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Monthly Updates- October 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

Progress this Month

Central Office

- **Finalisation and Printing of ACCHA Training Modules:** The ACCHA training modules for ECE Leaders were finalised, and 1,350 copies were printed.
- **Learning Outcomes (LO) Tool:** A consultant was engaged to finalise the tool. To establish test-retest reliability, the team administered the tool to 25 children. The team also visited Dr. Madhavi Maganti at KREA University for two days to discuss the tool.
- **MoU with Granules Pharma:** The MoU with Granules Pharma, the funding partner supporting the ACCHA Project in Guntur district, was finalised and signed.
- **Engagement of Interns:** Interviews were conducted with students from Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Lam, Guntur, for the winter internship programme. Five interns were selected and placed.
- **Baseline Study:** The baseline strategy and methodology are being finalised. It has been decided to collect baseline data from all 1,200 ECE Leaders on their knowledge and self-reported practices related to the Aadharshila curriculum, child-friendly teaching practices, inclusion, and the status and infrastructure of their Anganwadi Centres.

Andhra Pradesh

- **Training of Trainers (ToT):** Three-day ToT programmes were conducted in three regions of Andhra Pradesh: Visakhapatnam (12–14 October), Vijayawada (15–17 October) and Kurnool (22–24 October).
- **Training Materials:** Teaching-Learning Material (TLM) kits were procured and arranged for the training programmes.
- **Participation:** Over 100 participants attended the training programmes. They included CDPOs and Supervisors nominated by the Department, experienced trainers, and representatives from three partner organisations: Rocket Learning, Rishi Valley Institute for Educational Research (RIVER), and SODHANA Trust.
- **Pre- and Post-Tests:** Pre-tests and post-tests were conducted during the training programmes, with 90 and 70 respondents, respectively. The results were documented.
- **ECE Leader Coordination:** WhatsApp groups were created for the identified and selected ECE Leaders in NTR, Guntur, Bapatla and Vizianagaram districts.

Key Learnings

- **Residential Training:** Residential training encourages active participation, peer learning and practical discussions. It also allows participants to interact beyond formal sessions and builds stronger engagement with the project.
- **Division of Responsibilities:** Logistics and training delivery should be handled by different team members. Clear roles and responsibilities help ensure smooth and effective training.

Way Forward

- Finalise district-wise training schedules for rolling out the ACCHA training for ECE Leaders.
- Finalise the baseline assessment tools for ECE Leaders and Anganwadi Centres, and complete the Learning Outcomes Tool before proceeding with the baseline study.
- Submit the draft training module for ICDS Supervisors under the ACCHA Project to the WD&CW Department for approval.
- **Video Resources and App Development:** Discuss the development of videos introducing ACCHA, the role of ECE Leaders, and the purpose of Vidya Vedikas. Explore how these resources can be made available through the proposed app for use by AWWs, ECE Leaders and Supervisors.

Photos





