

News Bulletin

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SIGNS MoU WITH NIOS A DOUBLE EDGED COOPERATION ON ACADEMIC LINKAGE AND VT CERTIFICATION

A significant achievement of the quarter was signing of an MoU between National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and FVTRS to facilitate vertical mobility of school dropout youth trainees who undergo vocational training (VT) to link them to the next academic levels like SSLC and PUC in an attempt to provide recognition and value addition.

A series of meetings with NIOS preceded in the past six months to accelerate the finalisation process of MoU between NIOS and FVTRS. **On 16 June, the MoU has been signed by Mr G C Saxena, IAS, Secretary on behalf of NIOS and Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director of FVTRS in the presence of Dr S S Jena, Chairman and staff of NIOS.**



Signing MoU with NIOS

Dr Mamata Srivastav, Dy. Director, Vocational Education facilitated the process from NIOS.

Inside

MoU with NIOS	1
Highlights of the Quarter	2
EU Supported Projects	5
NIOS-FVTRS: MoU Responses	7
ED's Desk	8



Final Run-up to the Signing of MoU at NIOS

A roadmap to consolidate the cooperation was discussed and a meeting is finalised for the first/second week of August 2010 to prepare the detail action plan based on the signed MoU together with 40 selected partner NGOs. Other schedule and time lines are being prepared.

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Certification Matters A Lot in Their Life

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (PIP) WORKSHOP

FVTRS is providing an opportunity to newly joining partners to get familiarised with the pattern of functioning of the organisation, project cycle, reporting pattern etc by organising PIP workshops. A one-day PIP workshop was held at Bangalore on 20 April for partners of seven States viz Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. 36 representatives of 18 partner organisations attended.

Strategies and steps to strengthen partnership cooperation were discussed in promoting the cause of vocational training to school dropout youth.



PIP Workshop-Bangalore

RESEARCH AND SURVEY AND YOUTH CONVENTION

Research and Analysis Consultants (RAC) organised a youth convention programme titled 'JEEVIKA'- an initiative to promote rural livelihood and entrepreneurship development - at Puri on 24-25 April. FVTRS supported the programme.

Mr Jagadananda Board member of FVTRS has inaugurated the two-day event as the chief guest. Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director spoke on skill training and EDP that enable youth to get better expressions in their life. The youth convention is part of the on-going micro-level research study on youth perceptions, trades and employment opportunities pertaining to Bhubaneswar city.



Mr Jagadananda at Puri Convention

SKILLS TRAINING NEEDS ANALYSIS (STNA) WORKSHOP

Two, one-day STNA workshops were held at Bangalore on 10-11 May and at Lucknow on 13-14 May for partners of southern, northern and eastern States. 42 representatives of 25 partner organisations from Haryana, Delhi, Uttaranchal,

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala participated.

The objective of STNA workshop was to orient new partners of FVTRS about an overview and relevance of functional vocational training (FVT) in the unorganised sector followed by inputs on issues like methods of market analysis, developing basic business skills, steps in planning FVT and innovative approaches in identifying trades for skills training. Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager facilitated the workshops.



Skills Training Needs Analysis Workshop-Bangalore



Skills Training Needs Analysis Workshop-Lucknow

PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES

MEETING EU AMBASSADOR AND EUROPEAN UNION PARLIAMENTARIANS

Held discussions with the visiting delegation of EU parliamentarians at Hyderabad on 28 April. Issues pertaining to the EU supported project in India, tax matters and benefits of EU support in the project operational areas were discussed. Civil society activists, journalists and policy makers were present on the occasion who interacted with the delegation in the dinner meeting. **The occasion gave an opportunity to interact with the EU Ambassador to India Ms Danilela Smadja as well. Invited her as Chief Guest for the next National Skill Conference in 2011.**

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT AT NEW DELHI

The two-day international workshop of skill development on 'Policy Learning and Exchange' was organised by Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR) of Planning Commission in collaboration with Network for Policy Research,

Review and Advice on Education and Training (NORRAG) Geneva at New Delhi on 6-7 May. Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission, inaugurated the workshop and chaired by economist Mr Arjun Sen Gupta. Mr Albert Joseph Executive Director and Mr Felix D'Souza Programme Manager FVTRS participated.

Planning ministry is seriously pondering on finding/generating resources first approach, instead of the conventional planning schemes first and execute approach as is being currently practised, informed Secretary, and economist Dr Pranoy Sen to fasten delivery of the intended objects. 'Good is not the enemy of great' said Mr. Manish Sabharwal, Chairman of TeamLease Foundation motivating service providers in skill training not look too much into the excellent models but with moderation. Economists Mr Arjun Sen Gupta and Mr Ravi Srivastav participated and presented papers.



International Workshop on Skill Development at New Delhi

NIPCCD WORKSHOP, BANGALORE

Mr Albert Joseph has facilitated two sessions on Logical Framework Approach (LFA) and Result Based Management (RBM) based on input, outcome, and impact leading to sustainability of interventions in the workshop organised by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD). Workshop was organised on 'Planning and Developing Proposal' for prospective implementing NGO partners at Bangalore on 18 May.

INWENT E-LEARNING WORKSHOP

InWent organised a two-day convention on 'e-learning strategies for the Alumni and Partners' at Hyderabad on 24-25 June. Mr Albert Joseph participated. InWent is a Delhi based German consulting organisation involved in capacity building.



InWent Convention at Hyderabad

COOPERATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

MR PATRICK FROM SCIAF UK VISITS FVTRS

Mr Percy Patrick from Scottish Catholic International Aids Funds (SCIAF) UK visited FVTRS on 11 and 18 May to discuss and plan possible partnership in the arena of skill training. He expressed the concerns of SCIAF to start interventions in States like Jharkhand and North-eastern States. SCIAF is more inclined to promote skills training programmes in agriculture and farm sector.

FVTRS is finalising a concept note focussing on EDP in Jharkhand State with SCIAF support.



Mr Percy Patrick (Second from Left) with FVTRS Team

MEETING WITH MSME

Held discussions with Mr S K Goyal, Director, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) on 15 and 17 June. Sought cooperation on outsourcing defunct infrastructure available elsewhere in the country that belong to the ministry to start entrepreneurial development ventures. Locations under consideration are Dimapur, Goa, Bhopal, Lucknow, Aizwal and Agartala. These centres are being contacted to formalise the concept.

MEETING WITH NSDC

A meeting with Mr Youvaraj Galada, Vice President, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) was held at New Delhi on 15 June to explore possible partnership/collaboration in the field of skill training. NSDC is focusing on potential models for skill development in the country through mobile (cell phone) technology. NSDC welcomed innovative ideas to take on further the cause of skill development from FVTRS.

EDP PROPOSAL TO VODAFONE

In continuation to the dialogue with Vodafone India Foundation, FVTRS submitted a concept note to Dr A K John, Advisor of Vodafone in a meeting held on 15 June. Held discussion on three options that were proposed by FVTRS. Detail project proposal is being prepared based on the feedback received from Vodafone regarding EDP related interventions.

MEETING AT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (DGET)

Met Mr R L Singh, Director, Training at DGET on 16 June on possibility of involving ITIs in the proposed EDP programme. Discussed also the possibility of involving the faculty and trainees in EDP programmes organised by FVTRS at different locations in the country. The matter is to be further discussed with respective State government structures.

He welcomed the idea of organising specific EDP programmes for the trainees and faculties/trainers in ITIs.

EVALUATION OF THE CONCLUDED EU SUPPORTED PROJECT

Regional programme Promotion Centres (RPPCs) partners and FVTRS staff jointly discussed matters related to crucial areas/points in a final stock-taking meeting based on the above evaluation report in Bangalore on 21 June. Main findings and learnings were communicated to Misereor. Recommendations are already being put to practice in FVTRS operational strategy and the currently running EU supported project.

Two network meetings of associate partners of the project are fixed to be held at Mumbai and Puri on 19 August and on 31 August.



RPPC Partners at FVTRS Office Bangalore

PROJECT MONITORING AND PRE-ASSESSMENT VISITS

Mr Felix D’Souza Programme Manager and Mr C Nicholas did monitoring visits to 12 projects and pre-assessment visits to 13 projects in the States of Jammu, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala during the quarter.

NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS

80 projects proposals were received in the quarter. Out of these, 44 proposals are from EU supported project operational areas.

FUNDS RELEASED

Rs. 37 lakh has been released for various projects during the quarter.

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME WORKSHOP

A three-day Leadership and Management (LAMP) programme was organised for FVTRS staff at Bangalore on 2-4 June. Mr Vivek Albuquerque, a Management Expert from Allen Management conducted it.

17 team members from Bangalore, and Dimapur, Jodhpur and Hyderabad regional offices under EU supported project participated. Workshop spread across sessions addressing leadership and management aspects. Each session was followed by interactive stimulation exercises and role plays.

Three groups were formed for group exercises, presentations, and brainstorming discussions. Each group has contributed to strengthen Vision and Mission statements of FVTRS through group discussions on the concluding day which would be further fine-tuned and documented. Certificates were distributed to the participants on conclusion.



FVTRS Team during the three-day LAMP Workshop Bangalore

WRITING SKILLS WORKSHOP

A one-day ‘Writing Skills’ workshop was organised for FVTRS Staff on 5 June at Bangalore. Mr Koshy Mathew facilitated the sessions that dealt with rules of readability, principle of communication, reader friendly writing, and plan your writing. He recommended to follow a uniform style-guide at organisation level.

HEARTY WELCOME

Mr Balakrushna Panda and Ms Usha R have been appointed as Asst Manager, EU supported Project and Project Monitoring Officer. They will join Bangalore office from 1 July 2010.

EU- SUPPORTED PROJECT ON 'VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED GROUPS IN INDIA'

EU SUPPORTED PROJECT STAFF ORIENTATION/INDUCTION DONE

Newly appointed staff of European Union supported project on 'VET for the vulnerable and marginalised groups in India' from three regional offices, and Bangalore were gathered at Bangalore on 6-8 April for a three-day Introduction and Orientation Meet. Objective was to acquaint the team about project objectives, EU visibility policy, relevance of VET and approach of FVTRS.

Input sessions were held on issues pertaining to VET viz marketing analysis methods for selection of trades, training needs analysis, innovative models of VET, and dynamics in project partnership and certification issues.

Specific sessions on technical aspect of the project were held on online database management, reporting and documentation, budget, administrative and financial procedures recommended under the newly commenced project. On the last day, new staff members visited FVTRS office premises to interact with the existing team.



EU supported Project Staff Orientation Meet at Bangalore

TEAM BONDING EXERCISE

A one-day outdoor programme was organised at Bangalore on 9 April to facilitate team bonding between newly joined staff of EU supported project and existing team of FVTRS.



FVTRS Team

REGIONAL OFFICES GET SET

Three regional offices commenced under EU supported project at Dimapur, Hyderabad and Jodhpur. Procured logistics for office set-up, with new signboards. Project brochure and stickers were published to initiate communication with stakeholders.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISIT TO REGIONAL TEAMS

Mr Albert Joseph visited all the three regional offices in the month of April and held discussions with team members.

Visited stakeholders, representatives of civil society, NGOs at Dimapur, Jodhpur and Hyderabad. Possibilities to organise promotional consultation workshops have been explored in Dimapur region.

Met Mr A K Parida IAS, Principal Secretary, Youth Services, Government of Andhra Pradesh; NIRD Hyderabad and CAPART officials in an effort to explore collaboration in the State.

LIAISONING EFFORTS INITIATED DIMAPUR

Regional team visited BRGF districts in Nagaland and Assam to identify potential stakeholders and initiated contacts with stakeholders in West Bengal as well. Ms Chinmayee Subash, Project Manager EU supported project visited Dimapur on 17-19 May and meetings were held with seven stakeholders in Dimapur-Nagaland and Diphu-Assam along with the team.



Visit of Regional Team at Diphu-Assam

HYDERABAD

Team held meetings with various stakeholders, NGOs, district officers, skill development institutions in Mahaboobnagar, Khammam, Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Rangareddy and Warangal of Andhra Pradesh and in Pondicherry in the month of June. Information regarding objective of newly commenced EU supported project, partnership criteria and the need of VT interventions in BRGF regions were given. NGOs were also provided with the required information about preparation of project proposals on the occasion.



Regional Team Visited Stakeholders at Karimnagar-AP

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EU-SUPPORTED PROJECT



Stakeholders Meeting at Pondicherry

RESIGNATION

Mr Vinod Pandey and Mr Deben Sharma have resigned as Documentation Officers from the EU aided project.

PROMOTIONAL CONSULTATION AT HYDERABAD

The first one-day promotional interface was held at NIMSME Hyderabad on 29 June with the theme 'Prospects of Skill Training in the Unorganised Sector' under EU supported Project. 170 participants including representatives of 65 NGOs, stakeholders and dignitaries attended.



Dr Chukka Kondaiah Addresses the Consultation

The objective was to sensitise, identify and select prospective VT players from Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) districts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to strengthen skill training activities. Mr Chukka Kondaiah, Director General of NIMSME was the Chief Guest. Dr P Basak, Board member of FVTRS gave keynote address on present scenario of the unorganised sector and skill deficit in the country. Ms Chinmayee Subash, Project Manager facilitated the workshop.

Four organisations presented their expertise mainly in the field of EDP to a packed audience till 5.30 pm. Dr C Rani, Director NIMSME moderated the panel discussions. Mr Akula Aravinda Rao Regional Manager proposed the vote of thanks at the end.



Audience at Hyderabad Consultation

STNA AT HYDERABAD

Following the consultation/interface at Hyderabad, a Skills Training Needs Analysis (STNA) meeting was organised for representatives of 17 prospective projects. Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager FVTRS conducted it. He took sessions detailing out the steps to modify the proposals in tandem with the guidelines of FVTRS.

Meeting was facilitated by Mr Akula Aravinda Rao Regional Manager and Ms Chinmayee Subash Project Manager of EU supported project.



STNA Workshop at Hyderabad

Miscellaneous

- IEC and Promotional materials were provided to EU regional teams during the orientation programme. The package included EU supported project brochure, stickers, FVTRS Hindi and English brochure, Annual Report, NB, Calendar, FVTRS Documentary film 'Not Born to Burn'.
- Advertisement for three positions under the EU supported project and under FVTRS viz Asst Project Manager, Documentation Officer at Jodhpur and Project Monitoring Officer at Bangalore was given in devnetjobs.org and national newspapers. 140 applications were received, of which 20 were called for interview on 29 May and short-listed candidates.
- FVTRS email address has been changed to fvtrs@dataone.in from April onwards. The information has been communicated to all the stakeholders.
- FVTRS website is being upgraded with latest updates.
- Feedback on evaluation report on the concluded EU project to deepen the concept of skill training in eight States compiled to Misereor.
- Documents compilation related to AGBM and GB meeting are in progress.
- Financial auditing of FVTRS for the financial year 2009-10 is being done by Statutory auditor Mr Vittal Rao & co.

Forthcoming

1. Two-day STNA programme for Youth Directors of CBCI-ICYM at Bangalore on 6-7 July.
2. Final Auditing of FVTRS and three RPPC partners of the concluded EU project (2007-09) by Mr Oliver Schuetz, Auditor from BDO, Germany from 2-10 July.
3. Governing Board Meeting at Bangalore on 28 July.
4. Project Selection Committee (PSC) Meeting at Bangalore on 28 July.
5. Annual General Board Meeting at Bangalore on 29 July.
6. NIOS-FVTRS meeting at New Delhi first/second week of August.
7. Promotional Consultation Workshop at Jodhpur on 10 August.
8. Network meetings of Associate Partners of the concluded EU supported project (2007-09) at Mumbai on 19 August and at Puri on 31 August.
9. Uttar Kshetriya Samaj Vikas Kendra (Forum) meeting at Lucknow on 30 September.

‘Thank you very much for sending us the valuable information regarding the association with NIOS. It will be helpful for us. We will contact the NIOS shortly.’ *Sarat Pradhan, Keonjhar, Orissa*

‘A great opportunity for the dropout youth to avail this facility and we will strive to promote.’
George Vettikattil, Waynad, Kerala

‘Congratulate you and thank you for the wonderful cooperation you have built up with NIOS, New Delhi. We make use of this opportunity for the school dropout youth of our area.’ *Sebastian Karakkat, Calicut, Kerala*

‘Appreciate and congratulate you for linking FVTRS with NIOS which will help partners in benefiting the poor and marginalised youth.’ *Jerome Gonsalves, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra*

‘Our hearty congratulations to you and FVTRS team. It is a great achievement by FVTRS. We are facing the difficulties of certification now. In Ahmedabad, St. Xavier’s Social Service Society has NIOS centre and we will talk to them about this development and possible linkages.’ *Meera Rafi, Ahmedabad, Gujarat*

OUR STRENGTH

NACHIKA: ‘TRADE UNION SISTERS’

Nachika Bhamini, 35, a poor tribal woman, is now a semi-skilled mason in the male-dominated masonry world. Earlier, when she was compelled to work as a construction worker at the age of 15 to feed her family of three, she was getting a daily wage of Rs 15/- only. She remained illiterate and unmarried. Struggling with poverty, she came to know about the vocational training run by **Ankuran, Rayagada, Orissa**. Bhamini joined the mason training course, which helped her to become a semi-skilled mason. Now she earns Rs 140/- per day.

Nachika Sirimi, younger sister of Bhamini was also a construction worker from the age of 15. Unlike her sister, she studied up to class V. Persuaded by Bhamini, she completed masonry training course and formed a group of trained women to take up construction work independently. The effort protects them from middlemen and their exploitation.

JIMMIMA MAKES TO TAMIL NADU

Jimmima learned how to measure, cut and stitch in spite of her paralytic, poor language and chaotic conditions due to riots in Kandhamal, Orissa. She kept in her mind that she wants to work and earn her own living. Soon after the training, she managed to get a job in Tamil Nadu in a cotton factory. ‘I will work first and earn enough money and buy one machine for myself and then stitch’ was her resolve that paid dividend to her. Now she is

FVTRS HAS RECEIVED OVERWHELMING RESPONSES FROM PARTNERS AFTER HAVING THE MOU SIGNED WITH NIOS.

‘Really it is a good news for all of us to link, leverage knowledge and resources and certification with NIOS. We hope there are many things that can emerge.’ *Pradeep Mohapatra, Bhubaneswar, Orissa*

‘To explore the possibility of collaboration in our area, as we are in the process of developing a registration facility with other National Educational Institution at Delhi.’ *Regi Pymattam, Latebar, Jharkhand*

‘As there is no NIOS in Naupada, Orissa, would like to open an NIOS centre in our institution. We are willing to comply with all NIOS terms & conditions and request your help to initiate the move.’ *Biswajit Padhi, Naupada, Orissa*

‘Great initiative of making a difference in the lives of the school dropout youth.’
Joseph Thoomponal, Rewari, Haryana

‘Yes, it will be a great achievement if we can work in association with NIOS.’
Sukumar Sarkar, Nadia, West Bengal

‘Happy to hear about MoU with NIOS as we too are accredited by NIOS for tailoring cutting, beautician and computer training programmes. Also we have applied for new trades plumbing and electrician.’ *Ann Maria, Samba, Jammu & Kashmir*

earning Rs. 3000/- per month. She underwent skill training at **St. Joseph Community College, Bhubaneswar.**

AMIT THE 'UNCHALLENGED'

Amit is a physically challenged and school dropout youth whose parents are agricultural labourers who work also in local brick kilns. He attended a cell phone repair, electronics and electric appliance repair course at **Rashtriya Jan Vikas Sansthan, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh.**

On completion, he started his own repair shop for mobile and electronics at a local market at Khampur Bazar, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh. He got a loan from the Cashpor Microcredit for this venture. He is earning Rs 200-300 per day.



Amit in his shop

TRAINED TO BE A PLUMBER

Narahari, a Dalit school dropout youth is a plumber in a local star hotel at Rayagada, Orissa. His journey to become a plumber started way back when he was compelled to discontinue his studies. He was the only bread earner for the family of five with two sisters and a brother. In search of work, he left the village and landed at Rayagada as an unskilled worker.

In the meantime, he came to know about the skills training course from a friend who got trained at **Ankuran.** He joined and learnt the skill on plumber trade. Narahari got the opportunity to work as a plumber at the hotel and earns a monthly salary of Rs 3000/- and able to meet the needs of his family.

EDITORIAL

'Good is not the Enemy of Great'

'After all, Good is not the Enemy of Great' is what was heard sound in one of the international meetings in New Delhi on Skill Development. The speaker was making a reference to the 'excellent' models of skills training to the 'satisfactory and good' models that are available and being implemented in the country by some well meaning sections, and exhorting the audience to get going without wasting time in the aimless pursuit of excellence and reaching nowhere finally. The trend is true of what once a State politician told in the early seventies that we are in the race to make the system perfect without having a notion about what that vision is and blindly spending resources whether efforts will ever see the sun!

India is young. It is where one finds 70 per cent of the population lives below 35 years of age. 94 per cent of the workforce belongs to the unorganised sector which contributes 58 per cent to the GDP, it is estimated that the share by/of the so called redundant youth faction alone comes to roughly 40 per cent to our economy! If not more. One can only imagine in this context, on that quantum jump to prosperity and size of Indian economy if all youth get the minimum space through opportunities at fair and good models (read not through excellent) and shape up our Indian economy and resultant prosperity that could dispel many of our present day serious concerns we are engaged with. Introducing and enhancing skill is the way-out. Let us start imagine and work for that reality as Albert Einstein told 'Imagination is better than knowledge' as knowledge has a connotation also on excellence.

Albert Joseph
Executive Director



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