

Monthly Updates-July 2025

Quality & Universal Access to Early Childhood Care & Education through Systemic Transformation (QUEST)

Overview

CRISP's Centre for **Quality & Universal Access to Early Childhood Care & Education through Systemic Transformation (QUEST)**, is driven by the belief that every child in India deserves quality pre-primary education, achievable through the transformation and convergence of nutrition and education systems. QUEST adopts a low-cost, high-impact approach, and works to empower Anganwadi workers, align curriculum and pedagogy, improve infrastructure, and strengthen governance and community involvement, bridging the gap between policy and grassroots implementation in 11 partner states. QUEST's aim is to ensure universal access to quality Early Childhood Care & Education for all 3–6-year-old children in India through systemic transformation and strengthened public delivery systems.

Project Goal



To enhance the quality of pre-primary education for **14 million** underserved children across 11 states by transforming Anganwadi Centres into vibrant **early learning centres** and ensuring access to quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for all children under six. This includes the physical and functional co-location of Anganwadi Centres with primary schools **ensure smooth transition** to formal education, and improve learning continuity.

Strategy

Creating a strong ECE foundation requires an integrated approach combining safe, engaging learning environments, an age-appropriate curriculum, skilled Anganwadi workers, regular monitoring, active community involvement, and coordinated institutional support to ensure consistent, high-quality delivery.

Key Pillars



Capacity Building



Community Engagement



Monitoring Indicators



Robust Learning Environment



Curriculum Alignment



Institutional Strengthening

Photo Gallery



Progress this Month

QUEST Central Office

- As part of MoU with MoWCD and NIPPCD, evaluations for the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi trainings, the **QUEST team has submitted the Andhra Pradesh Report and completed data collection of phase I trainings** in Maharashtra.
- The **CRISP QUEST team participated in National Workshop on ECCE on July 10, 2025** organized by MoWCD in collaboration with Rocket Learning, to **facilitate ECCE deliberations among various government and CSO partners** in the lead up to Viksit Bharat's Chief Secretaries Conference in November 2025.

Andhra Pradesh

- The CRISP team organized play-based ECE trainings for 74 Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) in Vijayawada, and 133 AWWs and 5 supervisors in Bapatla. The team also distributed stationery kit and book of rhymes and activities to 132 pilot AWCs and facilitated 9 peer-led ECE meetings across pilot areas. These activities will lead to **improved capacity of AWWs to deliver play-based ECE** and enhance **learning environments**.
- The CRISP team advocated and guided for thematic wall paintings at 5 co-located AWCs in collaboration with the constituency team in Vijayawada. This will result in **more engaging, child friendly learning environments that reinforce key ECE concepts** and improve the overall visual appeal of AWCs.

Meghalaya

- The CRISP team submitted proposals to the Social Welfare Department for **reviving ICDS training centres and co-locating AWCs** within school campuses in Meghalaya, along with a field verification format for block level implementation.
- The CRISP team in Meghalaya also shared a **comprehensive study with Government of Meghalaya on the efficacy of AWCs** and opportunities to transform ECE delivery.

Learnings



ECE interventions must take a holistic approach, integrating learning with broader aspects of child development such as growth, stimulation, and care, rather than addressing in isolation.

Way Forward

- Going forward, the team will finalize the state-wise ECE training plan for Andhra Pradesh, update the group-observation tool (Ver5), and design Vikarabad pilot interventions based on baseline findings.
- Completing PBPB training data collection in Meghalaya and Telangana, and support ECE delivery through video content of rhymes and activities.