

News Bulletin

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SECOND EU SUPPORTED PROJECT TAKES OFF

In what would be termed as a shot in the arm, the European Union has awarded FVTRS a 3-year project on Vocational Education Training to be carried out among the marginalized thus enabling it to open its Regional Offices at Dimapur, Jodhpur and Hyderabad to work in the adjoining Backward Region Grant Fund Districts being identified by Government of India. The project has been started from 1st January 2010 and nine personnel are appointed to work exclusively for the proposed intensive interventions based at the regions and at Bangalore. The project while strengthen tie-ups with new stakeholders and service providers in these regions, will also involve in funding support to identified credible NGOs to carry out 60 Vocational Training projects in 12 States.

Inside

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Second EU Project 2010-12 | 1 |
| Highlights of the Quarter | 2 |
| EU Supported Projects | 6 |
| ED's Desk | 8 |

Title: Vocational Education and Training for Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups in India

Duration: 36 months (January 2010-December 2012)

Project Area: 12 States

Objective: The project focused on strengthening of quality Vocational Education Training (VET) in the BRGF districts for the underprivileged school dropout and illiterate youth of the selected States and to contribute to livelihood promotion, mainly in the informal sector, for excluded communities. It also caters the need of awareness creation among different stakeholders (government, private and NGOs) about the relevance of VET and the need for its promotion in the current skill mismatch in the country for sustainable development of the unorganised sector and sensitising the stakeholders on the need for maximum allocation of resources for VET.

Estimated Results of the 3-Year Project:

- 60 partners in 3 regions have synergised to a uniform strategic approach to VET
- Underprivileged youth are counseled on VET
- Increased livelihood opportunities are created for at least 6000 underprivileged youth with a focus on proliferation of more entrepreneurs
- Increased awareness among different stakeholders on VET
- More linkages established for VET and marketing with MFIs
- Replicable VET models are created

The European Union



TRAINING-OF-TRAINERS (TOT) ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT (EDP)

A six-day Training-of-Trainers’ on Entrepreneurship Development (EDP) has been structured for project co-ordinators of partner organizations to provide a thorough understanding of EDP, an essential prerequisite for skill training courses. Mr N Ramesh, Associate Senior Faculty of Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Bangalore was identified as resource person.

Two, T-o-Ts were held on 4-10 January at Bhubaneswar, Orissa and on 22-27 February at Siliguri, West Bengal where 44 project co-ordinators from the States of Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram participated. Study materials were provided to participants and certificates issued on completion of the training. Dr P Basak, Board member of FVTRS made a presentation on ‘Interpersonal Skills and Generic Skills’ on the last day of the course. Mr Roshan Rai Board member of FVTRS from Darjeeling facilitated the programme at Siliguri.



Participants at ToT at Bhubaneswar, Orissa



Participants at ToT at Siliguri, West Bengal



Certificates Distribution

REGIONAL PROMOTIONAL CONSULTATIONS

FVTRS is organising Regional Promotional Consultations from time to time to fasten up the pace of skill training in the country by sensitizing and roping in new service providers to work among underprivileged school dropout and illiterate youth who live in distant interior places. The occasion is also used to verbalise on critical gaps in the VET scenario and to bring in more consciousness on the plight of the unorganized sector with highlights on the role of MES and various MFIs in the micro-finance field to be of assistance to budding entrepreneurs. Four such one-day consultations were organised at Kolhapur in Maharashtra, Dharwad in Karnataka, Vijayawada in AP and at Agra-UP in the quarter.

KOLHAPUR CONSULTATION

In collaboration with Ashankur Charitable Trust a one-day Promotional Consultation was organised at Kolhapur, Maharashtra on 20 January. 68 participants from government, NGOs, academia, and civil society attended. Dr P Basak, FVTRS Board member delivered the key-note address on unorganised sector and the relevance of skill training.

Mr Milind Tonape, District Social Welfare Officer, Kolhapur inaugurated the programme. Mr Felix D’Souza, Programme Manager, FVTRS facilitated a session on funding procedures and processes of FVTRS and relevance of skill training in the present scenario of the country.

DHARWAD CONSULTATION

A one-day Promotional Consultation on ‘Prospects of Skills Training in the Unorganised Sector’ was organised in collaboration with Belgaum Diocesan Social Service Society at Dharwad on 2 February. 50 NGO representatives from Northern Karnataka attended. Mr Chandrakanth Bellad, MLA, Dharwad; Mr Dindalkoppa, Project Director, DRDA and Mr Shashi Mohan from CAPART, Dharwad were guests of honour on the occasion. Mr Albert Joseph and Mr Felix D’Souza facilitated the consultation.



Mr Chandrakanth Bellad, MLA-Dharwad inaugurated the Consultation

STUDY AND RESEARCH

Mr Albert Joseph and Mr Felix D'Souza held discussions with Mr Jagadananda, Board member, FVTRS and Dr Saroj Maina, Research Consultant on a 'Market Survey and Study on Trades' to be organised at Bhubaneswar. Two youth camps are also being planned as part of the study in Orissa on completion of the task to capture youth perspectives on livelihood issues and on trade feasibilities.

MEETING WITH NIOS, IGNOU, MSME

Held extensive discussions with Dr S S Jena, Chairman, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Noida, New Delhi and Prof G C Naidu, Director, School of Vocational Education and Training (VET) of IGNOU in January and discussed certification issues to provide visibility and upward mobility to trainees. This was followed by another round of discussions in March along with Dr P Basak, Board member of FVTRS where areas of cooperation are identified. MoU are being prepared for possible collaboration with these institutions.

Dr P Basak, Board Member of FVTRS, Mr Albert Joseph and Mr Felix D'Souza visited NIOS on 23 March to seek possible collaboration. Discussions were held with Dr S S Jena, Chairman and officials of NIOS on certification of trained youth in various trades in an effort to facilitate vertical growth linking the trainees also to complete higher secondary schooling. As mandated FVTRS has sent a detailed proposal mentioning trades, curricula and partner network link to NIOS. In act of solidarity, Dr Jena has agreed to organise all New Delhi based consultations/conferences of FVTRS at NIOS premises on Vocational Education and Training.

Also held a meeting with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) New Delhi on 25 March. Possibility to send proposals under RGUMY (Rajiv Gandhi Udayami Mitra Yojana) and EDI proposal to train youth in EDP and skills training were discussed in detail with Mr S K Goyal, Director, MSME, Government of India. FVTRS was asked to send proposal and also to encourage skill training project partners to send proposal directly to MSME for organising EDP training.

Visited also Prof G C Naidu, Director, School of VET and Dr RSP Singh of IGNOU and other staff to further strengthen collaboration specifically for certification for trained youth together with IGNOU. The detail proposal has been sent to IGNOU to further take up the matter in the forthcoming meeting that IGNOU will organise in April/May.



Participants at Dharwad Consultation

VIJAYAWADA CONSULTATION

For promotion of Vocational Training among school dropout youth in the region, a one-day Promotional Consultation was organised at Vijayawada on 17 February. 52 NGO representatives attended. Bro. C A Thomas, Boy's Town, Hyderabad extended support to organise the consultation at Vijayawada. Mr Albert Joseph and Mr Felix D'Souza facilitated the consultation.



Vijayawada Consultation

AGRA CONSULTATION

A consultation on 'Prospects of Skill Training in the Unorganised Sector' was conducted at Agra, Uttar Pradesh on 24 March. Archbishop Albert D'Souza inaugurated the programme. Fr Binoy, Director, Agra Catholic Diocese Social Service Society and Sr Mary P T, Director, Regional Forum were among the guests on the occasion. 42 NGO representatives participated. Mr Albert Joseph and Mr Felix D'Souza facilitated the consultation. Dr P Basak, Board member of FVTRS gave a presentation on Unorganised Sector highlighting the present conditions in the unorganised sector in India in general and Agra in particular.



Agra Consultation



Meeting with NIOS, Noida

CONFERENCE MODERATED

Moderated and chaired a Regional Conference to 'Evolve Efficient Grant Management System' towards improving Government-NGOs cooperation in Women & Child Development schemes of National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) at their Regional Centre at Bangalore on 16 February.



NIPCCD Conference

CII CONFERENCE ON SKILL

Attended Skill Conference organised by CII, Kerala on 'What can Government, Industry and Academia do to bridge the skill gap?' at Cochin on 19 February. Occasion was used to discuss with KITCO officials on future plans of collaboration.



CII Conference, Cochin

ACCOUNTS REVIEW BY MISEREOB

Mr Diogo Ferreira, Auditor from Misereob along with Mr K R Sebastine from Caritas India visited FVTRS from 2-5 March to review accounting processes and procedures and agreed on future compliances as regards Misereob grants.



Mr Diogo Ferreira with FVTRS staff

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

A Governing Board meeting of FVTRS was held on 12 March 2010 at Bangalore and reviewed FVTRS activities and plans for the financial year 2010-11.

PROJECT SELCTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Project Selection Committee meeting was held along with the Governing Board meeting on 12 March. 14 project proposals were approved for a sum of Rs. 65,92,425/- for promoting skill training in different trades for 2331 youth in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

PARTNERS' EXPOSURE AND EXCHANGE, NAGPUR

A two-day Partners' Exchange Meet was organised at Nagpur on 9-10 March. It brought together 23 representatives (Chief Functionaries, Co-ordinators, Instructors) of partner organizations from the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh.

Mr A D Ramteke, Additional Dy. Commissioner of Nagpur Municipal Corporation graced the inauguration session and emphasized upon the need of Vocational Training. A sharing session was held where participants exchanged their views on issues of trainees' retention, certification, training methods, linkage, etc.

Participants visited Church of North India Social Service Institute (CNISSI) training centre and interacted with trainees, instructors, co-ordinators which was followed by a visit to Butibori Manufacturer' Association - 40 kms away from Nagpur - and other industries around that helped participants to understand possible issues in placement, skill-set and recent employment trends prevalent in industrial arena. They also visited Sewa Gram, ashram of Mahatma Gandhi and Centre of Science for Villages, an organization running various vocational training activities in Wardha on the second day.



Participants at Nagpur Exposure and Exchange Programme



Partners visiting Industrial units

PARTNERS' EXPOSURE AND EXCHANGE, RANCHI

A two-day exchange and exposure meet was organised at Ranchi on 12-13 March for 32 representatives of partner organizations of North Indian States; Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

A sharing session was held on the occasion and visits to training centers of Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh, Ranchi and Vocational Training Centre (VTC), Lacharagarh. Participants interacted with a group of entrepreneurs who have started a readymade garment centre after completing the training from VTC and effected employment to others.



Ranchi Partners' Exposure and Exchange Programme

NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS

42 project proposals were received in the quarter.

FUNDS RELEASED

Rs. 60,68,475/- has been released for 27 projects during the quarter.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PRE-ASSESSMENT VISITS

Monitoring visits to four projects in Orissa and Tamil Nadu were done by Mr Felix D'Souza and Mr C P Nicholas. Mr Albert Joseph has visited projects at Khandagiri, Orissa and interacted with trainees along with Mr Felix D'Souza. This apart, twelve pre-assessment visits were done in the States of Bihar, Orissa, Northern Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh state was done by Mr Felix D'Souza and Mr C P Nicholas.

STAFF EDUCATIONAL TOUR

An educational tour of FVTRS staff was organised from 27 – 29 January to Goa. Team visited places of interest like St Francis Xavier' Church, St Francis of Assisi and Archeological Museum, Spice plantation garden, Aguada Fortress and beaches of Goa. The occasion was utilized to revisit, review and internalise previous capacity building exercises on Team Building, Entrepreneurship Skill Development, Communication Skills, and Management classes by a series of resource persons and experts in the past. The team felt the time was well spent with a healthy blend of fun and new learning.



Team Building Exercise at Goa

Miscellaneous

STAFF RECIPROCAL AND MUTUAL ACTION ('SRAMA')

Mr Albert Joseph, made a presentation on "Travails and Tribulations of Muslims of our country" on 15 January under in-house-staff-grooming concept. The occasion brought to the fore issues of exclusion of minorities in the country despite various Commissions and ways on inclusionary mechanisms.

DISTRIBUTION OF IEC MATERIALS

- News Bulletin-January and three edition of e-newsletter has been published and circulated to stakeholders during the last quarter of 2009-10.
- Annual Report of 2008-09 has been circulated to those who had not participated in National Skill Conference in December 2009.
- Report of National Skill Conference, Consultation reports and T-o-T programmes were circulated to participants.



- A new Website for FVTRS has been designed and commissioned from February 2010.

DILIGENCE AUDITING

The statutory auditor of FVTRS has carried out a diligence auditing on all FVTRS grants to comply with accounting norms including financial reporting system in an effort to mainstream and straighten records.

FVTRS PROPOSAL & BUDGET 2010-11

Project proposal along with budget for financial year 2010-2011 for FVTRS activities were forwarded to Misereor in March 2010.

STAFF TRAINING ON LEADERSHIP

Organising a leadership training for FVTRS staff was discussed with Allen Management System, Bangalore to be held in May/June.

THANK YOU, MR M L SATYAN!!

The services of Mr M L Satyan Project Manager, EU supported project has come to an end on 28 February on completion of his tenure. We thank him profusely for his contribution to FVTRS and wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

EU- SUPPORTED PROJECT ON STRENGTHENING THE CONCEPT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

COMPLETION OF EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTED PROJECT, 2007-09

The three-year EU supported project has completed successfully by end of December 2009. It has further reinforced functional vocational training interventions on viable trades and skills for marginalised communities in 5 States of India with two associating RPPCs. The process of project compliances and evaluation from Misereor were carried out during the quarter.

EU PROJECT COMPLIANCES

- Auditing of accounts of FVTRS and RPPCs of the concluded European Union project for 2007-09 has been completed and forwarded to Misereor.
- Final narrative report - 2009 of Western, Eastern regions and FVTRS were submitted to Misereor.
- Annual reports, financial reports and IEC materials of 2009 were sent to Misereor/ European Union.

PRE-EVALUATION OF EU SUPPORTED PROJECT, 2007-09

Ms Anita Sharma, internal evaluator has done the pre-evaluation exercise of the EU-supported project along with Western & Eastern RPPC partners and FVTRS staff at Bangalore on 8 and 9 February. Pre-evaluation for northern partners was held at New Delhi on 13 February, facilitated by Mr Albert Joseph and Ms Anita Sharma.



Pre-Evaluation, EU Project at Bangalore



Pre-Evaluation, EU Project at New Delhi

FINAL EVALUATION OF EU SUPPORTED PROJECT, 2007-09

Evaluation of the European Union supported project on Vocational Training 2007-2009 was done by Misereor appointed international evaluator, Mr Ralf Lange from FAKT Germany along with Indian evaluator Ms Anita Sharma from 2-17 March 2010. The evaluators met FVTRS Board and Advisory Committee members on 4 March. They visited EU project operational areas in the east and west of the country from 8-12 March with the purpose of meeting a cross section of stakeholders connected to VET. Further, a stakeholders' meet too was held at Bangalore on 17 March where the findings mainly on advocacy and lobbying issues were discussed, and suggestions received for improvement.



Mr Ralf Lange and Ms Anita Sharma with RPPCs and FVTRS Team at Bangalore



EU Project Evaluation: Stakeholders' Meet

STAFF RECRUITMENT FOR THE NEW EU SUPPORTED PROJECT ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE BRGF DISTRICTS

Interviews and recruitments were done in January and February for new positions under the European Union supported project 2010-12.

HEARTY WELCOME! NEW TEAM FOR EU PROJECT 2010-12

- Ms Chinmayee Subash - Project Manager from 15 February.
- Mr Afroz Khan - Assistant Project Manager on 10 March.
- Mr R B Prashanth -Central Documentation Officer.
- Teams at Regional Offices at Dimapur and Hyderabad are also in place. Dimapur team is headed By Ms Aokola Imsong as Regional Manager and Mr Deben Sharma as Documentation Officer. Hyderabad team is headed by Mr Akula Aravinda Rao as Regional Manager and Mr A. Raghuvveer as Documentation Officer.
- Mr Vinod Pandey will join as Documentation Officer at Regional office at Jodhpur. Regional Manager for Jodhpur will be joining shortly.

VISITS TO REGIONAL TEAMS

Ms Chinmayee, Project Manager, EU supported project visited the newly appointed staff and finalised office premises of regional offices at Dimapur, Jodhpur and Hyderabad during her visit from 2-6 March. Office space for three regions has been shortlisted and rent agreements are being signed.

NEW EU PROJECT 'CONTACT DAY'

Mr Albert Joseph and Ms Chinmayee Subash participated in the Contact Day Programme held in New Delhi on 22 March. All EU supported projects' leaders attend the meet. Information on processes pertaining to project implementation, reporting and financial matters were discussed in great detail.

Forthcoming:

1. Introduction and Orientation for new EU project staff from 6-9 April at Bangalore
2. EU Project Visit to Jodhpur on 16-17 April
3. Project Implementation Plan workshop on 20 April at Bangalore
4. EU Project Visit to Dimapur on 22-23 April
5. Youth Convention at Puri on 24 April
6. Meeting with European Parliament on 28 April at Hyderabad
7. EU Project Visit at Hyderabad on 29 April
8. PSC Meeting on 28 July
9. Annual General Body Meeting on 29 July



EU SUPPORTED PROJECT

BATON AND BATTLES

Dear Friends

We're very happy to let our friends know that FVTRS has completed one year term as a separate unique entity after being in-charge as legal holder by itself. Came with the baton are a barrel of battles that it had to come across in daily life in straightening parameters for effective functioning at office level, professional coordination of projects running in the field and in accessing resources for work diversification and expansion.

The newly began European Union supported project on vocational training for the vulnerable and marginalised sections in 12 States of India from January 2010 has been morale booster for FVTRS as it could enable it to reach to the unreached areas that would touch the lives of thousands of underprivileged youth in this skilling process in future. It was quite heartening and rewarding to note here that in the current calendar, European Union has supported 10 projects related to vocational education and training perhaps taking a cue from the positive potential experience that they had derived from the maiden project that FVTRS had handled.

Let's hope and trust that these ventures at empowering the opportunity starved youth through a skill to facilitate employment and entrepreneurship will definitely save them from the daily slights that they encounter in this efforts of mainstreaming the mean- streamed. Hearty congratulations to comrades!

Albert Joseph



'WE ARE READY!'



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