

President of FVTRS Meets Pope Francis



Dr Antony Kariyil's personal Audience with His Holiness Pope Francis on 28 April 2013 in Rome

Visit to Community Colleges in United States

Mr Albert Joseph visited Community Colleges from 9-20 April in US. Held discussions with Dr Parvin Behroozi Bagherpour, Associate Vice Chancellor, Ms Madeline Burillo, Associate Vice Chancellor of Work Force Instruction and Dr Ricardo J Solis, Executive Director, Foreign relations at Houston Community College on 11 and 16 April on emulation prospects with relevant modifications that suit to Indian conditions.

Highlights of the Discussions:

- Facilitation of the Community College initiatives together with the interested stakeholders in India by Houston Community College.
- Possibility of HCC facilitating a Training of Trainers (ToT) for the interested stakeholders to explain on Community College philosophy, its systems, reach and scope etc. for a duration of two days, prior to the National Skill Conference 2013.
- HCC's participation in the next annual National Skill Conference (NSC) scheduled at Hyderabad in India organised by FVTRS in November 2013 to address a wide diverse audience on the subject of US model of Community Colleges.

Ms Sheila Eapen facilitated the meetings.



(From right) Dr Ricardo J Solis, Executive Director, Ms Madeline Burillo, Associate VC, Ms Sheila Eapen, Dr Parvin Behroozi Bagherpour, Associate VC and Mr Albert Joseph

Mr Albert Joseph also met officials at Bronx Community Colleges, New York on 22 April and discussed possibilities of cooperation prospects.

Meeting with Misereor, Germany

The President of FVTRS Fr Antony Kariyil and Mr Albert Joseph held discussions with Dr Anselm Meyer Antz and Ms Claudia Hartmann on various aspects of partnership.

Salient Features of Discussions:

- Raising the bar of enrolment of trainee target group from 10th to 12th standard
- Local Contribution
- Enhanced Funding Support
- Community Colleges
- Visibility Concerns
- Evaluation of FVTRS activities by mid 2014

Adieu and Hearty Welcome

Ex-officio member, Dr Joseph Sebastian, ED of Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) has left the Governing Board of FVTRS on his departure from IGSSS in May 2013. FVTRS is very grateful to him for the yeomen services he rendered. We wish him all the best in his future career.



In his place has come Mr John Peter Nelson as ED of IGSSS. We extend a hearty welcome to him as ex-officio member to the General Body of FVTRS.



Dr V M Thomas, Founder-Director, Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati has been elected as President of Conference of Religious India (CRI). We extend a cordial welcome to him to the General Body of FVTRS as an ex-officio member.



Customised Community Colleges to Suit to Indian Realities

Two articles are appearing in this issue of news bulletin by officials from US Embassy in New Delhi and US Consulate at Kolkata that were published in the Hindustan Times dated June 21 and 22, 2013 on the scope, access and effectiveness to find a better expression through better employment in one's life at lesser cost for studies. While the US model of community colleges by and large speaks of youth who have attained a particular level of education for enrolment beneficial for the above category of youth, the same may not be relevant to the most deserving and willing youth in India whose educational status is far from the desired level unless the educational threshold is reduced to a great extent to cover the vast majority of school dropout youth who are early school leavers to make the approach more inclusive.

The major stumbling blocks in this customisation are functional literacy and proficiency of communication skills in a language. FVTRS is trying whether this could be made a reality in India to accommodate more youth possibly by renaming the approach as 'Livelihood Colleges', 'Skill Colleges' or as 'Life Colleges' retaining the great dignity attached to the 'collegiate' education unlike an 'institutional' ending like in ITIs, where the youth may feel more dignified. The country needs this gamechanger approach where skill development makes only baby steps with state sponsored grandstanding.

Albert Joseph

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

Manos Unidas, Madrid, Spain

On 24 April, the visitors from FVTRS held discussions with Ms Cayetana Iribarnegaray, consultant to Manos Unidas, at Madrid and discussed on the funding prospects for entrepreneurship development. A proposal on 'Create Livelihood Opportunities for the Marginalised Youth through Entrepreneurship Development Programme' was submitted to them on 20 June 2013 as a follow up to the meeting.

Robert Bosch Foundation, Stuttgart

Later, they also had discussions with Mrs Tanja Schulz, Programme Officer, International Relations -America and Asia at Robert Bosch at Stuttgart in Germany regarding possibilities of funding partnership.

Cooperation with SCIAF

A project proposal on 'Entrepreneurship Skill Training for a Better Livelihood for the School Dropout Youth in India' is submitted to Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF), following the visit of Mr Mark Brown Bridge, Programme Officer from SCIAF. Mr Brown held discussion with FVTRS on 25 April at its office premises with Mr Felix D'Souza and Mr ML Satyan, programme Managers.

New cooperation with Larsen & Toubro Construction Skill Training Institute

FVTRS has entered into a new cooperation with Larsen & Toubro Construction Skill Training Institute, Bangalore to promote and mobilise the youth in interior regions to get trained in various vocational training courses through linkage model of training. Mr B Nagaraj, Asst. Manager, Skills Training, L & T Construction Skills Training Institute, Bangalore held discussions with FVTRS on 20 May and indicated their interest for cooperation to the target group trainees of FVTRS. The Institute is offering a 3-month free vocational training programme in construction related trades with a stipend of Rs.1700 per month during the training followed by a guaranteed job on completion of the training with a minimum salary of Rs.8000 per month excluding lodging facilities.

Two meetings were held in June where FVTRS contacted its partners from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Meetings in collaboration with L & T was organised at Dharwad on 04 June 2013 to orient the northern Karnataka partners. 15 persons from 10 partner organisations participated. The partners have agreed to organise youth at their respective locations and conducted recruitment camps from 19 to 22 June 2013 at various locations.

A similar recruitment camp was organised at Coimbatore on 14 June 2013 where 49 youth participated. The youth have collected the brochure and application forms from L & T officials. The interested candidates were advised to visit L & T Construction Skill Training Institute at Bangalore with filled in application. Mr Felix D' Souza and Mr C P Nicholas represented FVTRS, and Mr Nagaraj and Mr Devaraj represented L & T in these meetings.



Dignitaries at the Inaugural Session



Recruitment at Sindanur, Karnataka

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

Study on Youth Aspiration and Skill Prospects in Odisha

On 24 May, Mr Albert Joseph held discussions with Mr Basant Mohanty, - a consultant from Odisha - along with Mr Jagadananda to organise a study on the aspirations of the youth who are excluded and living in interior regions in Odisha, as part of the advocacy and evaluation study of FVTRS.

The main purpose of the study initiated by FVTRS is to make the interventions of FVTRS more inclusive with increased participation from rural youth who are underprivileged by way of education and financial means. Various aspects related to the project work, aspirations of the youth in today's context, their future needs, migration, major gaps, employment/self employment scope, suggestions and recommendations from various stakeholders are proposed to be covered in the study. A one-day meeting was organised in this context on 13 June 2013 at Bhubaneswar together with the consultant. Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager of FVTRS facilitated the meeting.

It was stressed that stakeholders need to be involved in mobilising resources for skill training programmes integrating various schemes, to focus on cent per cent placement, to organise forward and backward linkages, seek CSR cooperation from industries with a holistic development of the trainees. The following were listed:

- Conduct study on innovative and viable trades for school dropout and illiterate youth
- Set up Panchayat level Counseling Centres for youth to explain and motivate them to opt for rural based vocational training to enjoy rural life.
- Engage in agriculture, horticulture and forestry to promote more agriculture based trades.
- Promote rural business
- Give more support to rural based training and trades
- Build capacity of partners and trainees
- Implement region-culture specific trades

Five districts namely Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar were suggested for the study.



Mr Basant Mohanty Addresses the Participants

Farewell

Mr Madan Mohan Dass, Assistant Accounts Officer was relieved of his services in May 2013. FVTRS wishes him all the best in his future endeavours.

Welcome

Mr S Gerald has joined FVTRS as Driver from May 2013. Hearty Welcome.



Reach More School Dropout Youth Thro' FVTRS
Rev William D'Souza, Archbishop of Patna and Board member of FVTRS exhorted the new partners of FVTRS during the one-day Project Implementation Plan workshop organised at Patna, Bihar on 17 April 2013. 16 persons from nine organisations attended. He motivated the participants to reach out to the underprivileged youth who belong to marginalised communities through vocational training. Padmashree Sr Sudha Varghese who was present on the occasion advised partners to focus more on quality training to achieve the mission of FVTRS. Mr Felix D'Souza facilitated the workshop.

SYB and GYB-Training on Rural Entrepreneurship Development

Fund raising support to conduct Start Your Business (SYB) and Generate Your Business (GYB) programmes were organised under the ILO-FVTRS collaboration on ToT for the end beneficiary trainees. Details of the programmes organised so far are:



Participants from one Training Course

No. of organisations supported	10
No. of GYB programmes conducted	17
No. of SYB programmes conducted	12
No. of youth attended GYB	470
No. of youth attended SYB	199
Total amount spent for GYB and SYB	17,40,244

Venue for National Conference 2013

Mr Felix D'Souza and Mr ML Satyan visited Hyderabad on 14-15 April and Mumbai on 23-24 April to search for a suitable venue for the forthcoming National Skill Conference (NSC). The same will be held at Hotel Green Park, Secunderabad (Hyderabad) in Andhra Pradesh on 27-29 of November 2013.

'Present and Defend' the Project Proposal by New Partner NGOs

FVTRS has invited prospective partner NGOs who submitted project proposals from various parts of the country to present their project proposals along with other credentials personally in an effort to optimise costs on travel and time. The occasion is used to interview them on their capabilities and to verify the relevant documents. 16 NGO representatives visited FVTRS during May-June. The objectives of the interview are:

- To know more about partner organisations, focus youth and proposed trades prior to pre-assessment visit.
- To have personal interaction with the partner NGOs by FVTRS team.
- To orient the partner NGOs on FVTRS and its skill training projects.
- To ward off long-distance, unwarranted journeys by FVTRS staff in unbecoming cases.

Filling New Positions

An advertisement for the positions of Assistant Accounts Officer and Project Monitoring Officer was released on Devnetjobsindia portal on 4 June. More than 100 applications were received for both categories. The interview will be held on 30-31 July at Bangalore.

AGBM, Retreat and National Skill Conference

- The AGBM will be held on 26 September, preceded by a Governing Board Meet on 25 at Bangalore.
- The Annual Retreat and the Founder Memorial Lecture will be held on 27 September at Dharmaram Vidya Khestram, Bangalore.
- The Annual Partners' Meet and the NSC will be held from 27-29 November at Hotel Green Park, Secunderabad, in Andhra Pradesh.

Fund release: FVTRS released Rs.77.58 lakh to 37 projects during this quarter.

New Project Proposals received-35

Monitoring and Pre-Assessment visits

- Monitoring Visits in Tamil Nadu - 2
- Monitoring visits in Karnataka - 7
- Monitoring visits in Andhra Pradesh-1
- Pre-assessment visit to Tamil Nadu - 2
- Pre-assessment visit to Odisha - 1

Forthcoming Events

30-31 July: Interview for the position of Project Monitoring Officer and Assistant Accounts Officer, Bangalore.

25 September: Governing Board Meeting, Bangalore

26 September: AGBM, Bangalore

27 September: Annual Retreat and the Founder Memorial Lecture, Bangalore

27-29 November: National Partners' Meet and National Skill Conference 2013.

Estimating India's Skill Gap on a Realistic Basis for 2022

In India the total workforce during 2009-10 was 470 million. However, the working age population (aged between 15 and 59 years) was 431. Of the labour force of 431 million, nearly 126 million are not even literate. An additional 102 million of the labour force has below primary or only primary level education. The low level of general education corresponds to the continuing high share of those engaged in agriculture and even high share of the total population that lives in rural areas. The first challenge for skill development in the twelfth plan is twofold. The first is that existing 228 million in the workforce, or half of the current workforce, that is either literate or have only attended primary or less education (who are likely to be functionally illiterate except for the ability to write their names), must be ensured functional literacy and numeracy. The second challenge is to ensure that all children between the ages of six and 14 are completing elementary education by the end of the Twelfth Plan, as required by the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009. It is difficult to prepare a teenager for a vocation if she/he has not completed at least eight years of schooling.

Those engaged in agriculture, numbering 244 million in 2009-10, clearly cannot be said to be unskilled in their main vocation of crop production and/or allied activities in agriculture; for centuries they have been reasonably skilled farmers. It is only when they migrate out of agriculture into non-agricultural activities that they can be referred as "unskilled". The absolute number of those receiving formal vocational training in 2009-10 was 1.9 million. Only 10 per cent of the labour force and workforce in the working age group is vocationally trained.

Out of the 421 million workers in the age group of 15-59, 125 million are illiterate. The proportion of illiterate workers is maximum in agriculture and allied activities, followed by the non-manufacturing sector. With such a high proportion of illiterates in the workforce, it is but natural to expect a very low level of technical education among the workers. This is precisely the case across sectors (agriculture, manufacturing, non-manufacturing industry and services).

In the Eleventh Five-year Plan, the National Policy on Skill Development has set a target of 500 million to be skilled by 2022. There are some major concerns with the 500 million targets. First, there is no definition of "skill" that underlies this estimate. Second, it seriously overestimates the number of those who are to be skilled in the non-agricultural workforce, since they assume that the majority of agricultural workers will move out of agriculture. There is no expectation of any massive outflow of workers out of agriculture into industry and services. The third reason for their overestimate is that they make no estimate of how many are currently already trained who are in the workforce; they only have an estimate of the annual flow of training capacity (of the 17 ministries and private players).

Source: Economic and Political WEEKLY, March 30, 2013, Vol XLVIII No 13



Students who have been awarded financial aid in various American community colleges this year with US consul general Dean Thompson in Kolkata

Students who aim to study abroad after passing class 12 but do not have much money to fund their education can explore the 1200 community colleges in the United States. Community colleges are the gateway to higher education in the US for a growing number of students. They are the largest and the fastest-growing sector of higher education in America. Community colleges are two-year colleges offering students an opportunity to learn their higher education in a small community-based environment.

These colleges offer various types of courses, which are mostly job-oriented. Often, students in the US do not take admission in degree colleges after high school and instead opt for community colleges, which increase their chances of finding employment. But there are cases where students move on to degree colleges after completing their stint at community colleges. Depending on the courses, students are awarded associate degrees or certificates.

US community colleges offer international students numerous benefits, including opportunities to improve English language skills and develop an understanding of the American culture. These colleges provide students with an opportunity to earn credits for the first two years of a four-year bachelor's degree at high quality, accredited institutions. They also allow students to access training for associate degree or non-degree careers, and they offer continuing education and personal development classes for the broad spectrum.

According to Rachel Sunden, Deputy Director of American Centre, Kolkata, community colleges are the best option for those willing to study in the US at low cost. "The courses offered by community colleges are affordable. They are in fact much less expensive than the four-year degree courses offered by various US universities and are comparatively easier to get into" said Sunden. And there are several scholarships on offer too.

The best part of studying at a community college is that it offers a chance to get lateral entry into degree courses in the US. "In states like California and Virginia, students completing two-year courses in community colleges need to spend just two more years in degree colleges instead of four years and get a degree. In this way students can get a degree by spending less money. No wonder community colleges have become successful model for both domestic and international students," Sunden said.

India too, is keen to start community colleges and would be looking at the US for giving inputs on how to start and run them. "India has recognised the role of community colleges and the US would love to be of help. Next week, Secretary of

State John Kerry will be in New Delhi, which would provide further scope for discussion on the matter", said Sunden.

Five students from Kolkata, two from Manipur and one from Siliguri have been selected for the Community College Initiative Programme (CCIP) 2013 and are currently preparing to leave for US, Counsel General Dean Thompson said, "Community college initiative is an extraordinary opportunity for these young people and would be a life-changing experience for them".

CCIP is a fully funded programme where the students would get to spend one year at a community college. Sudipto Paul, a second year economics honours student of Asutosh College would be studying film making at Scottsdale Community College in Arizona. "I aspire to become a film director and am looking forward to do this course. Graduation is no longer my priority," Paul said. Agreed Pooja Kaur, a first year English honours student of South City College, who would be studying adventure tourism at Miami Dade College in Miami, Florida. "This will be right opportunity for me to learn something which can become my living," she said.

Adil Ahmed Khan, the youngest of the lot, has passed higher secondary from Mohammed Jan HS School on Zakaria Street with 58 per cent marks but is yet, to take admission in any degree college in the city as he is preparing to leave for the US to study information technology at Eastern Iowa Community College, Muscatine, Iowa. The youngest of the five sisters and four brothers said, "It is a dream coming true. I am now confident that I would be able to contribute some money to my family soon after I complete my education. My family is struggling to make both ends meet. Hence, there is no point for me to take admission in a general degree college," Khan said.

While these students, chosen under CCIP, would not be spending a single penny, for those waiting to get into a community college in the US next year this is the right time to start. "There are several scholarships on offer and the entrance too is easy. Community colleges not only cater to youth but people of all ages. We have instances where people who have university degrees and have good work experience too enrol in community college to change career course," said Sunden.

The distinguished alumni of US community colleges, include California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, NASA space shuttle commander Eileen Collins, Star Wars movie series producer/director George Lucas, film actors Tom Hanks and Clint Eastwood, fashion designer Calvin Klein, human genome scientist Craig Venter and US surgeon general Richard Carmona.

Reasons to choose a Community College:

- Lower tuition fees
- Easy transfer to a university
- They are accredited institutions
- Wide variety of programmes
- English as a second language
- A supportive learning environment

Note: For more information about studying at a US community college, please log on to www.cc-usa.org

How to build a modern workforce

India and the US have an opportunity to expand ties in the field of education for the prosperity of both nations

Tara D Sonenshine and Martha Kanter

Innovation in the 21st century has reshaped the world of work and civil society. Innovation has redefined the knowledge and skills necessary to support emerging sectors of the economy. Raising the overall level of educational attainment for all of our citizens is critical and addressing the skills gap in key industries is essential.

Community colleges are uniquely positioned to design their curricula to match local labour market conditions, making them flexible and relevant to today's economy and job market. They are open access institutions committed to providing job-relevant educational opportunities to students in their local communities.

The challenge, then, for the United States and India is to think of ways we can promote more opportunities for our diverse and dynamic populations to access these and other educational opportunities.

President Barack Obama is looking to community colleges to play a key role in increasing the number of US college

graduates and helping more Americans get the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in an increasingly interconnected global world. In the US, these institutions enrol more students than any other higher education sector, and almost half of all US undergraduate students attend one of nearly 1,100 community colleges across the country.

Many of those colleges work closely with local employer partners to design course materials that lead to industry-recognised certificates and degrees.

India is faced with the similar challenge of educating its population for rapidly emerging fields, and is exploring best practices in the community college model to help prepare Indians for these new jobs. It is taking steps to enable the development of a national network of community colleges in order to meet workforce demands.

In February, the US participated in the International Community College Conference hosted by India's Ministry of Human Resource Development, which focused on creating a network of 200 community colleges with ties to industry. The



COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO DESIGN THEIR CURRICULA TO MATCH LOCAL CONDITIONS

government has established the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) to coordinate and streamline the skill development efforts of the government and the private sector to achieve the nation's skilling targets.

Many community college-industry partnerships begin with a workforce need

expressed by an individual employer. Other partnerships begin with a community college that recognises a regional economic sector challenge and calls upon businesses to help it meet the challenge.

The Obama Administration has made a historic investment in community colleges through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant programme. This programme provides US community colleges with additional resources to build and expand short-term career training programmes, in partnership with employers.

The US and India are both looking closely at emerging industries as target sectors in which to train our youth or provide new skills for professionals so that they can advance their lives and seek secure futures for themselves and their families.

The upcoming US-India Higher Education Dialogue will provide an opportunity for our two countries to deepen our partnerships and consider ways to advance the prosperity of our nations. Offering opportunities for affordable higher education that prepare students for the modern workforce is an ambitious, achievable goal.

Tara D Sonenshine is US under-secretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs and Martha Kanter is US under-secretary of education

The views expressed by the authors are personal

Source: Hindustan Times-New Delhi, 22 June 2013

Farmers Shrink, Labourers Swell

Displacement, and lack of jobs are the main reasons behind increase in farm labour. Since 2001 more than 10,000 people have been joining the agricultural labour force in India each day.



Bad and Good Performers

Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have seen a significant rise in agricultural labour in the past two decades. Both the states have over 45 per cent of their worker population engaged in agriculture labour.

Number of farmers in the country decreased by over 8.6 million in the past one decade. The decline is for the second time since Independence; in 1971-80 around 20 million farmers had left farming.

Only 54.6 per cent of total workers in India are now part of the agriculture sector—a decline of 3.6 per cent from 2001.

Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam have witnessed a decline from 45 per cent and above of workers' population in 1991 to 25-35 per cent in 2011. The 2011 Census brought good news for Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram where the number of cultivators has been over 45 per cent and above since 1991.

Source: Down To Earth, May 16-31, 2013

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Ministry/Department

1. Ministry of Agriculture
2. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
3. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
4. Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
5. Ministry of Human Resource Development
6. Ministry of Labour (DGET)
7. Ministry of Rural Development
8. Ministry of MSME
9. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
10. Ministry of Textiles
11. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
12. Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation
13. Department of Information Technology
14. Khadi and Village Industries Corporation
15. Department of Tourism
16. Department of Women and Child Development
17. HUDCO and others in construction sector

Note: Please go to Google and type the name of the desired Ministry or Department to get detailed information. Similarly, you may get information on State government schemes by typing the name of the respective State next to the Ministry/Department.

Will and Skill

Jagadish has become a proud owner of a motor rewinding shop at Rehli near Sagar in Madhya Pradesh. When he sits and works in his shop, no one can make out that he is a physically challenged person. His monthly income is more than Rs.5000. How did he reach here? It is his will power clubbed with his skill that enabled him to overcome all types of obstacles and reach a respectable status in the society. Jagadish was already labelled as "poor" since he was born and brought up in an economically backward family. The polio attack at his tender age became an additional stigma and discrimination. Unable to pursue his studies he was looking for a suitable opening. When he learnt about vocational training being provided by a local NGO with the support from FVTRS, he enrolled himself in the Motor Rewinding course. With great enthusiasm he learnt everything systematically. His family and friends were very supportive. After completing his training he availed loan from a bank and started his own enterprise. His "will" and "skill" have enabled him to progress in life.



Rashmita: A Changed Life

Rashmita, aged 22, belongs to an economically backward tribal family. She dropped out of school after completing 9th class due to poverty and attended a 3-month cell phone repairing course organised by a local NGO. She completed the training successfully and earned a good name from the organisers. The trainer has a cell-phone repairing shop in the local town. Seeing the positive qualities of Rashmita, he decided to employ her in his shop. She was lucky to get this job soon after the completion of her training. She is now earning Rs.3000 per month. The trainer has promised an increase of her salary as he gets more work. The customers are pleased with the repair service rendered by Rashmita. This has instilled a lot of self-confidence in her. She now feels that her life is changed due to the new employment.

Successful Entrepreneur

Rajkumari Rajput is a resident of a slum at Kolar Road in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Her husband was the sole bread winner of the family consisting of four members. His monthly income was not enough to meet the family needs. Rajkumari Rajput decided to support her husband and joined the vocational training centre to learn tailoring and embroidery. After the training, she started to work from home. The organisation arranged for a bank loan of Rs.8,000 to purchase one electronic sewing cum embroidery machine. She is now getting orders from neighbouring areas and earning an average income of Rs.5,500/-per month. This has improved the family's financial status and she plans to expand her tailoring business.



Towards The Right Direction

Pathalingappa dropped out of school due to poverty. As an unskilled person, he was unemployed and used to do odd jobs. He heard about vocational training programme provided by a local NGO in collaboration with FVTRS and chose the trade two-wheeler mechanism. He learnt the trade very well in four months and got a job on salary basis. Presently he is earning Rs.4,500/- per month. After gaining more experience, he has a plan to establish his own two-wheeler mechanic shop. He now feels that he is moving towards the right direction in life.



Announcement from Ministry of Rural Development Under NRLM

Revised Guidelines: Special Projects for Placement Linked Skill Development of Rural Youths under Aajeevika (NRLM)

Following the recommendations of an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) constituted to address the issue of capacity building and training of the unemployed youth in the rural areas, a new component called Special Projects for Skill Development of Rural Youth was introduced in Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), designed to equip the unemployed rural youth from BPL households with skills which would enable them to either secure placement in the industry or pursue sustainable self employment opportunities through Micro Enterprises.

The Ministry has initiated this programme in the year 2004-05 and over the years, the programme has scaled up significantly. Under this Scheme, rural BPL youth are provided training, after which they are placed in the organised sector. The training is of short duration, normally up to 3 months. The implementation of this Programme is entrusted to qualified Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), having capabilities in both training and placement and selected by the MoRD through a transparent and objective appraisal process. The P.I.As mostly belong to the private sector.

Demand for skilled labour is expected to increase in the coming 10 years. In the 12th Plan, skilling of 50.0 lakh rural BPL youth would be undertaken under NRLM with an outlay of Rs.7500 to Rs.8000 crore. The Ministry has therefore, has accorded high priority to this work and has set up a Skills and Placement Sub Mission under NRLM.

The kind of scaling up now envisaged requires a very active participation from the State Governments. The States are in a better position to identify deserving poor candidates, assess local skill gaps, propose suitable skilling programmes, monitor training and placement and muster support for the trainees in the initial stage. Government of India has accordingly taken a decision to entrust the responsibility of implementing the programme to the States as soon as the necessary capacity for the purpose is available.

In light of the experience of the Ministry over the last eight years, the guidelines for implementation are revised as below. The revised guidelines are issued in supersession of the earlier guidelines issued under SGSY Special Projects.

1. Objective of Special Projects:

The objective of each Special Projects for Skill Development would be to ensure a time-bound training and capacity building programme delivered by a Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for bringing a specific number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families above the poverty line through placement ensuring regular wage employment.

2. Nature of Beneficiaries

2.1 The target groups for these projects are candidates from rural BPL households.

2.2 BPL beneficiaries from families who have completed 100 days (or maximum permissible days of work) under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) should be given preference in selection of beneficiaries under the Project

2.3 The number of rural BPL candidates to be covered should be specifically indicated in the Project Proposal along with proposed trades, districts, course duration etc.

2.4 Disabled/SC, ST, Women Head of Families.

3. Project Implementing Agency

3.1 The following entities are permitted to present proposals for implementing projects under Aajeevika Special Projects:

- a) Private Companies, both for Profit and Not for Profit
- b) Non Government Agencies
- c) Federations of SHGs, provided that the Federation is registered either under the Cooperatives Act, The Society Registration Act, the Trust Act etc.
- d) Panchayati Raj Institutions
- e) Government/Semi Government Organisations/Autonomous Government Organisations at the State and National Level

3.2 The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a template in which agencies interested in implementing projects under the Special Project component of Aajeevika, should submit their proposals in.

Note: All the formats are available in the NRLM website.