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CREST News Bulletin

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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, India. CREST has been conceived as a national institute of humanities, science and professional studies, addressing the needs of the Dalits, Adivasis and other marginalized communities of India while integrating with the informational society. The Centre has been formed in the backdrop of the new global economy and the debates on affirmative action in the private sector that are taking place in the country.

CREST is the successor organization of the Centre of Excellence (CEX) which was incubated by the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode since 2002 with the support of Government of Kerala. The Centre became an autonomous institution in April, 2008 and it receives continuous support from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Department, Government of Kerala.

Since its inception in 2002 the Centre has been involved with (a) the flagship programme, i.e., the five months Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (b) Research Projects (c) Management Development Programs and (d) National Seminars & workshops.

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 as well as Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, New Delhi.

The activities of CREST are facilitated by the Executive Director. The faculty consists of experts in Sociology and Social Anthropology, Social Work, Social Psychology and Behavioral Science, Applied Economics, Communication, Management and Entrepreneurship Development, Accounting and Finance, Analytical and Quantitative sciences and Information Technology



Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (XIV Batch)

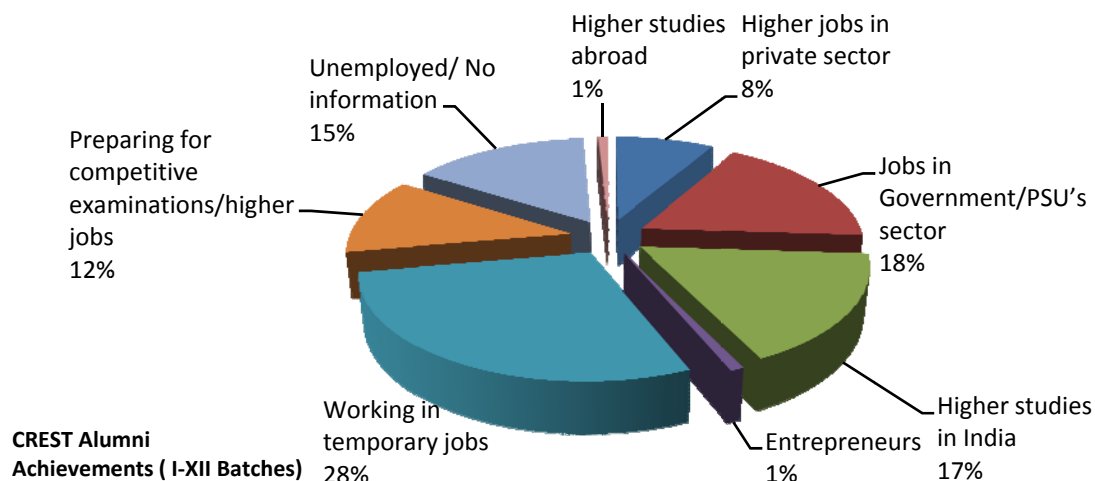
The XIV Batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development commenced on May 19, 2010. Of the 40 candidates who joined for the course, 10 are professional degree holders,



20 are Post Graduate Degree holders and 10 are graduates. On May 18, , parents of the candidates were invited and were briefed about the objectives of the programme, opportunities etc. The ice breaking session was conducted by Sucharita Hota, Nirmal Joy and Vinod AR on May 19, at CIGI, Chevayur, Calicut.

Alumni Achievements

Since its inception in 2002, 13 batches consisting of a total of 472 candidates successfully completed the course. Of the total 472 candidates, 10% have obtained higher jobs in Private Sector, 19% are working in Government/PSU's sector, 13% gone for higher studies in various universities in India, 1% have turned as Entrepreneurs, 1% gone for higher studies abroad, 13% are at present preparing for competitive examinations for higher education/jobs, 28% are working in temporary jobs.



Self Enrichment Workshop

A three-day workshop on Personality Development was held at Shreyas, Sultan Bathery, Wayanad from May 20-23, 2010 for the candidate who joined for the PGCCPD programme (XIV Batch). The workshop covered the themes; Team Building, Corporate communication, and presentations. The



workshop was conducted by Ms.Lekha Menon, corporate trainer based in Chennai. The workshop included sessions on sensitization on tribal and environmental issues. These sessions included village visits, interaction with local community and forest walk. V.Kesavan and Saseendran, Panchayat Members took sensitization sessions on tribal issues in Wayanad.

Visit of CREST faculty to IIT Delhi

Following the invitation from the IIT- Delhi, a three member faculty team of CREST visited IIT-Delhi and held discussions with faculty members and students to design an appropriate programme that would help in improving the performance level of SC/ST students who obtain admission for BTech programme. The faculty team comprising of Ms.Sucharita Hota, Ms.Lekha Menon and Mr.Vinod Krishnan held discussions with Director and faculty members of IIT-D from May 31 – June 3, 2010. In addition to this, the team also held discussions with students from the Scheduled category, research students and SC/ST students who completed the course

Special Lecture

Akkitham Narayanan , renowned painter from Kerala based in Paris conducted a session on his



works for students of CREST on June 10 , 2010 . The artist explained the students the current trends in art, his notion of abstraction, tantric influence on his painting; He explained how he chose a path where the religious symbolism could demystify itself and become a part of the high-modern abstract language that defied regional and ritualistic boundaries.

Orientation Programme for BTech Students

An orientation programme, designed to improve the performance level of students from Scheduled communities enrolling for BTech Degree courses in Kerala was held from June 19 to July 6, 2010 . Forty Three candidates were selected for the programme, based on the rank they obtained in



Common Entrance Examination 2010. Of the 43 candidates selected for the programme, 14 were girls.

The in-house programme was held at the Government Youth Hostel, Calicut. The programme included 160 sessions (1 hour 15 minutes) covered modules in Mathematics, English, Mechanics, Engineering Graphics and Personality Development. The sessions were held by faculty of CREST and Government Engineering College Calicut Apart from the training , the students were given



facility for 'option' selection for courses. As a part of the programme, CREST did a session for parents on 19th of July.

Ten Days Self-Enrichment Programme for First Year BTech students at IIT Delhi

The ten day programme was inaugurated on July 9, 2010, by Prof.Surendra Prasad, Director, IIT-Delhi at a function held at IIT-D in which the students, parents, faculty members of CREST and IIT participated. The programme was coordinated by Prof. Santanu Chaudhury, Dean, IIT- D. The



workshop was held at the Student Activity Centre and the faculty from Humanities and Social Science department were the observers. During the course interactive sessions were held with participants and faculty of IIT-D.

The ten days training programme addressing the need of students from Scheduled communities, aimed to enhance the learning skills, communication skills, inter-personal relationships and motivation with an objective to improve the performance level of SC/ST Students who join for BTech Degree courses. The ten days programme intended

to equip them to develop study strategies in order to improve their performance as well as

aspiration levels. The module, developed over the years at CREST, Kozhikode, draws on the understanding that scaffolding the personal needs (emotional, social) and orientations of an individual enables and facilitates better academic orientation.

The pedagogies drawn on for the training programme are that of reflexive teaching, critical dialogues and discourse, personal attention to individual trainees, integration of emotional-social-intellectual enrichment, preparation and orientation for conflict resolution and stress management etc.



The valediction was held on July 18, 2010 with Mr. Rameshwar Pal Agrawal, Chairman Board of Governors, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi giving the valedictory address.

CREST in Media



The Week (July 18, 2010) and *Deshabhimani* weekly (August 22, 2010) have published features on CREST. The features have given the profile of the institution and have provided details on the PGCCPD course conducted by CREST

Workshop on Soft Skills

A two-day's workshop on soft skills was held for the students of PGCCPD programme on 12 and 13 June 2010. The workshop was conducted by Balachandran Gopinath, International Trainer for JCI. The workshop covered subjects like Group Discussion, Interviews and Presentations

New Interns at CREST



Ms. Alexandra Delaney from UK and Ms. Cheryl Lynn Obal from Italy have joined CREST as International Interns in July 2010. They are working on communication skills particularly on one-on-one basis. They will be attached to CREST until mid-September 2010.

Faculty Activities

Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director CREST addressed the meet of faculty of Social Science, held on June 23, 2010 at Kannur University. Vinod Krishnan.T.Y , Associate Programme Coordinator held a session on tribal development on June 25, 2010 at the Workshop on Ashram Schools and Tribal Education in Karnataka organized by Fireflies Inter-cultural Centre, Bangalore.

Forthcoming Events

Special Lectures:

Dr.P.Bhaskaran Nair, Professor, Lincoln University, UK will deliver a special lecture on academic writing to students of XIV Batch of PGCCPD on August1, 2010

Admission for XV Batch of PGCCPD

Application has been invited from candidates seeking admission to XV Batch of PGCCPD programme. The course will commence in the first week of November, 2010

Orientation Programme for Tibetan students in Dharmasala / Mussoorie

Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), an internationally acclaimed initiative of The Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, has invited CREST to conduct a five days workshop on Transformational Leadership for Tibetan students in India. The programme will be held in Delhi during the last week of December, 2010. The participants for the workshop will be drawn from 11th and 12th grades of Tibetan Children's Village CBSC School, Dharmasala and Tibetan Homes Foundation, Mussoorie.

Theatre Workshop

A one week theatre workshop will be held for the students from 12- 18 September 2010 for students undergoing PGCCPD programme. It will be conducted by Mr. Jake Oorloff and Ms.Ruhanie Perera, Floating Space, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Orientation programme for students from Scheduled communities doing BTech degree at NIT Suratkal

National Institute of Technology, Suratkal has invited CREST to conduct self enrichment programme for students from Scheduled communities who undergo BTech degree courses at the Institute. This will be held in December 2010.

