardiac Centre, Calicut will be the Chief Guest.

Admission to 23rd Batch of PGCCPD

Interview for the admission to the 24rd Batch of PGCCPD will be held on 11, 12 &13 May 2015. Classes will commence from the 4 June 2015

