

SELECTED ESSAYS
ON
STRENGTHENING RURAL INSTITUTES USING
TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT



RURAL RESOURCE INFORMATICS CENTRE **N
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By NCRI

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About the book:

The role of technology in achieving progress and well-being in rural sector is the core focus of National Council of Rural Institute's plans which flows from its mandate. Modern advancements in technology, especially information technology receive due emphasis in all ongoing initiatives and endeavours of NCRI. In one such endeavour, the Rural Resource Informatics Centre (RRIC) brought various National-level Technological institutions onto one platform on National Technology Day-2009. With an aim to bring the Gandhian paradigm of using technology for the social progress of rural India, RRIC conducted an Essay Writing Competition for students of premier technological institutions on the following four themes:

- Technology initiatives for strengthening rural institutions;
- Information Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives and Benefits to rural population in India
- Dissemination of rural technologies;
- Role of Technology in promoting rural education.

More than 20 premier institutions across the country participated in the event. The contest has brought in views and perspectives of purposeful technological interventions relevant in rural context. Among received essays, 14 have been short-listed by a committee in which first three have been awarded cash prizes. We are happy to bring out this

compilation of selected essays. We take this opportunity to congratulate all the participants of the contest and commend them in taking lead role in making this endeavour possible. A special mention to prize winners; Trivikraman Subrahmaniam of BITS, Pilani, first prize; Ankur Kumar of BITS Pilani, Goa Campus, second prize; and G. Vishwanath of IIIT, Kancheepuram, third prize ; and other students whose essays find place in this valuable compilation that has given us several insights towards furthering technology support in promoting rural higher education.

We thank Dr.S.V.Prabhath, Chairman, NCRI for guiding and giving us his valuable guidance and standing by the team with his support. Our special thanks to the panel of judges, Prof. C. V. Raghavulu, Former Vice-Chancellor, Nagarjuna University, and Prof. S. Jeelani, Director, Centre for Distance and Advanced Education, University of Hyderabad, for evaluating the short-listed essays and enlisted the prize winners. We are also thankful for the internal committee comprising Prof. C. Krishna Gopal, Coordinator, RRIC, Shri E.Mahesh, Coordinator, Nai Talim Centre, and Smt. Sita Devi APO, RRIC, for short-listing the essays for final review. We also acknowledge members of technical team of NCRI for providing necessary support for the smooth conduct of the contest and in bringing out this compilation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the participating institutions for providing us their support.