

Monthly Updates-April 2026

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)**, with support from **Gates Foundation** 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

Photos



Progress this Month

Andhra Pradesh – ACCHA Project:

- The “**Andhra lo Chinnarula Chaduvulu**” initiative is being scaled across the state, with a focus on Early Childhood Education (ECE) training for selected Anganwadi workers and institutionalization of fortnightly peer-led review meetings. Key resources including training modules, a revised academic calendar, GANTT chart, and supporting documents have been developed and submitted to the Department. The Supervisor training module is currently under development.
- **Guidelines for Merged Anganwadis (Andhra Pradesh):** A total of 55 field visits were conducted across merged Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) to assess on-ground functioning. Insights from these visits are being used to develop standardized operational guidelines for merged centres.

Meghalaya

- Based on the Department’s request, **co-location guidelines were contextualized** for the state, along with a comprehensive implementation plan outlining roles and coordination mechanisms between the Social Welfare and Education Departments.
- The team also supported the review of the **Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP)**, provided structured inputs, and participated in discussions for the social audit of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) programme.

Central Office

- **Learning Outcomes Evaluation Tool:** Work is ongoing to refine CRISP’s Group Tool for learning outcomes evaluation, with a specific focus on strengthening the socio-emotional learning assessment component.
- **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi:** The Telangana state report is in the final stages of submission, with parallel efforts underway to synthesize cross-state learnings to inform programme improvements.
- **Maharashtra – ECCE Landscape Report:** An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) landscape report for Maharashtra has been developed to guide future programmatic engagement and strategic planning in the state.

Key Learnings

Field insights are critical to effective intervention design: Learnings from fieldwork on merged Anganwadi guidelines and the midline survey highlight the importance of grounding the development of guidelines, training content, and reports in on-ground observations to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

Way Forward

- Launch of the ACCHA Project in Andhra Pradesh in the second week of May 2026 to initiate large-scale ECE training for Anganwadi workers.
- Finalization of the unified curriculum framework for PP1–PP3 in Meghalaya post partner workshop to ensure standardization.
- Completion of fieldwork and issuance of guidelines for 1,322 merged Anganwadis in Andhra Pradesh to improve centre functioning.
- Submission of the Midline Survey report for 104 pilot Anganwadis in Vijayawada West to inform programme improvements.
- Finalization and pilot of Version 8 of the Learning Outcomes (LO) tool across states for strengthened assessment.
- Submission of the consolidated Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi evaluation report to NIPCCD and MoWCD.