

National Skill Conference: December 2011

Background Information: Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTRS) based at Bangalore has been organising the National Skill Conference (NSC) in a row over the last five years bringing to the fore the skill deficit the nation is facing today in various sectors. The previous NSCs' have articulated and communicated that the approaches should be one of multi-sectoral centric and not uni-centric based only on industrial needs.

Core Issues: The mainstay of the nation's economy being agriculture where 52 per cent of the population depends for a just subsistence primary agriculture and its dwindling contribution to the GDP over a period of five years from 46 per cent to 16 per cent today and, the huge migration of young people from the rural areas to cities for jobs that are not there, are pointers while defining on the relevance, scope and future of the current approaches of the various skill missions. The meaning and extent of vocational training thus is beyond what is conceived and understood in the ITI s and similar training institutions based on industrial needs.

Questions: The questions that are asked in this context are that how the nation is planning to reap in the benefits of the excellent demographic dividend where 65 per cent of the population lives below 35 years of age; how the exorbitantly high, school dropout rate is planned to be contained where formal education is made a mockery despite various legislations and huge resources being allocated; and how the abysmally low skilled hands of 2 per cent could be vertically increased to a substantial higher levels to enhance a decent living for all etc etc.

The conference is going to address many of these issues, and is the convergence of a pan-India assembly of experienced stakeholders, non-government organisations, activists and well wishers from various walks of life to discuss and deliberate on the practical aspects on how to translate these major concerns into action.

Topics to be dealt are:

- Unorganised Sector and School Dropout in Particular
- Youth of today and role of vocational training
- Enterprise building encompassing multi-sectoral needs
- Trades related to rural, non-farm sector
- Promotion of Environmentally Green Trades
- Relevance of Short Term Courses in Vocational Training
- Trade diversification across various sectors
- National Vocational (Education) Qualification Framework
- Efficient Labour Market Information Flow
- Curricula and Certification
- Training Needs Analysis and Placement Concerns
- Making Trades Gender-Neutral