

# UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN



Quarterly Report

IISER Thiruvananthapuram

AISHE Code: U 0254

# RISE — Rural Immersion for Social Empowerment

## CARE - Rural Immersion residential program

IISER Thiruvananthapuram has conducted its very first rural immersion residential program at Vithura village on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019. The program was inaugurated by Vithura Gram Panchayat President Shri. Krishnakumari.



RISE is a collective effort of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India) cell of IISER Thiruvananthapuram, The Gulmohar Foundation. The 7-day rural immersion residential program held at IISER Thiruvananthapuram campus from 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019. RISE gave an opportunity for the young minds to understand the ground reality through active community participation. The 7day journey is platform for self-discovery and transformation through rural immersion. The uniqueness of RISE lies in its objective of involving the youth in the governing process of a local self-government. The major objective of the program is to enable the youth in understanding the rural realities and work with the local panchayat in order to achieve their developmental goals. As well as the participants could support the project “Green Vithura” (which is an ambitious project of Vithura Grama panchayat and UBA cell IISER Thiruvananthapuram to make Vithura a clean plastic free eco-friendly village) through conducting active field visits, survey, giving awareness and by conducting

Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) in the community. Moreover, the idea of RISE is to share and establish this rural immersion model to the UBA's Participating Institutions in 4 districts (Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram) of Kerala under IISER Thiruvananthapuram RCI and provide an opportunity for the youth to learn about decentralized governing model and make them aware of the possibilities and importance of participating in the governing process. The RISE model rural immersion program provided a platform for the youth to learn about rural governance and act as a responsible citizen to achieve social harmony through active community participation.



The program started with sessions on the 'concept of development', importance of panchayati raj institutions, decentralized model of governance and the participation of youth and women in the governance. Shri. Harshita Jha from Kudumbashree NRO, took the session on women's participation in gram sabhas in India, she mentioned about her experience in conducting gram sabhas and working with SHGs in Assam, Kerala and Bihar. She praised the Kerala model of local self-governance and the ground work of different central, state government programs to improve the living standards of people living in rural areas. She also emphasized on the importance of building self-help groups in the society to empower the women socially, politically and economically as well as she encouraged the fellows and UBA team to continue the efforts to bring a positive social change the community.





RISE introduced the participatory rural appraisal model to the fellows. Amidst the camp, the fellows conducted transect walk to the Chathankode tribal settlement which later helped them in preparing the social, resource map of the community. The mapping helped them in identifying the socio-economic status of the households in Vithura. This later motivated them to conduct a focus group discussion with the elected representatives and the elder community social workers from the region. Through that they got a chance to understand the major development issues that have been faced by people. During the discussion the community people also mentioned about the UBA and how the program is benefiting the community since the inception in Vithura.



As part of the mission 'Green Vithura' the fellows conducted a survey to understand the plastic consumption pattern of shops and households in Vithura also they have conducted an impact assessment survey to identify the progress of Kerala state government's Haritha Karma Sena program in Vithura village. The fellows took 50 households and 50 shops as a sample size for the study. Through the survey they have identified that Haritha Karma Sena is active in certain areas but lack consistency, also they have found that most of the people are willing to be a part of such programs and some are even willing to volunteer the initiative. The study was conducted with the support of Vithura gram panchayat, hence it was easy for the fellows to convey the major risk factor they identified in achieving the objectives of Green Vithura. At the end of the rural immersion program the engineering students among the group introduced a low cost plastic shredding machine to the Gram panchayat in order to withstand its current plastic crisis. The RISE received applications from all over the state, the organizing committee has recruited 11 applicants to participate in the rural immersion camp. The participants also got selected to participate in the Ashtamudi lake conservation project supported by Millennium Campus Network.

The participants were acknowledged and appreciated for all the efforts and hard work they put in making the camp a great success.



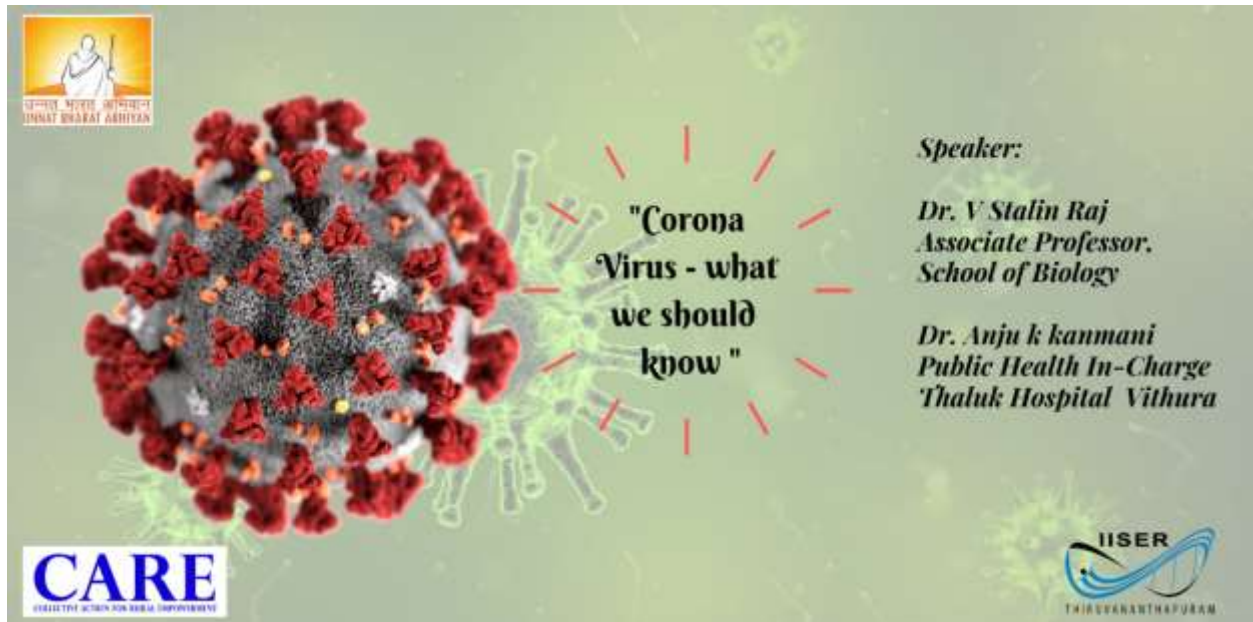


Interns conducting surveys in Vithura village



## AWARENESS PROGRAM ON CORONAVIRUS

### COVID – 19 WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW



The recent outbreak of epidemic novel coronavirus has created a widespread tension in Kerala. The state just recovered from the 2018 Nipah virus and soon after that the outbreak corona was beyond the state could imagine. The all three cases reported in India was from Kerala which made the state under pressure and withhold all the development activities and to be more prudent in providing medical assistance for the corona affected people and the people were under observation, eventually it has led to an unpremeditated scaremonger in the state. Considering the situation the UBA cell has decided act immediately by mobilizing the people and giving them awareness on corona and how people can be vigilant towards fighting coronavirus. The UBA cell of IISER Thiruvananthapuram has called an immediate meeting with the medical officers from the nearby Taluk hospitals and decided to conduct an awareness program on the epidemic. Dr. V Stalin Raj an Associate professor of school of Biology at IISER TVM who is actively researching on corona since 2011 outbreak and Dr. Anju K Kanmani is the public health in charge of Taluk hospital Vithura has led the program. Dr. Stalin has provided information of the virus and the latest update on the outbreak, at the same time Dr. Anju has discussed about the precautions that has to be taken for resisting corona. The program conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at IISER Thiruvananthapuram campus.





## CARE – HKS Cloth bag manufacturing unit.



The UBA cell of IISER Thiruvananthapuram campus has purchased two automatic electric tailoring machines for the self-help group identified by the UBA cell in Vithura village. The Vithura gram panchayat has provided the building, electricity and basic support to establish the unit. The UBA cell organized a training program for the women on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The UBA cell invited trainers from Grameena Patana Kendram (a skill development Centre by Karakulam Grama Panchayat) to train the self-help groups. The team will provide training on making of conference bags, grocery bags, hand bags and small pouches.

Training on cloth bag making







## CARE – Mission Swasthya - Tribal Medical Camp



UBA Cell of IISER Thiruvananthapuram (IISER TVM) has conducted a Medical camp at Podiyakala Tribal settlement in Vithura village on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. The UBA student volunteers of IISER TVM initiated the program with the support of IISER TVM medical service team. The camp conducted at Podiyakala community hall, the Vithura Panchayat President Shri. Krishnakumari inaugurated the camp.

During the academic field visit, the student volunteers has identified that most of the tribal people are suffering from Hypertension, diabetics, skin disorders, arthritis and so on. Moreover, the nearest hospital is located far from their settlement made it difficult for them to access to the primary health care. The lack of public transportation facilities has also deteriorated the health status of the tribal community, as well the lack of awareness on health and hygiene. In this regard the UBA team of IISER TVM decided to provide immediate health support in order to sustain their physical well-being.

