Project D: Centre for Collective Action and Social Movements

This Centre will anchor teaching, research, and outreach activities on social movements in and around Kerala. Moving beyond academics the Centre will strive to provide training and a platform for critical dialogue for movement organizations and activists in the state working on grievances surrounding social, environmental and economic injustices. The Centre will aspire to document the origin, growth and trajectory of the various historical and contemporary social movements in Kerala including working-class struggles, movements with identity-based constituencies, gender-based collective action, LGBTQIA organizations and activism, environmental movements and right-wing movements.

1. Financial

Head/Item	Amount (Rs. In Lac)
Programme Officer (Mphil/PhD) Rs. 30,000 per month for 5 years (No.1)	18.00
Permanent Faculty Recruitment Rs. 56,700 basic pay (No. 1)	34.02
Fieldwork Expenses per year Rs. 5 lac for 5 years (No.3)	25.00
Workshops (2 workshops per year) 2 x 5	10.00
Consumables/Documentation/Publictions/Purchase of Books/Binding Charges/Electronic Gadgets/Computer/ Printe../Recorder/Camera	11.00
Miscellaneous	5.00
Total	103.02

Total outlay: One crore three lakhs two thousand only

Justification: The projects funded and supported by the Centre will bridge movement experiences from Kerala to the international discourse and literature on social movements. Given how much of the mainstream literature overlooks cases from Global South, this initiative will aid in integrating mobilizing experiences from Kerala to the centre of academic knowledge building and through the narratives, and voices of the participants of these struggles.

2.Durational

The Centre will become fully functional in 4 years with the publication of an annual report compiling the findings of initial research projects.

3.Technical Challenges and Executional Feasibility

It would be difficult to create the initial network among existing social movement groups in Kerala. However, the experience of the current faculty in Kerala would immensely help in forming longstanding ties with activist organizations and in producing knowledge that is beneficial for the community and society. Hiring new faculty with expertise in the field would be

a challenge. Hence, the Centre will have activist members as visiting faculty thereby, bridging the gap between researchers and practitioners.

4. Outcomes

1.	The Centre will anchor research and documentation on collective action and social movements in Kerala
2.	Publication of historically grounded theoretical works on movements and activist biographies
3.	Contribute to the theoretical literature on social movements by studying movement experiences from Kerala
4.	Publish an annual report on the Social Movements in Kerala to understand the nature and dynamics of how people come together and demand social, economic, and environmental changes

Project E: Bi-Annual International Conference on Kerala Studies

1.Financial Requirements

Head/Item	Amount (Rs. In Lac)
Workshops (2 workshops per year) 2 x 5	10.00
Consumables/Documentation/Publictions/Purchase of Books/Binding Charges/Electronic Gadgets/Computer/ Printer/Recorder/Camera	11.00
Miscellaneous	
	5.00
Total	

2.Durational

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The School envisages to hold an international conference on Kerala Studies every two years.

3.Technical Challenges and Executional Feasibility

One of the challenges in organizing this would be the sheer volume of work involved in identifying and screening the participants. Since the scale of the conference is huge, it is important to have a proper venue to house the various delegates that will come as part of the conference. Additionally, it would involve expenses in providing adequate housing to the participants. However, with extensive support from the university and other schools these shortcomings could be addressed.

S. Outcomes

Given the many challenges that our society grapple with, be it in terms of religion, culture, climate change or unemployment, it is important to have a space where researchers working on Kerala society can come together to discuss and share their insights. This conference is launched with such a goal. The papers will broadly fall under the theme of Kerala society broadly with sub-themes on economy, gender, ecology, religion, culture and rituals, social movements, to mention a few. The invited papers will be published as an edited conference proceeding after the conference and the papers will also be part of many *Special Issues* of flagship journals in the field of history, sociology, anthropology, climate change, and south Asian studies.

1. Creating a shared space for sharing research on Kerala society broadly and fostering dialogue and collaboration among researchers and scholars spread across the world
2. Hoping to form a tie between Kerala scholars' group so as to circulate the call for papers
3. Special Issues in peer-reviewed international journals with high impact factor on issues surrounding Kerala's economy, social formations, culture, ecology and religious formations.
4. Identifying key gaps and proposing future research and intervention projects
5. Launching a peer-reviewed journal with an ISBN number, *Critical Kerala Studies*, featuring high quality research works on Kerala studies

New Programmes

The School proposes to offer new programmes to make students employable in the newly emerging fields that demand specially trained candidates. The proposed programmes are (1) MA in Liberal Arts,(2) MA in Development and Change, (3) one year PG Diploma in Development Anthropology and (3) PG Diploma in Computational Social Sciences. The details of programme and budget are given below.

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Project F: MA in Liberal Arts

MA in Liberal Arts is a new Masters programme the school wishes to launch in the upcoming years. Grounded in a strong interdisciplinary framework, the programme will borrow heavily from Social Sciences as well as the Humanities departments at MG University. After 5th year of launching the programme, the plan is to make it the flagship programme and reorient the School to form a School of Liberal Arts that can house teaching as well as research works of global standards. This pivoting will enable the School to cater to a wider range of students with strong interdisciplinary academic interests to foster their intellectual pursuits by combining both in-class and field experiences. The programme will be modeled after the leading Liberal Arts programme in universities in both India and abroad and the primary goals will be to equip students to pursue higher education in premier institutes.

1.Financial

The estimated financial requirement for developing this programme is about 1.71 crores. This includes the permanent faculty positions to be created so that the interdisciplinarity of the programme is not compromised and ensure efficient delivery.

Head/Item	Amount (Rs. In Lac)
Programme Officer (Mphil/PhD) Rs. 30,000 per month for 5 years (No.1)	18.00
Permanent Faculty Recruitment Rs. 56,700 basic pay (No. 3)	102.00
Fieldwork Expenses per year Rs. 5 lac for 5 years (No.3)	25.00
Workshops (2 workshops per year) 2 x 5	10.00
Consumables/Documentation/Publictions/Purchase of Books/Binding Charges/Electronic Gadgets/Computer/ Printer/Recorder/Camera	11.00
Miscellaneous	5.00
Total	171.00

Total Outlay: Rupees One Crore Seventy-One Lakhs only.

Justification: The recruitment of (3) permanent faculty that fits the teaching and research profile for this programme would cost about 102 lakhs over 5 years. Apart from the hiring of faculty and programme officer, the programme requires monetary allocation for organizing field trips, field immersions and workshops in addition to the digital infrastructure required. The uniqueness of the programme as laid out in the initial paragraph reiterates the importance of launching this at public universities so that students from socially and economically marginalized backgrounds can also acquire high-quality education in Liberal Arts subjects and thus improve their career prospects. More so, it aligns with the call for Interdisciplinarity as laid out in NEP 2020.

2.Durational

The programme is planned while keeping the long-run in perspective. However, the first few years will be largely devoted to developing the course components including the goals, learning objectives, outcomes, and course structure. After the 5th year the programme will converge with other schools and departments at the university.

3.Technical

The core courses of the programme shall remain with the school and the electives would maintain interdisciplinarity where students will work hands-on with experts in various disciplines. One of the technical challenges in implementing this is to ensure recruitment of new faculty including experts from the field of Philosophy of Social Sciences to teach the core courses.

4. Executional feasibility

Designing and implementing the field component of the programme will also face some challenges during the initial years. However, this will subside and run smoothly once sufficient networks could be established with organizations both government and non-governmental.

5. Outcomes

1st year	Identifying the learning objectives and outcomes of the programme Formulating the course structure Recruiting Faculty and organizing workshops to brainstorm the orientation of the programme
2nd year	Designing courses Organizing workshops to design core courses and syllabus Designing Field components
3rd year	Launching the Course
4th year	Course evaluation to explore the possibility of convergence
5th year	Converging the programme with other schools working on social sciences and humanities. Reorienting the school to make this the flagship programme
6th-20th year-	Rolling the course out as the flagship programme with regular reviews and revisions in between

Project G: MA in Development and Change

This MA programme aspires to offer a curriculum of global standards in the field of development studies, and social and environmental change. The mounting issues emerging in and around ongoing development projects in India make such a programme compelling and timely. Designed as a multidisciplinary programme, drawing heavily from all social science disciplines, the programme will cater to the interests of development professionals, researchers, practitioners, activists and social movement organizations apart from students.

The programme will be embedded in the expertise created in the School through its various Centres (proposed in this plan) so that the participants can acquire a wide range of experiences in theory, methods, hands-on research, and practice.

1.Financial

The estimated financial requirement for developing this programme is about 1.37 crores. This includes the permanent faculty positions to be created so that the interdisciplinarity of the programme is not compromised and ensure efficient delivery.

Head/Item	Amount (Rs. In Lac)
Programme Officer (Mphil/PhD) Rs. 30,000 per month for 5 years (No.1)	18.00
Permanent Faculty Recruitment Rs. 56,700 basic pay (No. 2)	68.04
Fieldwork Expenses per year Rs. 5 lac for 5 years (No.3)	25.00
Workshops (2 workshops per year) 2 x 5	10.00
Consumables/Documentation/Publictions/Purchase of Books/Binding Charges/Electronic Gadgets/Computer/ Printer/Recorder/Camera	11.00
Miscellaneous	5.00
Total	137.04

Total Outlay: Rupees One Crore Thirty-seven lakhs and four thousand only

Justification: Aspiring to be a leading programme in the fields of development studies and socio-environmental change, the commencement of this will be of immense help in drawing greater attention to the issues surrounding development, environmental and climate change in Kerala. More so, the programme will encourage students to critically examine the Kerala Model of Development in the context of contemporary society and various socio-environmental problems. In the budget provide above, one of the important expenditure components is the recruitment of faculty with expertise in the field of Development Studies, Mixed Methods, Science Policy, Environment and Development, Public Health, Social Policy, and Climate Change. Other items will aid in launching the programme and designing the curriculum, courses and field components.

2.Durational

The programme is planned keeping the long run in perspective. However, the first few years will be largely devoted to developing the course components including the goals, learning objectives, outcomes and course structure. After the 5ᵗʰ year the programme will converge with other schools and departments at the university.

3.Technical

The core courses of the programme shall remain with the school and the electives would maintain interdisciplinarity where students will work hands-on with experts in various disciplines. One of the technical challenges in implementing this is to ensure recruitment of new faculty including experts from the field of Philosophy of Social Sciences to teach the core courses.

5.Executional feasibility

Designing and implementing the field component of the programme will also face some challenges during the initial years. However, this will subside and run smoothly once sufficient networks could be established with organizations both government and non-governmental.

6. Outcomes-preferably as charts/plans

1ˢᵗ year	Identifying the learning objectives and outcomes of the programme Formulating the course structure Recruiting Faculty and organizing workshops to brainstorm the orientation of the programme
2ⁿᵈ year	Designing courses Organizing workshops to design core courses and syllabus Designing Field components
3ʳᵈ year	Launching the Course
4ᵗʰ year	Course evaluation to explore the possibility of convergence
5ᵗʰ year	Converging the programme with other schools working on social sciences and humanities. Reorienting the school to make this the flagship programme
6ᵗʰ-20ᵗʰ year.	Rolling the course out as the flagship programme with regular reviews and revisions in between

Project H: One-year Post-Graduate Diploma in Development Anthropology

The School plans to set up a post-graduate diploma in Development Anthropology (one year) which will attract students and professionals from social science background who can later be associated with NGOs, government agencies like Kudumbasree, forest department etc., envision creating employment opportunities for the students after completing the course. This course has an important aim to generate employment among the social science students and at the same; they have an opportunity to work with various organizations in development and government sectors. Kerala is facing an acute problem in the development sector in case of human resources to interfere in this area that may be filled by this course.

1. Financial requirements

Head/Item	Amount (Rs. In Lac)
Contractual Services	
Centre Coordinator (Mphil/PhD) Rs. 30,000 per month for 5 years (No.1)	18.00
Research Assistants (MA) Rs. 25,000 per month for 3 years (No.2)	18.00
Fieldwork Expenses per year Rs. 5 lac for 5 years (No.3)	25.00
Workshops (2 workshops per year) 2 x 5	10.00
Consumables/Documentation/Publications/Purchase of Books/Binding Charges/Electronic Gadgets/Computer/ Printer/Recorder/Camera	11.00
Miscellaneous	
	5.00
Total	
	77.00

Total Outlay: (Rupees Seventy-Seven Lacs only)

Justification: There is no course in Development Anthropology in Kerala (in any university) that enable students in the areas of the development sector to work with NGOs mainly working with indigenous and tribal communities, queer community, social justice department and government agencies like Kudumbasree, Forest department, health department, and women and child development department. This programme is an attempt to bridge this gap by providing both theoretical and practical training in the field of development anthropology and interventions grounded in the social, ecological and political landscape of Kerala.

2. **Duration:** In the initial phase the programmes aim to run for 5 Years (2023-24 to 2028-2029)
3. **Outcomes**

This course will enable the creation of a job profile for the social science students which acts as a pool of human resources for finding out NGOs and government agencies in the future to come. This course will provide journalists and activists or others to be acquired more knowledge regarding the development issues that are impertinent in the case of Kerala.

Project I: PG Diploma in Computational Social Sciences

Being a rapidly developing field, computational social sciences present a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary research and analysis. Positioned at the intersection of social science, humanities and information science, this course is proposed as a collaborative Diploma where faculty from multiple Schools and Inter-University Research Centers will work together to develop the course components and curriculum. This diploma course aims at highlightinghow computational analysis, big data, and quantitative techniques can help in better understanding the fields of sociology, public policy, economics, political science, media and communication, computer science, and network science.

Objectives

Inspired by international certificate courses on computational social sciences this course will enable students:

- To educate to build, compute, and improve models of social processes
- To collect, analyze and interpret insights gained from applying computational analyses to big data in social science domains
- To understand how computational analyses can be used to develop social policy, evaluate policy outcomes, and propose innovative solutions to multi-scale challenges such as climate change, cyber-security and privacy, and inequality

1. Financial Requirements

Sl.No	Item	I year In Rs	II year In Rs	III year In Rs	IV Year In Rs	V year In Rs
1	Personnel a. PG Diploma @25000/PM	25000x1x12 =300000	26250x12= 315000	27563x12=3 30756	28941x12x1 =347292	30388x12x1 =364656
	b. Visiting Faculty @30000 /PM	30000x5x12 =1800000	31500x5x12 =1890000	33075x5x12 =1984500	34729x5x12 =2083740	36465x5x12 =2187900
2	Course Lab a. Desktops (10)	4,50,000	-	-	-	-
	b. Laptops (5)	2,00,000	-	-	-	-
	c.Audio recorders	12,000	-	-	-	-
	d. Digital Scanner	8,000	-	-	-	-
	e.Printer	8000				
	f.External Storage Device	20,000				

3	Research travel, accommodation, & hiring vehicles	2,00,000	2,00,000	2,00,000	2,00,000	3,00,000
4	Seminars & Workshops	100,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	2,00,000
5	Books & Journals	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	50,000
6	Data Processing & Publication	50,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	1,00,000
7	Contingency Grant	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
8	Overhead Charges (10%)	3,22,300	27,40,00	285025	296603	322755
9	Total	3595300	2979000	3100281	3227635	3550311
	GRAND TOTAL	Rs. 16452527 Rupees One core Sixty-four lakhs fifty-two thousand five hundred and twenty-seven only.				

Justification: The items listed above are to set up the basic academic infrastructure for offering this course. Since it is conceived as an inter-departmental programme permanent faculty with relevant experience can be linked to the programme at various stages. The course requirements will include a combination of social science theory as well as computing, informatics, and network systems. This will enable students to get a comprehensive understanding of social, political, and economic concepts and computational tools. Hence, a fully equipped state-of-the-art computer lab and software programmes including State, GIS, etc are important. The goal here is to facilitate computer-based analysis of digital repositories from a critical standpoint. The course components will include a mix of social sciences as well as computational statistics, data mining, machine learning, big data, GIS, and social networks.

2. & 3. Technical Challenges and Executional Feasibility

The school envisions launching a cutting-edge PG Diploma in Computational Social Sciences so that they can analyze complex social, political, and economic questions surrounding the digital world and big data. The course will span two semesters divided across a year. The course requirements will be taught by a combination of inter-School faculty specializing in social science disciplines, quantitative methods, data modelling, data science, computer science, and visiting faculty from other universities. Apart from the classes, regular workshops will be organized to embed students with networks of digital service providers who can also be their potential employers after completing the course. Internships at companies (including marketing, e-commerce, cyber-security, AI technologies, and other multinational companies) to equip students with hands-on learning. The programme will be committed to offering a critical

perspective on the collection of mass data on people and the dangers of surveillance capitalism while engaging students in the various methodologies to unpack big data.

Time frame	Tasks
1ˢᵗ year	Organizing Inter-School workshops to pitch the idea of the course and brainstorm about the feasibility of the course and decide on its structure and format
2ⁿᵈ year	Finalizing course requirements and designing courses across the collaborating schools; Working to establish collaborations with global universities offering similar certificate courses in Computational Social Sciences
3ʳᵈ year	Submitting the PG Diploma for University approval as well as extensive review by external experts
4ᵗʰ year	Pilot Semester followed by course review by an expert committee
5ᵗʰ year	Launching the Course by Seeking Student Enrolment

4. Outcomes

Students completing this course can have a flourishing careers given the huge demand for data analysts with expertise in computational social science. Apart from fetching jobs, students can also pursue higher education and continue researching questions surrounding the interaction of the social and digital world, AI, surveillance capitalism, digital economy, social interaction and production of meanings in online platforms, digital inequality and the production of space in the digital landscape etc.

Project J: Infrastructure Development (Annex Building and Physical Anthropology Lab)

To house all the proposed projects and to address the limitations of existing infrastructure at the School of Social Sciences, this project requests an Annex building that can alleviate these shortcomings and a Physical Anthropology Lab. The Annex will include classrooms (6), a seminar hall(1), a conference hall (1), research spaces (6), a computer lab (1), a reprographic centre (1), faculty rooms (8), common amenity room (1) and washrooms (6).

Classroom cum Seminar Hall: The School neither has sufficient classrooms, nor a seminar hall, or a research scholars' work place. Therefore, an amount nearly of Rs 300 (lakh) may be allocated to construct a Classroom cum Seminar hall with high priority. The proposed building should have the following facilities:

1. Financial Requirements and Justification

Sl No	Item	Number	Square Feet	Amount (in lakhs)
1	Class rooms	6 Nos	225Sq ft	40.00
2	Seminar Halls	1 No	750 Sq ft	25.00
3	Conference Hall	1 No	1800 Sq ft	45.00
4	Research Scholar Workspace	6 Nos	150Sq ft*6	25.00
5	Computer Lab	1	1250Sqft	34.50
6	Reprographic centre	1	150Sq ft	4.20
7	Faculty Rooms	8 No	1200Sq ft (150*8 partition)	35.00
8	Common amenity room	1 No	150	4.20
9	Washrooms	6 No s	900 Sq ft (150Sq ft*6)	21.00
	Total			233.9

Approx. 3 Crores

2. Physical Anthropology Laboratory

Introduction and Objective: It is important to constitute the lab for the Physical Anthropology course at the centre, which will give practical knowledge in understanding human evolution. This will enable them to write NET exams and get them successfully. The anthropology students in our centre need to know more about the physical evolution of the human being and which will give substantial knowledge about the concept of evolution with help of a practical activity. The physical anthropology laboratory needs space and materials (fossils and cranes of the human body, skeletons and teeth and also measuring tools etc.) which can be integrated to the already existing museum in the department. Genetics can be taught through the visual medium for which there is a need for a projector and a computer system.

1. Financial requirement

The budget for setting up the Physical Anthropology Laboratory is given below:

Budget Outlay for setting up a Physical Anthropology Laboratory

Head/Item	Amount (Rs. In Lac)
Anthropological Artifacts	
Model of Human Skeleton	
Teeth	10.00
Fossils	
Bones	
Laboratory Assistant (MA Anthropology) Rs. 25,000 per month for 3 years (No.2)	9.00
Tables and other measuring equipments and Lighting Devices	
Computer and Projector	15.00
	11.00
Miscellaneous	
	5.00
Total	
Total Outlay: (Rs. Fifty Lacs only)	50.00

2. **Duration:** Expenses Duration-5 Years (2023-24 to 2028-2029)

3. **Technical Challenges**

This will include securing the artifacts and materials for setting up the lab and hiring experts to lay the groundwork.

4. **Outcome**

The lab will serve as one of the only physical anthropology labs of global standards in Kerala that can initiate path breaking anthropological inquiries into contemporary Kerala society and culture. Additionally, the lab will serve students of all the existing programmes and will invite researchers from outside for collaboration.

Brief Summary

The Institutional Development Plan submitted stands as testimony to the Schools commitment to developing a Centre of Excellence in inter-disciplinary social sciences fostering teaching and research that strives to create a just and inclusive society. The research projects at the school have a clear focus on the issues faced by socially, economically, and politically marginalized sections of Kerala society in efforts to produce interventions that can create an egalitarian society that is devoid of discrimination based on caste, gender, class, sexuality, and ecology. The twenty-year goal for the School is to transform itself into a School of Liberal

Arts that anchor a Masters in Liberal Arts in close collaboration with other Schools at MG University working in the fields of social sciences and humanities broadly.

The project proposals submitted by the school can be broadly catergorised into three categories, proposals for (1) Research Centres, (2) New Programmes (MA & PG Diploma) and (3) a Bi-Annual International Conference, and (3) Infrastructural Development.

The proposals for new Masters (**MA in Liberal Arts, MA in Development and Change**) and PG Diploma programmes (**PG Diploma in Computational Social Sciences**) are expected to lay the groundwork for building a School of international standards that can offer high-quality courses. After the fifth year, the plan proposes to offer this MA in Liberal Arts in collaboration with other Schools and Departments at the University. This goal is extended by proposing research Centres that will complement the advancements made in the teaching programmes. Given the impending threat from global climate change, the School proposes to create research projects and a **Centre for Critical Geography, Labour Studies, and Climate Change** to explore the social dimensions of climate disruptions and the ways to devise climate action to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change on various sectors of the economy and society. The School also plans to launch extensive inquiries into the origin and trajectory of social movements surrounding various social, economic, and environmental grievances in Kerala. A **Centre for Collective Action and Social Movements** is proposed in this plan to house such inquiries. Additionally, the plan proposes a **Centre for Queer Studies** to bring together research and praxis on the queer community and collective action in Kerala. To meet the infrastructural limitations that the School faces and to create additional facilities for the proposed programmes, the Plan proposes to construct an Annex building with classrooms, labs, and other basic requirements.