

**8th National Skill Conference held in Chennai, 30-31 October, 2014**  
**“SKILL INDIA”**



**NSC 2014 Souvenir release by Mr. Dilip Chenoy, MD & CEO, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) with other dignitaries**

This year The National Skill Conference was organised at Hotel Green Park, Chennai. The eighth NSC was inaugurated by Dr. RC Gandhi, IAS, Advisor and Consultant to Educational Institutions, Industries and a Social Human Rights advocate on 30th October 2014 in a function presided over by Dr. Antony Kariyil, President of FVTRS. This is year the theme of the conference was SKILL INDIA.

In his inaugural address Dr. RC Gandhi expressed his happiness to be among the people working for the development of the poor youth, as he himself is working for the cause and development of Dalit community.



**Mr. Dilip Chenoy, during his inaugural speech**

Mr. Dilip Chenoy, MD and CEO of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), New Delhi was the Chief Guest of the conference. In his address he gave data on the increasing demand for skilled labour and business opportunities available. He spoke about the four challenges faced by NSDC; making skill training aspirational, environment enabling, qualitative training and student mobilization. Further he explained various structures and operational modes of NSDC. As a conclusion he said that NSDC facilitates skill development by creating opportunities/scope, funding the opportunities, and enabling the opportunities.

Dr. J Alexander, IAS, FVTRS Advisory Committee member, in his inspirational introductory talk, expressed the necessity of inculcating skills such as sharing, love, compassion, selflessness etc. and life skills along with technical training to the youth. During the inaugural session, Mr. P M Philip, Executive Director, FVTRS welcomed participants, while Dr. LS Ghandi Doss, Treasurer of FVTRS proposed the vote of thanks to the dignitaries. There was also a brief introduction about FVTRS by Mr. Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

Thematic sessions were the highlights of this NSC. The following are the summary of the thematic sessions.

Subject	Resource Person	Moderator
Present skill scenario - Issues, Challenges and Opportunities	Dr. RC Ghandi IAS	Sr. Sudha Varghese
Rural poverty and agriculture as livelihood option	Dr. VR Haridas	Dr. Shalini Mawar
Skilling youth in renewable energy sources	Mr. Alfred Vinod	Dr. Shalini Mawar
Promoting gainful enterprises	Mr. V Ramakrishnan Mr. D Navaneetha Sivakumar	Fr. Vereesh
Person-appropriate for skilling	Mr. Nirad Bag Mr. Prateep Chakraborty	Sr. Rincy
Soft skill support for livelihood	Mr. Akash Sethi	Fr. George
Skilling the urban poor	Mr. Shekhar Arora Mr. Jayachandran Rajarethinam	Rev. Daniel



**Introductory speech by, Dr. J Alexander, IAS (Retd.)**



**Mr. JP Nelson and Mr. GS Sethi, during Group discussion**

Thematic sessions were followed by Group Discussion facilitated by Mr. G. S Sethi, FVTRS' General Body member, and the plenary was moderated by Mr. J P Nelson, Executive Director, IGSSS. This was intended to invite the partners to place on record their views and suggestions to FVTRS in order to prepare a strategy paper which helps scaling up the activities, expand the network and the funding partners etc.

### Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was graced with the presence of the Chief Guest, Mr. R Natarajan, Project Director, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), the Guest of Honour Ms. S Selvi Ravindran, Additional General Manager-Projects, BHEL-Chennai, FVTRS' board members and the participants.

The Guest of Honour Ms. S Selvi Ravindran, mentioned in her speech that issue of women who are not given importance in public sector and not allowed to reach the higher level, despite their competencies. She pointed out that the women representation in public sector is only 12 per cent whereas they constitute 50 per cent of the total population.



**Mr. R Natarajan, addressing the participants**



**Valedictory speech by, Ms. S Selvi Ravindran**

Mr. R Natarajan, stated in his address that the objective of TNSDC is to teach, train and transform the underprivileged youth as useful citizens and successful entrepreneurs.

Dr. Antony Kariyil presided the valedictory function. Dr. L S Ghandi Doss welcomed everybody to the valedictory function and Mr. PM Philip, Executive Director, FVTRS proposed the vote of thanks and the NSC concluded with the National Anthem.



### Memorial Lecture

Memorial Lecture was held on 30 October, 2014 in Chennai in remembrance of Bro. Jose Vetticattil, the first President of FVTRS. The programme started with lighting of lamp by the dignitaries. The participants observed one minute silence to pay homage to late Bro. Jose Vetticattil. It was then followed by 'Floral Tribute' by dignitaries and participants. Mr. Gnani Sankaran, Writer-Journalist, Chennai delivered the lecture on the theme "*Social obstacles in skill development of our youth*". Some of the salient features of the session are as follows:



Lighting of the lamp by, Mr. Gnani Sankaran

**Family:** The family influences hugely on the future of the children as parents have lot of expectations from their children and decide about the field in which their children should enter rather than giving them the liberty of choosing their paths, thus leading them to enter a field not-interesting which results in failures. Moreover, the youth are caught in the power structure in the family which is mostly undemocratic.

**Gender:** The issues in the family are related to gender. Boy child and girl child get different treatment in the family. When it comes to skill training there are certain trades that are male dominated. Women do not get an opportunity to learn such trades. Trans-gender persons are excluded everywhere.

**Caste:** The Caste also determines the job one has to do and there is social resistance to change once occupation. In both gender and caste the occupation is decided by stereotypes and not by aptitudes and talents. Reservation and minority quota are due to the caste system.

**Media:** Today media is not challenging. It is supporting the status quo or compromising with the reality.

**Government:** Biased government systems perpetuate the caste system and non-inclusion of women in government jobs. The government also fails to curb media and alcoholism. They are not able to prevent the drop outs. The educational system is not child friendly. Today's education has a disconnect with the day-to-day life.

Dr. J Alexander, the Moderator of the session, thanked the speaker for sharing his personal life experiences and knowledge that were inspiring and emphasised the need for incorporating life skills into the skill training module. The Memorial Lecture concluded with the formal vote of thanks proposed by Sr. Suman.

### National Partners' Meeting

The National Partners' Meet was held on 29 October, 2014 in Chennai. The programme started with an inaugural function under the presidentship of Dr. Antony Kariyil, President, FVTRS. During the meet Dr. Uma Vennam, Professor and Head of the Department of Social Work at Sri Padmavathi Mahila Vishwa Vidyanilayam, Tirupathi, made a presentation on Tracer Study. She mentioned that the Tracer Study is gaining importance and has become the need of the hour and a buzz word at all levels. This training was appreciated by many partners as it is useful for following up with the trainees after the training programme.



Dr. Uma Vennam, inaugurating the National Partners' meet

During the programme three partners shared case studies from their organizations. Ms. Mallika from DROPPS, Tamil Nadu; Fr. Sebastian from KDDC, Karnataka, and Sr. Bindu Thomas from Preriton Ki Rani Community College, Jharkhand. Further interactive sessions between the participants and presenters have been helpful in developing a better understanding on the process of creating good case studies.



Participants during National Partners' meet

Mr. Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager and Mr. Nicholas, Assistant Manager-Monitoring, made presentations on meaningful ways of implementing skill training projects, improved reporting procedure, activities conducted with the collaboration of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) etc.

There was also an Exposure Visit focusing on the theme 'Person-appropriate Skilling' to five institutes in Chennai namely Pathway, Cheshire Home, Vidya Sagar, Bala Vihar and Seva Samajam Boys Home Industrial School.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER



Release of FVTRS DVD's



Participants of the conference



Dignitaries on the stage



Thematic session Resource persons



Sr. Daphne, addressing the audience



Mr. Alfred Vinod



Mr. D Navaneeth Sivakumar



Dr. VR HariDas



Dr. Uma Vennam

## EDITORIAL

My dear associates and well-wishers,

It is with immense pleasure and pride I write this first editorial for our news bulletin. I am writing this in the capacity of the Executive Director of FVTRS for the first time. After taking over the position of the Executive Director, I had the opportunity to meet all our partners together and I get a feeling that almost all the partners are happy with the nature of our association. We also hold almost the same perspective and frame work of working for the underprivileged youth of this country. I take this as a very good platform for us to move forward with increased interest and dynamism. The forgone quarter has been an important quarter for FVTRS. We had many interactive sessions with our partners and partner staff members like 8th National Skill Conference, National partners meet, Founder memorial lecture, Training programmes and New partners meet etc. We have tried to capture the highlights of them in this bulletin along with some case studies. I hope that this bulletin will provide you a reading time that will make you more inspiring to take up much more challenging work.

I am sure you all will agree with me that the work that we are carrying out is something very special because we work for those marginalised group for whom there is not much persons and organisation working for i.e. the school drop outs. We strongly believe that they have become dropouts and considered as 'waste' not because of their fault or a choice by themselves. It is basically because of the systemic reasons which are inbuilt in the social structures and process. In fact the deprivation of the parents of our children has resulted in the drop out of these children. Remember nobody has a choice of their parents. Therefore, there is a need to give focused attention to address the issues of the school dropouts.

We also look forward this bulletin as an interactive communication system with our stake holders. Therefore we invite your constructive feedback, suggestions and opinions to the email address [richard@fvtrs.org](mailto:richard@fvtrs.org) so that we will become more relevant and effective.

We have also migrated to a new email system and request you to take note of it.

Let us together move forward and be mutually supportive.

**WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

**P. M. Philip,**  
Executive Director.



### Special General Body Meeting

A special General Body Meeting was held on 29th October 2014. This meeting considered names of person to be included into the General Body. Accordingly four new members namely Fr. Peter Brank, Director Karnataka Regional Organisation for Social Service, Bangalore, Ms. Anitha Sharma, Development Consultant New Delhi, Ms. Mercy Kappen, Programme Director, Visthar Bangalore and Dr. Joseph I Injodey, Principal, Rajagiri Centre for Management Studies were selected for the General Body. We welcome them whole heartedly to the FVTRS family. We hope that their association will contribute the professional functioning of FVTRS

### Governing Board Meeting

We had the third Governing Board meeting of the financial year at Hotel Green Park, Chennai. During the meeting Dr. V. M Thomas who is representing CRI in the General Body of FVTRS has been selected as the member of the Governing Board. Dr. V M Thomas has been a member of General Body for the last two years.

### Project Selection Committee Meeting

FVTRS had its 21st Project Selection Committee Meeting in the month of October 2014, which approved 26 new projects for a sum of Rs. 17,389,500. The spread of the approved projects are as follows.

Region	No. of Projects Approved
Eastern Region	6
North east	2
North	7
West	4
South	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

We will reach out to 3407 dropout youths through these projects in which 65 per cent are women and 35 per cent are men.

### Orientation on Project Implementation Plan and New Partners Meet



**Participants of PIP Meet, Lucknow**

As a continuation of the PSC meeting and the approval of new project, we have conducted two Project Implementation Plan orientation and New Partners Meet for the 26 new partners. The first meeting was

held on 5 December 2014 at KROSS, Bangalore for the southern partners and was inaugurated by Fr. Peter Brank, Director of KROSS and Board Member of FVTRS. The second was held on 19th December at Sahabhangi Shikshan Kendra, Lucknow for the rest of the new partners.

The main aim of the programme was to familiarize them about the process of implementation of FVTRS projects, system of accounting and reporting to be followed. We have also familiarised the participants with the different formats of FVTRS which is to be used in the project cycle management.

This time we have included sessions on FCRA and Income Tax applicable to societies and TDS which is appreciated by all the participants. Project Directors and coordinators of 26 projects have attended the meeting. These meetings were facilitated by programme staff, accounts staff and Executive Director of FVTRS.

### Training of Trainers

FVTRS aims to organize a pool of resource persons on life skills who will be at the service of partners and other stakeholders. We also intend to build the capacity of our partners so that training on life skills shall be mainstreamed as a cross-cutting theme in our vocational training programme. As a first step, we have organized a 3-day Training for potential trainers selected from the partner staff. This training was organized at KROSS, Bangalore from 25-27 November 2014 for the partners of South India.



**Mr. PM Philip, Executive Director, FVTRS during his inaugural speech**

The facilitators of this training were from Quest Alliance-Bangalore, a well-known organisation in this field. 25 partner-coordinators and 3-FVTRS staff attended the programme. A similar one will be organized for the partners from North India in the month of January 2015 at Lucknow.

### Staff Retirement

Mr. M L Satyan has completed his services with FVTRS with effect from 5 December 2014 on attaining the superannuation. He has served FVTRS for more than six years in different capacities. We recognise and appreciate his dedicated services and contributions to FVTRS. The team members of FVTRS organized a fitting Farewell to Mr. Satyan. We wish him all success in his future endeavors.



FVTRS Team during Farewell to Mr. ML Satyan

**Association with Schneider Electric Indian Foundation**

Schneider Electric Indian Foundation under their Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) has supported FVTRS to set-up an electric lab to train school dropout youth in Electrical trade at Sindanour in Raichur, Karnataka. On further discussion with the CSR team of Schneider Electric Indian Foundation we have agreed to support 10 partners each in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. This is the first initiative of FVTRS in association with a CSR Foundation. We hope that it will be an important milestone in the interventions of FVTRS.

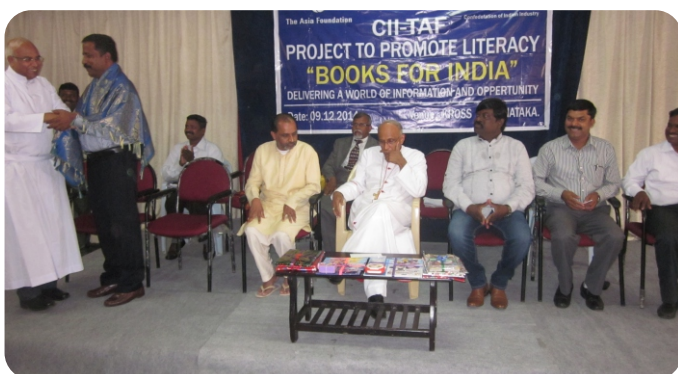
**Networking**

ILO's SIYB Books: Final review and corrections of the ILO-SIYB training manuals were carried out from 21-28 November in FVTRS and it has been submitted to ILO for approval.

FVTRS team has visited ILO office in New Delhi and discussed different ways and means to enhance the partnership. FVTRS will be further looking forward this association as an important opportunity to be part of the main stream development scenario. FVTRS also thinking of organizing refresher programme for the trainers who had undergone training in association with ILO.

**Distribution of Library books to school**

In association with CII, Southern Region FVTRS and KROSS facilitated the distribution of Library Books to 100 schools in Karnataka.



Dignitaries during inaugural function of Library Books distribution

**Tripartite Meeting**

FVTRS, IGSSS and NEG-Fire had a joint meeting in New Delhi. The purpose of the meeting was to collaborate each other for mutual support and synergy of efforts. We have identified three areas of collaboration namely programmatic, thematic and Net-working. This will be pursued further.

**On the Hills into the waters**

The staff members of FVTRS along with their family had a visit to Kerala. They visited Kottayam Social Service Society, their agricultural farm and the programmes promoted by FVTRS. This occasion was used to take the family members to Vagamon, St. Alphonsa Pilgrim Centre, Bharananganam. They also went for a house boat trip in the backwaters of Kerala at Kumarakom and visited Alleppey beach.



FVTRS Team with their family during exposure tour

**Christmas and New Year Celebration**

FVTRS wishes all of you Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. The team FVTRS also celebrated Christmas and New Year in our office. Along with all staff members Dr. Ghandi Doss, treasurer of FVTRS also joined us during the occasion. Dr. J Alexander IAS advisor of FVTRS came online and gave the Christmas Message.



FVTRS Team during Christmas celebration





### Workshop on Service Tax

The Executive Director and Ms. Noyola Sheela, Asst. Manager (Finance) attended a workshop on implications of 'Service Tax Rules on NGOs' organized by Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Bangalore.

New E-mail system FVTRS has introduced new e-mail systems in FVTRS for better and easy communications. The new id will be [director@fvtrs.org](mailto:director@fvtrs.org) You can also contact the programme staff using the id [programme@fvtrs.org](mailto:programme@fvtrs.org) All are requested to note the changes and use the new e-mail address.

### Birthday Bells

The following personnel in FVTRS has celebrated their birthdays during this quarter.

Mr. P M Philip, Mr. Gerald Antony, Mr. M L Satyan, Mr. C P Nicholas and Ms. Noyola Sheela. The FVTRS team has organized special functions to wish and felicitate them.

### Forthcoming events

1. Training of Trainers (ToT) from 21-23 January, 2015 at SSK, Lucknow
2. Governing Board Meeting on 27 January 2015, in Cochin
3. Coordinators meets at:  
*Bangalore: 12-13 February, 2015*  
*Lucknow: 23-24 February, 2015*  
*Kolkata: 19-20 March, 2015*
4. Orientation to new partners Bangalore on 11 February and in Delhi on 20 February, 2015

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## Case Study of the Organisation

Development for Rural Oppressed People's Service Society (DROPSS) is a voluntary organisation registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act in 1999. It is a women headed organisation and all the members of the executive committee and office bearers are women. Organisation focuses on women, children, adolescent girls, slum dwellers and HIV/AIDS affected families.

Organisation has been partner with FVTRS under European Union project has trained 110 school dropout youth in garment making, computer DTP & photo shop and sanitary napkin making.

Present the organisation is working in Karaikudi and Manamadurai towns in Sivagangai district of Tamil Nadu. The project focuses on persons affected by HIV/AIDS. The focus area has many floating population since it is very close to Madurai the pilgrimage city and industrial city Shivkashi. This results increase of number of persons infected by HIV/AIDS in the area and they are excluded from the mainstream of the society.

The organisation is specially working with 135 HIV Positive youth for three different trades.

1. Two-wheeler Mechanism - 30 men
2. Garment Making - 45 women
3. Basic Computer and DTP Training - 60 youth (30 women and 30 men)

One batch of the training has been completed with 45 youth. Out of 45 6 are self employed and 8 are employed. DROPSS is trying to employ/self employ rest of the trained youth. Second batch of the training programme is already started.

## CASE STUDIES



**P. Ajjayya**, 34-years old, from Molakalmuru who never stepped into school due to poverty and lack of support from the family. Since there is no opportunity for any employment in the area his life was in pathetic condition. Taking care of children's education was challenging as he was getting a seasonal employment. He underwent training in 3 wheeler driving through Divya Kripa Seva Kendra by the financial support of FVTRS. Having obtained license after the training he applied for internal loans (chiti) to purchase a second-hand auto. Now he is earning a monthly income of Rs. 10,000/-. He is supporting his family and repaying the loan instalments regularly.



**Chaithramma**, 20-years old, a school dropout from backward and economically poor society, from Chithradurga District, Karnataka. She joined Bethany Vocational Training Centre through parish priest of Chitradurga. Due to poverty she was unable to go for studies. After she joined bed-side nursing course. She was very much confident in practical training and she expressed her desire of practicing what she learned. She decided to earn money through her skill. she works for a convent to take care of elderly people and her salary is Rs. 6000/- per month and from the income she is supported her mother's operation. Today, she is happy and satisfied that she is able to support her family.



**S. Vaishnavi**, 28-years old is a forsaken woman who is living in Thoppukkollu village. She was in need of earnings for managing the family but the available works were not regular and benefitting. She was given training in Artificial Jewellery making by PMSSS, Pudukottai, Tamilnadu. After the training, she met the local marketing sources and got work orders to make fancy ornaments. She is doing the work on full-time basis at home and earning Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 6000/- per month.



**Dhanvanti Prajapat**, 22-years old from backward class of Salumber. Her father is potter in the town. Now she is supporting her family with the income she earns through the tailoring work, her earning income is up to Rs. 8000/- per month and she said poverty does not hinder me from being active entrepreneurship development. It enables me to pay for raw material, school's tuition fees of brother and sister. Now I am promoting my garment making and tailoring work locally because I am getting a lot of customers order. She said that although in her business there is a lot of competition, so she have to do my best. Every dropout poor women should learn some skills and do their own business in order to be self reliant and live a life of dignity. I would like to give thanks for the Adarsh Shiksha Samiti, Rajasthan and its organisers.