

Promotional Consultations

Bhopal Promotional Consultation Workshop

A one-day promotional consultation was organized on 05 February 2008 at Bhopal with the objective of taking the cause of skill training in the unorganized sector to a vast galaxy of NGO doers in Madhya Pradesh state who are still not aware of the potential of vocational training in the emerging global scenario. Smt. Savita Vajpayee, a former minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh, inaugurated the workshop, which was attended by 102 NGO representatives and officials from various technical institutions.



Mr. K.N. Tiwari addressing the consultation



Mr. Steffen Ulrich, Misereor representative, inaugurating the Jaipur consultation

Speaking on the occasion Mr. P.K. Srivastava, Director, Centre for Research and Industrial Staff Performance (CRISP), Bhopal spoke about the need of vocational training for generating skill and emphasised on establishing forward linkages with MFIs for trained youth to start their own enterprises.

Mr. K.N. Tiwari, Regional Director, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Madhya Pradesh shared the list of courses by IGNOU that are to be initiated in partnership with NGOs.

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The workshop was locally organized by Capt. V.P. Singh on behalf of the Confederation of NGOs of Rural India.



FVTRS in the media

Jaipur Promotional Consultation Workshop

A one-day state level consultation was organized on 12 March 2008 at Jaipur for Rajasthan state at

the Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The objective of the consultation was to sensitize and rope in credible NGO doers in skill training in the unorganized sector. Seventy-two NGOs from eighteen districts of Rajasthan and officials of technical and financial institutions participated. Mr. Steffen Ulrich, Misereor representative, inaugurated the consultation and spoke on the relevance of vocational training in an emerging global economy and of his experiences in the field.

Mr. H.M. Purohit, AGM, NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) discussed at length on promotional programmes of NABARD and about two main aspects of NABARD, namely Skill Development Initiatives (SDI) in the non-farm sector and entrepreneurship development through Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme (REDP).

Mr. K.L. Jain, Honorary Secretary General, Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented

the efforts of RCCI in Rajasthan. He emphasized on involvement of all stakeholders and the initiation to entrepreneurial skills as the most important ingredients of success in skill-training.



From the ED's desk

“Made in USA”

‘Poverty is capability deprivation’ writes Nobel laureate Amartya Sen in his book *Development as Freedom*. Skill training has all the potential to make people capable of leading a life on their own and to own a small piece of that big wealth cake, and addressing directly capability issues. If these acquired capabilities (in our case skills) are coupled with innovation and creativity, then life is made for that person.

An interesting case that we came across in this context is from one of our projects in a slum in New Delhi is how trained hands started producing their things. The products bore the label ‘Made in USA’. On being queried, prompt came the reply ‘it meant ‘United Slum Association’!

No challengers, no dispute.

Albert Joseph



Participants at the Bhopal consultation

National Consultation on development of training policy in India

The Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Government of India and the ILO have jointly initiated work on preparation of a national policy for skills development. A national consultation on Development of Training policy in India was organized in New Delhi on 20-21 February 2008. The objectives of the consultation were to understand policy challenges in India and other countries to explore policy options for skill development/training in India and to develop a roadmap/framework for developing training policy by mobilizing networks and partnerships among government, social partners and other local stakeholders.

FVTRS participated in the consultation.

One of the decisions taken at the consultation was to set up committees on specific technical issues to provide inputs for policy formulation. Four committees were set up. FVTRS has been identified as a service provider and nominated to work in committee no.3, which will discuss on “skills training for the unorganized sector, equity and access and lifelong learning and skills training for knowledge economy.” The committee will meet next on 4-5 April 2008 at New Delhi.

Organization Development (OD)

An OD exercise was facilitated by Dr. Cherian Joseph in January and March prior to the sensing session organized earlier. While the former focused on staff competencies, the latter was on team-building and on how effectively each can contribute and strengthen interdepartmental cooperation.



Participants of the OD exercise facilitated by Dr. Cherian Joseph



Farewell to Mr. Gratian Vas

Mr. Gratian Vas, former President of the Board, was given a farewell party by the Board members and FVTRS staff on 27 February. Board members expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Gratian Vas for his contribution to FVTRS during his tenure. In his farewell speech, Mr. Vas spoke about the satisfaction he got while working with FVTRS. He also mentioned about his present involvement with a language skill promotion agency and expressed his desire for collaboration with FVTRS in future.



Board members and staff bidding farewell to Mr. Vas

Visit by Misereor staff

Mr. Steffen Ulrich visited FVTRS on 13 and 14 March for a bi-annual review of FVTRS activities. The agenda for discussion was action plan and budget for

2008-09, on-going regular projects, tsunami projects, EDP trainers, trainees' stipend, local fund-raising, and extension of consultancy services of Mr. Ralf Lange. He was appraised on EU-supported project activities of 2007 in the three regions and on the action plan for 2008.



Mr. Steffen Ulrich at the FVTRS office



FVTRS staff with Mr. Steffen Ulrich

Message from Misereor

Mr. Ulrich Fusser requested partners to be conscious of, and articulate, the unintended negative impacts if any and communicate to them while reporting. He also shared that NGOs in India are the face of Misereor and their efficiency matters a lot in its effort to reach the poor. He appreciated the effort of Indian NGOs for their contribution to the development scenario.

Staff Educational Tour

An educational tour was organized for all staff members of FVTRS from 2 to 5 January 2008 to Munnar, a hill station in Kerala. They visited places of interest like Mattupetti dam, Eravikulam national park, Idukki dam, ayurvedic medicine centre and an organic tea factory at Kuttikanam. FVTRS acknowledges with gratitude the services of Bishop Mathew Arackal, Board member, for arranging and sponsoring the local tour in Kerala.



Staff in Munnar

Governing Board Meetings

Two meetings of the Governing Board were held in February and March 2008. Thirty new projects were approved with an outlay of Rs. 1.15 crore apart from transacting other matters of interest to FVTRS.

Evaluation and Documentation

Five projects were short-listed for evaluation and documentation in Jharkhand, Delhi, Tripura and Karnataka regions in an effort to document the best practices that emerged and to showcase the same for future use and possible replication. The same has been completed for Tripura, Jharkhand and Delhi regions by Mrs. Anita Sharma from New Delhi. The report is under preparation.

Video Documentation

A video documentation on two projects in Jharkhand and Tripura has been completed, pending editing. The same is being done by Mr. Madhav Murthy from Bangalore.

Regular Projects

Workshop on Project Implementation Plan (PIP)

A one-day workshop was held on 24 January at Ranchi on PIP for the recently approved project partners. The objective of the workshop was to help the partners familiarize with the reporting formats and follow-up procedures of FVTRS. Twelve partners attended the programme. Mr. Felix D'Souza from FVTRS facilitated the same.

Year	Approved projects	Approved amount	Amount released		Ongoing Projs.
			Current	Previous years	
2004-05	32	1,99,36,800	47,750	12,469,550	
2005-06	34	1,62,80,990	2,108,432	13,773,482	10
2006-07	41	1,83,18,790	6,978,276	12,152,616	38
2007-08	46	1,88,29,100	2,335,582	2,335,582	46
Total	153	7,33,65,680	1,14,70,040	4,07,31,230	94

Project Pre-assessment and Monitoring visits

Visited ten NGOs located in the states of West Bengal, Orissa, Jharkhand, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala for a field assessment during the quarter. Monitoring

visits were made to four projects in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as well.

New Project Proposals

Fifty-nine project proposals were received during the quarter.



European Union-supported Project

EU Annual Report

The annual reports of the three Resource and Programme Promotion Centres (RPPCs) together with the FVTRS report for the year 2007 and thirty-five annexures were sent to Misereor on time. Mr. Fusser Ulrich, Asia head, Misereor, and Mr. Steffen Ulrich visited the EU delegation office at New Delhi on 17 March 2008 for discussions.

Market Fair

The eastern region RPPC along with some of the associating partners participated in the five-day 'Gonasika Mahostav' (which means market fair) organized by the Government of Orissa from 19 to 23 January at Keonjhar. Many government departments, public sector and private sector companies and local NGOs attended the Fair. Mr. Prashanth R.B, Documentation Officer of EU project attended the same on behalf of FVTRS.

Orientation

A one-day orientation programme was organized on 25 January at Ranchi for seventeen associating partner-NGOs from Eastern RPPC region after scrutinizing their project proposals. The objective of this orientation was to help the partners understand the importance of skill promotion, EDP and to propose viable trades. Mr. Felix D'Souza and Mr. Vishal Ranjan from FVTRS along with the RPPC staff facilitated the programme.

EU Project Partners' Meet

A two-day meeting was organized for the EU partners on 12-13 February at FVTRS, Bangalore. The Directors and the Coordinators from three RPPCs

participated. The purpose of the meeting was to review the activities conducted during the year 2007, understand the strengths and challenges and plan actions for the year 2008. The RPPC staff together with FVTRS staff studied the project proposals received from the associating partners and reviewed its prospects for further action.

Monitoring Visits

Project monitoring visits were made to western RPPC at Ahmednagar on 29 February and northern RPPC at Meerut on 17 March 2008.

Database Training

A two-day training programme was held on 1-2 March at RPPC, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. The objectives of the training were to review the database package designed in 2007, update with necessary changes and compile a new Data Base Management System for the year 2008. The Documentation Officers of three RPPCs, the Coordinator of western RPPC and M.L. Satyan, Manager EU-supported project from FVTRS participated. Mr. R.B. Prashanth of FVTRS facilitated the training. The participants incorporated region-specific data and initiated the updating process during the training. They will complete the updating process and send the updated region specific database to FVTRS by the first week of April 2008.



Database Management Training, Ahmednagar

EU Partners' Meet

An EU-supported project partners' meeting was held at Meerut Seva Samaj, Meerut on 16 March occasioned with the visit of Mr. Fusser Ulrich and Mr. Steffen Ulrich from Misereor. Mr. Duskar Barik, director eastern RPPC, Fr. Albert S, director of northern RPPC and staff, Mr. Albert Joseph and Mr.

M.L. Satyan from FVTRS participated. The meeting discussed at length RPPCs' activities in 2007, government schemes for vocational training, sustainability of RPPCs, importance of skill promotion, strengths, challenges and future plans.

Visit to Partner-Organizations

Visits were made to two partner-organizations in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra to discuss the project proposals submitted to FVTRS.



EU project partners meeting Misereor representatives, Meerut

EDP Training

A four-day training on EDP for the associating partners was organized by the eastern RPPC at Bhubaneswar from 16 to 19 March facilitated by Mr. C.R. Pattanayak, regional coordinator from Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI). Twenty-four participants took part. The objective of the training was to help the partners understand the importance of entrepreneurship development in their operational areas. Mr. M.L. Satyan, Project Manager visited the programme on 18 March and interacted with the resource person and trainees.



Participants at the EDP Training, Bhubaneswar

Tsunami Project

Project Monitoring

Visits were made to twenty-five on-going projects in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Pondicherry.



Tsunami Project monitoring visit

Project Partners' Meet

A one-day project partners' meet was held on 28 March at Kovalam, Kerala with the objective to review and obtain updates of each project. Twenty-three participants from eighteen partner-organizations attended.



Tsunami Project Partners' Meet, Kovalam

To access curricula and other skill training and certification information from Ministry of labour, Govt. of India, kindly log on to www.dget.nic.in

Case Studies

Narendra Manjhi, a teenaged school dropout is the only son of a poor agricultural labourer living in Michagaon village in Junagarh block of Kalahandi district, Orissa. After coming in contact with a local NGO, KARTABAYA, he was enrolled for vocational training to learn bamboo craft trade. After training, he is now earning Rs. 700 per month and helping his family.

* * *

S. Josephine belongs to a fisher-folk community in Madurai. The money earned by her husband, a daily wage labourer, was not enough to meet the family expenses. She expressed her willingness to join tailoring and embroidery training being organized by Russ Foundation. Seeing her enthusiasm, she was selected for this training. After the completion of the training she bought a machine, opened a small shop in her house and started earning well. With this income, she is now supporting her family and educating her children. Her trainer appreciates her motivation and ability to learn. She is confident of expanding her business in the future.

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Malliga, a mother of two children, belongs to a poor family in Vadamattam village near Karaikal. Her husband is a labourer and the income was not sufficient to run the family. She worked as a maid servant on a meagre income before the training. She underwent the training successfully and at present is working in a garment shop with an income of Rs. 1500 per month. She is able to educate her children well now.

* * *

Balasubramani, a school dropout, has two unmarried sisters in his family and financial pressure was mounting on him. He came to know about a six-month training on catering organized by SEDAP, Kottucheri. He enrolled for this training and worked hard. After the training he got a job in a local restaurant for Rs. 2500 per month. He is now able to support his family and save money for his sisters' marriages.

Upgradation of ITIs

The up-gradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) is proceeding fast. The Finance Minister's announcement to provide financial support for the up-gradation of ITIs through Public-Private Partnership has given a new lease of life to the scheme and 1396 ITIs have been proposed to be upgraded into Centres of Excellence in specific trades and skills under Public-Private partnership. The Finance Minister also proposed to grant an interest-free loan of up to Rs. 2.5 crore to each ITI for up-gradation and revision of courses. It is envisioned to upgrade at least 300 ITIs every year beginning 2007-08 through the PPP mode. He further stated that Rs.750 crore has been kept aside for this purpose. Under the World Bank assisted scheme, 238 ITIs are undergoing up-gradation. Under the public-private partnership scheme, 309 ITIs in 29 States have been identified with corresponding industry partners and agreements have been signed in 244 cases.

Source: *Business Express*



Skill Training



Appointments: Hearty Congratulations

Mr M. L. Satyan joined FVTRS as Manager, EU Project on 16 January and Mr. Hiralal as Project Monitoring Officer from 14 January 2008. FVTRS wishes them all the best.

Website up-gradation

FVTRS updated its website by adding new features related to new developments, and national skill conference report and photo gallery.

Forthcoming Activities

1. Action plan for 2008-09
2. National consultation committee meeting on skill training with ILO and Ministry of Labor and Employment on 4-5 at New Delhi.
3. Meeting with Misereor- NEG, New Delhi on 10 April
4. Union Ministry work with Planning, R.D and Home Affairs
5. Regional consultation for North-Eastern states on 12 April at Guwahati
6. Monitoring visit to Eastern RPPC from 9-12 April
7. PIP workshops on April 22 at Pune, on 24 at Meerut and on 26 at Ranchi
8. Evaluation and documentation on 21 and 24 by Anita Sharma at Bangalore
9. Eastern region RPPC Interface Meeting at Raipur on 28 April
10. Western region RPPC Interface Meeting at Wardha in May
11. Bonding session with new and existing members of Board May 16
12. Extra-General Body meeting on 16 May
13. FVTRS Interface Meeting at Bhubaneswar in May
14. Western region RPPC Market Fair in June
15. FVTRS regional workshop at Meerut in June



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