



# CREST News Bulletin

# 15

(January –April 2014)

**Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)**

An autonomous institution under Government of Kerala

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## About CREST

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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

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### Peer level workshop at IIMK

A peer level mentoring workshop was held for PGCCPD students at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, on January 19, 2014. 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



## Stepping out in the Corporate World



A one day workshop, “Stepping Out in the Corporate World” was held at CREST on 20 January 2014, 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.

## Workshop on Career Planning

Dr. Arun Abraham Elias, Professor, Wellington University, New Zealand conducted a workshop on Strategic Management approach to Career planning on 22 January 2014.

## Special lecture on Trends in Campus Placement

Ms.Latha Prabhu, Associate Professor, Farook Institute of Management gave a special lecture on Trends in Campus Placement on 25. January 2014. The lecture focused on the changing needs of the industry and how the job seekers have to change themselves to the ever changing demands. The students should be very strong in their core technology as well as the communication skills, the lecture said. The lecture also covered Self-Assessment, importance of professional resumes, cover letters and job Search Strategies

## Special lecture on English as an International Language



Dr. Bhaskaran Nair, Professor, Lincoln University talked to the students on 24 January 2014 on the universality of English language. His emphasis was on English as a global language. The growing range of nonnative English speakers has led to the importance of internationally acceptable English. The lecture emphasized on this aspect.

## **Collaborative learning programme with undergraduate students of Oslo and Akershus University College, Norway**

Following the MoU between CREST and Oslo and Akershus University College



Norway for academic collaboration between two institutions, thirteen undergraduate students of Development studies of Oslo University College, Norway visited CREST on 3 February 2014. Sessions were held by the students of CREST on Kerala development model, caste issues, gender issues in Kerala, etc. A special lecture also was held on the same day by Dr, Berit Helene Vandsemb Faculty of education and international studies, Oslo and Akershus University College on Norway and educational system in Norway.

### **Special lectures on Mental Health**



Dr. Manoj Kumar, Director, Mental Health Action Trust, Calicut did a special lecture on mental health on 12 February 2014. The follow up of the session was held on the same topic on 23 April 2014 to the students of PGCCPD course. Dr. Manoj demystified the students' understanding on psychological issues. He also explained the common symptoms and management of psychological complications.

### **Special Lecture on Philosophy of Communication**



Dr. Franson Davis Manjali, Professor, Centre of Linguistics and English, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, (SLLCS) Jawaharlal Nehru University delivered a special lecture on philosophy of communication on 15 February 2014.

## Workshop on Self Enrichment



Prof. L S Ganesh, Professor and Dean (Students), IIT Madras conducted a one-day workshop on self enrichment (Dealing with Yourself ) for the PGCCPD students on 19 February 2014. A series of interactive sessions included ethics, leadership, competitiveness . In the opening session Prof Ganesh insisted on the importance of being a part of India's competitive strength and capacity in global markets and forums. India is yet to show outside world its competitiveness and youth should commit themselves for a purpose, with determination and conviction.

Dr. L. S. Ganesh is a Professor at the Department of Management Studies of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, and since 2004 has served as its Head. He has supervised several master's and doctoral research theses. He is interested in basic research in the areas of Systems Modeling and Analysis, Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis, and Forecasting, and applied research in Project and Technology Management, Operations Management, and Public Systems Management. His theoretical and applied research contributions have appeared (or, are to appear) in prestigious international journals such as IEE Transactions on Engineering Management, Technology Management, Project Management Journal, European Journal of Operational Research, and Futures.

## Interaction with Dr.A.R.Vasavi



Dr.A.R.Vasavi interacted with the students of PGCCPD on 14 March 2014. Speaking to the students, she emphasized the importance of aspiring high and fulfilling the aspirations by facing the challenges. A.R. Vasavi is a social anthropologist based in Bangalore, and is currently a Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. She was until recently a professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore and the member of the Governing Council of CREST

. Her publications include *Harbingers of Rain: Land and Life in South India*, and *Shadow Space: Suicides and the Predicament of Rural India* and 'Government Brahmin': Caste, the educated unemployed, and the reproduction of inequalities. She is the recipient of Infosys Foundation Award for the Best Social Scientist in India in 2013.



## KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture

The annual national lecture organized in memory of late KR Narayanan, former President of India was delivered by Prof. Satish Deshpande, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University. The Lecture entitled *Democratizing Higher Education in the 21st Century: The Road beyond Access* was held at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode on March 15, 2014. Dr.K.V.Kunhikrishnan, Chairman, Executive Committee CREST welcomed and introduced Prof.Deshpande to the audience and Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director CREST gave the vote of thanks. Delivering the lecture, Prof. Deshpande said historically, access to higher education has been clearly undemocratic. In every “civilized” society, the right to participate in recognized forms of scholarship and knowledge production has been severely restricted, with women and the lower social orders being excluded by fiat. Such social exclusion has been particularly severe in India where only a tiny elite within the privileged minority of the twice born castes were allowed access to higher learning. The separation between manual labor and intellectual pursuits was sharp and clear in its implications for social status. The advent of modern technology appeared to blur this sharp distinction by privileging those with practical work experience. But very soon the old social hierarchies reasserted themselves and access to technical-professional knowledge, expertise and status were once again reserved for the social elite. But by far the most challenging response to the current crisis would be to meet the challenge of student diversity head on.

Prof. Satish Deshpande is a sociologist whose areas of academic inquiry, are caste and class inequalities, contemporary social theory, history of social science and south- south interactions. Having completed his post graduate studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, he obtained his



doctorate in sociology from the University of California. Presently he is Professor and the Head of the Department of Sociology at Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. A prominent Social scientist of India, Prof. Deshpande strongly advocated enumeration of caste in 2011 census. Prof. Deshpande has headed several research projects, authored five books and chaired several seminars

and conferences in India and outside. His much acclaimed work, Contemporary India: A sociological View (2003) focuses on demystifying and contextualizing key trends that have powerfully shaped India; particularly the rise of religious politics, the uneven impact of globalization, and the prominence of caste issues in Indian polity. Prof. Satish Deshpande received Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah award in 2012 for his varied contributions.

### **Design your destiny – Workshop by Balachandran Gopinath**



Balachandran Gopinath, International Training Fellow of the Junior Chamber Training Institute of USA conducted a workshop “Design Your Destiny “ on 19 & 20 March 2014 with an objective to improve the confidence level of students. Balachandran Gopinath is the Certification Commissioner and International Training Fellow for JCI University, U.S.A. He is a H.R.D. Consultant and international trainer with over two decades of experience

### **Gender Dynamics**



Ms. Jinu Abraham, Faculty, Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) Satellite Campus, Kozhikode held a workshop on gender equity on 27 March 2014. The themes covered women’s vulnerability to poverty and violence , women’s mobility, human trafficking and equal opportunities

### **Special Lecture on Financial Planning and Budgeting**

Ms.Sujatha Sunil, consultant , Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) gave a special lecture on money matters, financial planning and budgeting on 28 March 2014.. The session covered the fundamentals of investments.

### **Private Sector & Public Sector Employability: A Realistic Perception**



A two - day workshop on Private Sector & Public Sector Employability was held at CREST on 31 March and 1 April 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 P T was in the Indian Postal Service and founder of DOOR Centre for Civil Services in Chennai.

## Workshop on ethnographic data collection



Mr. John Mathias, Research Scholar of the University of Michigan and Fulbright fellow conducted a workshop on ethnographic data collection on 4 April 2014. The workshop was organized as a part of training for collecting data on community by the students undergoing the PGCCPD course. Topics covered included participant and non-participant observation, being part of a social context, Semi-structured interviews, open and closed questions that cover identified topics and unstructured interviews. Mock interviews also were held by students.

## 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 5 April 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.

## Yoga Sessions



Two week yoga sessions were held for the students in the evenings during February 2014. Sessions were held by Pathanjali Yoga Centre Kozhikode.



## Theatre Workshop

A theatre workshop was conducted for students from 24 April to 30 April 2014. The workshop was conducted by Prof. Abhilash Pillai, faculty, National School of Drama, New Delhi. On the final day of



the workshop, a presentation was held at Maria Eugenie Centre, before an invited audience.. The workshop aimed at teaching the students how to use a body's rhythm, movement and space to



boost confidence level and effective communication.

Abhilash Pillai is considered to be an increasingly formidable voice in the Indian theatre scene. His productions include: *Midnight's Children*, *Bhoot Gaadi*, *Karna*, and *Shakuntala*. His production of Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* remains one of the finest Indian productions of the past decade, where he displayed a unique ability to translate the spirit and scope of a form like magical realism and make it performable and suitable for the stage. Abhilash Pillai was felicitated with the Sanskriti Samman for his contribution to Indian theatre.

## Mentoring Programme at Schools

The students of batch 21 in association with Safeway, a voluntary organization, held coaching 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. CREST students also



developed a curriculum and pedagogy for the project which is planned to be taken forward by future batches of CREST. Classes were held in Vellayail and Kakkoor schools in Kozhikode.



## CREST in Media



Print as well as the visual media of Kerala have given coverage to various programmes of CREST held during January – April 2014. Malayalam news channel “Mathrubhumi News” did coverage on special lectures and other programs. The news on KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture is available on <http://mathrubhuminews.in/ee/ReadMore/5568/democracy-essential-in-higher-education-satish-deshpande/E> . Malayalam translation of the KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture was published in Mathrubhumi Weekly (May 11, 2014) .

## Faculty Activities

**Prof.DD. Nampoothiri**, Executive Director, gave a lecture on “Sociological Analysis of Myths’ on January 7, 2014 at the Department of Sanskrit Literature, Sree Sankara University of Sanskrit, Kalady, On February 14, 2014 , he presented a paper , ‘Positive Educational Outcomes for the Marginalized in India : Towards a new Governance Model & Action Plan’ at the International Conference on Public Policy and Governance in the Era of Globalization organized by the Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod . He delivered the keynote address “Reimagining Sociology Curriculum Transactions at the UG Level” at the State level Workshop for Sociology Teachers organized by the University Department of Sociology, Sree Sankara University of Sanskrit, Kalady on March 3, 2014

## Forthcoming Events

### Valedictory function

Valedictory function for the 21st Batch of PGCCPD will be held on 15 May 2014 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium , Kozhikode. Dr. P.Abdul Aziz, Director , Salim Ali Centre For Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore will be the Chief Guest and Dr.Unnikrishnan Nair , Professor, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) will be the Guest of Honor.

### Admission to 22<sup>nd</sup> Batch of PGCCPD

Interview for the admission to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Batch of PGCCPD will be held on 19 & 20 May 2014. Classes will commence from 16 June 2014.

### Need Assessment in Government Medical Colleges in Shimla and Kangra

CREST has been invited by the Dr.Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Kangra and Indira Gandhi Medical College , Shimla, Himachal Pradesh to conduct a need assessment study for designing orientation programme for students undergoing MBBS degree courses there. The study will be conducted in the last week of May 2014.

### **Workshop on Criminal Law Practice and Human Rights Advocacy**

CREST in association with National Law School of India University Bangalore and Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy Training, (MILAT) Trivandrum is organizing a one week workshop on Criminal Law Practice and Human Rights Advocacy for lawyers from Scheduled communities of Kerala from 01-06 July 2014. Leading criminal court advocates, trial court judges and professors of law will be handling the sessions of the workshop scheduled to be held in Kozhikode

### **Orientation Programme for Entry Level Students at All India Institute of Medical Sciences**

An orientation program for entry level students of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi will be conducted by CREST from 4-12 August at AIIMS. The focus will be on improving the performance level of students from disadvantaged background.

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

A two-week orientation program for SC/ST B.Tech Entry Students (2014-15) of Kerala will be held in July 2014, in Calicut.

### **Teacher -Mentor Program for Faculty Members of AIIMS**

A two day teacher-mentor workshop for the faculty of All India Medical Sciences, New Delhi will be conducted by CREST on 14 & 15 August 2014

