

## Spreading the seeds of Nai Talim

In the current scenario of volatile changes, the rural sector is subjected to unprecedented challenges. Considering the present need of the rural sector and the on-going initiatives of Government to transform rural India, there is a great need for social action programmes and for strengthening leadership and institutional capability. The major challenge remains in providing appropriate education and relevant skills. Gandhiji's concept of education is all-inclusive. 'Nai Talim' is education for social transformation. The objective is to create a new society based on equality and free from exploitation by ensuring educational, economic, and social development, of the especially disadvantaged segments of society. Thus, a scientist, an engineer, a technologist or a change agent of the future will be called upon to play an increasing role in solving complex social problems in rural India. Hence, it seems the rural higher education should be made resilient to provide an opportunity for the optimum development of wider aspects of individual attitudes and interests, while imparting basic education, which is the essence of Gandhiji's Nai Talim. The seeds of Nai Talim as sown by Gandhiji have to be spread on vast vistas for harnessing the potential of rural India using education as an instrument of social advancement. The NCRI is striving to build and strengthen rural institutions to achieve this.

## About NCRI

The NCRI was established, as autonomous organisation, under Ministry of HRD, GoI, in 1995. NCRI has been functioning as a catalyst organisation, helping rural institutions, Gandhian organisations, NGOs, universities and state government agencies in various projects connected with the promotion of rural higher education. Its participation in rural higher education had the larger objective of enhancing support mechanisms for rural development. More specifically, its objectives focus on promoting institutions engaged in programmes of Nai Talim (Gandhian Basic Education) and strengthen teacher-training facilities for this purpose; support extension services to the community through micro-level planning, design of appropriate courses for emerging rural occupations; encourage field-oriented courses of rural institutes; strengthen the content of all these institutions with emphasis on science and technology; promote research as a tool for social and rural development; and advise the Government of India on all such matters pertaining to rural institutes.

Over the years, a number of eminent personalities have been associated with the NCRI, prominent among them are Dr. M.Aram (former MP, Rajya Sabha) and Dr. L.C.Jain (former member of the Planning Commission / High commissioner to South Africa), who served as the honorary chairmen at different periods. The present Chairman of the Council is Dr. S.V. Prabhath.



### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL INSTITUTES

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## Objectives

- ☀ To serve as a confluence of Gandhian thinkers, activists and workers of Gandhian constructive programmes, embodying the vision of Gandhiji, especially with regard to promotion of 'Nai Talim' (Basic Education).
- ☀ To promote innovative local responses to renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, conservation of biodiversity, natural resource utilisation, etc.
- ☀ To create public awareness and advocacy for Gandhian model of basic education and principles and practice of non-violence.
- ☀ To strengthen the process of networking and federation of institutions engaged in the aforementioned areas of education and extension work and to promote dissemination of information and knowledge in these spheres.
- ☀ To offer guidance to institutions and individuals engaged in action research as a tool for social and rural development.

## Activities of "The Wheel"

- ☀ Conducting study camps, seminars, workshops, lectures on rural higher education with a focus on Nai Talim.
- ☀ Promotion of centres of Gandhian rural higher education, old and new, with viable projects.
- ☀ Providing assistance to training colleges in adopting schools based on Nai Talim.
- ☀ Partial assistance for developing field work oriented curriculum in PG Degree/Diploma courses in Rural Development, Gandhian Studies and Peace and Conflict Management with an accent on application of Gandhian ideas.
- ☀ Promotion of NGOs initiated by student collectives of premier educational institutions (IITs, IIMs, etc) with an accent on Youth Sensitisation.
- ☀ Encourage educational institutions and voluntary agencies to develop in accordance with Gandhian philosophy of education.

## Networking and partnership

- ☀ Gandhian institutions engaged in constructive Work.
- ☀ Nai Talim institutions (Basic education).
- ☀ Gandhian study centres.

## Dissemination of Gandhian Ideas

- ☀ Encouragement to organisations involved in the dissemination of Gandhian ideas through publication of Journals, or other sources of periodic literature.

## The Team

- ☀ The Centre is led by Mr. Prasad Gollanapalli, popularly known as Sarvodaya Prasad, He travels widely, giving lectures on peace tourism and sarvodaya social order. He has been associated with various Gandhian institutions like the Sarva Seva Sangh, the apex Gandhian institution in India and is the General Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Sarvodaya Mandal. He is frequently invited to deliver lectures at Universities in USA.

He is assisted by a team of functionaries who are working on various activities that roll 'The Wheel' along its path.