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Content

Centre for Research in Schemes & Policies (CRISP)

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UNLOCKING INSIGHTS: FOUNDATIONS OF DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION

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Effective data analysis and visualization are essential for transforming raw information into actionable insights. **By combining statistical rigor, clear visual storytelling, and the use of powerful tools like R Studio and SQL,** researchers can ensure their findings are accurate, accessible, and impactful. Whether working with time-series data, relational databases, or qualitative patterns, structured approaches turn data into decisions.

Lecture Summarised by,

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In today's data-driven world, the ability to interpret and visualize information effectively is essential for informed decision-making. However, the accuracy of insights depends heavily on the quality of data. This principle is often encapsulated in the phrase: "Garbage In, Garbage Out"—flawed input data leads to unreliable analysis.

As part of our orientation, Dr. Vijayaraghavan R. delivered an insightful session on data analysis and visualization. He covered statistical methods and visualization techniques that help transform raw data into meaningful insights. This summary highlights the key takeaways from his session.

The Power of Data Visualization and Analysis in Research

In research, data forms the foundation upon which theories are built, arguments are supported, and decisions are made. Whether in social sciences, environmental studies, medicine, or business analytics, the ability to collect, analyze, and present data effectively is essential for credible outcomes.

While rigorous data analysis uncovers patterns, trends, and relationships, data visualization makes complex information accessible and actionable. At its core, data visualization is not just about creating charts—it's a

storytelling tool. Effective visualizations reveal insights hidden in raw data and allow researchers to communicate findings clearly and persuasively. Whether using simple bar charts or advanced geospatial maps, the right visualization enhances both accuracy and meaning.

Data analysis ensures that conclusions drawn are statistically sound. Quantitative analysis involves parametric and non-parametric tests, regression models, and hypothesis testing. Qualitative analysis relies on coding, pattern recognition, and triangulation to strengthen the validity of results. Triangulation, in particular, helps ensure rigor by cross-verifying findings from multiple sources or methods.

Researchers today increasingly use digital tools to enhance their work. Open-source platforms like R Studio allow advanced statistical modeling, while software like Stata supports precise econometric and social science analysis. The choice of tool depends on the research context, but the goal remains the same: transforming data into actionable insights.

In an age of information overload, clear and effective data visualization bridges the gap between complex analysis and practical understanding. It enables researchers to communicate results not just to peers but also to policymakers and the public in a compelling way.

## Statistical Approaches in Data Analysis

Understanding statistical principles is critical to drawing valid conclusions. Statistical methods are generally categorized into parametric and non-parametric approaches.

- **Parametric methods** assume data follows a known distribution (e.g., normal distribution). Techniques like t-tests (for comparing two groups) and ANOVA (for comparing three or more groups) fall into this category.
- **Non-parametric methods** do not rely on distribution assumptions. They are ideal for skewed data or small sample sizes. Examples include the Mann-Whitney U test and Kruskal-Wallis test.

Statistical analysis also involves measuring variability.

- Variance and standard deviation show how spread out data is.
- Skewness reflects the asymmetry of data distribution.
- Kurtosis helps assess whether data has a sharp (leptokurtic), normal (mesokurtic), or flat (platykurtic) peak.

Understanding these metrics is essential for accurate modeling and forecasting
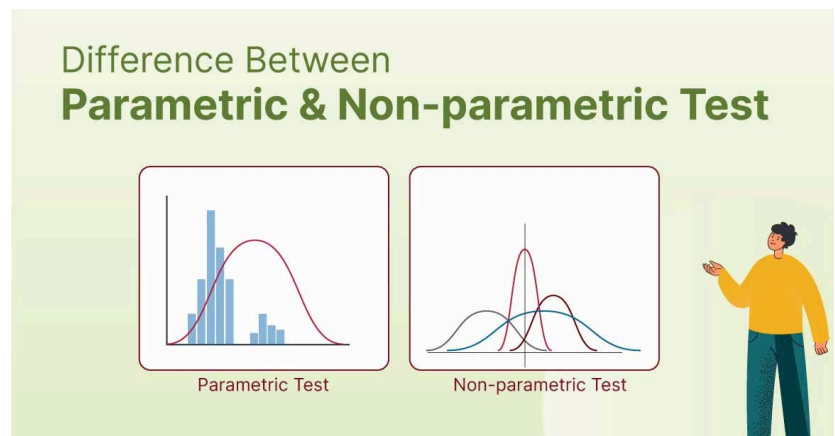
Applying Bloom's Taxonomy to Data Interpretation

Dr. Vijayaraghavan connected Bloom's Taxonomy—a hierarchical framework for cognitive skills—to the stages of data analysis:
1. Remembering – Recalling key statistical concepts and tools.
2. Understanding – Grasping relationships among datasets and techniques.
3. Applying – Using tools like R Studio and SQL to conduct analysis.
4. Analyzing – Detecting patterns, trends, and outliers.
5. Evaluating – Critically interpreting results for reliability.
6. Creating – Producing reports, visualizations, and predictive models.
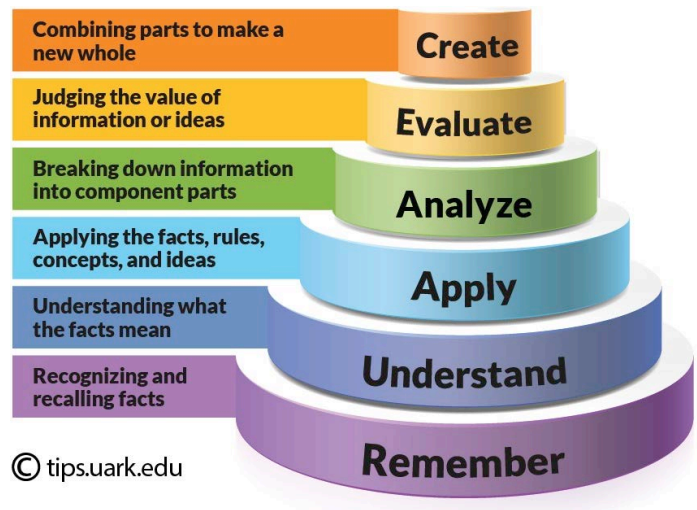
This approach helps researchers progress from foundational knowledge to advanced data-driven decision-making.

Visualizing Data Effectively

Visuals should not only be attractive but also accurate to avoid misinterpretation. Choosing the right type of chart is essential:

- Bar charts: Categorical comparisons
- Line graphs: Trends over time
- Scatter plots: Relationships between variables

Structured and meaningful visuals enhance both analysis and communication.

Time-Based Data Analysis: Identifying Trends
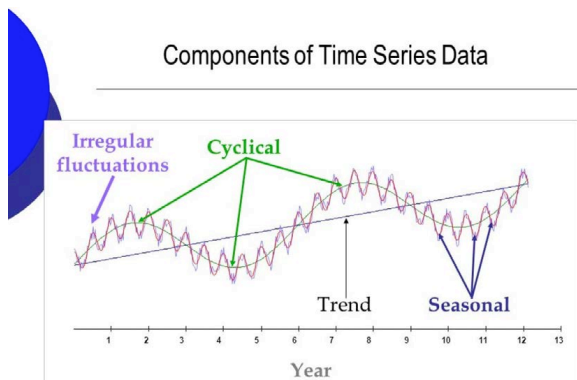
Time-series analysis involves examining data collected at consistent intervals (e.g., daily, monthly, yearly) to observe changes over time.

Time-interval studies help identify consistent patterns.

Trend identification supports forecasting in sectors such as industry, climate, and economics.

External influences like seasonality and macroeconomic factors must be accounted for, requiring careful modeling.

Relational Databases and SQL: Structuring Data for Analysis

Large-scale analysis often relies on Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS), where data is organized into tables with defined relationships.

• **SQL (Structured Query Language)** is used to query, filter, and manage data efficiently.
• **Optimized SQL queries** prevent redundancy and ensure accuracy.
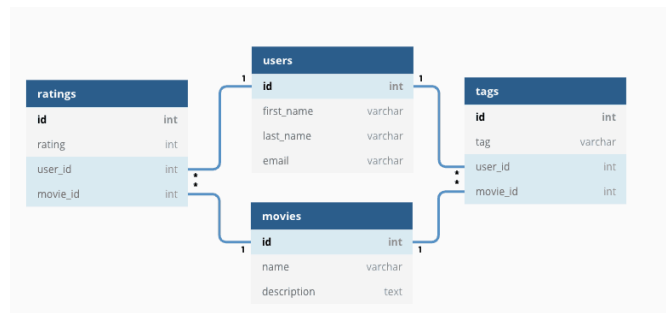
• **Data integrity,** including the use of unique identifiers, enhances reliability.

These systems enable scalable, efficient, and reproducible analysis workflows.

R Studio and Stata: Tools for Statistical Computing

Dr. Vijayaraghavan also emphasized the role of software tools:

R Studio: A free, open-source platform for statistical computing, data visualization, and machine learning. Its flexibility and community support make it widely popular.

Stata: A commercial software with strong capabilities in statistical and econometric analysis. While robust, its cost makes R Studio a preferred choice for many researchers.

Why Open Source Matters: Open-source platforms like R Studio offer affordability, transparency, and customization. Researchers can build on existing code, access diverse packages, and contribute to the global community.
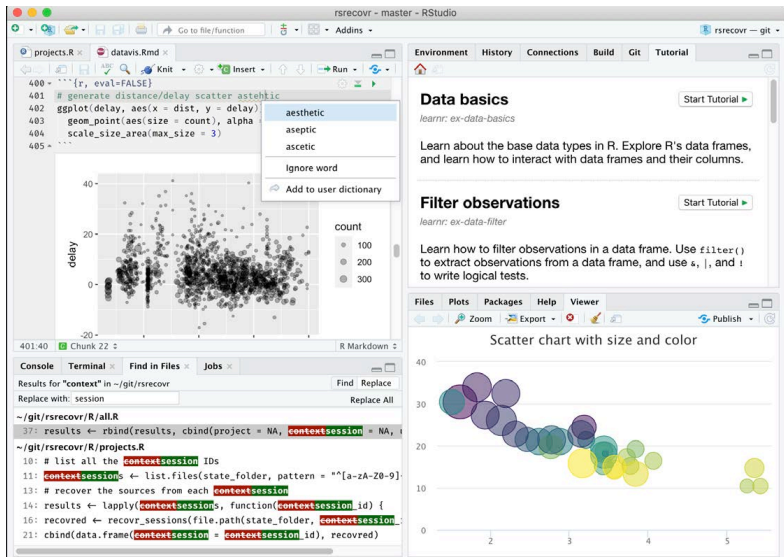
From Raw Data to Actionable Insights

Data analysis is more than just number crunching—it's about extracting meaning to drive decisions. By combining rigorous statistical methods, effective visualization, and reliable data management, researchers can translate raw data into valuable knowledge.

Dr. Vijayaraghavan's session offered a comprehensive foundation in data analysis and visualization, underscoring the importance of structured methodology and modern tools. Whether applying parametric or non-parametric approaches, using SQL for data retrieval, or leveraging R Studio's capabilities, the goal remains to make research impactful and accessible.

As data continues to shape industries and policymaking, mastering analysis and visualization becomes crucial. At CRISP, we uphold our motto—Design, Deliberate, Deliver—ensuring that research is not only rigorous and reflective but also practically influential.

▶ **HIGHER EDUCATION**

CHEQUE Project

Strengthening Academic Quality of Higher Education Ecosystem: A Journey Through the CHEQUE Project

Capacity Building of Academic Mentors through Orientation Programme at MCRHRDI, Hyderabad

When the CHEQUE Project was launched to uplift the standards of higher education, Academic Mentors (AMs) were envisioned as key change-makers—guides who would not only support institutions but also serve as catalysts for academic innovation and improvement. These mentors, drawn from diverse academic backgrounds, were tasked with steering institutions towards quality enhancement through structured mentorship and strategic interventions.

To orient the Academic Mentors towards their roles and responsibilities, an intensive three-day orientation programme was conducted from 2nd to 4th April 2024 at the MCRHRDI, Hyderabad. The programme brought together the Academic Mentors from the universities in Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, marking the beginning of a transformative journey.

Experts in curriculum design, pedagogy, educational technology, research, employability, and quality assurance from across India and various statutory organizations had discourses on the latest developments and its impact on current educational practices and future possibilities. What stood out was the vibrant interaction among mentors—discussions flowed freely, strategies were debated, and new perspectives were shared, leading to a collaborative shaping of vision.

Planning ahead for CHEQUE Project Implementation

Building on this foundation, a dedicated meeting of the Telangana Academic Mentors was convened at Osmania University on 17th April 2025. The meeting focused on the implementation strategy of the CHEQUE Project across the state. The Academic Mentors, invigorated by the orientation, brought forth ideas to operationalize the project and discussed approaches to support institutions in achieving measurable improvements.

On 24th and 28th April 2025, key meetings and open forum were held at Satavahana, Kakatiya and Osmania Universities, bringing together participating colleges (CHEQUE) with Vice Chancellors and senior university administrators of respective universities, Academic Mentors and CRISP Telangana Team. These forums facilitated to understand the various challenges faced by the colleges both in terms of teaching, learning and administration. Issues relating to both student and teachers were discussed in-depth and several inputs were received for preparing roadmap for taking forward the CHEQUE Project. Academic Mentors offered strategic guidance and fostered a spirit of collective problem-solving, motivating institutions to align with the broader goal of systemic improvement. Despite varied concerns, all colleges showed strong enthusiasm for the project, recognizing its potential to enhance student outcomes.

CHEQUE Project Making Strides in Telangana

The CHEQUE Project is gaining strong momentum in Telangana, with active collaboration underway across Osmania University, Kakatiya University, and Satavahana University. To support effective implementation, six Academic Mentors have been appointed to guide and facilitate the process. By the end of April, 69 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) had come forward to participate, signalling widespread interest and commitment. With the potential to positively impact over 70,000 students, the project aims to elevate academic quality and foster institutional transformation across the state.
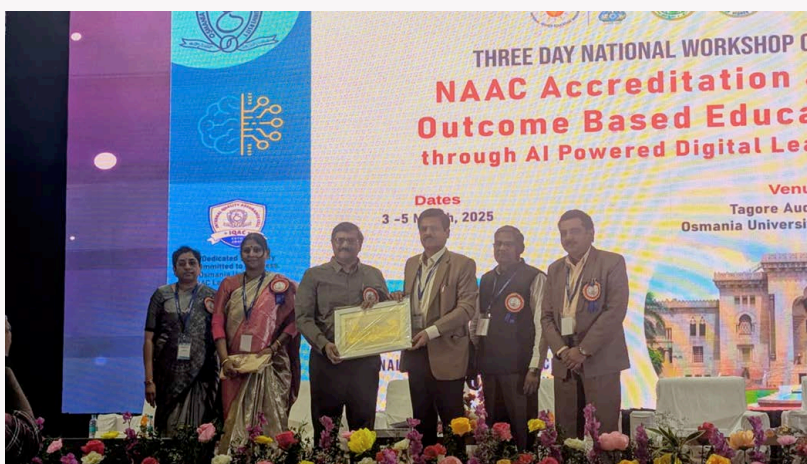
CRISP Telangana Team Leads Dialogue on Quality and Accreditation at National Workshop

The CRISP Telangana team actively participated in the three-day national workshop on 'NAAC Accreditation and Outcome-Based Education' held at Osmania University from March 3rd to 5th, which witnessed an enthusiastic turnout of over 1,000 faculty members and administrators from Telangana and other states. As part of the event, our Secretary and Telangana State Mentor,

Mr. Reddi Subramanyam, addressed the valedictory session, stressing the urgent need to enhance the quality of higher education as a vital contributor to national progress, and underscored the importance of aligning institutional efforts with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Adding to this, our State Lead, Dr. K. Rama, delivered an impactful session titled "Accreditation Reforms: A Step Towards Accelerating Quality Initiatives of Higher Education Institutions," where she highlighted key developments in NAAC accreditation and encouraged HEIs to adopt a quality-centric approach. Her session was highly appreciated by participants for its relevance and insightful takeaways.

▶ **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Training on Aaadharshila play-based pedagogy for 30 Anganwadi workers organised by CRISP

As part of CRISP's VijayaDEEPAM project, a training on Aadharshila-aligned play-based activities was conducted on 19th and 20th March 2025 at KBN College, Vijayawada. The training aimed to equip 30 Anganwadi workers in the pilot area with the skills and knowledge needed to facilitate these activities in their centres. The training schedule was conceptualized by Dr Saritha from SCERT, AP and facilitated by teachers from Vikasa Vidaya Vanam, a renowned child-centric school in Vijayawada, under the leadership of Dr Parimi, a celebrated educationist. As the trainers were practitioners themselves, they shared their expertise and experience in managing mixed age-groups, and providing practical pedagogical practices that workers were keen to take back to their own centres.

The two-day training focused on the Integrated Approach—an effective teaching method that connects various subjects through meaningful, theme-based activities. This approach ensures that children develop essential skills naturally and holistically rather than learning subjects or domains in isolation. The theme "My Family" from Aadharshila, was explored in depth through story-telling, rhymes, songs, and introduction to letter and word sounds, and the five domains of development: physical, cognitive, socio-emotional, language, and aesthetic, were weaved into all activities. On Day 2, the workers made group demonstrations and received pointed feedback from the trainers.

The training proved to be particularly effective in demystifying Early Childhood Education, enabling workers to not only understand the five domains of development, but also empowered them to practice it in their centres, to ensure holistic development of children.

As a follow up to the training, workers have committed to meeting fortnightly to review ECE practices in their centres, share activities and resources with each other regularly, and plan ahead for the month. The first two review meetings were successfully concluded on 17th and 25th April, organised by the CRISP ground team.

▶ **SKILL INTEGRATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

NISHE Project

NISHE March 2025: Expanding Horizons of Skill-Integrated Higher Education

Andhra Pradesh

The CRISP Andhra Pradesh team conducted an interactive meeting between Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and colleges for the implementation of AEDPs for the academic year 2025–26 on Friday, 4th April 2025, at SRR & CVR GDC (A), Vijayawada. The meeting was attended by Shri N. Bharath Gupta, IAS, Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh; Shri R. Subrahmanyam, IAS (Retd.), CEO & Secretary, CRISP; representatives from 30 colleges and 9 SSCs. Each SSC presented the opportunities available in its respective sector. Following the presentations, the SSCs addressed queries from the participating colleges and emphasized the future prospects available through AEDPs.

Bihar

CRISP presented the benefits of AEDPs to colleges during a virtual meeting conducted by the Department of Higher Education on 21st April 2025. A detailed roadmap for implementing AEDPs in Bihar under the NISHE project was shared. All participating colleges expressed enthusiasm to implement AEDPs from the academic year 2025–26.

Himachal Pradesh

The CRISP Himachal Pradesh team met with the Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, on 22nd April 2025 to explain the NISHE project and seek support for implementing AEDPs from the academic year 2025–26. The team also visited several government colleges and Himachal Pradesh University to highlight the benefits of AEDP implementation.
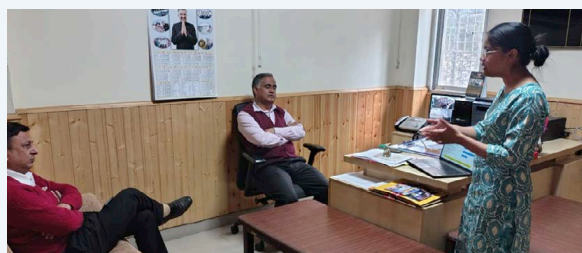
Karnataka

The CRISP Karnataka team met with the new Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, on 23rd April 2025 to explain the NISHE project and request support for expanding AEDPs from the academic year 2025–26. The team also visited Government First Grade Colleges (GFGCs) to outline the advantages of AEDP implementation.

Maharashtra

The CRISP Maharashtra team, led by Shri Sitaram Kunte, IAS (Retd.), participated in the AEDP Strategy Workshop organized by HTED at SNDT University on 16th April 2025. The workshop brought together key stakeholders from universities, industry, and government bodies. sub-committees presented on: University–industry partnerships, NEP-aligned credit

and Integration of apprenticeships with AEDPs.

The government resolved to issue a Government Resolution (GR) on AEDP implementation and form a committee to monitor its progress. The team also visited colleges to provide orientation on the benefits of AEDPs.

Odisha

The CRISP Odisha team visited colleges interested in implementing AEDPs from the academic year 2025–26. They also held a meeting with the Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC) and universities on 17th April 2025 to discuss, deliberate, and finalize the AEDP curricula.

Rajasthan

The CRISP Rajasthan team highlighted the importance of implementing AEDPs during the State-Level Discussion on NEP 2020 and the Role of Indian Knowledge Systems held in Jaipur on 16th April 2025. The team also visited colleges to explain the benefits of AEDPs.

Uttar Pradesh

As part of the field visits conducted by the NISHE team, encouraging progress was made towards the implementation of the Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program (AEDP) across several colleges. Ram Chameli Chadda College, Ghaziabad, and I.P. (PG) College Campus II, Bulandshahr, have committed to launching AEDP courses in the upcoming academic session, with the latter's principal taking personal charge as nodal officer. MM College, Ghaziabad, showed interest but cited a 60% faculty shortage in Commerce as a potential constraint, pending management approval. Ginni Devi Girls PG College, Modinagar, appointed a nodal officer and is actively planning internal discussions and promotional strategies for a 2025–26 rollout. At Kumari Mayawati PG College, Badalpur, faculty concerns over staffing shortages prompted plans for a follow-up meeting with the Principal to assess AEDP feasibility.

▶ **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Karnataka

Strengthening VPPR-GPDP Integration: Field Visit to Kerala

The CRISP Karnataka Team conducted a field visit to four Gram Panchayats in Kasaragod district of Kerala. The aim of the visit was to understand how Kudumbashree members prepare the Village Prosperity Resilience Plan (VPRP), and their coordination with the Gram Panchayat in ensuring the integration of their demands into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

During the visit, the Team interacted with officer-bearers and members of the Kudumbashree Community Development Society (CDS), the Community Resource Persons (CRPs), and elected members and officials of the GP. It was observed that the relationship between the GP and Kudumbashree CDS is strong because of their participation in convergence platforms that have been institutionalised over many years. Regular review and monitoring of convergence activities, including VPRP-GPDP integration, through such institutionalised mechanisms ensures that the demands of women from Kudumbashree are heard and, therefore, considered for implementation.

Overall, the visit proved effective from the standpoint of strengthening VPRP-GPDP integration in Karnataka, as it reinforced the need for having robust institutional mechanisms between the GP and Gram Panchayat Level Federation (GPLF). The Team will be using its learnings from this visit while drafting the guidelines for VPRP.

Meghalaya

First General Meeting of Pla Tangka Cooperative Society Held in Shillong

The Meghalaya State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLS), with support from CRISP, successfully organized the first General Meeting of the Pla Tangka Cooperative Society (PTCS) on 8th April 2025 in Shillong. The meeting was attended by senior officials including the CEO, COO, and State Mission Manager (SMM), along with other representatives from the state and block levels. Also present were a representative from the Registrar Cooperative Society (RCS) and thirty members representing fifteen Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), who will serve as Promoters of the newly forming Pla Tangka Cooperative Society Ltd.

The primary objectives of the meeting were to elect the President and Secretary of the cooperative and to complete the essential registration formalities. These goals were successfully met, and the formal online registration application was submitted the following day on 9th April 2025. Following this submission, the CRISP team maintained close coordination with both MSRLS and the RCS office to ensure timely follow-up.

As a result, the first inquiry meeting regarding the registration process was convened on 24th April 2025, marking an important milestone in the formation of the cooperative.

CRISP Joins "Shiksha Samvaad" in Guwahati

On 25th April 2025, the Education Department of Meghalaya, along with NGO partners including the CRISP team, Reach to Teach, Mantra for Change, and other organizations, participated in "Shiksha Samvaad – A Dialogue on Education Equity in the North East," held in Guwahati. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders—teachers, students, education officers, university professors, and NGO leaders—to share their experiences, insights, and ideas for improving education outcomes in the region.

Discussions during the event centered on the multifaceted challenges faced by children in remote and underserved areas, particularly the lack of adequate resources, learning materials, and institutional support. One of the key themes that emerged was the disconnect between educational policy frameworks and their implementation on the ground. Speakers emphasized the importance of bridging this gap to make educational reforms truly effective. Innovative approaches such as creating fun and welcoming classrooms, and using play-based learning to engage young minds, were discussed as ways to make learning more attractive and effective.

In a powerful panel titled "Childhood in Crisis," the conversation turned to the harsh realities of child labour, domestic work, and the lack of access to basic education in multiple languages. Panelists underscored the urgent need to involve communities and parents in the educational process.

Tamil Nadu

Exploring OSR: CRISP Tamil Nadu team visit to Kerala

The CRISP Tamil Nadu team recently conducted a two-day field visit to Palakkad district in Kerala as part of an ongoing study to improve Own Source Revenue (OSR) of Gram Panchayats across Tamil Nadu. The primary objective of this visit was to explore and analyse best practices in OSR adopted by Kerala's villages and assess their feasibility for replication in Tamil Nadu. The team gained an understanding of the diverse revenue generation mechanisms, challenges, and innovative solutions employed by villages with varying income levels. The visit focused on analysing innovative practices that effectively address revenue leakages, identifying potential sources for enhancing Own Source Revenue, and evaluating feasible solutions that can be adopted and implemented in Tamil Nadu.

Site Visit for Alternate Technology in Anganwadi Construction: Kancheepuram District

As part of the project on Alternate Technology in Housing, the CRISP technical team conducted a visit to the site proposed for constructing an Anganwadi Centre(AWC) using alternative construction methods in Kancheepuram district. The team also visited two operational Anganwadi centres to engage with Anganwadi workers and children, to gain insights into user needs that can inform the design. Potential local sources for construction materials were identified during the visit. Discussions were held with the Project Officer, ICDS, and the Block Development Officer of Uthiramerur to gather further inputs.

Bodoland Territorial Region, Assam

Scoping Visit of Kudumbashree NRO to Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Assam: Forging New Pathways for Grassroots Development

A high-level team headed by the Hon'ble Chief Executive Member (CEM) Shri Pramod Boro, along with other dignitaries from BTC, visited Kudumbashree NRO in Thiruvananthapuram in May last year. Following this inspiring visit and interaction, the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) requested the CRISP Bodoland team to facilitate a scoping visit by Kudumbashree NRO to BTC.

In a significant step towards enhancing grassroots governance and livelihood opportunities, the CRISP Bodoland team facilitated this week-long engagement from 1st to 7th April 2025.

Objectives of the Scoping Visit

The scoping visit was strategically planned based on an exchange of expectations between BTC and Kudumbashree NRO. Four key support areas were identified:

- Strengthening PRI-CBO Convergence: To assess the relationship between Village Council Development Committees (VCDCs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and explore existing or potential convergence platforms.

- Enhancing Entrepreneurial Skills Among SHG Members:

- To map the current entrepreneurship landscape among Self-Help Group (SHG) members and examine existing support systems.

- Implementing an Effective Poorest of the Poor Strategy: To understand current programs targeting the most vulnerable communities, including SCs, STs, elderly, differently-abled individuals, and transgender persons.

- Strengthening Urban Livelihoods through NULM in BTR: To study the programs, schemes, and institutional structures supporting urban livelihoods under ASULM.

Journey Through BTC: A Multi-layered Exploration

The itinerary was meticulously designed to cover multiple levels of governance and community life—state, district, block, urban, and village levels, thus ensuring a holistic view of the socio-economic and institutional ecosystems in BTC.

State-Level Engagements

The visit commenced with a series of strategic meetings with key stakeholders, including the BTC Secretariat, ASRLM, ASULM, and SIPRD. These

sessions helped Kudumbashree NRO gain insights into the structure and functioning of BTC's rural and urban missions, poverty alleviation strategies, skill development efforts, and VPRP-GPDP processes.

Immersion at the Community Level

The team engaged extensively with CBOs, VCDCs, frontline workers (ASHA, Anganwadi workers, school principals), and SHG entrepreneurs. Visits to successful SHG-led enterprises in areas like herbal products, piggery, homestays, mushroom cultivation, and weaving gave a firsthand understanding of rural entrepreneurship practices and challenges. The visits extended from Chandrapara in Kokrajhar town to Dotma, Gossaigaon, Raimona, East Maligaon and East Bashbari - parts of Kokrajhar District.

Additionally, institutions like the Bineshwar Brahma Knowledge Centre, Model Anganwadi Centre, and Gender Resource Centre were visited to assess grassroots service delivery mechanisms.

Key Observations from the Scoping Study

- CBOs in BTC demonstrate commendable self-initiative in entrepreneurship and community mobilization. However, there is a noticeable need for structured capacity-building, improved governance of sub-committees, and revitalization of convergence platforms.

- While VCDCs (Village Council Development Committees) are functional and actively involved in grassroots governance, there is potential to strengthen their engagement through specialized training, especially for women members, and to enhance their integration into broader development planning processes.

- BTC showcases a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit among SHGs, with notable initiatives in agro-based, food service, and waste management sectors. However, limited support exists for enhancing operational efficiency, market linkages, and scaling enterprises. Entrepreneurs need better access to finance, training on enterprise management, and mentorship.

- Departments are active in supporting livelihoods and welfare schemes. However, there is a promising opportunity to better inter-departmental convergence to amplify impacts at the grassroots.

Closing Reflections

The Kudumbashree NRO team concluded their visit with a debriefing session with the Principal Secretary and other senior officials of BTC, ASRLM, and ASULM.

We also had the esteemed opportunity to meet Shri Pramod Boro, Hon. Chief Executive Member (CEM), BTC, where an extensive discussion took place regarding the findings of the scoping visit. The CEM expressed his commitment to advancing initiatives related to women SHG networks, strengthening the Bineshwar Brahma Knowledge Centre (BBKC), empowering women VCDC members, and deepening the VCDC-CBO convergence. His vision and aspirations align strongly with the future endeavors charted during this collaboration, energizing all stakeholders toward a shared goal of inclusive and sustainable development in Bodoland.

From my perspective as a CRISP fellow coordinating this engagement, the scoping visit proved to be a rich and meaningful exercise. It not only laid the foundation for a long-term collaboration between BTC and Kudumbashree NRO but also re-energized the vision of empowering communities through structured, participatory, and locally-driven development.

The journey ahead is promising, and with shared learning and collective action, BTC is well on its way to becoming a model for grassroots transformation in the Northeast.

Uttar Pradesh   # CHEQUE & AEDP Initiatives

Strategic MoUs Pave the Way for Quality Reforms in Higher Education

Marking a significant milestone in the CHEQUE (Centre for Higher Education Quality Upgradation and Excellence) Project, CRISP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with *Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University*, Bareilly on 26th March 2025. This collaboration aims to uplift 20 unaccredited colleges affiliated with the university by supporting them in areas such as institutional accreditation, curriculum modernization, EdTech integration, employability enhancement, and research and community outreach. Under the guidance of distinguished academicians, the initiative envisions the creation of quality-driven, future-ready institutions equipped to meet contemporary academic and industry standards.

Continuing this momentum, another MoU was formalized with the *University of Lucknow* on 9th April 2025, reinforcing CRISP's commitment to academic transformation across Uttar Pradesh. The signing ceremony was graced by Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Lucknow, and other senior academicians and CRISP representatives. Like its counterpart in Bareilly, this partnership will extend structured support to 20 unaccredited colleges affiliated with the university, promoting sustainable academic excellence and aligning institutional frameworks with evolving educational benchmarks.
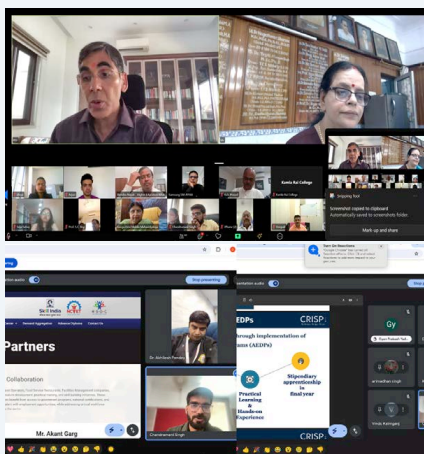
Statewide Push for AEDP: Registrar Conference and Virtual Orientations

To fast-track AEDP implementation across the state, a virtual conference was held with Registrars of all State Public Universities in Uttar Pradesh. The session, chaired by Shri Sipu Giri, IAS, Special Secretary, Department of Higher Education, emphasized the urgency of securing BoS approvals, launching AEDP courses on university campuses, and raising awareness among affiliated colleges. Universities were encouraged to actively partner with CRISP to address logistical hurdles and ensure smooth rollout of the program in the coming academic year.

Complementing this effort, CRISP organized one-on-one virtual orientation sessions with over a dozen universities and colleges, focusing on AEDP design, UGC regulations, and implementation strategies. These personalized sessions also introduced institutions to the broader goals of the NISHE initiative, including quality assurance and NAAC readiness, in alignment with NEP 2020. These foundational engagements will be followed by in-person visits beginning July, strengthening institutional readiness and support mechanisms.

National Workshop at MJP Rohilkhand University

Capping off a significant week of activity, MJP Rohilkhand University hosted a National Workshop on Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programs on 26th March 2025. The event delved into the objectives and implications of AEDP, underscoring its potential to bridge academic learning with industry exposure. The workshop provided a platform for cross-institutional dialogue, best practice sharing, and deeper understanding of the evolving higher education landscape.

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