

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). **Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2019**. Bangkok, United Nations, 2019: 73p.

This report analyses Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) trends as well as data availability for monitoring progress in Asia and the Pacific and its five sub-regions. It assesses progress towards the SDGs and the gaps which must be closed. This assessment is designed to ensure the region's actions remain on target; shortcomings are addressed as they arise, and all interested parties remain engaged.

Krolak, Lisa. **Books beyond bars: The transformative potential of prison libraries**. UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, 2019: 50p.

This book explores the level to which prison authorities fulfil their societal mandate to rehabilitate and reintegrate inmates by enabling them to use prison libraries to pursue their right to education.

Reading and using a prison library can open up a world beyond prison bars, allowing prisoners to forget for a time the harsh reality of prison life and empower them to choose their own reading materials in an otherwise extremely restrictive and regulated environment. Providing access to relevant books and information in various languages, including easy reading materials, is crucial for prisoners' personal development.

This publication includes examples of prison library systems around the world, outlining best practice and possible challenges, thus demonstrating their transformative potential as informational, educational, cultural and recreational meeting and learning spaces.

McGrath, Simon. **Education and Development**. Routledge, 2018: 254 p.

This title explores the place of education in development debates and provides a systematic as well as a theoretical overview of the main approaches to education and development. It emphasises the fact that education is profoundly shaped by national and local cultures even if many issues are shared across institutions in different locations.

Education and Development discusses different theoretical accounts from different disciplinary traditions to help students understand the complexity of the overall debate. It highlights the discussions of education's negative impacts, and insists that an account of education must include consideration of early childhood development, adult,

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vocational and higher education, as well as the growing range of informal and distance forms. It includes chapters on human capital, human rights and human development, and on education, gender and development, and draws on examples from a wide range of countries and regions such as India, Hong Kong, Kenya and South Africa. The book has a pedagogy including text boxes, chapter summaries, key questions, links to websites and videos, and annotated further reading sections.

UNDP. **Disha Skills Success Stories**. India, UNDP; 2019: 60p.

Disha - a partnership between United Nations Development Programme and India Development Foundation, supported by IKEA Foundation, aims to improve the lives of one million underprivileged women in India by enabling them to acquire marketable skills and become employable.

During its four years of implementation, Disha project has managed to reach over 8 lakh women across the country and this little success story book aims to capture a few among those, throwing light on exceptional challenges that women face in our country, and their amazing ability to overcome those challenges.

Wheebox. **India Skills Report 2019: Say hello to the future of the work**. Haryana, Wheebox Corporate, 2019: 56p.

India skills report 2019 provides the latest view of the talent landscape of India. Covering the trends both from the supply as well as the demand side of talent, it offers businesses, students, policy makers and academicians a consolidated view of the talent landscape and how it is going to transform in the coming years.

The report covers following major trends from the job and skill market:

- Employability and hiring trends
- Automation and its impact on industry
- New types of jobs which are re coming into picture
- Preferences - candidates and employers job preferences.

Summary of the report is as follow:

- Employability continues to rise: reaches a new high of 47% this year
- Engineers still the most employable of the lot, MBA courses lose shine.
- Hiring intent gets more positive this year - 15% increase in hiring against 2018 hiring numbers
- Technologies companies expected to pick up on hiring after a gap of 3 years.

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Librarian-cum-Documentation Officer

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# IAEA NEWSLETTER

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## Indian Adult Education Association

### Dr. L. Mishra delivered Dr.S.C.Dutta Birth Centenary Year Lecture



Dr. S.C.Dutta was born in 1919 and after completing his school and college studies he joined in service with the Govt. of India. Though, he was a Gazetted Officer in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, he had a passion to work for the poor and hence chose the field of adult education as according to him illiteracy was the root cause of many problems due to which poor people could not achieve the desired goal in their life. This made him to be associated with Indian Adult Education Association for almost 40 years (1948-1987) during which time he served the organization in different capacities as Associate Secretary, Honorary General Secretary, Vice President, Treasurer and President. He was a pioneer in setting Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASPBAE) in 1964 (now known as Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education) which provided a platform to many NGOs and individuals in South Pacific Region come together to promote adult education. He also worked closely with Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta, then President of IAEA to set-up Indian University Association for Continuing Education in which he was the founding secretary for 13 years from 1966 to 1979). Dr. S.C.Dutta died in the year 1987.

The year 2019 is Dr. Dutta's birth centenary year. To remember

him on this auspicious occasion and recognising his yeomen services for the cause of literacy/adult education and also for the growth of Indian Adult Education Association a function was organized jointly by IAEA and International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Education (IIALE) on November 6, 2019 in Seminar Hall - 2 of Kamla Devi Complex at India International Centre, New Delhi in which Dr. Lakshmidhar Mishra, IAS (Retd), former Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Labour delivered Birth Centenary Year Lecture under the title **Can Education now or of the future make us more Humane**. The function was presided over by Shri K.C.Choudhary, President, IAEA and Chancellor, IIALE.

Others sitting on the main table were Dr. M.S.Ranawat, President Incharge, IAEA, Dr. Madan Singh, General Secretary, IAEA and Prof. S.Y.Shah, Director, IIALE. The function was attended by invited guests, family members of Dr. Dutta, members of Executive Committee, Life Members of IAEA and senior faculty from the University Departments of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension.

Prof.S.Y.Shah in his introductory remarks said that when he started associating himself with IAEA Dr. Dutta was President and unfortunately, within a short period he died due to massive heart



attack. However, in that few days he came to know a lot about Dr. Dutta and every interaction with him was very much useful and lot to understand about his inner urge of serving the people. His

behaviour with others and thoughts shared were of qualitative and implementable. His contribution to institution building can never be forgotten.

Shri K.C.Choudhary in his presidential address remembered Dr. Dutta as a perfect gentleman who groomed a number of persons including him as future caretakers of the Association. Though, he was a government servant he devoted a lot of time for developing the Association by raising funds, availing contributions from different sources and saw to it that the Prime Minister of India was present both in the foundation stone laying function and also for inaugurating the office building for the Association. He played an important role in setting-up the Indian University Association for Continuing Education in which he served as the Founding Secretary from 1966-1979. His public relations made a lot of friends not only in India but also abroad. His interest in institution building extended beyond the country with the result ASPBAE was established in which he served as the Founder Chairman and President from 1964-1976 and also played an important role in the formation of Common Wealth Association for the Education and Training of Adults. Shri Choudhary concluded his address by stating that whatever he is today is because of the guidance and advice given by Dr. Dutta.



Thereafter, Dr. Lakshmidhar Mishra delivered the birth centenary year lecture. In the beginning he paid rich tributes to Dr. S.C.Dutta for his dedication and work towards the promotion of literacy and adult education in the country and for institution building, particularly dedicated to adult education. Then he devoted a major part of his lecture how education should be to transform the poor to understand their predicament and enable to choose their life for moving forward for betterment. In his speech he voluminously

quoted Sanskrit Verses relating to education, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Amrita Pritam in support of the importance of education for the human beings to promote love, affection, integrity and peaceful living. He also shared his own personal experiences as Director General, National Literacy Mission and brought before the audience how non-literate people learnt the life skills in literacy centres as shared by them during his interactions in the field. In order to enable the audience to understand better the importance of education and how it can be transacted in the classroom situation in a more understandable manner he narrated a few scenes from famous feature films. While concluding his address he wanted everyone in India recognise the importance of education and be tolerant to the freedom of speech/ expression.

After the lecture session was over a few persons from the audience including his two sons Shri Sharat Kumar Dutta and Shri Hemant Kumar shared golden memories of their association with Dr. Dutta. Others who spoke were Shri J.L.Sachdeva, former Director and Shri S.C.Dua former Documentation Officer, IAEA, Prof. N.K. Ambast, former Chairman, NIOS, Smt. Nishat Farooq, former Director, State Resource Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia and Shri A.H. Khan, former Assistant Director, Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension, Magadh University, Gaya on his character, kindness, working style, industriousness, providing advice and guidance.

Dr. Madan Singh at the end proposed vote of thanks and Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Joint Director, IAEA compered the lecture session and read out the messages received from Prof. Budd L. Hall, Co-Chair, Unesco Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education and Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Founder President, PRIA. The messages are as follows:

I have very fond memories of SC Dutta from my days as Secretary-General of the International Council for Adult Education. SC Dutta with the Indian Adult Education Association was a founder of the International Council for Adult Education. He was a passionate advocate for a vision of adult education for social justice. When the first Roby Kidd Award was given to Karl Gaspar of the Philippines, we asked SC Dutta and Margaret Kidd to travel there and make the presentation. We remain grateful for all he has done for India and the world.

– Dr. Budd Hall

I recall the contributions of Dr. SC Dutta in the founding of ASPBAE and providing leadership to it along with Dr Malcolm Adiseshiah in its early days. Dr. Dutta inspired my generation of professionals to learn the practice of adult education in promoting the rights and well-beings of the excluded. We remember his immense contributions to Indian, Asian and international adult education movement with gratitude today.

– Dr. Rajesh Tandon

### DU Interns' Courtesy call on President, IAEA

Three Students of the Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension, University of Delhi who have undergone Intern in IAEA from October 1 to November 4, 2019 - Shri Anuj Kumar Mishra (2nd from left), Shri Abhishek Singh (2nd from right) and Shri Kishan Lal Meena (3rd from right) had a courtesy call on Shri K.C.Choudhary, President, IAEA on the last day. Others present were Dr. V.Mohankumar, Smt. Kalpana Kaushik and Shri B.Sanjay.



## National Education Policy 2019 - Final Recommendations for Adult Education Programme

The final recommendation of the National Education Policy 2019 has been released by the Committee headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Indian Space Scientist in which adult education has two pages (45-46). The major recommendations are:

1. Abilities to attain fundamental literacy, education and pursue livelihood must be viewed as fundamental rights of every citizen. Literacy and basic education open up new worlds of personal, civic, economic and lifelong learning opportunities for individuals that enable them to progress personally and professionally.
2. Non-literate member of a community has innumerable disadvantages to carry out basic financial transaction, compare quality/quantity of goods purchased against the price charged, fill out forms for jobs, loans and services, comprehend public circulars and articles in the news media, use of conventional and electronic mail to communicate and conduct business, make use of technology to improve the life and profession.
3. Field studies both in India and across the world demonstrate that volunteerism and community involvement and mobilization are key success factors of adult education programmes in conjunction with political will, organizational structure, planning, adequate financial support and quality, capacity building of educators and volunteers.
4. Strong government initiative for adult education will be effected to truly expedite all important aim of achieving 100% literacy.

For which:

- First adult education curriculum framework will be developed by NCERT which will include five types of programmes - (a) fundamental literacy and numeracy, (b) critical life skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education and family welfare), (c) vocational skills development (with the view to obtain local employment), (d) basic education (preparatory, middle and secondary stage equivalency) and (e) continuing education (includes liberal adult education courses in arts, science, technology, culture, sports and recreation as well as topics of interest and use to local learners on critical life skills).
- Suitable infrastructure for adults to have access to adult education. Key initiative will be to use schools after school hours and weekends and space in public library which will be ICT equipped when possible.
- Training to create a cadre of excellent instructors/educators/preraks by national, state and district level resource support institutions.
- All efforts will be undertaken to ensure participation of community members in adult education.
- Finally, National Literacy Mission should mobilise community organization and volunteers to achieve large scale adult literacy and education outcomes. Governments will work closely with NGOs and other community organizations and support them as necessary to enhance efforts towards literacy and adult education.

## Outreach Workers Training organized in DACEE, DU



working for the welfare of Female Sex Workers (FSW), Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), Injecting Drug Use (IDU) and MIGRANT. The main objective of the training programme was to strengthen outreach activities and virtual DIC promotion, community based screening and planning. The National Institute of Social Defence and Transgender Resource Centre of DACEE extended technical support through Prof. Rajesh, Ms. Nazish Mustfa, Ms. Soniya, Shri. Shyam Kumar Tiwari and Ms. Sweta and coordinated by Shri Vishal Kumar, Research Scholar on Transgender.

– Vishal Kumar

“  
Education is not  
the learning of  
facts but the  
training of the  
mind to think  
”

- Albert Einstein

## जन शिक्षण संस्थान, कानपुर में मास्टर ट्रेनर प्रशिक्षण का आयोजन



राष्ट्रीय कौशल प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, कानपुर द्वारा दिनांक 5-6 नवम्बर, 2019 को ए.टी.आई. कैम्पस, दादानगर में दो दिवसीय मास्टर ट्रेनर स्तरीय प्रशिक्षण का आयोजन किया गया जो जन शिक्षण संस्थान में इस प्रकार का पहला आयोजन था। नेशनल स्किल क्वालिफिकेशन फ्रेमवर्क (एन.एस.क्यू.एफ) पर आयोजित इस प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में जन शिक्षण संस्थान कानपुर के 27 प्रशिक्षणार्थियों ने इण्डियन स्किल इको सिस्टम तथा एन.एस.क्यू.एफ के परिचय, स्तर एवं विषयवस्तु, आदि के संबंध में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया।



प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम का उदघाटन श्री एल.के. मुखर्जी, संयुक्त निदेशक, राष्ट्रीय कौशल प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, कानपुर द्वारा किया गया। उक्त अवसर पर संस्थान के निदेशक श्री राजेश कुमार बाजपेयी, उप निदेशक श्री राजेश मीना तथा एन.एस.क्यू.एफ. राज्य समन्वयक श्री विनोद कुमार शर्मा भी उपस्थित थे। समापन सत्र में संयुक्त निदेशक, एस.एस.टी.आई. द्वारा सभी प्रशिक्षणार्थियों को प्रमाणपत्र प्रदान किये गये।

— राजेश कुमार बाजपेयी

## Pune University is Organizing a National Seminar in January 2020

A two day national seminar is being organised by The Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary School (Humanities and Social Science), Savitribai Phule Pune University on January 23-24, 2020. The theme of the seminar is **Empowering Human Capital through Lifelong Learning: 21st Centaury Perspectives** and will deliberate upon the problems of lifelong learning activities and seek to contribute meaningfully to the discourse on development.

Those who are interested to participate in the seminar and wish to present papers can write only on the themes related topics like – (i) Lifelong learning Skill for Women and Youth Development (ii) Status and Stratagem of Skill Training in the 'Make in India' Programme (iii) Role of Lifelong Learning in the 'Digital India' Programme (iv) Vocational/ Entrepreneur programmes for the potentials aspirants Vocational Training in Unorganized sector – Need for Standardization (v) National Skill Qualification Framework – A step towards Quality Assurance (vi) Vocational Skill Development for Economic Development of Deprived and Marginalized sections (vii) Lifelong

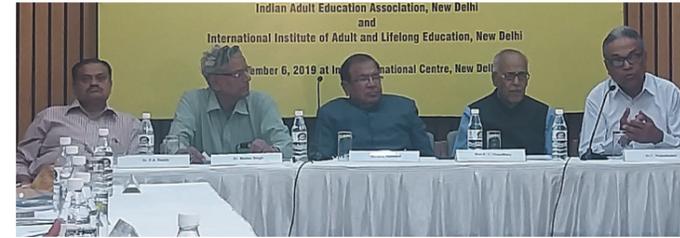
Learning: Role of Institutions of Higher Education (viii) Soft Skill Development through Lifelong Learning (ix) Issues involved for the lifelong learning development programmes (x) Strategies for promotion of life skill development for empowerment (xi) Role of Government and Non-Governmental agencies for promotion of vocational skills.

The papers should be either in English or Marathi. Priority will be given to research papers and experimentations. The contributors can send soft copy of full paper with abstract to the seminar organizers on or before January 10, 2020 (adultseminar2016@gmail.com). The paper should contain title and affiliation of author. Papers presented in the seminar will be edited and published as a book with ISBN or Journal with ISSN.

Paper presenters need to make their own arrangements for travel. However, local hospitality will be provided by the organizers.

For further details contact Dr. P. Viswanadha Gupta, Seminar Coordinator by mail: drpvgupta.nlma@gmail.com (M) 9823255448 & 8956774332.

## IAEA Executive committee met in New Delhi



The Executive Committee of Indian Adult Education Association met on November 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Seminar Hall – 2 of Kamla Devi Complex at India International Centre, New Delhi. While Dr. M.S. Ranawat, President Incharge presided over the meeting in the presence of Shri K.C.Choudhary, President, it was attended by 17 members.

The committee apart from confirming the minutes of the last meeting held at Rajkot, Gujarat on June 29,



2019, approved the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2018-19, Annual Report of the year 2018, Budget Estimate for 2020-21, Report of the programmes and activities conducted during the period June 26 to October 31, 2019 and conferred Life membership for 8 persons and Institutional membership for one. At the end the members observed silence to condole the death of Smt. Kamla Saxena and Dr. Hari Prasad Rajguru, Life Members of the Association.



## JNU Research Scholars met Director, IAEA

Ms. Shivali Panwar, Ms. Jagdeep Kaur, Shri Sunil Bagwan and Shri Ankit Chauhan who have joined recently as Research Scholars under Dr. Ajay Kumar, Associate Professor, Group of Adult Education, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi have visited IAEA on November 8, 2019 and had academic discussion with Dr. V.Mohankumar, Director regarding the areas of interest for research in the field of adult education.

## Contact classes for IGNOU Students

As part of Academic Support Services for the students pursuing Adult Education as the subject of study in IGNOU, the Study Centre 29049(P) of International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Education conducted contact classes on November 2 and 16, 2019 in which Dr. V.Mohankumar, Academic Counsellor explained about the Basic Concepts of Adult Education, Terms, Features and Objectives and Historical Perspective of Indian Adult Education.



## AICMED Conducted AE Teachers Training at Bakreswar



All India Council for Mass Education and Development (AICMED), Kolkata with the financial assistance of Indian Adult Education Association, New Delhi has started 5 adult education centres in Bakreswar area of Birbhum District from November 11, 2019 in which 150 female learners belong to SC/ST are participating out of which 33 are in Gourganj village, 30 in Bahadurganj village, 57 in Asansuli village and 30 in Dedoha village. Before starting the centres a 5 day training programme was organized for the Adult Education Teachers in which 8 persons participated. The resource support was provided by Shri Jayanta Kumar Ghosal and Shri Dipankar De of AICMED.

- Rajashree Biswas

## पुस्तकालय विज्ञान की प्रायोगिक परीक्षा आयोजित



भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विद्यालयी शिक्षा संस्थान द्वारा संचालित व्यावसायिक पाठ्यक्रम 'पुस्तकालय विज्ञान में प्रमाण पत्र कोर्स' का एक ए.वी.आई. केन्द्र है जहां से अब तक 17 बैचों के छात्र सफलता पूर्वक उत्तीर्ण हो चुके हैं। इसके 18 वें बैच के लिए नामांकित 7 विद्यार्थियों ने लिखित परीक्षा की कामना करता है।

अमर ज्योति स्कूल, कड़कड़डूमा, विकास मार्ग, दिल्ली में दी जो 11 नवम्बर 2019 को सम्पन्न हुई। प्रायोगिक परीक्षा गत 15 नवम्बर 2019 को भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ, नई दिल्ली के कार्यालय में आयोजित की गई जिसमें 4 विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया। यह परीक्षा श्री मुरारीलाल शर्मा और श्री जय भगवान की देख-रेख में संपन्न हुई जिसकी अवॉर्ड सीट राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विद्यालयी शिक्षा संस्थान, नोएडा में जमा करा दी गई। संघ इन सभी विद्यार्थियों के उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना करता है।

— जय भगवान  
ए.वी.आई. समन्वयक

## महू में राष्ट्रीय व्याख्यान का आयोजन

संस्था सत्पथ के तत्वावधान में राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी की 150वीं जन्म जयंती के अवसर पर महू स्थित जय गोविन्द गोपीनाथ हायर सेकेंड्री स्कूल में दिनांक 22 अक्टूबर 2019 को एक राष्ट्रीय व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया गया। व्याख्यान के मुख्य अतिथि भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ के अध्यक्ष श्री कैलाश चौधरी तथा विशिष्ट अतिथि स्कूल ऑफ सोशल साइंसेज,

देवी अहिल्या विश्व विद्यालय की डीन डां रेखा आचार्य थीं। अध्यक्षता महू के वरिष्ठ पत्रकार एवं गांधीवादी व्यक्तित्व श्री ओम प्रकाश ढोली ने की।

इस अवसर पर प्रख्यात गांधीवादी चिंतक एवं पत्रकार 'अव्यक्त' एवं अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी शासकीय कला एवं वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय, इंदौर के राजनीति शास्त्र के विभागाध्यक्ष डॉ. संजय जैन ने

गांधी की दृष्टि में वर्तमान जीवन के विविध आयामों पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किये। व्याख्यान में भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ के संयुक्त सचिव श्री सुरेश खण्डेलवाल, जय गोविन्द गोपीनाथ शिक्षा समिति के सचिव श्री चम्पालाल यादव, प्रो. ऋतु त्रिवेदी, शिक्षाविद् डॉ शोभा जैन, श्री कमलेश मिश्रा सहित अनेक गणमान्य लोगों ने भाग लिया।

## Panel Discussion on Issues and Challenges of Transgender Persons



The Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension and Department of Social Work, SNDT Women's University in collaboration with Maharashtra State Commission for Women organized a one day national level panel discussion on **Transgender Persons: Issues and Challenges** on November 6, 2019 which was attended by 159 persons representing NGOs, colleges, media and University. While the inaugural function was presided over by Prof. Shashikala Wanjari, Vice Chancellor, SNDT University, the Guest of Honour was Ms. Vijaya Rahatkar, Chairperson,

Maharashtra State Commission for Women and Ms. Laxmi Narayan Tripathi was the Chief Guest. In her speech Ms. Vijaya Rahatkar promised that Women's Commission will play an active role in uplifting socio-economic conditions of transgender persons and Ms. Laxmi Narayan Tripathi shared her life experience as a transgender person. She was of the opinion that education alone can change the attitude of the general public towards transgender community. Prof. Shashikala Wanjari said that the time has come to include a separate unit on transgender in the curriculum at all levels.

Dr. Asha Patil, Director Incharge, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension and Department of Social Work in her introductory address said that overall the life of transgender persons is pathetic and they are compelled to live either by begging or involving in sex activities. Unfortunately, upto 2011 they were not even included in Census. However, the Bills passed by Rajya Sabha on August 5, 2019 has given some hope of decent life and recognition for them, though not met all their demands and suggestions.

In the academic sessions 3 panel discussions were held on livelihood, social and health issues of transgender persons chaired by Dr. Asha Patil, Dr. Rohini Sudhakar and Dr. Prabhakar Chavan. The panellists were Ms. Priya Patil, Ms. Urmi Jadhav and Shri Saadhy Pawar activists working for transgender persons. At the end the vote of thanks was given by Shri Anshit Baxi and Shri Ameya Mahajan.

— Dr. Asha Patil

## Securing Women and Child Health: A programme of Visva-Bharati



The Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (Rural Extension Centre), Visva-Bharati Central University has been implementing an integrated and multi-dimensional project

The project has successfully provided health check-up and medicines to around 1000 women and 500 children apart from 1000 women sensitized on health and nutritional aspects. Twelve ICDS Centres have been provided equipments and more than 25 ICDS staff



members and ASHA workers have been given capacity building training on Antenatal and Post Natal Care, Nutrition, Basic Nursing and First Aid. The project also successfully monitored the growth of ICDS children with regard to their BMI status. More than 700 farmers trained to improve Kitchen Garden by using household waste water and around 50 Vermicompost demonstrations organised to promote organic farming.

— Prof. Sujit Kumar Paul

**Enhancement and Securing Women and Child Health** in 12 villages of Bolpur-Sriniketan and Illumbazar Block of Birbhum District through Capacity Building and Technological Advancement from November 2016 onwards with the financial assistance of the Department of Science and Technology, GOI. The broad objectives of the project are to improve women and child health, nutritional and sanitation status, food security of women and children through livelihood generation and ensuring better initiation, integration, leadership development and self-governance at the local level by strengthening SHGs. Prof. Sujit Kumar Paul is the Principal Investigator of this project.

## KSLMA has got its own building



[From L-R] P.S. Sreekala, C. Raveendranath, Pinarayi Vijayan

The Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority (KSLMA) has got its own office building near Government High School, Pettah in Thiruvananthapuram. The 14,000 sq. ft. eco-friendly building was designed by Padma Shri Dr. G. Shankar and inaugurated by Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister on October 31, 2019. The function was presided over by Shri C. Raveendranath,

Minister for Education. Dr. P.S. Sreekala, Director, KSLMA was also present. The new building has facilities like conference hall, seminar rooms, library, board room, etc.

Though, Kerala has the highest literacy rate in the country, it still gives a lot of importance to literacy programmes with the result adult education finds equal importance in the overall system of education in the state. Many people tell various reasons for Kerala achieving the highest literacy rate but one of the most important reasons is political commitment. Kerala has seen governments with different political parties in the last many years and uniformly all of them have supported adult and continuing education programmes in the state and hence, it has achieved the level of reading society in true sense. Kerala is not only having library and reading rooms in all the villages (popularly called Vayana Sala) but also the general public use the same. This commitment is missing in many states with the result they continue to lag behind till date.