

MISEREOR
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INSIDE

Donors' & Decision Makers' Meet	1
Highlights of the Quarter	2
EU-Supported Project	5
Forthcoming Events	6
Trainees' Stories	7
VT Projects Evaluation	8
ED's Desk	8



Power of Plumbers

A pipe burst in a doctor's house and a plumber was sent for. The plumber arrived, unpacked his tools, rattled around for a while and handed over a bill for ₹3,000. The doctor exclaimed: "This is ridiculous! I don't make that much even as a doctor!" The plumber quietly said: "Neither did I when I was a doctor."

By R. K. Laxman

Skilling the Unreached People, Influencing Policy 150 years of slavery forces us in favour a white collar job undermining the skills



Donors' and Decision Makers' Meet, New Delhi

With the objective of identifying gaps in skills approaches and to derive strategies for reaching the unreached youth, a one-day Donors' and Decision Makers' Meet was organised at New Delhi on 15 March inviting key players and stakeholders from the field of skill development. A Member of Parliament and 21 participants from ILO, MSME, NIOS, World Bank, NIESBUD, SDTT, GIZ, DGET, Don Bosco, IGSSS, Caritas India, WaterAid, UNICEF, Skill-share International and National NGOs attended.

Dr Cherian Joseph and Ms Anita Sharma facilitated the Meet. Participants came up with consolidated recommendations to address the existing gaps in skill development initiatives, in reaching the unreached youth to meet the target of inclusiveness and to influence policy to strengthen the above cause.

Some Voices as heard during the Discussion Meet

- 35,000 scavengers in Mumbai city alone - their skills need to be upgraded
- Training cannot be planned independent of social values. It has to be binding on the existing value system
- The numbers show that gestation period of a graduate or someone seeking a job depends on her parents' social status

- NGOs sometimes give a negative image of skills training by compromising with quality
- The youth in the rural areas like to remain as a worm in the city rather than starving to death at his rural dwellings
- Migration is bad if dignity is diminished, hence it is important that dignity of labour is promoted

- Skills training is a competitive field; there is a need to maintain focus and quality
- Participation with NSDC is difficult for small NGOs as they work on a three tier system of grant, loan and equity. Grants are limited, loan is available at 6 per cent interest and equity system is possible only with Pvt Ltd companies
- We care not preparing people for self employment, skill training models need to address this aspect
- Some of the effective grass root initiatives have been driven by local focus, huge commitment, and an attitude of putting people/community at the forefront
- So called low-end skills are not bad, so long as it helps the last to sustain
- One or two swallows cannot make a winter, we need many doers

Good Samaritan Award and IGNOU Certificate Distribution



Distribution of IGNOU certificates to trainees who have completed the beautician training was done at a colourful function on the sidelines of the ceremony where Ms Dayabhai was honoured with Good Samaritan award by Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) at Kottayam on 29 January 2012.



The Audience



Mr T. Radhakrishnan, Minister speaks on the occasion



Ms Mini Antony, DM and Collector, Kottayam on the occasion

Certificates and award were given away by Mr T. Radhakrishnan, Revenue Minister, Govt. of Kerala and Ms Mini Antony, District Collector, Kottayam who were present along with other dignitaries. Fr Michael Vetticatt, Director, KSSS, facilitated the programme. Three more award winners were also honoured on the occasion.



Ms Dayabhai Receives the Award

Reaching out Partners thro' Promotional Consultation

A promotional consultation was organised at Nagpur, Maharashtra on 13 January which deliberated on 'Prospects of vocational training in the unorganised sector' with the purpose to sensitise willing prospective doers to educate on skills training parameters and make them as sustainable practitioners in VT. It was organised by the Church of North India-Social Service Institute (CNISSI).



Nagpur Promotional Consultation

Rt Rev Paul Dupare, President, CNISSI inaugurated the consultation. Experts from government agencies- Mr KRK Prasad, Director;

Mr Vijay Sirsat, Asst Director, MSME; Mr Mohan Pande, Jt Director, MSETI; Ms Sudha Iraskar, Social Welfare Officer, NMC and Mr Ashok Rangari, In-charge - spoke on the relevance of technical education, self employment, EDP-cum skills training, MSME training for prospective and existing entrepreneurs, and on the need of involving NGOs in government schemes.

Ms Aradhana Upadhyay, Coordinator, CNISSI facilitated panel discussions where school dropout trainees from mobile training centre of CNISSI shared the experiences on how their life took a turn for the better after attending skills training. Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director and Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager, FVTRS facilitated sessions on vocational training and funding support of FVTRS.



Experience Sharing By Trainees

Rev S Paranjyothy, Director, CNISSI coordinated the programme. 64 NGOs representatives participated.

HIV/AIDS Awareness in VT Curricula

Ms Ellen Schmitt, Misereor Consultant on HIV/AIDS facilitated the process to develop curricula of vocational training (VT) incorporating HIV/AIDS awareness, addressing the needs of youth engaged in skills training. She visited FVTRS on 5-6 March to follow-up the process.

Partners' Capacity Building Activity Training support by SES

In an attempt to enhance partners' efficiency for implementing VT projects, Senior Experten Service (SES), Bonn was contacted to provide training expertise in the areas of survey and research procedures, managerial skills for efficient performance, entrepreneurship skill and enterprise development, etc. Training programmes for partners would be held in the month of June-July 2012 by Mr Dankward Schoensee.

Maintaining an Effective Partner-Base

A select group of partner-organisations across the country was called for a brain-storming exercise to discuss, derive and develop to prioritise the list for various capacity building exercises in an effort to sustain an effective VT partner-base in the long run. The two-day programme was moderated and facilitated by Dr Cherian Joseph at Bangalore on 20-21 March.



Participants during group exercise

Methodology used was of collaborative and participatory processes based on mutual sharing, reflection, analysis and conceptualisation. Small group discussions were held to understand the meaning of capacity building in the context of developmental sector, critical needs in capacity building to contextualise while setting priorities. The group came up with the prioritised list for capacity building training at various levels like organisation head, project coordinator and other support staff of partner-organisations and at cluster level. Areas of training identified are of management aspects; organisational, project, training and environment partnership management. The exercise will continue with the selected partners to strengthen the project implementation.



Dr Joseph Moderating Sessions

Staff Education Tour

FVTRS staff visited Mangalore, Udupi and Karwar in Karnataka on 1-3 February on their annual education tour. Team participated in the closing ceremony of tailoring and driving courses run by KDDC at Karwar and attended certificate distribution programme in one of the projects of KDDC. Met and interacted with few successful trainees who have started their enterprises.



Staff Education Tour - Karwar

Hearty Welcome!

Mr Rosan Minj has joined as Project Monitoring Officer at Bangalore from 20 February 2012.

Governing Board and PSC Meeting

Governing board and PSC meeting were held at Bangalore on 27 March. 16 projects including one research project were approved by the PSC for an amount of ₹ 90 Lakh.

ILO-FVTRS Co-operation on EDP

Preparatory work was done for Training of Trainers (ToT) on Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for trainers from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra as a follow-up to the ILO-FVTRS Co-operation launched during National Skill Conference in December 2011. Translation of EDP training materials- 'Start Your Business' to Hindi language is in progress. FVTRS has received the first instalment from ILO for the tasks involved.

Meetings Held on ILO-FVTRS Co-operation

19 January: Skype Meeting at ILO, New Delhi with various officials of ILO-New Delhi, Geneva and Colombo and trainers at Chennai through video conferencing to discuss on the finer aspects of the newly emerging cooperation between FVTRS and ILO.

27 January: Mr Felix D'Souza visited ILO-New Delhi to discuss matters pertaining to the cooperation.

10 January: Meeting with Mr Sharad Patil, Secretary General of The Employers Federation of India (EFI), Mumbai regarding the ILO FVTRS cooperation.

International Conference on Integrating VT in Academic Curricula

International Conference on 'Integration of Academic Courses with Vocational Education in Secondary Schools' was organised by NIOS on 17-19 February at New Delhi. Participants discussed on emerging challenges and issues of academic courses and how to link skill training through vocational education at secondary school courses. Dignitaries from Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Germany, Malawi, Namibia, New Zealand, Tanzania and Zambia attended. Mr Joseph presided over one session on Vocational Skills and Training for Empowerment - The Policy Perspective. Mr CP Nicholas, Project Monitoring Officer, FVTRS also participated in the conference.



NIOS International Conference, New Delhi

Follow-up of VT & Academic Certificate of NIOS-FVTRS Cooperation

- Reimbursed the amount of admission fee to enrolled trainees
- Five new applications forwarded to NIOS for accreditation of both VT and academic courses
- Enrolment of trainees in both VT and academic courses is in process by the accredited partners

Project Information

Monitoring and Pre-Assessment Visits: 26 organisations were visited

Fund released: ₹ 1.14 crore

New project proposals received: 63

Research and Study

Three research scholars were short-listed out of 30 applicants received. They would carry out research work on topics i.e. 'Employment pattern in the Unorganised Sector', 'Resource allocations for vocational training by central & State governments', and 'Exclusion issues' in northern, southern and north-eastern regions.

Staff Development

Mr Felix D'Souza and Mr CP Nicholas attended 5-day MDP training at Institute of Rural Management, Anand on topics of 'Everybody Wins: Negotiating Skills for Managers' from 16-20 January and 'Rural livelihoods and Poverty Alleviation' from 19-23 March.

Programmes organised by Partners

Jackfruit Promotion Council

Workshop on Jackfruit preservation, attached skills and health issues was organised by Shanti Gram at Thiruvananthapuram on 27-28 January. Matters pertaining to Jackfruit Promotion and related skill development arenas were discussed. A health talk by Dr Mohanan on adulteration issues and relevance of organic food usage was held on 28 January.

NUEPA Meet

Mr Albert Joseph attended and presented FVTRS' perspectives and focus of vocational training for the underprivileged youth at the meeting held by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) at New Delhi on 1 March.

COMMACT International Conference

An international conference was organised by Commonwealth Network for People Centred Development (COMMACT) at Ernakulum on 2-4 March. Mr Albert Joseph addressed the participants on Indian perspectives on VT.

Participation in Meetings/Conferences

Meetings with KVIC

A meeting was held with Mr S N Shukla, Director (HRD), and other officials of Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai on 10 January. Hand-holding cooperation of FVTRS trained youth by KVIC training institutions in India discussed. The cooperation is to be materialised in the form of an MoU.

Credibility Alliance

Credibility Alliance has organised a short meeting at Chennai on 17 January to short-list organisations to issue Credibility certification. 14 NGOs were nominated for final selection.

Caritas India Golden Jubilee Celebration

Caritas India celebrated its golden jubilee celebration in New Delhi on 20-21 January. The two-day celebration was inaugurated by Mr Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development.

Talk on Education

Ecumenical Christian Centre, Bangalore organised a 3-day programme on 'Changing Education Paradigm: Issues and Challenges' on 24-26 January. Mr Albert Joseph delivered a lecture on education during a session held on 25 January on the present education scenario and the relevance of skill education.

CII - Skill Development Meet

CII-Chennai organised the Global Summit on Skill Development on 'Building sustainability and scalability through international partnerships' at Chennai on 21-22 February. Issues highlighted at the meeting were skill development in both the organised and unorganised sector and use of new technology for VT promotion. The meet was attended by more than 500 delegates from industry, business, civil society, academia and NGOs.

IEC

- Skill Watch focusing on the unorganised sector prepared by Dr P Basak documented
- News Bulletin-Jan-Mar edition, Report of NSC and Skills Ahead magazine - January edition (covering NSC report held in Kolkata) were circulated to partners
- New Brochure for FVTRS was compiled and printed
- Four short documentary films named: 'We Made it', 'The Unbranded', 'Beat to Beat' and 'Excluded with Dignity' are released
- Translation of FVTRS documentary 'Not Born to Burn' to Hindi was done
- Website updated

Miscellaneous

- Annual Progress Report of various grants were sent to Misereor
- Follow-up statistics of 80 projects under two grants were prepared. 78 per cent placement took place was the discovery.

EU-SUPPORTED PROJECT
on
**'Vocational Education and
Training for Vulnerable and
Marginalised Groups in India'**

**New Service-Provider
Organisations Oriented**

A one-day Project Implementation Plan (PIP) meeting for new service-provider organisations in eastern region was organised at Guwahati, Assam on 5 January. Eleven participants from six service-provider organisations from Assam and Manipur attended. The objective of the meeting was to acquaint them with reporting procedures of FVTRS. During the sessions the usage of various formats as well as communication procedures were explained in detail. On 20 February a similar PIP meeting was conducted at FVTRS, Bangalore.



Participants At The Session

EU Projects Evaluated

The European Union initiated a mid-term evaluation of its VET projects in India. Dr Stefano De Santis, the leader of the evaluation team visited two service-provider organisations viz 'Voluntary Association for Natural Development and New Approach' (VANDANA) in Karnataka on 5-6 January and 'The Dedicated People's Union' (DPU) on 8-9 February in Manipur. Feedback on draft report submitted to EU, New Delhi.

Visit to Jodhpur

On 11 and 12 January Mr Albert Joseph visited Jodhpur regional office. It was decided that the regional office would continue in the same premises till the end of December 2012 in agreement with the landlord. Mr Albert Joseph also visited the office of one service provider organisation viz 'Gram Vikas Seva Sansthan' at Jodhpur. He met the Chief Functionary and discussed about the progress of the skills training project.

Meetings in New Delhi

On 12 January 2012 Mr ML Satyan, Project Manager (EU), FVTRS visited the EU Delegation office, New Delhi and held discussion with the Programme and Finance staff on the contentious issue of local contribution by the service providers towards the implementation of the project.

On 1 March 2012 Mr ML Satyan met Dr Stefano De Santis in Delhi and had a detailed discussion on the findings of the mid-term evaluation.

On 27 March 2012 Mr ML Satyan and Mr RB Prashanth participated in the mid-term evaluation de-briefing meet organised by the EU Delegation in New Delhi.

Meeting EU Finance Official

On 29 February a brief 'Question and Answer' session was conducted at MYRADA- Bangalore by the Mr Louis Leimbruger, the Finance Official from the EU Delegation, New Delhi. Mr ML Satyan and Mr RB Prashanth participated and clarified the issue of 'local contribution' by the service providers.

Events at Raichur

Stakeholder Education

Forty representatives from 20 service provider organisations from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu attended the Stakeholder Education meeting on 13 March at Raichur to discuss on 'Entrepreneurship development and skills training'. The objective of the meeting was to help the service providers to understand the importance and urgency of conducting EDP for the trainees. The Chief Guest Mr Subhash Patil, President, Red Cross Society appreciated the skill training programmes promoted by FVTRS and implemented by the service-provider organisations. Ms Renuka, the Resource Person conducted group exercises to focus on various aspects of EDP and the qualities of a successful entrepreneur.



Participants at a Group Exercise

Regional Market Fair

A two-day Market Fair was organised at Raichur on 14 and 15 March. The objective was to showcase the skills of the school dropout and illiterate youth by exhibiting their products and in the process create marketing linkages. Eight service-provider organisations participated in the market fair. The Chief Guest Mr Radhakrishna Madankar, Assistant Deputy Commissioner (HQ), Raichur and the Guest of Honour Mr Narayan Raju, DDM, NABARD together inaugurated the two-day Market Fair and appreciated the quality of various products exhibited. The total business turn-over was about ₹ 30,000 on the occasion.



Chief Guest at Market Fair

'Skills training initiatives will make youth self-reliant'

The objective of the interface event was to sensitise grass-root organisations on the need for skill promotion. 35 NGO representatives from Karnataka attended the event on 15 March, 2012. Dr Venkatesh, District Health Officer, Raichur was the Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, he mentioned that today most of the government welfare schemes make people dependent whereas skills training initiatives will make them self-reliant. He suggested the participants to tap various sources, including government VT schemes, and take the mission of skill promotion forward.



Interface Meeting

Youth and Trainees Rejuvenated

A one-day Youth Convention was organised at Guwahati, Assam on 29 March, 2012 with an objective of sensitising the rural youth on the need of skills training. There were 136 youth who had come from West Bengal and various north eastern States. The Chief Guest Prof Lita Hazarika of Guwahati University conducted motivation sessions and focused on self realisation, self-confidence and the need to develop skills. FVTRS team conducted sessions and group discussion on present skill deficit scenario, understanding on skill, need for skill development etc. The convention concluded with a group song – 'I have a dream'.



Inaugural Session - Youth Convention

On 30 March Entrepreneurs' Convention was organised at Guwahati. 92 trainees from 18 service-provider organisations from north-east region attended. The objective of the convention was to make the trainees understand on various aspects of entrepreneurship. The Chief Guest Mr Pronab Sarma, Head-Centre for Entrepreneurship Education (CEE), Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati conducted sessions in an interactive manner. He focused more on soft skills and the development of inherent abilities/skills. EDP is a life-long process and we should make continuous efforts to develop them, he said. A young entrepreneur Mr Nelson Deb, Operations Manager of Eco-Hub shared his experiences of running units where sanitary napkins and paper bags are manufactured.



An Action Song by Participants

Field Visits

- Pre-assessment visits were undertaken to 9 new applicant organisations in three regions.
- Undertaken monitoring visits to 20 service provider organisations in three regions.

Miscellaneous

- Auditing of the EU project for the calendar year 2011 is completed and report submitted.
- EU Interim reports and Interim Accounts auditing were completed and submitted to the EU Delegation-Delhi in March 2012.

Forthcoming Events

6 April: Visit of Dr Meyer Anselm from Misereor, Germany

10 April: Meeting with ILO at New Delhi

11 April: Meeting with NIOS Chairman and DG of NIEUSBUD at Noida

25 April: Meeting with BIET (Birbhum Institute of Engineering and Technology) Officials at Suri, West Bengal

15 May: Accredited Partners' Meet with NIOS officials at Bangalore

15 June: Annual General Body Meeting at Bangalore

19-21 September: National Skill Conference, National Partners' Meet and Founder Memorial Lecture at Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram

They Made It! A Buoyant Riya

17-year old Riya Kumari from Agra - a school dropout at class 9 - was helping her mother in household chores being the eldest among three siblings. Riya today confidently sits in front of her new sewing machine cutting, stitching and in embroidery work. She has completed her training in tailoring course from Agra Social Service Society.



She earns now ₹ 150-400 in a day. Riya started working at home, getting orders from neighbourhood families and friends. A buoyant self-employed Riya says, 'I am able to help my family only after learning a skill'.

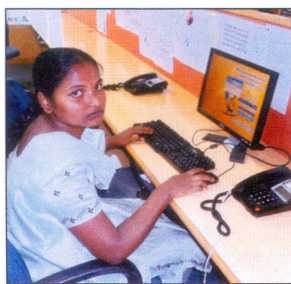
Rahutappa



Rahutappa S Benakanalli (20) hails from a poor family was unable to complete his school education. The need to earn brought him to the vocational centre of Deepalaya Social Service Centre, Bijapur, Karnataka

where he took admission in driving training, did his best and received the driving license. Rahutappa today is working as a hired driver for a pick up tempo and earns ₹ 4,000 per month.

Dare to Dream



Jammi Swapna studied upto class 9th was working as a daily wage labourer in a sandal making factory.

Never in her wildest dream had she imagined that she could one day be sitting in an office in

front of a computer. Today, this is the remarkable reality of her life. She got a job of data entry operator in SIS India, Guntur. Her starting salary is ₹ 3,500. It's all happened after undergoing a thorough training programme in computer basics course run by Kolping Youth Centre, Guntur. Jammi was regular in the training and was very attentive to entrepreneurship development programme (EDP), spoken English, typing and awareness programmes provided by the organisation.

Yedluri Swarupa

Yedluri Swarupa (19) is from a family of farm labourers of an interior village, Lemallepadu near Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. Yedluri, failed in class 10th exams and had no choice other than to stay at



home and help her mother in household chores.

Her life changed ever since she took admission in Medical Lab Assistant training (MLT) course conducted by Kolping

Youth Centre, Guntur from July 2011. She convinced three of her friends to join the course and they rented a small room in Guntur as their village was far from the training centre to stay and study together. She was selected while undergoing training as Medical Lab Assistant in Nagarjuna Diabetic Centre, Guntur with a monthly salary of ₹ 3,000.

A Successful Entrepreneur

Dilkush Anthony Cardoz hails from Halekot of Kadwad village in Karwar Taluk who got dropped off from class 9. He could not make both ends meet due to the abysmally low wage that he earned. Taking



care of children's education was challenging as seasonal employment was often at stake. He underwent training in EDP, market survey and other awareness programmes conducted by Karwar Diocesan Development Centre at Karwar. With the help of the license received after the training, he applied for a loan from Syndicate bank to purchase an auto-rickshaw. Now he is earning a monthly income of ₹ 15,000. He is supporting his family and repaying the loan in instalments regularly.

'I Am Not Disabled'



Confidence and motivation to succeed in life drew Radha Kauslesh (26), a deaf and dumb school dropout girl at class 5th to the training centre of Holistic Action Research and Development

(HARD), Anupur, Madhya Pradesh. After the death of her father 12 years ago, her mother was working as a daily wage labourer as the sole breadwinner of the family.

Radha attended training course in tailoring and embroidery. Post training, Radha started working from home. Initially, she used to earn ₹ 900 per month and after two months her income rose to ₹ 2,000 per month.

Vocational Training Projects Evaluation

FVTRS has commissioned two evaluation studies in 2011-12 to organise the same on five vocational training projects. These were carried out by project implementing partners Rev S Paranjyothi from CNI-SSI, at Nagpur and Bro Sushil Toppo from Montfort institution at Laccharagarh, Jharkhand.

Objective: To assess the quality of skills training imparted and placement facilitated by the organisation for trained youth and to improve the quality of vocational training supported by FVTRS.

The evaluation mainly concentrated to look for the quality of training and the placement facilitated by the organisation that received funds from the FVTRS during the period 2008-09 and 2009-10. **We bring here the salient aspects of these studies in a series starting from this volume.**

JEEVANDHARA (Jabalpur Development Social Service Society)

Jeevandhara Centre at Katni is 10 years old. The Primary work of this Centre is vocational training. It is catering to the needs of the tribal population from the Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh States. The FVTRS supported project for the school dropout youth is part of the larger work of this Centre. During 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, the Centre catered to the needs 120 trainees. The basic courses offered are **electrician, motor mechanic and driving.**

Training facilities available: The infrastructure at Jeevandhara provides huge classrooms and workshop facilities for electrician and motor mechanic courses. Tools and equipments provided for the motor mechanic course is quite impressive. There is a full fledged hostel facility available for boys.

Trainer Competencies: The trainers are technically qualified and hold five to six years of teaching experience. And all of them are from the local area, who could communicate to the trainees in Hindi.

Presence of Curricula: There is a well defined curriculum for every course. The curriculum includes the EDP and the exposure visits

Methodology: The Jeevandhara follows the system of 40 per cent class room teaching and 60 per cent workshop and job work. Exposure to other firms and companies is done once in three months and apprenticeship is arranged for some trainees.

Gender Aspects: The computer section has some women trainees but the other courses do not have any women. It is almost a men dominated technical centre.

EDP Training: The EDP is conducted for one week, in addition to the three days of personality development course and five days of study tour for every batch. The vital subject such as the marketing skills, approaching the financial agencies and preparing the projects are covered under EDP. Unusually Jeevandhara has introduced some non-conventional activities to the trainees such as martial arts as a part of their course to boost up their self-confidence.

Placement and Linkage: The placement is done usually at the local Katni and Jabalpur areas, but some have found good jobs in Chhattisgarh State too. Driving is one of the very successful trades in terms placement. According to the information available at the centre, more than 75 per cent of the trainees have found the jobs in the respective field. Some of the trainees returned to the centre, in order to work/help in the production and continue their studies in the related fields. Few electricians and motor mechanics have got the opportunity for apprenticeship in the local industries and also in govt. agencies.

The confederation of St. Aloysius College and Jeevandhara institute has increased the scope of trainees for learning and placement. The collaboration with JAN SHAKTI SANSTHAN- a govt. sponsored programme - is providing certification to the candidates. The drivers trained from this institute are on huge demand in the surrounding towns and cities.

Our interaction with the ex-trainees has revealed that they get lot of respect in their workplace due to the discipline that they were received during the training. The ex-trainees also expressed that their success is mostly attributed to the production centre developed at the institute. Their earnings ranged from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 10,000 depending on the city/town where they work.

Trainee Qualification and Focus Group: It is quite encouraging to observe and find out that the target group is 100 per cent school dropout youth. The trainees hail mostly from the tribal regions of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Strengths of Jeevandhara: The infrastructure facilities available at Jeevandhara are excellent. The newly built classrooms and workshops are huge and appropriate for the skill training. The production centre for the welding and fabrication has enough room for the full-fledged production for the outside orders. The Jeevandhara hostel for the boys is a big strength and it attracts trainees from far off places. Jeevandhara's affiliation to St. Aloysius College and Jan Shakti Sansthan has increased the credibility of the skill training provided by them.

Matters to be improved at Jeevandhara:

- Gender balance in the selection of courses and admission process: The centre can afford to have more courses related to women as there is plenty of space available. The hostel facility for the girls may attract girls for the various courses.
- Since the Centre is situated in the outskirts of the city Katni many cannot afford to come regularly to attend the classes. Introduction of some concessions on transportation may give more of local participation.
- The placement strategy for the electrician and motor mechanics courses has to be strengthened through linkages with local Industries.
- The creative trades such as local handicrafts and management of forests products are suggestible as the majority of trainees come from the tribal areas.



From ED's Desk
**For Whom The Bells Toll?
Confined To The Refined**

FVTRS organised a Discussion Meet in New Delhi on 15 March 2012 with participation of stakeholders from across a section of organisations and scenarists who matter in skill development. The topic of discussion was on 'Skilling the Unreached People' mainly meaning what shall we do for effective coverage of the underprivileged young people who live in vulnerable conditions in slums, inaccessible regions across the country on mountain tops, forests, islands to make the skill development more inclusive as their life cannot be a travesty of human existence for no fault of them. A lot of interesting perceptions emerged from the participants and we list some of them in the report that appear in this issue in the front page.

The current skill-talk cannot be confined to the refined ones as conceived in the recent initiatives on skill development for 12 graders and above and in some cases the threshold lowered to 8th graders with a merciful approach! It was felt that the present skill development scenario should address the underprivileged youth who live incommunicado with the rest of the world and we should shed the urban bias and prejudices attached as industry is the sole saviour and absorber of the skilled hands.

Albert Joseph



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Adieu to Fr Varghese Mattamana



A man with a Midas touch.
FVTRS will be poorer by his absence on its Board.
We wish you all the best for your future work.