GRI e-News

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31st Convocation - 22.01.2015

The 31st Convocation of Gandhigram Rural Institute was held on 22nd January 2015.The Founder and Chancellor of VIT University DR. G. Viswanathan was the Chief Guest to confer degrees to 1057 students and deliver the Convocation address.The Vice Chancellor of Gandhigram University welcomed the Chief Guest, the Chancellor of GRI-DU, the delegates, the faculty and the parents. A Special Address on the occasion was delivered by the Chancellor of GRI. 60 Phd scholars, 102 MPhil scholars, 441 Post Graduates, 296 Under Graduates and 158 both Diplomas and PG Diplomas were awarded with degrees and honors. Gold Medals and Cash Awards were also given to 47 outstanding students.

SOUTH ZONE VC CONFERENCE AT VIT, VELLORE

A conference for the Vice-Chancellors of Universities in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Puducherry was held on 3rd and 4th January, 2015 at VIT University, Vellore. Various issues concerning higher education including access, equity, equality, governance, financing, student services and value education were discussed. Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, and eminent educationists/policy makers in the field of higher education participated in the meet. Prof. S. Natarajan, Vice-Chancellor, GRI-DU participated in the meet and presented on the Best Practices followed in GRI to infuse moral and ethic values and among students.

REPUBLIC DAY FUNCTION

January 26th , the new day dawns at Gandhigram University and it is the Nation's 66th Republic Day. Prof S.Natarajan, Vice Chancellor of GRI-DU hoisted the national flag and spoke on the democratic system with in India and also on the ingrediants of Constitution of India for restoring the social, secular and integral values of the people. The Gandhigram Faculty, students and staff took part in the celebration

SMRITI DAY
21st Death Anniversary of Gri-DU founder Vice-Chancellor Dr.G.Ramachandran

An Interreligious Prayer was organized in view of 21st Death Anniversary of the Founder Vice-Chancellor Dr. G.Ramachandran. It was observed on 17.01.2015 at 9.30A.M at his Samadhi. Dr.S.Natarajan, Vice Chancellor, GRI-DU spoke on this occasion after the prayer. The children from children's Home, Gandhigram Trust participated. The staff and students of GRI also participated. The Programme was co-ordinated by the Department of Gandhian Thought and Peace Science, Shanti Sena, and Gurukula System of GRI, Gandhigram.

EXTENSION OFFICERS MEETING

The officials of Department of Agriculture, Dindigul have decided to convene their Zonal monthly and fortnightly meetings at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gandhigram. The first zonal meeting was held on 13th January, 2015 at Seminar hall of K.V.K. Prof. Dr.S.Natarajan, Vice-Chancellor presided over the function and addressed the extension officers on the need for the dissemination of modern technologies among farmers. The Joint Director of Agriculture,Dindigul, Faculty of Agriculture and Extension GRI-DU participated in the meeting.

WORKSHOP ON VILLAGE PLACEMENT PROGRAMME (VPP)

Every year outreach and extension acitivities are conducted for the students of GRI-DU to make them contribute to the growth and betterment of villages. Department of Extension Education, GRI-DU prepared a master plan for the Faculties and Departments to organise Village Placement Programs for students. About 28 villages were selected and alloted to thedepartments. Social Sciences and Science Departments were given two different slots. A workshop was conducted on 12.12.2014 for the staffs-in-charge. Students were also given orientation regarding the village placement programs. They were advised to conduct surveys regarding the economic, educational and social background of the people. Classes were arranged for the children in the village schools.

Round Table Conference in GRI

"Round Table Conference of Institutions of Higher Education on Gandhian Ideals" was conducted at GRI-DU on 23rd January 2015. Dr. S. Natarajan, Vice-Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural Institute welcomed the gathering and elaborated on the three fold objectives of the One Day Round Table Conference of Institutions of Higher Education on Gandhian Ideals. Delivering the opening remarks, Ms. Renana Jhabvala deliberated on the difficulties of running a Gandhian Institution particularly, institutions of higher learning as they have to dove tail the Gandhian values to the regulations of existing systems of governance and above all accreditation for the systems from the established agencies.

The First Session focused on "Gandhiji's Educational Philosophy and Higher Education". Chairing the session, Mrs. Devaki Jain, in her opening remarks, said, there were series of round table conferences that were conducted for the past fifty years on inculcating Gandhian ideals in higher education. The challenges continue to exist and hoped that a small step in this conference would be made towards the objective. The fundamental challenge is that of inculcating Gandhian ideals and values in Higher Educational Institutions. The attempt to focus studies on Gandhi for his peace initiatives would marginalize Gandhi to one sphere. Students should be made understood that he is a transformer of a society.

Presenting his topic, Dr.T.Karunakaran, the former Vice Chancellor of GRI-DU said Gandhian education is self discovering to bring about a true civilization. He urged for a university for each region that might focus on the felt needs of that particular region. Shri.M.Gurusamy insisted on man making education and instill dignity of labour, training in non-violence should find a part in the educational endeavors at all levels of educational experiment. Speaking against commercialization of education, he said, the focus of education should also be on distinguishing money versus values at a tender age. The present system of economy that is parasitic and exploitative, he said, education should act as a tool of transforming the society's outlook towards practicing Gandhian values. For such an educational system to come into being, educational leaders should have faith in Nai Talim and implement the same.

Chairing the second session on 'Skill Based Higher Education' the former Vice Chancellor of GRI-DU Sri D.K. Oza emphasized on the upgradation of skills which is inclusive of pursuing truth, sectoral contribution to the chosen area of speialisation, problem solving skills, inclusive leadership skills and socially responsible leaders in Higher Educational institutions. Making a presentation on "Skill based higher education for transforming rural India: Curricular issues and challenges", Prof. A.K. Singh pointed out the growing unemployment among the educated as well as the increasing social unrest. He pointed out that education is inversely proportionate to poverty but policies of various committees formed to address these issues have not been implemented. He pointed out that the NVEQF is aimed at merging general and vocational education.

Dr. Kezevino Aram in her presentation on Human resources for national development focused on the relevance of Gandhism in the 21st Century. Drawing from her father - Dr. Aram's experiments in Nagaland towards sustainable peace, she dealt with education as a tool of transformation. She presented a three pronged strategies for achieving transformative education which included the creation of leaders, creation of inspired professionals, and the creation of an eco-system where problem solving skills, creative thinking, truth and social responsibility are fore grounded.

The Third Session, chaired by Dr. Anamik Shah, focused on the topic "Providing Space in Evaluation Norms and Criteria by Accrediting Agencies and the UGC". Speaking on the topic "Developing Institution Specific Evaluation Norms and Criteria by Accrediting Agencies", Dr. S. Natarajan pondered on the current assessment system of NAAC. He pointed out that the system is not institution specific and several of the hallmarks of GRI such as Shantisena, Shramadhan, Inter-religious prayer and the social work done by Departments / Centres such as the Rural Energy Centre, Rural Technology Centre, Department of Rural Industries and Management and the Faculty of Sanitation are not adequately recognized by the NAAC. Dr. Rajendra Khimani remarked that because of these reasons the Gujarat Vidyapeeth never applied for NAAC accreditation, but now is being forced to do so by MHRD. He also pointed out that the Government is not differentiating between Private Universities and centrally funded Deemed Universities.

Dr. M. G. Sethuraman pointed out that institutions working on Extension are not encouraged by this factor. He suggested demanding a separate category for the centrally funded Deemed Universities. Dr.M.R.Kubendran stated that Institutions founded on Gandhian ideals like Gandhigram Rural Institute need to comply with the emerging needs of higher

education while engaged in nurturing the ethos and ideals embedded in the genesis of the Institution. Dr. A. Joseph Dorairaj opined that despite the shortcomings, institutions need to work within the framework of NAAC. Dr. N.S. Nagarajan noted that many questions asked by NAAC are irrelevant to GRI. He also said that some panel members of NAAC are not appreciative of the Extension activities. Sivaraman drew the attention of the participants to the special status of Dr. M. Sivaraman drew the attention of the participants to the special status of GRI as the only university running Undergraduate Programmes. He also noted that the NAAC Parameters discourage the staff members from taking up extension activities. Dr. N. Narayanasamy suggested the participatory mode of creating institution specific criteria for NAAC.

Mrs. Devaki Jain suggested that the only solution for these problems would be getting out of the Deemed University status. The Session Chair Dr. Anamik Shah, in his concluding remarks, emphasized the need to draw an action-plan and to write to the UGC to separately classify rural institutions.

The Fourth Session, chaired by Dr.T. Karunakaran, dealt on the topic "Developing a Core-curriculum on Gandhian Ideals". Mrs. Devaki Jain, who spoke on "Developing a Core-curriculum on Gandhian Ideals Addressing Inequality Economic and Social", highlighted that the contribution of the Non-corporates to India's GDP is much higher than that of the Corporate. Emphasizing the need to overcome inequality, she stressed significance of building peace through skill training. Participating in the discussion that followed, Dr. K. Aram stressed the need to revisit how Gandhian Thought is being taught. Dr. A.K. Singh suggested that context specific curriculum should be flexible. Shri. A. Udayakumar emphasized the need to impart knowledge of Gandhi to the present day students in order to prevent them from being misled by the misinformation campaign. Dr. Karunakaran in his closing remarks pointed out the four stages of skill gradation ranging from livelihood skills to life style. He also pointed out India's failure on the MDG front.

The Fifth Session focused on "Bringing Gandhiji into Higher Education The Way Forward" and was chaired by Ms. Renana Jhabvala.

Shobana Radhakrishnan, Mind flash Technologies, insisted on value based education. The key to better education is holistic education , better teacher student relationship and community engagement. There is growing need for contemporary vocational needs and it is essential to provide technology training accessible to poor at no cost. Dr.M. William Baskaran, Co-ordinator of the Conference & Professor, Dept. Gandhian Thought and Peace Science, GRI underscored the need to integrate Gandhian Ideals and Strategies in the realm of Higher Education. This has to be done at three to levels One, as Nai Talim the holistic vision of Gandhian education should be implemented right from Pre Basic to Rural Higher Education. Two, at Rural Higher Education, Gandhian ideals should be integrated as part of teaching, research and extension and Gandhian ideals and values should be incorporated in all disciplines. Three, Gandhian Thought as a discipline should focus on the relevance and interpretation of his ideals in the changing context. He also made an appeal to the Institutions of Higher Education to make self introspection about the levels of realizing Gandhi's vision in their experiments to progress further in this direction.

In her concluding remarks Ms. Renana Jhabvala emphasized the need to create a consortium of Institutions of Higher education devoted to Gandhism to spread Gandhian ideals in the higher realms of education besides preserving their distinctive nature and uniqueness.

NATIONAL SEMINAR

The Department of Tamil, Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University has organised a Two Day National Conference on the title "TAMILLIYAL THURAIKALIL MAGALIR" on 5th & 6th February 2015. In the Inaugural Session of the conference, Dr. S. Natarajan, the Vice Chancellor of GRI-Du, delivered his Presidential Address. Ms. K. Bala Bharathi, MLA, Dindigul Constituency delivered her Inaugural address. The Mahakavi Bharathiyar Awardee and the Principal of Cheenai Bhakthavadchalam Memorial Women's College Dr. R. Prema has given a Special Address on the conference theme. A book on the conference theme was released by Dr. S. Natarajan, the Vice Chancellor and it was received by Ms. K. Bala Bharathi. Teachers and scholars from various colleges and universities have participated and presented papers in the conference. Prof Vasuki Jeyaratnam, Mother Teresa Women's University and Mr. K. Siva, a research scholar have given their expert remarks of the conference, Prof M. Kuruvammal, Professor of Tamil, GRI-DU has delivered her Valedictory address. The conference Co-ordinator Prof V. Nirmala Rani proposed vote of thanks.

EXTENSION PROGRAMME OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY

- Skill training in Soap Products Manufacturing & Fruit Processing was given to 120 Chemistry / Commerce students of GTN Arts & Science College, Dindigul on 19/12/2014 at GTN College. Dr. K. Murugesan, Sri. E. George Muller Served as Resource persons.
- Dr. A. Jathitha Begum acted as one of the judges for selecting 30 best PG Teacher in Tamil Nadu for Gurudhashina award in KSR Group of Institutions, Tiruchengodu.

30th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

In collaboration with the Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation, (ISSC) Pune, the Department of Cooperation Gandhigram Rural Institute - Deemed University (GRI), Gandhigram organized the 30th Annual Convention on 29-30th January 2015. 72 delegates comprising of Cooperators, Academicians, Executives, Trainers, Researchers from 10 States and 57 Research Scholars from the Cooperation Department of various Arts and Science Colleges of Tamil Nadu deliberated on two themes viz., (1) Innovative Cooperative Ventures / Initiatives and (2) Best Business Practices in Cooperatives.

The Convention was inaugurated by Dr.S.Natarajan, Vice Chancellor, GRI. He shared his experiences of visting cooperatives in Gujarat and Maharasthra, He suggested that the Department of Cooperation, GRI should take up studies for assessing the reasons for the slow progress in the performance of cooperatives in Tamil Nadu and submit report for policy formulation.

Shri Balasubramanian Iyar, Regional Director, International Cooperative Alliance, Asia and Pacific Regional Office, New Delhi, Dr.R.Pothireddi, the well known Cooperator in Tamil Nadu, Professor A.Arul Mariyanathan veteran Professor of Cooperation, and Shri M.V.Ashok, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Mumbai spoke on various issues connected with the Cooperative convention. Technical Sessions ware also conducted to discuss more about the state wise convention contributions.

In the end Dr.A.P.Kansal, Secretary ISSC and Dr.K.Ravichandran, Head, Department of Cooperation, GRI thank everyone for making this Convention success.

COPYRIGHTS AND ANTI-PLAGIARISM WORKSHOP

The One day workshop was organised by Dr. G. Ramachandran library on the theme of "Copyrights and Anti-Plagiarism" on 9.01.2015 for M.Phil and Ph.D research scholars, Faculty members of GRI and Library and Information Science Professionals.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr. S. Natarajan, Vice Chancellor of Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University. In his Presidential Address, he welcomed the initiatives taken by library for helping the research scholars, and he permitted the percentage of plagiarism level upto 30. He further said that the supervisor and research scholar have to confirm the plagiarism level in thesis and also certified. He also appreciated the library department for taking these kind steps in the University.

Dr. M. Sivaraman, Controller of Examinations, shared his views on the review of articles for the research in his inaugural address. The chief guest Dr. K. Elavazhagan, Librarian, Knowledge Officer, Indian Institute of Management, Tiruhchirappalli, has elaborated the Copyrights and Anti-palgiarism components in academic writing. Dr. S. Gopalakrishnan appreciated the continuous programme for the research scholars which are user centric in nature. Dr. J. Abraham, Deputy Librarian and Library i/c welcomed the gathering. M. Tamizhchelvan, Deputy Librarian, proposed vote of thanks.

The technical session was handled by Dr. S. Gopalakrishnan, MIT campus, Anna University, on the topic of Plagiarism. It was followed by Product demo from Balani infotech, New Delhi for their product called "Turnitin" which is meant for Plagiarism. Dr. K. Elavazhagan, handled the second technical session, presented with copyrights and plagiarism with more examples in India.

Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Registrar, GRI, addressed the gathering and shared his views on plagiarism on writing journal articles. Dr. S. Dhanavandan proposed vote of thanks.

STUDENTS ACTIVITIES, PARTICIPATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

♦ VPP at Mettupatty for the I/II year BBA RIM and Diploma in Textile Technology was conducted during 17 to 23rd Dec. 2014. Major activities were, I Rural Entrepreneurship Survey, II Industrial Survey, III Survey of Dyeing & Printing Units, IV Survey of the Status of Women in Industries.

♦ VPP at Kalikkampatti for III year BBA RIM and Ist year Diploma in Textile Technology and I & II year MBA was conducted from 17 to 23rd Dec. 2014. Major activities were I. Socio-economic survey, II Industrial visit to Food Industry, III Tree plantation (250 saplings), IV Survey on SHG groups.

♦ Mr. K. Karthic Kumar of B.Ed won the 1st prize, Ms. N.Banupriya of same course got 2nd prize and Ms. M. Indhumathi of M.Ed won 2nd prize in the essay competition held in Centre for Women Studies, GRI on 11.12.2014. The programme was organized by Centre for Women Studies, GRI in commemorating the Bharathiyar Birth Day Celebration on 11.12.2014 and B.Ed & M.Ed students won the prize.

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♦ Sanitary Inspector Trainee Students of the Faculty of Sanitation and Rural Health of Gandhigram Rural Institute K.Tamilselvan, N. Syed Jahir, K.Tirupathi, M. Balavelayutham, G. Muthukumar and R. Rajkumar took part in a Science exhibition "Environment - Drinking Water, Sanitation and Health" (by NCSTC, DST, GoL) organised by Yadava College, Madurai on 10th January 2015 and won the Second place with a cash prize of ₹. 5000/-. Dr. S. Natarajan, Vice Chancellor of GRI-DU, Dr.N.S. Nagarajan, Dean-Students' Welfare, GRI-DU and Dr. Sivaraman, Controller of Exams, GRI-DU felicitated the students and also appreciated the efforts of S. Pandiarajan.

♦ The Students of Physics are doing preparatory work for the conduct of "FestoPhys2015" an inter collegiate event in Physics to be held in the month of February 2015. Dr. (Mrs.) P.Nithiananthi is coordinating the FestoPhys-2015 event.

♦ Dr.V.Ragupathy , Coordinated one day seminar on "Youth and Gandhian Model of Social Development" on 20th January atNew Seminar Hall, CAPART building, Gandhi gram Trust, organized by Gandhi King Centre and 6 students of M.A. (5yr. Int.) Development Administration has participated to make presentation.

♦ Two students of M.A. (5yr. Int.) Development Administration have participated and gave paper presentation in the Two day National Seminar on "Development at Margins: Marginality and Marginalisation in India's Growth Story" on 22nd and 23rd January 2015, at Periyar University, Salem, sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi.

♦ Coaching classes for National Insurance Company Ltd Exam is organized by the Coaching centre for entry into services at Tagore Block from (4.15pm-6.15pm). The Program was organized by Prof.B.Tamilmani Coordinator.

♦ Dr.J.Jeyanthi Coordinator NSS Anna University Thirunelveli has delivered a lecture on "Personality Development through NSS" to the NSS Volunteers of Department of Mathematics on 27.01.2015. Dr.P.Muthukumar and Dr.R.Rajkumar NSS Programme officers have arranged this lecture.

♦ Preceptors from Sri. Ramachandra Mission Chennai came to GRI and offered a programme to agricultural students on "Youth-Time of Promise and Effort" on 27-01-2015.Dr.T.T.Ranganathan Prof of Agriculture And Dr.A.Ramanathan NSS Co-ordinator coordinated the programme.

TWO DAY TRAINING PROGRAMME ON MODERN SURVEY EQUIPMENTS

The Rural Technology Centre organized two day training programme on "Modern Survey Equipments" on 28th and 29th January 2015 for the students of B.Tech Civil Engineering. On the first day Dr.M.Sundaravadivelu, Dean, FROS inaugurated the function by lighting kuthuvilaku. It was followed by a hands-on training session by Mr.K.Jayasankar (Indus Industries, Chennai), Mr.K.Kannan and Mr.S.Badrinath (Aimil, Chennai), by the industrial practioners in Total Station and GPS to our students. Mr.K.Jayasankar and Dr.M.Muthu Kumar Assistant Professor, Centre for Geology, GRI also gave Lecture - Cum -Training in Total Station and GPS. On the Second day, Mr.K.Kannan and Mr.S.Badrinath explained about the data collection, data transfer from GPS and Total Station.

The Vice Chancellor, GRI in his valedictory address, shared his experiences on the use of survey equipments in soil mapping and motivated the students to learn the essential and new technologies related to their curriculum. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr.K.Mahendran, Director i/c, who co-ordinated the training programme.

Special Talk

♦ Dr. C. Pitchai , Associate Professor, GRI delivered a special talk on "Employability and Skill Development for Commerce Students" at S.R. Naidu College of Arts & Science, Sathur, on 24.12.2014

♦ Mr.Uday Kumar Alajangi, Member of Board of Management GRI delivered a Guest Lecture on "TIME MANAGEMENT" for MBA students on 21.01.2015.

♦ Dr.A.Jahitha Begum, Associate Professor and Head Incharge acted as a resource person in UGC Academic Staff College Bharathidasan University,Trichy on 30.01.2015.

♦ Dr.C.Sugumar, Deputy Director in Physical Education GRI delivered a Lecture for the M.Ed students on "HEALTHY BODY WEIGHT" on 29.1.2015 at the Department of Education, GRI-DU

♦ Department of Political science & Development Administration has conducted Justice V.R.Krishna Iyer Endowment Lecture on 28 th January 2015. Smt.Brindha karat Former member of Rajya Sabha has delivered the endowment lecture.

♦ Dr. A. Jahitha Begum, Associate Professor & Head i/c acted as External member in the public viva- voce examination held on 30.12.2014 to Mrs. Jacqualine Loleta Patrick in Christ University, Bangalore

♦ One day workshop on "Dissemination" was conducted on 29.01.2015 at Faculty of Rural Health & Sanitation Ambathurai, by Population Research Centre sponsored by Directorate of Census,Tamilnadu.

♦ Dr. M. Kuruvammal, Professor, Department of Tamil, attended the Evaluation Committee Meeting organized by the Prasar Bharati, All India Radio, Kodaikanal from 29.01.2015 to 30.01.2015 at Prasar Bharati, All India Radio, Kodaikanal.

♦ Mr.S.P.Raja Murugan Restaurant Manager MarryBrown Dindigul delivered a lecture on "MANAGEMENT OF HOTEL RESTAURANT AND CAFE(HORECA)" organised on 28.01.2015 for MBA Students

♦ Dr.R.I.Sathya, Associate Professor Department Of Home Science delivered a Lecture on"AGRO TEXTILES" in UGC National Conference on "Emerging Trends In Technical Textiles for the Modern Era"Organized by the Department of Costume and Design and Fashion G.Venkataswamy Naidu College kovilpatti. She also chaired a session on 23rd January 2015.

AWARDS

♦ **Gandhi Kingship Centre Fellowship** was awarded to Ms. V. Premalatha, student of MA Dev. Ad (5 year .INT). In appreciation of her commitment to work for the promotion of peace and justice-received from the Chancellor at Convocation meeting.

♦ Ms. Jini. M.N, III-year student, Development Administration has won First Prize in poster competition on "ACTIVISM FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE" on 21-01-2015 held at LAKSHMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION. organised by Gandhi-King Centre.

♦ Mr. S. Narasimhan, Field Assistant, Department of Physics has been honoured with "The Best Extension Worker Award" for the year 2013-2014 in the 31st Convocation held in GRI on 22.01.2015.

♦ Dr. M. Sundaramari, Professor, Agricultural Extension won Best Publication Award-2014 from SADHAN (Society For Advancement Of Human & Nature) Dr. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry Solan Himachal Pradesh for his paper entitled "Scientific Rationality And Evaluative Perception on indigenous Plant Protection Measures on Coconut (cocos nucifera)" published in the Journal of Plantation Crops 39(2):290-298.

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