

Monthly Updates-March 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)**, 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 Environmer



Curriculum Alignment



Institutional Strengthening

Photo Gallery



Progress this Month

Central Office:

- A session on “**Dilemmas & Decisions in Early Childhood Policy**” was conducted at the **Kautilya Institute of Public Policy** as part of the Public Policy Practice module.
- Version 7 of **CRISP’s Group Tool for learning outcomes evaluation** has been piloted in select centres in Vijayawada; refinement and finalization are underway for roll-out.
- Under **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi**, state reports for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been developed, with a consolidated final report across states in progress.

Andhra Pradesh

- Under the ACCHA Project, “**Andhra lo Chinnarula Chaduvulu**” is being scaled across the state, with ECE training planned for selected Anganwadi workers and institutionalization of fortnightly peer-led review meetings; the training module has been submitted to the Department.
- A **midline survey** is underway across 104 pilot centres (with baseline conducted last year) to assess improvements; 70 AWCs have been visited and 2 FGDs completed.
- Fieldwork is in progress to **develop guidelines for merged Anganwadi centres** with a stronger focus on ECE, covering 31 centres across Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema.
- **Women’s Day** was celebrated across pilot centres in Vijayawada with active participation from mothers.

Meghalaya

- CRISP is working with the Social Welfare Department and knowledge partners to finalize a standardized ECE curriculum framework and assessment package for PP1, PP2, and PP3 for uniform implementation across Anganwadis.
- At the request of the Principal Secretary, CRISP will establish and run a PMU for ECCE under the Department of Social Welfare to strengthen ECCE delivery in the state.

Way Forward

- Submit the **midline survey report for 104 pilot Anganwadis in Vijayawada West Constituency** and complete data collection in 60 AWCs to support the development of merger guidelines.
- Organize training sessions for **SPMU/DPMU teams and technical NGO partners** under the ACCHA project.
- Finalize **Version 7 of the Learning Outcomes (LO) tool** and initiate its pilot across centres in multiple states.