

Programs

Workshop for Faculty of Other Colleges Inaugurated by MG University Vice Chancellor



December 16, 2022

As part of the ongoing Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Project, a workshop was organized for faculty members from various colleges. The workshop, inaugurated by Mahatma

Gandhi University Vice Chancellor, Prof. C T Aravindakumar, aimed to enhance the research capabilities and knowledge sharing among educators. Thirty faculty members from different colleges participated in the workshop, which focused on topics relevant to their respective fields. The event provided a platform for networking and collaboration, fostering a spirit of academic excellence and innovation. Prof. Aravindakumar highlighted the importance of such workshops in advancing research and academic growth. He encouraged the participants to actively engage in research activities that contribute to developing knowledge and society. The workshop received positive feedback from the participants, who appreciated the opportunity to learn and exchange ideas with their peers. Such initiatives are crucial in promoting a culture of research and innovation in academic institutions.

Research Facility Training Led by Prof. P P Noushad Attracts 60 Researchers from Across India



On December 17, 2022, Professor P P Noushad, Co-Investigator at a SERB Project, conducted a highly informative and engaging session as part of a Research Facility Training program. The event drew participation from 60 researchers representing various institutions from different parts of India. The training session, facilitated by Prof. P P Noushad,

focused on advanced research methodologies and techniques, providing attendees valuable insights into cutting-edge research practices. The session enhanced researchers'

skills and knowledge, equipping them with the tools to conduct high-quality research in their respective fields.

Prof. P P Noushad's expertise and experience were evident throughout the session, as he shared valuable insights and practical tips with the participants. His engaging presentation style and interactive approach ensured that the attendees understood the subject matter better. The Research Facility Training program, led by Prof. P P Noushad, was hailed as a resounding success, with participants praising the depth and relevance of the content covered. The event provided valuable learning opportunities and served as a platform for networking and collaboration among researchers from diverse backgrounds. Overall, the session Prof. P P Noushad led was a testament to his commitment to advancing research excellence in India. His contribution to the training program was widely appreciated, further solidifying his reputation as a leading figure in research methodology.

International Conference on Migrant Rights, Livelihood, and Dignity Held at School of International Relations and Politics



December 18, 2022

The School of International Relations and Politics, in collaboration with the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Project, recently organized an International Conference titled "Breaking Shells, Seeking Lives: Migrant Right, Livelihood, and Dignity." The conference, held on December 18, 2022, aimed to address the challenges faced by migrant workers worldwide and explore ways to enhance their rights, livelihoods, and dignity.

The conference featured over 40 participants who presented papers on various aspects of migration, offering valuable insights and perspectives. Keynote speakers included Professor A.M. Thomas and Mr. Rejimon Kuttappan, who shared their expertise and experiences, enriching the discussions. Dr. Bijulal was welcomed to the conference with an insightful speech, setting the tone for the day's discussions. The inauguration

ceremony was graced by Professor C.T. Aravindakumar, Vice-Chancellor, who highlighted the importance of the conference's theme and the need for collective action to address migrant issues. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Navas M Khadar, Project Associate of the SERB Project, who expressed gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions and commitment to advancing migrant rights.

The conference concluded with a renewed commitment to advocating for migrant rights and promoting policies that uphold their dignity and livelihoods. Participants expressed optimism about the potential for positive change and pledged to continue working towards a world where migrants are treated with respect, fairness, and compassion.

Meeting with Labour Minister, Kerala: Introducing the SERB Project and Seeking Support



In a bid to address the challenges faced by interstate migrant labourers in Kerala, a team led by Dr Bijulal M.V, the Principal Investigator of a Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) project, recently met with the Honourable Labour Minister of Kerala, V. Sivankutty. The meeting, which also included Co-Investigator Prof. C.T. Aravindakumar and Project Associate Navas M. Khadar, aimed to introduce the SERB project and seek support from the Kerala Labour Department.

The SERB project studies the living and working conditions of interstate migrant labourers in Kerala. It seeks to develop policy recommendations and interventions to improve their welfare, bridging the gap between academic research and practical solutions. The team emphasized the crucial role of the Kerala Labour Department in supporting research initiatives that benefit migrant labourers.

The team highlighted the project's objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes during the meeting. They requested support from the Kerala Labour Department in data access, policy advocacy, collaboration, and awareness campaigns. The Honourable Labour Minister appreciated the team's efforts and expressed his commitment to supporting initiatives that benefit migrant labourers.

The Minister assured the team of the Kerala Labour Department's cooperation and proposed convening a follow-up meeting to discuss specific areas of collaboration. This meeting marks a significant step towards strengthening the partnership between researchers and policymakers in addressing the challenges faced by interstate migrant labourers in Kerala. The SERB project team's proactive approach demonstrates their commitment to translating research into meaningful action for the welfare of migrant labourers. The meeting with the Labour Minister reflects a positive development in improving the lives of interstate migrant labourers in Kerala.

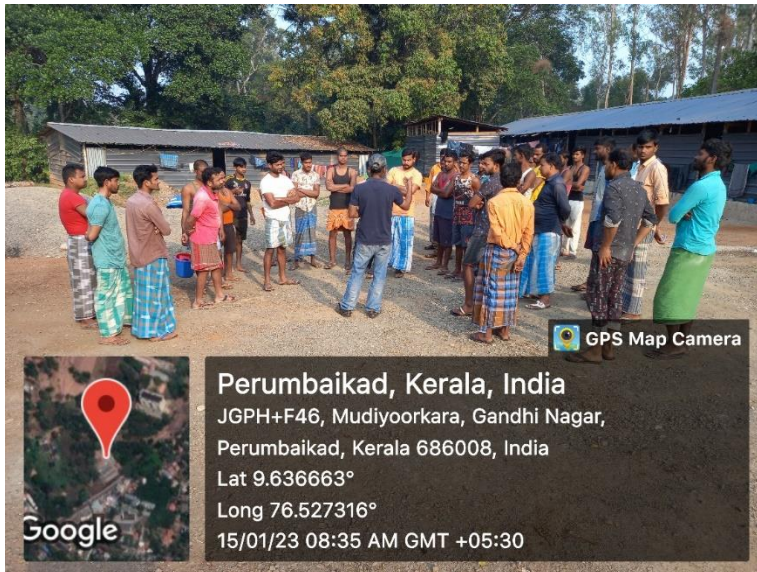
SERB Project Team Meets Kerala Higher Education Minister to Seek Support for Migrant Worker Research



In a proactive move towards enhancing research in the state, a meeting was recently held between the Principal Investigator of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) project, Dr Bijulal M.V, Co-Investigator Prof. C.T. Aravindakumar, Project Associate Navas M. Khadar, and Kerala's Higher Education Minister, Dr R Bindhu. During the meeting, the SERB project team introduced the project's objectives and sought the support of the Higher Education Department in facilitating the project's implementation. The project, focused on advancing the rights and well-being of interstate migrant workers, aligns with the government's commitment to promoting research and addressing pressing societal issues.

Dr R Bindhu expressed appreciation for the project's goals and assured the team of the department's support. She emphasized the importance of research in driving policy changes and improving the lives of marginalized communities. Dr. Bindhu also highlighted the government's initiatives to promote research and innovation in the state's higher education institutions. The meeting concluded with a commitment from both parties to collaborate closely to ensure the successful implementation of the SERB project. This collaborative effort is expected to yield valuable insights and recommendations to improve the living and working conditions of interstate migrant workers in Kerala.

SERB Project Team Visits Mudiyoorkara Camp, Conducts Awareness Talk and Health Practices Program

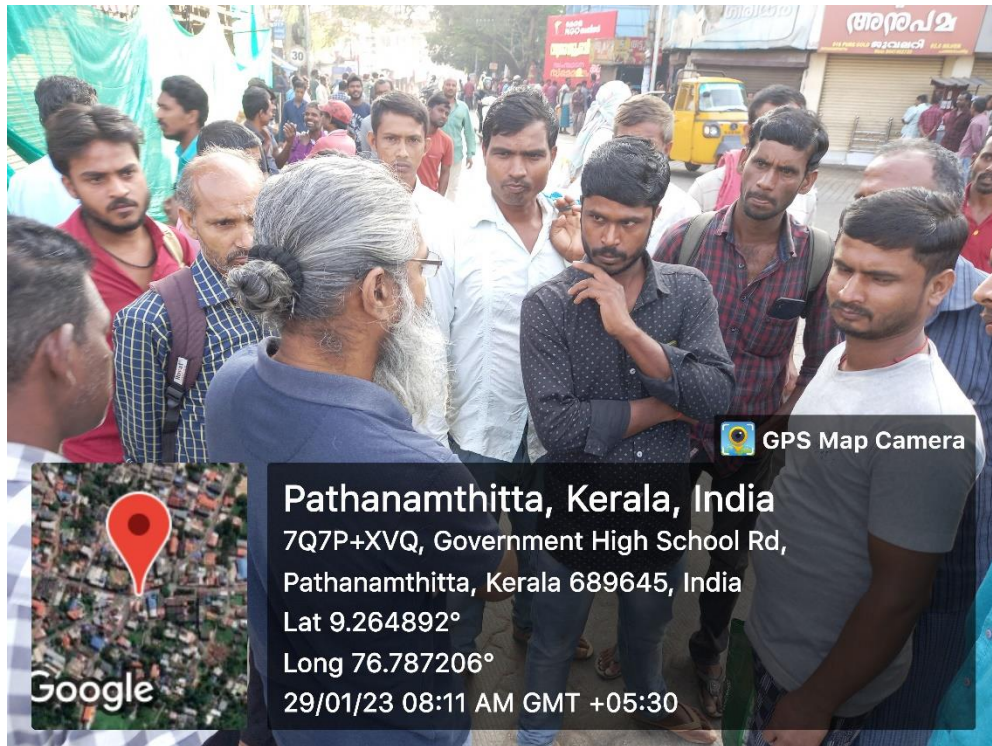


The Mudiyoorkara camp (Kottayam, Kerala) by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Principal Investigator Dr Bijulal and Project Associate Navas M Khadar, along with the assistance of Ad Binu Bose, General Secretary of the Kerala Migrant Workers Union, shed light on critical issues faced by

interstate migrant workers. During the visit, Dr. Bijulal M.V. delivered an insightful awareness talk, emphasizing the importance of health and safety practices. His talk aimed to educate workers on their rights and ensure they are equipped with knowledge to safeguard their well-being.

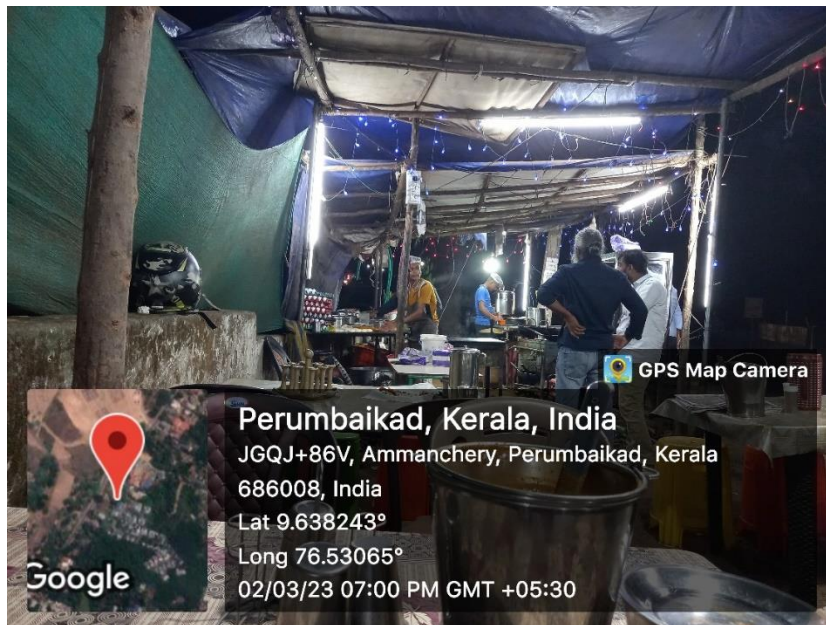
Project Associate Navas M Khadar also spearheaded a health practices program, focusing on practical measures that workers can incorporate into their daily routines. This program is a part of their broader efforts to enhance the quality of life and health outcomes for migrant workers. The visit highlighted the commitment of the SERB project team and the Kerala Migrant Workers Union to address the challenges faced by interstate migrant workers. Their collaborative efforts are instrumental in creating a safer and more supportive environment for these workers.

SERB Team Educates Pathanamthitta Workers on Health Insurance and Welfare Schemes



Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Principal Investigator Dr Bijulal and Project Associate Navas M Khadar visited Pathanamthitta. During the visit, Dr. Bijulal conducted an awareness program on Awaz Health Insurance. Mr Navas spoke about the Construction Welfare Scheme, highlighting its benefits for workers in the construction sector. The visit aimed to educate and empower workers about health insurance and welfare schemes, enhancing their well-being and quality of life.

Migrant Workers' Health Concerns Addressed in Kottayam



In a bid to understand and address the health challenges faced by migrant workers, Dr Bijulal M.V, PI SERB Project and Navas M Khadar, a human rights advocate, recently engaged with four migrant workers running a night shop in Kottayam. The interaction shed light on the pressing health issues affecting this marginalized community.

The discussion highlighted several key concerns, including the lack of access to proper healthcare facilities, the impact of strenuous work schedules on their health, and the need for better awareness and education regarding health and hygiene practices. Speaking about the initiative, Bijulal and Navas emphasized the importance of recognizing and addressing the health needs of migrant workers. He stressed the need for collaborative efforts between government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector to ensure the well-being of this vulnerable group. The interaction not only provided valuable insights into the health challenges faced by migrant workers but also underscored the urgent need for targeted interventions to improve their health outcomes. Navas's efforts reflect a broader commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of migrant workers, setting a positive example for community engagement and advocacy.

Enhancing Health and Social Protection Policy Framework for Migrant Workers workshop focuses on improving health and social protection for migrant workers in Kottayam, Kerala

A one-day workshop titled "**Enhancing Health and Social Protection Policy Framework for Migrant Workers in Kottayam District, Kerala, India**" was recently organized to address the pressing issues faced by interstate migrant workers in the region. The workshop, held on 14 July 2023 at the School of International Relations and Politics New Seminar Hall, was a collaborative effort between the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Disha Foundation, and the Centre for Migration Policy and Inclusive Governance at M.G. University.

The workshop aimed to achieve several key goals, including introducing the training manual "Shramik Saarthi" by the Disha Foundation, discussing the research findings of the SERB project, and introducing the idea of inclusive governance and human rights audit of welfare practices prepared by the Centre for Migration Policy and Inclusive Governance.

The event brought together many stakeholders, including representatives from migrant communities, government officials, medical experts, researchers, trade unionists, and non-governmental organizations. Discussions focused on improving access to social and health protection for migrant workers, emphasising developing practical initiatives and policy frameworks to address their challenges effectively.

Key government agencies, including the Departments of Health, public policy, labour, Planning Board, women and child, LSGD, community medicine, de-addiction, KILA state's planning institute, and KILE state labour institute, participated in the workshop, demonstrating a coordinated effort to prioritize resources for the safety and welfare of migrant workers.

The workshop also benefited

from the attendance of healthcare professionals from various backgrounds, who provided



valuable insights into addressing the health issues migrant workers face. Trade union officials and representatives from workers' organizations were also actively engaged in the discussions, ensuring that workers' voices and perspectives were adequately represented.



Overall, the workshop successfully fostered collaboration among various stakeholders and developed practical solutions to improve the health and social protection of migrant workers in Kottayam District. By prioritizing the welfare and rights of migrant workers, the workshop laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and accountable environment for all.

Meeting with Women Migrant Entrepreneurs from Bihar: SERB Team Discusses Important Social Challenges



In a recent meeting organized by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), researchers engaged in a compelling discussion with women migrant entrepreneurs from Bihar. The meeting at Mahatma Gandhi University aimed to delve into these entrepreneurs' significant social challenges and highlight the intricate biographic sketch of their migration experiences.

The discussion, led by Dr Bijulal M.V and Navas M Khadar, focused on understanding these women's unique struggles and triumphs in their entrepreneurial journey. Many shared anecdotes detailing their hardships while establishing and running their businesses in a new environment.

One of the key highlights of the conversation was the emphasis on the biographic sketch of migration, shedding light on the diverse reasons that led these women to migrate, ranging from economic opportunities to familial responsibilities. Despite the challenges, these entrepreneurs showcased resilience and determination, inspiring others with their success stories against all odds.

The SERB team expressed their commitment to supporting these women by providing resources and guidance to help them overcome social challenges and thrive in their entrepreneurial endeavours. The meeting concluded with a sense of optimism and a renewed commitment to address the needs of women migrant entrepreneurs, ensuring they receive the support they need to succeed.

Investigate Unhygienic Living Conditions of Migrant Workers in Malappuram District

In the Malappuram district, SERBn Team Dr Bijulal M V and Navas M Khadar shed light on the dire living conditions of migrant workers, highlighting the urgent need for government intervention and policy implementation.

During their visit, they observed firsthand the unhygienic and cramped living spaces where migrant workers reside. The lack of proper sanitation facilities and overcrowded accommodations were significant concerns, posing severe health risks to the workers.

Dr Bijulal M V and Navas M Khadar expressed their concerns over the potential spread of illnesses in such conditions. They emphasized the need for immediate attention from the government to improve the living standards of migrant workers in the district.



The academics called for swift action to implement policies that ensure better living conditions for migrant workers. They stressed the importance of providing access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and adequate housing to protect the health and well-being of these essential workers.

Dr Bijulal M V and Navas M Khadar's visit serves as a wake-up call, highlighting the urgency of addressing the challenges faced by migrant workers in the Malappuram district. Their findings underscore the critical need for government action to improve living conditions and ensure the health and safety of migrant workers.