

Founder Memorial Lecture Held at Bangalore

'Rural India After Two Decades of Liberalisation'

The European Union



INSIDE

Highlights of the Quarter	2
EU-Supported Programmes	5
Success Stories	7
From the ED's Desk	8
Forthcoming Events	8



Mr P Sainath delivering the Lecture. Ms Koely Roy, Vice-President, of FVTRS; Justice Santosh Hedge, Former Lokayukta of Karnataka; Dr Antony Kariyil, President of FVTRS; Mr Jagadananda, State Information Commissioner (RTI), Odisha; and Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS are seen. The programme was presided over by Dr Antony Kariyil, President of FVTRS on 16 September at Bangalore.

News Coverage in The Hindu, Saturday, 17 September, 2011

'Rural India has been steadily sliding downhill'

The Land Reforms Bill makes acquiring land easier: Sainath

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Land reform has taken on a new meaning in the last 10 years; it means agricultural lands being let out to corporations, said P. Sainath, Rural Affairs Editor of *The Hindu*, delivering the Founder Memorial Lecture of the Functional Vocational Training and Research Society here on Friday. He was speaking on 'Rural India after Two Decades of Liberalisation'.

"The Land Reforms Bill makes acquiring land easier," he said, and added that single-crop lands were being offered to corporates when most farmers, Dalits and tribal communities did not own multi-crop lands.

Steady downhill

Referring to the lowering standards of living in rural India, he said: "When I began rural journalism, the first thing people offered me when I visited them was a glass of milk, that too in silver cups. Soon, it became chai. As the years progressed, all they could offer was black tea. Today, millions of farm children are growing up without drinking milk."

According to the Global



TOUGH LIFE: As the years progress, India's rural poor face many more odds.

Hunger Index, India is placed 67th, before Zimbabwe. We may be ranked fourth in the billionaire population, but we are also 134th in human development," he said.

Mid-day meal

Speaking about the mid-day meal system in Indian education, he said the rising food prices have hit the system hard. "If red gram hits Rs. 100, sambar will become wa-

ter," he said. He criticised the experiment of handing over the responsibility of mid-day meals to corporations, who in turn supplied pre-mixed food that was neither hot nor fresh (in Pune).

He rallied for larger quantities of the meals on Mondays. "In India, teachers say they can't teach till 1 p.m. because the children's bellies are on fire as they have not eaten a morsel since Friday."



Participants at Memorial Lecture, Bangalore

'VT & Entrepreneurship Development should go hand-in-hand'

It was felt and discussed during the **workshop on 'Vocational Training (VT) for Employability: Prospects and Challenges in the Unorganised Sector'** held at Phulbani- Kandhamal, Odisha on 9 August. Mr Rabindranath Mishra, PO, DRDA, Kandhamal, Chief Guest on the occasion explained government's initiatives on VT for school dropout youth in the State. He invited NGOs to extend the helping hands in making government run programmes successful.

Mr Rama Chandra Dash, Secretary, NIPDIT and Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sahu, Convener, PAG spoke of relevance of VT for school dropout youth in the prevailing situation of Kandhamal after the riots of 2008, based on their experiences.

Dr P Basak, Board Member, FVTRS explained the concept of 'SEVA -the service and role of voluntary sector in development' in his presentation. Ms Keshamati Pradhan, CSO leader initiated the discussion on the necessity of integration of entrepreneurship skills to VT and linkages with banks and other service providers to nurture entrepreneurs in the State. Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS analysed the present scenario of agriculture sector in the country with associating factors, in his deliberation. 67 NGO representatives and partners of FVTRS attended.



Workshop on Vocational Training at Phulbani, Odisha

'A problem well known is a Research half done'

Dr Ghandi Doss, Advisory Committee Member, FVTRS quoted the one liner while facilitating the one-day **workshop on Research and Study** at Bangalore on 18 August. The occasion was to make the applicants understand the research policy guidelines evolved by FVTRS and to familiarise with the details of the methodology. 12 Applicants attended the meeting.

Participants prepared titles for their research paper based upon the discussions held in small groups. It was decided to send the revised research proposals by the applicants, incorporating the suggestive measures within the next two months. It would be followed by another sitting to fine-tune the proposals.



Dr Ghandi Doss at Research & Study Meet, Bangalore

Customised Training for Partner-Organisations

Keeping in mind the need of the partner-organisations for customised training on selected topics, FVTRS has organised the five-day **Training of Trainers (ToT) on EDP (Entrepreneurship Development Programme)** at Lucknow from 22 to 26 August. 23 selected coordinators of 23 ongoing projects attended the programme. It was facilitated by Dr Srujana Kumar, Training & Development Manager and Mr Sai Venkat from DataMedu, Secunderabad. Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager, FVTRS coordinated and concluding session was facilitated by Mr Albert Joseph and Mr C P Nicholas, Project Monitoring Officer, FVTRS on 26 August.

Major topics covered in the training programme were communication for self-assessment and steps of improvement, interpersonal skills, knowing one's strengths and weaknesses, identifying deriving force in life, time management, understanding stress and its management.



Dr Srujana Kumar at the Training Session at Lucknow

News of NIOS-FVTRS Cooperation for VT and Academic Certificate NIOS-Regional level Meeting

It was decided to organise region specific cluster-level meetings for NIOS accredited partners at the meeting held at Bangalore last year. First meeting of these series was held at Lucknow on 27 August for NIOS accredited partners from various States. Mr Anil Kumar Singh, NIOS Regional Director-Allahabad has facilitated the meeting along with Specialist-Academic and Vocational Training and Documentation Officer. NIOS Advisory Member, Fr C A Joseph of Don Bosco, Lucknow and Mr Ashok K Singh, Member of Advisory

Committee, FVTRS attended the meeting. Participants utilised the occasion to clarify their queries on accreditation and its processes. Discussions were held on the project related issues with the partners.



NIOS-Accredited Partners' Meet, Lucknow

Progress during the quarter

Applications from four partner-organisations were forwarded to NIOS for accreditation in vocational and academic courses.



Dr H R Mahadev, Joint Secretary, Govt of Karnataka at Annual Retreat



Dr P Basak at the Annual Retreat

Governing Board and PSC Meetings

Governing Board Meeting and Project Selection Committee (PSC) meetings were held on 21 July and 17 September. A total of 36 projects were approved including 22 projects under EU-supported project.

Annual Retreat

'Information Education and Communication (IEC) on Skill Education' was the theme of the Annual Retreat held at Bangalore on 16-17 September. 41 members of Governing Board, Advisory Committee, partner-organisations and staff of FVTRS participated.

Dr Antony Kariyil, President of FVTRS welcomed the participants and guests to the retreat. Dr H R Mahadev, Joint Secretary to Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka spoke on the principles of networking with stakeholders, citing examples of his experiences as the representative to government departments. Dr P Basak shared the points of reflections on IEC highlighting the components, types, guidelines, and format of IEC materials required for strengthening the cause and spread of skill education and its dissemination channels by FVTRS and its network.

Rev S Paranjyothi, partner of FVTRS from Nagpur presented the report on evaluation done for four VT projects in different parts of the country. Bishop S Adayanthrath spoke on the globalisation and its impact on development at the retreat followed by floor discussion. Retreat concluded with a stocktaking and follow-up exercise pursued on previous recommendations with feedback received from the participants.

'Reinvent & Rediscover What We Know'

This was the message provided by the resource person, Mr Edwin Daniel, a writer and activist in South India and associated with Open Space, Bangalore at the two-day training programme designed for FVTRS staff. It was held on 14-15 September at Bangalore.

Topics covered during the training were guidelines to Management Information Systems (MIS), strategic planning, communication and documentation, how to write a good report, introduction to documentation, and advocacy and lobbying. One-minute guides on each topic were provided before the training. The methodology adopted were lecture methods, interactive sessions, group assignments and example sharing based on his experiences.



Mr Edwin Daniel, Resource person with FVTRS Team at the Training Session

Participation in Meetings/ Conferences

Vocational Education for Social Change

Mr Albert Joseph highlighted the plight of school dropout in the backdrop of limited training courses for such students at the special session on the above topic at the **World Education Summit** organised by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in association with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). It was organised at New Delhi on 14 July. Dr K P Wasnik was the chairperson of the session focussed on upscaling vocational education and skill training through 'Open Schooling: Trends and Challenges'. Need of the hour is to create a common platform to all the stakeholders and to promote trade diversification, and de-stigmatisation attached to vocational training, felt at the conference.



World Education Summit 2011 at New Delhi

'Save A Family'

Mr Albert Joseph and Mr Felix D'Souza participated and facilitated the programme on 'Save a Family Programme (SAFP)' held at Ernakulam, Kerala on 4 August along with the staff and stakeholders of SAFP project.

ILO Meet on ToT for Entrepreneurs

A series of meetings were conducted with ILO to discuss and finalise the cooperation between the two entities for organising customised training programme on ToT on entrepreneurship development for FVTRS' partner-organisations. Ms Koely Roy, Vice-President, FVTRS and Mr Albert Joseph facilitated the meetings held at New Delhi in the month of July. The MoU is in the final stage for implementation from November 2011.

Focus on Agriculture based Trades

To introduce and support agricultural based trades through FVTRS supported projects, a meeting was held with Mr K V Thomas, Union Minister for Agriculture on 14 July. The objective of the meeting was to establish collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and thereon to

create linkages with the agriculture universities to introduce and linkage. A meeting with Director General Dr S Ayyappan and Deputy Director General Dr Arvind Kumar of ICAR was held on 29 September. ICAR will facilitate taking up the matter with all agriculture universities.

Goodbye to MS Ellen Pedersen of European Union

Ms Ellen Pedersen, Deputy Head-Development Co-operation, European Union Delegation of the European Commission, India at New Delhi left by August end and expressed gratitude and bade goodbye to FVTRS as she leaving India. She mentioned in the meeting and in the letter, her appreciation working with FVTRS.

Meeting with West Bengal Governor

FVTRS delegation comprising of Ms Koely Roy, Vice-President, Dr P Basak, Member of Governing Board and Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director of FVTRS met the Governor of West Bengal, Mr M K Narayanan on 30 August at Kolkata to extend the invitation as chief guest for the forthcoming National Conference in the first half of December 2011.

Miscellaneous

Articles Published

The Founder Memorial Lecture delivered by Mr P Sainath was covered by national and regional newspapers (The Hindu, Deccan Herald, Prajavani) in the languages of English and Kannada.

Application for Technical Assistance

The process is under way for a new project 'EU AID for technical assistance for the support to skills development in India' with the agency 'Eurecna' of Milan, Italy.

IEC Material

Annual Report 2010-11 was printed and circulated to stakeholders.

Study on Mining

A three-day study was done by Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager, FVTRS in Bellary, Karnataka in the wake of stopping the mining activities and the resultant displacement of unskilled workers.

Mid-term Evaluation Report

Ms Anita Sharma has submitted the final report on mid-term evaluation of EU project.

Projects

61 Project Proposals were received.

Rs. 70 lakh was released for various projects.

Ten agencies were visited for pre-assessment and 14 projects on monitoring in seven States.



EU- Supported Project on 'Vocational Education and Training for Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups in India'

NGOs Sensitised in the North-East

NGOs from Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam and Sikkim of northeast as well as from West Bengal gathered at Siliguri, West Bengal for a **one-day Promotional Consultation** that was organised by FVTRS - eastern regional office on 27 July. Mr Saurav Pahari, IAS, Sub Divisional Officer, Siliguri was the Chief Guest and Ms Gangotri Dutta, Mayor of Siliguri was the Guest of Honour. The objective of the event was to sensitise various stakeholders on the need for skill promotion. There were 50 participants.

FVTRS team and the invited resource persons spoke on the occasion focussing to the skill scenario in the country, specific problems of school dropout youth in northeast, mobilising government schemes and partnership with FVTRS.



Panel Session in progress during the STNA Meeting at Siliguri, West Bengal

On 28 July, selected NGOs who were willing to implement skill training programmes in partnership with FVTRS gathered for a **workshop on 'Skills Training Needs Analysis'**. FVTRS team conducted sessions on the dynamics of skills training, target group analysis, participatory market analysis, different models of skill training and need for soft skills. There were 34 participants and they mentioned in their feedback that the sessions were educative.



Participants of the STNA Meeting, Siliguri, West Bengal

Budding Entrepreneurs

Jatan Sansthan, RK Sansthan and Eklavya Development Society in Rajasthan brought 57 school dropout youth who had completed various skill training programmes in their operational areas to Udaipur on 19 August to participate in **Entrepreneurs' Convention** organised by FVTRS northern regional office. The objective of this event was to sensitise the trainees on successful entrepreneurship.

Input sessions and group discussions were done on topics like who is an entrepreneur?, support systems and facilitation for micro-enterprise, development of soft skills, entrepreneurship development, opportunities and threats for the emerging entrepreneurs. During the sharing session few selected trainees shared their experiences of setting up small-scale enterprises after their successful completion of the skill training. These budding entrepreneurs inspired all the participants.



Participants at the Entrepreneurs' Convention, Udaipur, Rajasthan

'Skill promotion in MP is the need of the hour. Encourage more self-employment than wage employment'

While inaugurating the **Interface Meeting** at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on 6 September. Dr Ravindra Kumar Pastore, Divisional Commissioner, Jabalpur who was the Chief Guest of the event made the above statement. He described the skill scenario in India and said that we are far behind our neighbouring country China in the area of skills development. Considering the present context he asked the participants to encourage skill training in cell-phone repair, security guard, domestic service, etc. He recommended skill certification to the traditional skilled workers like potters, musicians, herbal medicine practitioners.

The Guest of Honour Mr Prem Dubey, Chairman, Jabalpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jabalpur mentioned in his address that there is a huge demand for skilled people in Readymade Garment industry. He then added that forest-produce and organic food production based training need to be encouraged. He also explained in brief about the annual 'Swarojgar Mela' (Self-employment Fair) organised by Jabalpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

FVTRS team together with other resource persons conducted sessions on the importance of skill training, models of vocational training and role of documentation in skill training. There were 80 participants representing different NGOs.



Dr Ravindra Kumar Pastore, Divisional Commissioner at the Interface Meeting

Stakeholders Educated on Entrepreneurship

To build the capacity of its existing as well as potential service providers from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, FVTRS northern regional office organised a **one-day Stakeholders' Meeting** at Jabalpur on 7 September. The theme of this meeting was 'Role of Entrepreneurship Development in skill training'. During his inaugural address the Chief Guest Mr Himanshu Khare, Vice-President of Jabalpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry mentioned that entrepreneurial skills play an important role in vocational training. He appreciated the skill promotion initiatives of FVTRS in various parts of the country. The participants were educated on topics like various aspects of entrepreneurship development, qualities of a good entrepreneur and the role of documentation in entrepreneurship development.



Inaugural session, Stakeholder Education Meeting at Jabalpur

Project Reviewed

FVTRS organised a **mid-term review** of the EU supported project from 12 to 15 July in Bangalore. The objectives of the mid-term review were:

- Revisit the objectives and Logical Framework
- Take stock of the progress and achievements
- Do a SWOT analysis of the project
- Plan future activities
- Understand the revised budget and accounting procedures

- Communication channels



The EU-supported project staff during the Mid-term Review

The regional staff along with FVTRS team participated in this review. Ms Anita Sharma, the facilitator used methodologies such as region-wise presentations, moderated group discussions, case studies, group exercises, and question and answer sessions. The participants were made to share their individual perception on the project. Stakeholder mapping, SWOT analysis and future planning were done in groups. The mid-term review was indeed a refreshing activity and gave the participants a lot more clarity on the project.

'It is the need of the hour for the unskilled youth to become skilled'

While inaugurating a **Youth Convention**, the Chief Guest Mr C Babu Reddy, the District Youth Coordinator of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh addressed the school dropout and illiterate youth. He said that the unskilled youth must wake up, understand the importance of skill training and develop their inherent skills. He drew the attention of the participants to the new avenues of skill training like cell-phone repair, basic computer related training, building construction technology, and beautician. He said that skilled persons are needed everywhere and they are respected in today's society. The occasion was the one-day Youth Convention organised by FVTRS southern regional office on 30 September at Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh. Sessions were held on the unorganised sector, need for skill training and team building. Group discussions, exercises, games, songs and documentary film were the methodologies used by FVTRS team. There were 58 participants (45 youth and 13 staff).



Youth Convention at Madanapalle, AP

Monitoring and Pre-Assessment Visits

13 monitoring visits and 19 Pre-Assessment visits to were made by regional teams and Bangalore during the quarter.

A New Beginning through VT & EDP

Excelled to be a Skilled Shoe-Maker



Chhaganlal Regar is a residence of Sawarda village of Jaipur district, Rajasthan. Class 8th passed Chhaganlal was working as a daily wage labourer in the shoe market. He approached the organisation Prabhu Dasi Sisters (PDS) after getting the information of skill training programme being conducted for the school dropout youth in his village. He joined the course of shoe-making to become skilled in the trade.

He continued to work while undergoing the training classes. He learnt to make designer-shoes and other articles. Now Chhaganlal is working in the same shop with a monthly salary of Rs. 4500. The training has instilled confidence and satisfaction to Chhaganlal.

Working despite all odds



Mousumi Santra (27) from Siboul village, P.S. Amta, Howrah, West Bengal is shouldering the responsibility of her family for the last nine years. Her husband is an alcoholic, futile to be the bread-winner and to take care of the children. She worked against all odds to provide her children food and education, and ended with misery.

Meanwhile Mausumi heard about the training programme run by SARANI, the organisation providing vocational training to school dropout youth. She took admission to the course in saree printing. Now she become a good artisan in the trade and her work is praised by all. She is getting orders from the market for making sarees and is earning Rs. 4500 per month. She is expecting to earn more in future.

Training made the difference



Isakkiammal (18) was forced to work as a housemaid in order to feed her family. She belonged to a poor family from Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. Her mother joined the self-help group of the organisation WEEDS and got some help to get rid of her debts. Isakkiammal made use of the opportunity and enrolled in embroidery & dress making course being provided by WEEDS to the school dropout youth. After the training, she got a job in a readymade dress making industry at Thirunelveli. She now draws a monthly salary of Rs. 3500.

Self-Confident Megala



To date, Megala is working in a sweet shop at Karaikal with a monthly salary of Rs. 3500. The 19 year old girl from a poor family of Thiruvattakudi, Karaikal, Puducherry being successful in her life, after trained in the vocational training in culinary and snacks making course. Entrepreneurship development programme (EDP) provided by PSDF organisation along with the training has helped in nurturing Magala to be self-confident and to deal with the customers, at work.

Self-Employed



M. Sivagamasundarai from Karaikal, Puducherry has started her enterprise of making snacks and other edible items, and getting the order from nearby market. She took a loan of Rs. 5000 to start her venture after completing the three-month training in culinary and snacks making course from PSDF. She is earning Rs. 4500-6000 per month. She earns upto Rs. 8000 during festivals.

From the ED's Desk

'We have already lost Rs. 2000 today, We lose our business, We do not want to attend your meeting'

An interesting incident happened on my way to attend the VT trainees' meeting at Daduki in Phulbani at Kandhamal on 10 August 2011.

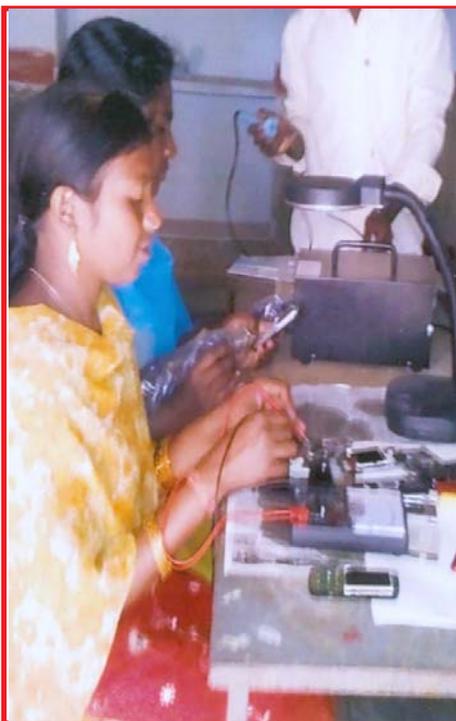
We were on our way to Daduki village which is 15 kms from Phulbani town to have an interaction with the former trainees in cell phone repair, electrician and two-wheeler mechanism who were trained by FVTRS partner organisation NIPDIT. It was about 11.30 am and as we were approaching the village, 9 motor bike borne youth stopped us on identifying the vehicle we were travelling, and scolded us tersely for being late for the meeting as some of them were waiting from 9 am at the venue.

The appointed time for the meeting was at 10.30 am. The partner organisation functionaries had a tough time convincing them on the reasons for the delay (there was no palpable reason other than stretching the previous NIOS inaugural programme). The reason for their agitation has been that the day happened to be the market day and many of their customers will be waiting for them and they have to comply to commitments on the work they have already taken up and to be completed on time. Finally they were persuaded to return to the meeting venue on the assurance that the meeting will be all over by 2 pm.

The incident was a demonstration of their entrepreneurial spirit.

Congratulations to all of you!

Albert Joseph



News Coverage of Founder Memorial Lecture in Deccan Herald, 17 September, 2011

'Land Acquisition Bill benefits realtors'

BANGALORE, DHNS: The Land Acquisition Bill is about real estate and not really about farmers or development, said P Sainath, a journalist.

He was delivering the Brother Jose Vetticattil Memorial Lecture on 'Rural India After Two Decades of Liberalisation' organised by Functional Vocational Training and Research Society on Friday.

"The focus of the Land Acquisition Bill is about making it easier to acquire single crop land as opposed to multicrop land. But the poorest of the poor who own land hardly have any multicrop land. Dalits and Adivasis will be the first ones to lose their land and this Bill will only make it easier," he said.

Sainath also said that big companies like Tatas obtained land at throwaway prices and kept it unused for years without starting any project, and later sold it to other companies at exorbitant rates.

Citing the example of Posco in Orissa, he said the company had itself declared that the iron ore mined would be exhausted in 30 years, by which time, the topsoil would have been removed without leaving any chance for cultivation.

"We are allowing private corporations to plunder our natural resources," he said.

Forthcoming Events

1 October: Entrepreneurs' Convention at Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh

10-20 October: ED's visit to Europe

11 October: New Partners' Meet at Bangalore

12-13 October: Regional Market Fair, Dimapur, Nagaland

13 October: Entrepreneurs' Convention, Dimapur, Nagaland

November (1st Week): Interface Meeting, Bidar, Karnataka

November (1st Week): Stakeholder Education Meeting, Bidar, Karnataka

November (1st Week): Regional Market Fair, Bidar, Karnataka

15 November: Youth Convention, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

16 November: Entrepreneurs' Convention at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

28 November: FVTRS Governing Board Meeting at Kochi, Kerala

28 November: Project Selection Committee (PSC) Meeting at Kochi, Kerala

21 December: Regional Market Fair, Jodhpur, Rajasthan



Functional Vocational Training and Research Society

19, 3rd Cross Hutchins Road
St. Thomas Town Post
Bangalore 560 084 India.

Tel: +91-80-2546 0585 / 2580 7277

Fax: + 91-80-2546 5928

e-mail: fvtrs@dataone.in, fvtrsbangalore@gmail.com
www.fvtrs.org