

Introductory and Bonding Workshop for Board and Advisory Committee Members



Board Members at Introductory and Bonding Workshop, Bangalore

A one-day introduction and bonding conference together with new members of General Body and Advisory Committee was organized on 16 May at Bangalore. The aim of the conference was to make the new members acquainted with FVTRS and its functions apart from facilitating members to know each other, and how they could contribute with their expertise in carrying forward the cause of vocational training among school dropout youth in India.

Dr. P. Basak, Board member made a presentation on 'FVTRS - Redefining challenges and setting future road map' on the occasion on which the members reflected their ideas and suggestions for the future course of action. A retreat is being proposed to further debate on the theme in the month of July.

Meeting with Ministry of Labour and ILO

Second and third consultation meetings of 'Committee for formulation of national skill development policy' were held on 4-5 April and on 9 May 2008. This committee is jointly formed by ILO and Ministry of Labour and employment (MoLE), govt. of India. FVTRS participated as a member of the committee and shared its experiences over the years in the field of unorganised sector in general. First draft of the skills development policy has been prepared based on the discussions held during these two consultations.



Meeting with ILO & MoLE, New Delhi

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Extra-Ordinary General Body Meeting

An EGM was held at the FMC, Bangalore, on 16 May afternoon to approve new members to the General Body and Advisory Committees. With this the number of members in the General Body has reached up to twelve and five for Advisory committee. The next board meeting will held on 10-11 July 2008.

Regional Consultation for North-Eastern States

A one-day promotional meeting was organized in association with Don Bosco Youth Mission and Educational Services, Guwahati, on 12 April at Guwahati to sensitize on the needs of effective vocational skill development programmes. Stakeholders from financial and academic institutions, government departments, and NGOs attended.

Dr. P. Basak, Board Member of FVTRS gave key note address. Mr. Bhubaneswar Kallita, M.P spoke on paradigm shift to take place at each household, and the need of entrepreneurial skills in skill training for youth in the valedictory.



Dr. P. Basak gives key note address, Guwahati



Mr. Bhubaneswar Kallita, MP at the valedictory, Guwahati

Misereor, Caritas India, ISI, IGSSS, NEG-FIRE, CBR and FVTRS Meeting

NEG-FIRE is leading a new initiative to synergize the efforts of various agencies with a concerted action agenda to focus their respective efforts in a compact geographic area. Two meetings were organized on 10 April and 18 May at New Delhi and at Bangalore. The process will start from Kowardha district in Chhattisgarh state from August 2008.



CBR, NEG-FIRE and FVTRS at Bangalore meeting

Project Proposal to Misereor

Detailed project proposal of FVTF/FVTRS for 2008-09 along with budget was submitted to Misereor on 17 April. The same has been acknowledged with a new project reference number.

Regular Projects

Monitoring and Pre-assessment Visits

Monitoring visits were made to three projects under regular projects in Bihar and Jharkhand. Apart from that pre-assessment visits were made to two projects in Maharashtra and Meghalaya.



Former cabinet minister distributes certificates



Certificates to trainees, Katihar, Bihar

Skills Training Needs Analysis

A two-day Skills Training Needs Analysis was organized at Forest Training Institute, Jaipur on 19-20 June 2008. The main objectives of the training were to enable the NGOs in doing market analysis for selection of viable trades for skill training and reframe the project proposals incorporating the learnings from the trainings.

Representatives from the NGOs also did market analysis in the local markets of Jaipur city. Thirty eight representatives from eighteen NGOs from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh participated.



Participants at STNA, Jaipur

New Proposals

Fifty-one project proposals were received during this quarter from doers of skill training from various regions in the country.

From ED's Desk

From Best Practices to Next Practices

FVTRS in the recent past has been trying to document interesting and meaningful best practices existing in various skill training projects at micro-level in an effort to show case and facilitate replication of the same by new practitioners. Five running projects were short-listed representing a cross section of society in addition to short-listing another two projects for a video documentation as well.

After having the study and video-documentation done, the moot question before us is what is the next best practice that we could plan together? Are we going to stuck on what is being considered as the best as per today's standards sitting on the earned laurels or are trying to look forward to reach out to newer areas where still newer practices could emerge? The cascading realization is that best practices are not static but are dynamic and therefore none of us can feel complacent at any one point of time with the feeling that what we do today is the best.

Albert Joseph



Trainees with certificates, Katihar, Bihar

Hearty Congratulations!

Mr. Jagadananda, General Body member of FVTRS has been appointed as the State Information Commissioner of Orissa under the RTI Act



EU Supported Project

Project Implementation Programme

Three PIPs were conducted - on 22 April at Pune, 24 April at Meerut and on 26 April at Ranchi for recently approved project partners. The objectives of the programmes were to make the partners acquaint with the procedures and reporting formats of FVTRS, importance of planning in the project, and role of RPPCs in its area. Sixty-five partners from the three RPPCs attended. Mr. M. L. Satyan, Project Manager, EU and Mr. Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager facilitated the programme.



PIP Workshop, Ranchi

Regional Interface

Two regional interfaces were organized by the RPPCs of eastern and western regions under EU supported project in this quarter.

Eastern region RPPC interface was held on 28 April at Raipur. The same was attended by NGOs, civil societies, Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs) and donor agency representatives to discuss and debate the growing need of skill training in unorganized sector in the era of globalization.

Western region RPPC organized a one-day interface on 15 May with the project partners at Wardha. Mr Anup Kumar Yadav, Collector, Wardha inaugurated the programme. Presentations were made by FVTRS and RPPC, Ahmednagar on 'Skill training and globalization'. With a healthy discussion, decision was taken to organize capacity building programmes for partner NGOs by RPPC. Forty-seven participants from forty NGOs and the RPPC staffs attended.



PIP Workshop, Meerut



PIP Workshop, Pune



Raipur Interface group work



Mr. Anup Kumar Yadav, Collector, Wardha

Market Fair

A one-day market fair was organized by NGOs and SHGs with the help of RPPC, West on 1 June 2008 at Santa Seva Mandal, Dwarka, Jamnagar Gujarat. Government officials, representatives from financial institutions, funding agencies and NGOs visited. 1350 villagers also visited the fair. One of the exporters-Surjan agreed to export the products of an NGO to Australia.



Visitors at the market fair, Jamnagar, Gujarat



A stall with buyers at the market fair, Jamnagar

Monitoring Visit and Visit to Partner Organizations

Visits were made to the running projects in Orissa and RPPC East and West. EU project manager visited to the partner organizations in the western region and held discussions on project proposals.

Ms. Rani Pagare

Ms. Rani Pagare is a poor widow. The money earned by her mother, a daily wage labourer, was not enough to meet the family needs.



She expressed her willingness to join MPHWH training (Multi-purpose Health Worker) at Ashankur Women's Centre. Her enthusiasm and dedicated services were noticed by the hospital authorities and

was offered a job in the same hospital for a salary of Rs. 2,200/- per month. She is happy and able to support her mother and meet the family needs.

Ms. Pranali Kasote

Ms. Pranali Kasote hails from a poor family of Pulgaon village near Wardha. She has two younger brothers. She has no father. The money earned by her mother as daily wages is not enough to meet her family



expenses. Pranali, being the elder daughter of her family, had to share the financial burden. After coming into contact with a local NGO named Saath Swayamsevi Sanstha at Pulgaon in

Wardha district. She came to know about the Rexene bag making training organized by Ashankaur (M.S). She enrolled herself for this training and worked hard. After the training, she got a job as an instructor of this training for the salary of Rs. 2000/- per month. During free time, she takes orders for bags from close by villages. She is now able to educate her brothers and support her mother as well. She is confident of setting up her own business in the future.

Tsunami Project

Monitoring Visit

Visits were made to six projects under tsunami category in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.



EDP training, Tsunami project

Tsunami Partners' Network Workshop

A two-day workshop on 'prospects of skill training in unorganized sector' was organized by Tsunami project partners' network on 8-9 May at Chennai. Forty-two participants attended. Representatives from ILO, NABARD, Micro Small Medium Enterprise (MSME), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), and State Resource Centre presented papers and facilitated fruitful discussions enabling partners to link to these institutions to carry on with the skill training activities. The valedictory session on the second day was graced by Mr. S.P. Thangavelan, Hon. Minister for Slum Clearance and accommodation control, government of Tamil Nadu. The network formed was first of its kind in skill training and named as Skill Promotion Network (SPiN), south India chapter.



Mr. S.P. Thangavelan, Hon. Minister for Slum Clearance and Accommodation Control, Chennai workshop



Group-assignment during tsunami partners' network meet, Chennai



Appointment

Mr. Aravind Babu joined FVTRS in June 2008 as Finance Officer. We wish him all the best.

Organization Development (OD)

Third phase of OD was facilitated by Dr. Cherian Joseph from 26-29 May 2008 at FMC, Bangalore. First two days were attended by the programme staff that mainly focused on understanding poverty, development and critical analysis, and review of the organization strategy from time to time. On the third day, the remaining staff joined the programme with a focus on team building, individual analysis, and imbibing new learning. On the fourth day, Dr. Joseph was briefed on the terms of reference of the forthcoming event of the mid term monitoring review of the EU project to be held on 16-18 July at Bangalore where he is going to be the moderator. He will moderate the retreat session during the AGBM meeting on 10 and 11 July as well.

Miscellaneous

1. Annual report for 2007-08 has been drafted.
2. Four new project proposals for short term training at a cost of Rs. 50,000/- each were processed from FVTRS' local fund.
3. Organized EU project partners' meeting at Caritas India, New Delhi for further clarifications on EU accounting formalities.
4. Project Monitoring officer applications were short listed and communicated. Interview of the same was held on 9-10 June 2008.
5. Participated in a two-day workshop on 'Losses faced by NGOs in the absence of required skills'.

Budding Entrepreneurs

Mr. Hardev Singh

Mr. Hardev Singh is a resident of Anji village in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. Illiteracy, poverty and lack of employable skills forced him to work as a helper with a carpenter on a meagre wage. SATHI, a local NGO motivated youth like him for skill training on carpentry, and he agreed to join. Having some working knowledge on carpentry, this training worked as an up-gradation. He started making lantana gift items from his home with the tool kit being given to him during the training. EDP classes have enabled him to interact with customers in an effective way while selling products in the market. He is getting orders regularly that have increased his income by Rs. 1200/- to Rs. 1500/- per month. Skill training has changed his life; he is now a successful micro-entrepreneur and an inspiration for youth in the area. The income support he is extending to his family makes him feel good.



Indomitable 'Auto-chechi' Becomes Panchayat President

The local people call her affectionately as auto-chechi. Mrs. Sandhya Banerjee belongs to an agriculturist family and living in Neendoor gram panchayat in Kerala with her family. She was associated with an SHG in the village



and came to know about possibilities of skill training and leading a decent livelihood thereafter. She joined the auto-rickshaw driving training organized by Kottayam Social Service Society supported by FVTRS. Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojna came in handy to her as she was chosen to get one auto-rickshaw. Luck, however was not on her side as she had an accident where one passenger died and court cases followed. Regular interaction with the passengers enhanced her communication skills. People appreciate her confidence and courage, and motivated her to contest in the gram panchayat election. She contested and won the coveted seat. She is very enthusiastic about her new responsibilities and still depends on her favourite bread winner despite many odds that she had faced in her life.

Ms. Subha

Ms. E. Subha is living with her sister in Vedaraniyam in Nagapattinam district, Tamil Nadu. Tsunami shattered her life leading in a penurious life. Subha joined the traditional silk weaving training programme being organized by VIRTUE, a local voluntary organization. EDP training and a donated silk weaver machine from VIRTUE helped her to set up a micro-enterprise at home. She is now ably managing her enterprise and earning more than Rs. 2000/- per month. With this income she is supporting her family and educating her sister. Brimming with confidence, she is hopeful of increasing her business manifold.

SOME RECENT INITIATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

The Introduction of the Unorganized Sector Workers Social Security Bill

The Unorganized Sector Workers Social Security Bill, 2007 was introduced in the Parliament on 10th September 2007. During the preparatory phase, wide-ranging consultations were held with employees' representatives and specifically with the representatives of major categories of unorganized sector workers. The Bill seeks to achieve the objective of providing social security with regard to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age pension and any other benefit, as may be decided by the Central Government.

National Floor Level Minimum Wage

In order to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, the Central Government has mooted the concept of the national floor level minimum wage. The national floor level minimum wage has been revised from Rs.66/- per day to Rs.80/- per day with effect from September last year.

Skill Upgradation

The Government has taken up the following new schemes to provide skilled manpower to industry:

- Upgradation of 500 existing ITIs for providing highly skilled labour force in various industrial sectors. 100 ITIs will be upgraded from domestic resources and 400 ITIs through World Bank assistance.
- Upgradation of the remaining 1396 ITIs in Public Private Partnership mode; Establishment of new ITIs and strengthening of existing ITIs in the North Eastern States, Sikkim and J & K.
- Conducting of short term Modular Employable Courses under "Skill Development Initiative".

In addition, it has also been decided to set up a National Skill Development Mission under which 1500 new ITIs and 50,000 Skill Development Centres are planned in Public-Private Partnership mode.

The Ministry's proposal for inclusion of new trades under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) for all occupations was approved by the newly constituted National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT). The proposal said that there is a need to increase the number of trades from 110 to encompass all sectors of the economy. It also approved DGE&T's proposal to set up adequate number of ITIs in un-serviced blocks of the country and train the youth belonging to SC/ST, backward classes and minority communities.

Skill Development Initiative

The Government is giving special emphasis on the skill development of workers in the unorganized sector and has launched another new scheme, "Skill Development Initiative" (SDI) which represents a new strategic framework for skill development, namely, Modular Employable Skills (MES) framework. The Scheme is expected to cater to the needs of the school dropouts and unorganized sector workers in a big way. As against the target of 10,000 persons for the financial year 2007-08, the Ministry exceeded the target by training over 24,000 persons.

The renewed emphasis on skill development can be gauged from the fact that the overall, the expenditure on Training and Skill Development went up from Rs. 101.45 crore during 2006-07 to Rs. 1094.33 crore during 2007-08.



Forth-coming activities

1. Visit to EDI and NIF, Ahmedabad on 1 and 2 July
2. Pre-funding partners' meet on 4 July at Bangalore
3. Annual General Body, Governing Board and retreat programmes on 10-11 July at Bangalore
4. RPPC partners' mid-term review meeting from 16-18 July at Bangalore
5. Network partners' meet at Patna on 30 July
6. Promotional consultation meet at Kolkata on 1 August



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