



MISEREOR
IHR HILFSWERK



National Skill Conference 2012

Inclusion, Employability Skills and Capturing Entrepreneurial Spirit
in the Unorganised Sector

Objective: To mainstream skill and enterprise development in the unorganised sector, diversify it in crucial sectors like agriculture, and other livelihood areas with emerging best models and practices adapted.

The Conference will deliberate on aspects pertaining to skill and entrepreneurship development that should address the underprivileged youth in an effort to mainstream it in the unorganised sector. The skill talk that takes place in the country today by and large seems to be industry centric with an urban bias, unmindful of the vast sections remain untouched though we speak of their inclusion. 95 per cent of the workforce in India belongs to the unorganised sector who contributes 60 per cent to the nation's GDP is ignored is both a paradoxical and despicable scenario.

Exclusion: Where are they in spite of all this talk on inclusion and various skill development initiatives? This is the question being asked in all circles when it comes to skill development as their absence is conspicuous in various skill development programmes. What made them join the left extremists, other anti-social activities and get engaged in odd jobs for just keeping the body and soul together is a nerve wrecking question.

Denied: Basic primary education is denied to the youth in villages for no fault of them by default. As a result opportunities are lost at every level. The school dropout rate is estimated close to 90 per cent and only 5 per cent of the population avails higher education. Skill development cannot be conceived only for those who had the opportunity for schooling.

Social Stigma: Being slaves to a mindset where everyone wants their children to become doctors, engineers (please note that only 15 per cent of the engineers of the 24 lakh students come out every year from the institutions are employable), civil services, professors and lawyers, the prospect of being trained in a skill is an anathema to them. The country today needs an overdrive search on how to de-stigmatise its population so as to embark on a large scale proliferation of skilled population who carry out their work with dignity. Skill education is second to none.

Mainstay-Agriculture: Agriculture sector is losing its sheen today where 52 per cent of the population depends on primary agriculture. Its contribution to the nation's GDP has come down from 40 per cent six years ago to 13 per cent today and there is no dignity to attached jobs in the sector as well.

Migration: The growth of the urban population is an indication of the kind of migration that takes place today from the rural to urban settings in search of jobs that are not there in the last one decade alone for want of a livelihood. It was expressed several times by the migrants that it is better to be a worm in cities than done to death wriggling in extreme forms of poverty.

Entrepreneurship: The country is facing acute scarcity of trainers who can communicate in their local language and tone to capacitate people to become successful entrepreneurs especially in the rural settings with good communication skills as well. Capturing the entrepreneurial spirit in this country therefore, has become almost non-existent and we tend to prepare people only for wage employment.

Innovation: Innovation has always been put on a backburner. We have to go beyond the jugad story and continuously search for new solutions and reach to find expressions.

Doer Multiplication: One or two swallows cannot make a winter or a summer. The country needs multiple doers to take on the cause of skills training to mainstream it to the hinterland so that everyone participates for the cause. It cannot be confined in the hands of few for the refined.

Facilitating a skill revolution at the grass root level in the unorganised sector

Hotel Udaya Samudra, Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
20th and 21st September 2012

With
FVTRS Founder Memorial Lecture: 20 September 2012 from 6.30 pm

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