

Monthly Updates-July 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

Key Highlights

Andhra Pradesh.

ACCHA Project

- **Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborated with Sodhana Trust to refine the Training of Trainers (ToT) module and activity-based pedagogy, while documenting learnings from visits to its Balabadis.
- **Capacity Building & Implementation:** Revised the ECE Leaders' Training Module based on departmental feedback, onboarded Field Coordinators, and initiated district-level implementation through consultations with District Collectors in NTR, Bapatla, and Guntur.

Sector Meeting Schedule: At the Department's request, a draft Sector Meeting Schedule was developed to streamline monthly sector meetings by reducing reporting duplication, strengthening ICDS service reviews, and introducing a dedicated Vidya Vedika session for Early Childhood Education (ECE).

Content Innovation: To support capacity building of AWWs, 93 AI-based video podcasts covering Aadharshila activities were developed and launched on the [CRISP YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQeWiZO_J4I&list=PL0T79PU5y1dSD22-ileK6S5bvxiNEtLpa) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQeWiZO_J4I&list=PL0T79PU5y1dSD22-ileK6S5bvxiNEtLpa)

Support to the Department: Assisted the Department in preparing the Padma Awards nomination for Dr. P. D. K. Rao, including documentation and coordination for the Secretary's reference note. Also prepared a brief on CRISP's contributions to the ECE landscape in Andhra Pradesh for the Minister, DWD&CW.

Odisha – Landscape Assessment: Conducted field visits to four Anganwadi Centres and two primary schools in Koraput to understand the state's ECE ecosystem and generate field insights to inform future engagement with the Government of Odisha.

Central Office

Initiated the development of a digital application for administering the CRISP Group Learning Outcomes Evaluation Tool at the Anganwadi level and finalized the cross-state Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi Training Evaluation Report, synthesizing findings from six states.

Key Learnings

Field insights remain central to intervention design: Learnings from fieldwork for merged Anganwadi guidelines and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Supervisors on Sector meetings point to the importance of letting ground observations guide the development of guidelines, training content, and other reports

Way Forward

- Finalise and obtain **approval for the ECE Leaders' Training Module in Andhra Pradesh**, followed by the Training of Trainers (ToT) with implementation partners.
- Initiate **ECCE engagement in Maharashtra through consultations with the ICDS Commissioner and develop a structured implementation** strategy for Odisha.
- Analyse data from **60 merged Anganwadi Centres and prepare the operational guidelines** for submission to the Director, WCD.