



Functional Vocational Training and Research Society 8th National Skill Conference

Venue: Hotel Green Park, Chennai, 30-31 October, 2014

SKILL INDIA

The huge skill deficit scenario in the country is a grave concern for the government, industrial sector as well as all developmental organisations. Therefore skilling the youth has become an important agenda for all those who are concerned about their development including the government.

Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTRS), since its inception in 1993, has been facilitating the promotion of skill development among the most marginalised youth in India in an effort to make them employable. The focus group has always been the school dropout and illiterate youth. FVTRS so far has supported 842 projects all over India and trained 103,536 persons in more than 200 trades with a placement rate of 70 per cent. FVTRS seeks to create a triggering effect by communicating the relevance of skills training to a large number of potential players - government and non-profit organisations - and engage them to promote skill training, skill the underprivileged youth for decent life ahead. With this perspective FVTRS has been organizing National Skill Conference (NSC) every year since 2007. The following issues and possibilities will be discussed during the NSC towards SKILL INDIA.

Issues/Challenges

Rural poverty

Poverty remains a chronic condition for almost 30 per cent of India's rural population especially members of scheduled castes, tribes and other excluded communities in the country's rural areas. They migrate-seasonally or permanently-to urban areas for four major reasons like employment, marriage, education and lack of security etc. The rate of migration is reportedly on an increase every year.

Urban poor/poverty

Population in the urban areas expands due to three factors such as natural growth of population, rural to urban migration and reclassification of rural areas as urban in course of time. The increasing migration from the rural areas to cities, the increased unskilled nature of the human resources available in the cities, the increasing labour force in the cities and the increasing living standards in the cities have made the lives of the poor and the marginalised in the cities more vulnerable.

Unorganised/Informal Sector

The term 'unorganised' is often used in the Indian context to refer to the vast numbers of women and men engaged in different forms of employment. Almost 400 million people

- more than 85% of the working population in India - work in the unorganised sector. Of these, at least 120 million are women. The recent Arjun Sengupta Committee report is a stark reminder of the huge size and poor conditions in this sector. Since they are unskilled, the workers in the unorganised sector are deprived of the benefits of several laws such as the Minimum Wages Act or the Factories Act and they are also not covered by statutory welfare measures such as maternity benefits, provident fund, gratuity, etc. No systematic and concerted attempts are made to skill them better, update and diversify their skills.

Response/Opportunities

Skilling rural youth in alternate/non-conventional methods of energy

There is a serious energy crisis in India and this will become severe in the future. The conventional energy sources (Oil and natural gas, electricity, coal) will become non-affordable to most of the population. This also leads to environmental issues. Hence there is an urgent need to promote non-conventional/renewable methods of energy sources. Skilling the rural youth with technology and capacities to produce and promote alternate and non conventional methods of energy will reduce the issues referred above and provide gainful employment to the rural youth.

Skilling rural youth in agriculture for Livelihood

Today the medium and small-scale farmers are abandoning agriculture due to various reasons like poverty, lack of remunerative prices, drought, lack of irrigation facilities, ground-water and soil pollution, soil erosion, spread of urbanisation and migration etc. However it is the basic food producing sector. Hence the need arises to focus on various ways of improving agriculture and animal husbandry as well as engaging the rural mass into processing and marketing of agricultural produces for better food security and livelihood security.

Promoting gainful enterprises

According to government sources it is estimated that for providing gainful employment to India's young population, the country needs to create around 1-1.5 crore jobs per year for the next decade. A recent Mc Kinsey survey highlights that this phenomenon will result in an increased share of demand for medium-skilled workers. Therefore it is vital to up-skill the low skilled persons to the next level. Along with that it is also important to see that the trained youth are encouraged to start their own enterprises. This will make the employment and the income more sustainable and economically viable.

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Skilling the urban poor and the persons engaged in unorganized sector

The first hint of policies created to tackle urban poverty dates back to the seventh Five-Year Plan (1985-1990), when development in urban areas was initiated through schemes focused on improving infrastructural amenities, environmental standards and livelihood promotion for the urban poor. Subsequent plans saw a steady increase in funding allocations for urban poverty alleviation with improved and more targeted schemes for achieving the various objectives of urban development. There arises the need to skill urban poor to earn a decent living.

Person-appropriate skilling

The persons with disabilities have not been given equitable consideration while promoting skill

development leading to exclusion. The outcome of this exclusion is that the affected individuals or communities are prevented from participating fully in the economic, social, and political life of the society in which they live. Every meaningful skill training plan must include these excluded groups in order to help them to become part of the mainstream society and lead a life of dignity. Hence it has to be person appropriate skilling.

Soft skill support for livelihood

When our workforce has lots of technical skills but we have a soft skills gap. Soft skills accompany the hard skills, and help the trained persons use their technical expertise to full advantage. Soft skills offer the opportunity to help advance one's career, they are empowering, and they can open up new avenues.

2011
KOLKATA



H. E. Shri MK Narayanan, Hon. Governor of WB inaugurates the Conference at Kolkata



Inaugural Address by H. E. Shri MK Narayanan, Hon. Governor, WB



Participants at NSC-Kolkata

2012
KOVALAM



Inaugural address by Shri KM Mani, Hon. Minister of Finance, Govt of Kerala



Valedictory address by Shri Shibu Baby John, Hon. Minister of Labour, Govt of Kerala



Participants at NSC-2012

2013
HYDERABAD



Inaugural address by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Govt. of India.



Special address by Shri J D Seelam, Hon'ble Minister (Revenue), Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India



Participants at NSC-2013

