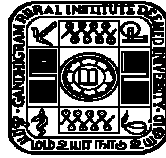


National Workshop on
Innovative Strategies in Grassroots Development
(Sponsored by UGC, Min. of HRD, Govt. of India)
February 18-19, 2010



Organized by
Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed University
(Department of Extension Education)

In partnership with

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Department of Extension Education
GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
DEEMED UNIVERSITY
Gandhigram – 624 302, Dindigul District
Tamil Nadu, India

National Workshop on
‘Innovative Strategies in Grassroots Development’
A Proposal by Department of Extension Education
GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE – DEEMED UNIVERSITY

Rationale of the Workshop

India is the third largest scientific and technological power, with vast human resource potential on par with many global superpowers. However, it ranks 46th in the overall innovation index out of 110 countries ranked by the Boston Consulting Group (March, 2009). Singapore occupies the First place. Innovation ranking and Human Development Index of countries seem to go together in influencing the pace of development of a country. Singapore occupies 23rd rank in HDI (Very High HD category) with India at 134th place (Medium HD category) out of 182 countries ranked by UNDP. Burundi, the penultimate country which ranked 109 in the Innovation Index (out of 110 countries listed), ranked 174 in HDI (Low HD category). In terms of Human Poverty Index, Singapore occupies 14th rank, while India and Burundi are placed 88th and 116th respectively. The rate of innovation and human development therefore, are closely inter-linked and mutually influence each other.

Innovation is the creation, development and execution of a new idea, product, service, practice or a system of functioning among individuals, groups, communities or societies for the betterment of people’s lives and resources, through newer, advanced scientific and effective methods of operation, better than before. Innovation has a broad canvas, with relevance to agriculture, industries, science and technology, education, health, communication and transport, energy, social arena and scores of other sectors. The present workshop focuses on innovations in the rural sector - the people, their resources and the geography.

The Rural Innovations Network (RIN) estimates that the key to wealth creations is technological progress, which accounts for 50 to 75 per cent of the recorded income increase. Wealth creation in rural areas is more sustainable if rural needs are met through the fuller expression and application of local knowledge. But then, the rural innovators

do not have access to the skills, networks and other resources needed to take their innovations to the market, observes RIN.

The innovators belong to a broad spectrum of institutions and individuals – viz., Government, NGOs, funding agencies, corporates, financial institutions, local governance institutions, creative individuals, development activists, Self Help Groups and a galaxy of others in the development sector. Unfortunately in India, the resources allocated to generate innovative ideas, the encouragement given to the persons with creativity and the atmosphere for an innovation-friendly system is far short of the requirements. India needs more creative minds to invent, incubate and innovate so as to enlighten people, enrich the resources and empower the poor.

Experimentation of innovative ideas in our development interventions will certainly contribute to accelerating the pace of progress and investment of resources meaningfully. The quantum and scale of innovations are far lesser than their actual requirements in the vast expanse of our South India's rural sector. At present, innovative experiments are tried out only in sporadic locations and most of them are not brought to limelight. Given an opportunity, these innovators/ development practitioners, may showcase their experiments for a larger audience.

The workshop would precisely meet this requirement and provide an opportunity to creative minds to share their struggle with their fellow humans and sensitize those who should be spurring this process.

Objectives

The workshop has the following objectives:

- To provide a platform for the development innovators share their innovative experiments, the processes and problems with development practitioners.
- To provide opportunities of interactive learning between and among the innovators, and development practitioners in order to incubate and replicate the innovative strategies.
- To document the innovative development strategies at the micro-level for sensitizing the policy makers and planners for promoting innovation - centred development intervention.

Themes of the Workshop

Innovative experiments carried out in the following spheres would be the prime focus:

- Grassroots strategies of Government
- Initiatives of PRIs in Community Management
- Initiatives of NGOs with innovative elements
- Direct Intervention Projects by Donor Agencies
- Development intervention by Corporate Sectors
- Community service projects of Colleges/Universities.

Resource Persons

Resource persons will be those who are associated with the Innovative experiments carried out by a cross-section of groups or institutions. Examples of innovative projects / experiments broadly include:

- NREG Project (Govt. of India)
- *Kudumbashrees* of Kerala state
- SHGs of Karnataka / Tamil Nadu
- *Velugu Project* (Andhra Pradesh)
- *Vaalndhu Kaattuvom* Project (World Bank Project, TN)
- Corporate Sector initiated Social Development Projects
- Rural / National Innovation Networks / Foundations
- Micro strategies of Donors, NGOs and PRIs.
- (*e.g. Helpage India's Home for the Aged, Cuddalore, T.N., St. Joseph's Hospice, Dindigul Dist. and others such experiments in South India*)

Participants of the Workshop

- Experts from Innovation networks / Foundations
- Representatives from Donor Agencies
- Corporate Personnel from CSR Divisions
- NGO leaders
- Development Consultants, Researchers and Trainers

- Successful Panchayat Leaders and SHG Women Leaders
- Individuals who have been awarded prizes for their innovations in grassroot level experiments.

No. of Participants

There will be about 25 Resource Persons and 75 participants, in all.

Venue and Date

- Gandhigram Rural Institute - Deemed University Gandhigram, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu, India.
- February 18-19, 2010 (Thursday – Friday).

Sessional Schedule

Day ONE

- Inaugural Session : 10.00 - 11.30 am
- Technical Session I : 11.30 - 01.00 pm
- Technical Session II : 02.00 - 03.30 pm
- Technical Session III : 03.30 - 05.00 pm

Day TWO

- Technical Session IV : 10.00 - 11.30 am
- Technical Session V : 11.30 - 01.00 pm
- Panel Discussion/Plenary : 02.00 - 03.30 pm
- Wrap Up : 03.30 - 05.00 pm

Every Technical session will have a lead paper for 30 minutes (20 Minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for interaction, followed by presentation on three other theme papers for 10 to 15 minutes each and interaction for 5 minutes each.

Outcome

- The innovative experiments in South Indian states, pertaining to rural development, will be showcased
- The budding youth with thirst for creativity will be inspired to learn from innovators, and contribute to the process of innovation
- Innovators may form a network, with the objective of strengthening their interaction and enhancing the pace of their innovations
- Policy makers, planners and development practitioners will be sensitized on the availability of opportunities and the need for scaling up the existing and promoting new experiments

The papers and proceedings will be documented and published, for use by a wider audience – Donors, Government, NGOs and Academicians with development interest.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Instruction for Authors

Persons interested in presenting papers based on their actual experience or direct association with or an on the spot study of an on-going or completed innovative experiment, leading to rural development may send their contribution to the Workshop Coordinator.

Papers not exceeding 10 pages, with an abstract of one or two pages, both in hard copy and soft copy (*CD in MS Word with Times New Roman, 12 font size*) should reach the Workshop Coordinator. The Abstract of papers should be sent before December 24, 2009. Acceptance of the abstract will be communicated before December 30, 2009. Upon the acceptance of Abstract by a Review Team, the Authors are requested to submit their full paper before January 25, 2010. Abstracts will be published before the workshop. Select papers, after a review by a Team of Experts, will be published in a book form after the workshop.

Important Dates

Last date for sending abstract	: December 24, 2009
Intimation about acceptance of the abstract	: December 30, 2009
Last date for sending full paper	: January 25, 2010
Last date for sending registration fee	: January 30, 2010
Workshop dates	: February 18-19, 2010

Accommodation

Simple accommodation will be arranged at the GRI Guest House on sharing basis, for participants who confirm their participation (before January 25, 2010).

Registration Fee

All the participants are required to register for the workshop. The registration fee includes workshop kit, workshop proceedings, accommodation and local hospitality for two days. The details of registration fee are as follows:

Participants	Outstation	Local (GRI)
Teachers	Rs. 500	Rs.300
Research Scholars	Rs. 300	Rs.150
Officials / Development personnel	Rs. 500	Rs.300

Registration fee is to be paid through DD drawn in favour of ‘The Registrar, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram’, payable at Canara Bank, GRI Campus, Gandhigram (Code no. 8500) or State Bank of India Ambathurai (Code no. 3373). The last date for registration is 30th January, 2010. The filled in registration form, along with registration fee, should be sent to the address below:

Dr. M.P. BORAIAN
Professor and Head,
Dept. of Extension Education,
Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed University,
Gandhigram-624 302,
Dindigul Dist., T. N., INDIA.

Contact numbers / Mail ID
Tel: 0451-2452 371 to 2452 375 (O)
Extn. no. : 2121 / 2161
Mobile: 94861 45595 / 91500 11590
Email : innovations.gri@gmail.com
Website: www.ruraluniv.ac.in

Organizing Committee

Dr.N.Narayanasamy, Professor of Extension Education

Dr.T.T.Renganathan, Professor of Agricultural Extension

Dr.N.D.Mani, Professor, Department of Rural Development

Dr.S.K.Gopal, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra

Dr.A.Eswaran, Associate Professor, Dept. of Extension Education

Dr.K.S.Pushpa, Associate Professor in Home Science Extension

Dr.S,Shunmugam, Research Officer/ Team of Research Assistants

Rural Extension & Evaluation Cell, Dept. of Extension Education

Dr.E.Perumal, Field Assistant, Dept. of Extension Education

Miss. V.Kaveri, Lecturer (Temp.), Dept. of Extension Education

Miss.R.Vigneshwarie, JRF Scholar, Dept. of Extension Education

About the Institute

Gandhigram was born in 1947. A team of dedicated disciples and contemporaries of Gandhiji, Dr.T.S.Soundaram and Dr.G.Ramachandran, developed Gandhigram - the epicenter of many rural development programmes. The Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI) was founded in 1956 with the following objectives:

- to provide for instruction and training in such branches of learning as will promote a classless and casteless society;
- to provide for research and advancement and dissemination of knowledge; and
- to function as a centre for extension work leading to integrated rural development.

All the academic programmes of GRI have been modelled after Gandhiji's revolutionary concept of '*Nai Talim*' system of education. The GRI was conferred upon the status of a Deemed University in 1976. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited GRI with Five Star status during 2002.

GRI has a campus of nearly 200 acres in a rural setting, nestling in one of the enclaves of the beautiful Sirumalai hills range. The climate of the place is pleasant throughout the year and the panorama of natural environs of Gandhigram is inspiring.

Gandhigram is situated on the Madurai-Dindigul National Highway (NH-7). It is well connected by rail and road (12 kms from Dindigul and 60 kms from Madurai). The nearest Railway station is Ambathurai (2 kms from the campus) and the nearest Railway junction is Dindigul. The nearest Airport is Madurai (66 kms).

Gandhigram is located 60 kms north of Madurai, the famous Temple city, 12 kms south of Dindigul, the district headquarters with a historic fort, 5 kms west of Sirumalai hill ranges (the Western Ghats) and 2 kms east of Chinnalapatti, a small town reputed for its art-silk sarees. Kodaikanal, a renowned summer hill station is 100 kms away in the west and Palani, a pivotal pilgrimage centre in Tamil Nadu, is 65 kms away in the north-west.

About the Department

Department of Extension Education is both young and old. Department of Extension was established during 1956, when Gandhigram Rural Institute was established. During the course of organizational restructuring, it was re-christened as Department of Extension Education in 1988. Department of Extension Education strives to accomplish the third dimension proposed by UGC (1976), and the third objective of GRI (1956), i.e. to function as a centre for extension leading to integrated rural development.

The mission of the department is more than its mandate. The Department undertakes **teaching**, research, extension, training and consultancy programmes. It offers an MBA programme in Rural Project Management (regular mode), M.Phil. in Extension Teaching & Training, Extension Education & Communication and a Diploma in Micro-Credit Management programme (distance mode).

The department takes up sponsored **research projects**. Current projects include UNDP funded “Rapid Appraisal of NREGS in Kerala” for Government of India (Min. of R. D.) and “Evaluation of Agricultural Extension Programmes” for Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission (Dept. of Evaluation and Applied Research).

It has organized **training programmes** on:

- Participatory Rural Development for Japanese University students (10 days)
- Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) for Government officials, NGOs, Colleges/Universities
- Capacity building programme for NGOs and SHGs
- Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) training for NGOs working among Persons with Disabilities.

Under **Extension**, the department has been working for the welfare of persons with disabilities and the aged in our service villages. It also works for the upliftment of the *Paliya* tribe of Lower Palani hills (Kodaikanal region).

Consultancy assignments include technical support by the Senior Faculty to the World Bank sponsored *Vaalnthu Kattuvom* project and Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project, implemented by the Highways Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

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Department of Extension Education,
GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE – DEEMED UNIVERSITY,
Gandhigram – 624 302, Dindigul Dist., Tamil Nadu, INDIA.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name :
Sex : Male Female
Date of Birth & Age :
Designation :
Address for communication :
Mobile no. :
Telephone no. :
E-mail ID :
Nature of participation : Presenting a paper Participating as a delegate
Title of the Paper
(if presenting a paper) :
Accommodation required : Yes No
If 'Yes', details of arrival/departure :

Registration Fee:

Amount (Rs.) :
Demand Draft no. :
Date :
Name of the Bank :

Date:

Place:

Signature

Note: Photocopies of the Registration form can be made, if required.