

## National Partners Meet -2016

The National Partners Meet was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> October at Christ University, Bangalore. The 10<sup>th</sup> National meet of FVTRS partners began at 10 a.m with prayer song by partners of Rajasthan. Mr P M Philip, the executive director, while welcoming the chief guest and participants mentioned it is an occasion to celebrate success gained during the year and reflect upon what we have been doing and to scale up our program. He has appreciated Dr. Gandhi Dos for his close association with FVTRS and also for consent to be the president of the meet.

Ms. Phinu Jose, director, CSA, Christ University in her key note address mentioned that India is not a poor country but a poorly managed country. Conferences like this will help to shape ideas into action. The success comes not only from success, but we should also learn to learn from failure as well. Dr Gandhi Doss, in his Presidential address speech mentioned that what better can be done than mere repeating of what others do. Repetition is happening. We must have resilient attitude.

Mr. Jimmy Mathew presented one year report card of FVTRS and while concluding the presentation he has appreciated the partners for the unconditional support for all the achievements. The dream is materialized through the partners and the report card is actually a summary of work done by the partner organizations.

Mr. P.M Philip, the executive director emphasized Skill Support Mission citing Skill India's Mission of skilling 500 million youth. Looking at the financial constraints, we need to create our resources and one of the best strategy is create sense of "give back to the society" among the trainees whom we have trained.

If we can mobilize funds from the community especially from the trainees, we make community responsible for skill development not on the amount to be collected. He shared that the skill support mission awareness generation and collection will be made once in a year in one particular month. However this is not a pre-condition for getting projects from FVTRS. We want the partners to grow beyond projects and money. As long as we don't believe in community's role in the development process we won't be able to do this.

Ms. Joyatri Ray facilitated the discussion on gender. Women's poverty is not only related to lack of money but also lack of other factors such as lack of education, mobility, social barriers etc. Our skill training efforts will be useless if we don't address these issues of gender gap and women's issue. Further, she elaborated on the control and accessibility of resources by women which is negligible. She has tried to relate the skill training scenario in the context of gender stereotype. She has presented the challenges faced by women in skill training. She presented statistical data on this. Cost of training a woman is higher than men looking at several challenges. Awareness of socio-political environment to women should be provided along with skill training.

Dr. Victor Paul, Head Social Work department, Christ College did a session on “Development Perspective”. Key factors in development are keeping people first, participatory planning, respect to environment. He mentioned some of the key areas of development such as rural development, education, agriculture, health care, tourism etc. He emphasized on people’s participation in the process of development.

The meeting was presided by Dr Gandhi Doss, the vice president of FVTRS. The meeting was attended by 78 partners from across the country.