

Monthly Updates-June 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 Early Childhood Education (ECE) foundation requires an integrated approach focused on learning environments, curriculum, capacity building, monitoring, community engagement, and institutional strengthening. A robust learning environment—with safe, child-friendly spaces, access to infrastructure, and play-based resources—enhances engagement and school readiness. This must be supported by a well-aligned, age-appropriate curriculum delivered consistently, and empowered Anganwadi workers equipped with the right skills and mindset. Regular monitoring through defined indicators, active community involvement, and coordinated institutional efforts are critical to ensuring high-quality ECE delivery across the system.

Key Pillars



Capacity Building



Community Engagement



Monitoring Indicators



Robust Learning Environment



Curriculum Alignment



Institutional Strengthening

Major Highlights

QUEST Central Office

- As part of MoU with MoWCD and NIPPCD, evaluations for the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi trainings have begun in Maharashtra. The expected outcome is to assess the program's impact on ECCE, identifying strengths and areas for improvement. Insights from these evaluations will help refine the training approach for effectiveness.
- The **CRISP QUEST team signed a formal MoU with Rocket Learning to co-develop contextualized video content** for Anganwadi workers/teachers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The team has already completed mapping state curriculum to Aadharshila content.

Andhra Pradesh

- Facilitated successful **co-location of two Anganwadi Centres** with adjacent primary schools to ensure better infrastructure and child learning environment.
- Organized **ECE training for 54-Anganwadi workers in Rajahmundry, Rajanagaram, and Rampachodavaram from June 10-13, 2025 lead by Sodhana Trust, Cheepurupalli**. Additionally, 28 non-pilot centres voluntarily joined the training. The output is enhanced ECE skills for Anganwadi Workers, contributing to improved ECCE in the region. After these trainings, the CRISP team also initiated **fortnightly ECE review meetings** to foster peer learning & joint preparation for ECE activities.

Meghalaya

- Proposal for setting up a **Project Management Unit (PMU)** at Social Welfare Department (SWD) to **strengthen planning, coordination, capacity building, governance and monitoring systems** for the effective delivery of ICDS programs on ECE has been accepted by Government of Meghalaya and the process of implementation is underway.

Learnings



The development of a group LO tool requires a **systematic approach** that includes **expert consultation and iterative field-validation** in diverse contexts. Additionally, orienting newly appointed field officials and providing post-training reinforcement through follow-up meetings and ongoing support are crucial for effective implementation of learning.

Way Forward

- Initiate Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi evaluations in Meghalaya and Telangana, while developing version 4 of the group LO tool based on expert input.
- Stabilize fortnightly ECE reviews for Anganwadi workers across pilot locations, revise proposals based on implementation challenges, and prepare for a status presentation to MLA, Vijaywada on AWCs pilot.