



HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

Most Rev. Bishop Mathew Arackal
elected as President of FVTRS



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PROMOTIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Kolkata

A one-day a Promotional Consultation on Prospects of Vocational Training in the Unorganized Sector was organized at Seva Kendra, Kolkata on 1 August 2008. Partnering with more credible doers in vocational training and developing a possible road-map for FVTRS interventions in West Bengal were the main objectives of the consultation. Mr. Manob Sen, Senior Advisor, Lok Kalyan Parishad, West Bengal was chief guest. He shared his experience on SHG movement and status and relevance of skill training in the unorganized sector in West Bengal.

Dr. P. Basak, Board Member of FVTRS made a presentation on the unorganized sector and its challenges which was well appreciated by the audience. FVTRS presented the relevance of skill training in the unorganized sector in India. The funding procedure of FVTRS was as well dealt at length. Suggestions from the participants for a possible course of action was discussed in detail. Fifty five representatives from NGOs, government departments, financial and educational institutions participated.



Dr. P. Basak at Kolkata consultation



Participants at Kolkata consultation

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Mrs. Joytsna Srivastava at Varanasi consultation



Presentation by stakeholders during Varanasi consultation

Varanasi

Another one-day promotional consultation workshop was organized by FVTRS on 19 September 2008 at Varanasi. The objective was to use the occasion as an opportunity to share the challenges in the unorganized sector in eastern U. P. and sensitize the need and relevance of skill training in the unorganized sector. Mrs. Joytsna Srivastava, MLA from Varanasi was the chief guest on the occasion who spoke about establishing proper marketing linkages for the products of micro-entrepreneurs by quoting example from other countries.

FVTRS made a presentation on need and relevance of skill training in the unorganized sector followed by a presentation on its funding procedure and legal requirements for prospective doers interested to join hands for the cause of skill training.

Mr. Rupak Verma, Union Bank of India, Varanasi presented the financial norms of loans from banks and schemes available for the youth. Mr. Durgeshwar Mishra, General Manager from Cashpor spoke about microfinance and women empowerment. Fifty one representatives from NGOs from eighteen districts of Uttar Pradesh and financial institutions participated.

REDEFINING SKILL TRAINING



Edison Baxla (20) son of a poor farmer is living in Manatoli village of Simdega district, Jharkhand. He discontinued his studies due to financial constraints. Edison's parents worried about their son falling in the company of youth with bad habits, which is prevalent in their village. He heard about skill training to be organized by a local NGO Vikas Kendra during a religious gathering. He joined the two-wheeler mechanism training and his hard work earned him a job in a local garage 'Simdega Auto Home' soon. He likes his job very much and saving money to open his own two-wheeler workshop shortly.

Nur Jahan Begum is a 23 year old school dropout widow. She belongs to a family of agricultural labourers and lives with her grandmother in Harchanda village in Kanti block of Muzaffarpur, Bihar. She wanted to support her grandmother financially apart from doing household chores. When she heard about a zari work training organized by Akhil Gramin Yuwa Vikas Samiti-a local NGO-she enrolled in the training. She learnt to make beautiful designs with her attentive hard work. Entrepreneur skill training further nurtured her entrepreneurship skills that enabled working from her house. She is now living a self-reliant and dignified life with her grandmother and earning Rs. 3000-4000/- per month.



ANNUAL RETREAT OF THE BOARD AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Board and Advisory committee members during annual retreat

Annual Retreat of the Board and Advisory Committee Members was held on 10-11 July 2008. The main objectives of the retreat were to replan and reshape FVTRS based on the experiences gathered by a wide spectrum of practitioners in the past to draw broad contours to enhance its delivery and effectiveness in the unorganized sector while also drawing up a plan with milestones to remain more relevant.

Members made presentation on issues like entrepreneurship, gender, social security, advocacy, etc followed by discussions. A future road-map was suggested by the members for making interventions more meaningful. Dr. Cherian Joseph facilitated the retreat.

From ED's Desk

Skills as a Leveller

Learning a skill is not about earning a livelihood alone. It is about attaining human dignity and to live a decent life to be of help to oneself, to the family, to the neighbourhood, and to the community. Learning a skill therefore has a levelling effect to make the skilled hand to take part in the process of empowering oneself to earn a small share of that big wealth cake that is denied to her. High liquidity skills that promote more placements are therefore, like currency notes that could be encashed anywhere, anytime as one likes to use it. An young nation where 70 per cent of the population lives below 35 years, and only 4 per cent of its population is skilled, and school dropout rate at 70 per cent, one can take this as the unholy trio that explains the relevance and significance of skills training in this levelling effort today.

Albert Joseph

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

Annual General Body meeting was held on 10 July 2008. Among other business, election of office bearers also held. *Rev. Bishop Mathew Arackal and Fr. Antony Kariyil were elected as the new President and Vice-President of FVTRS respectively.* Fourteen projects were also approved on the occasion.



Annual General Body meeting in progress

COLLABORATION WITH EDII AND NIF, AHMEDABAD

Partnership for various capacity building programmes is being finalized with Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) and National Innovation Foundation (NIF), Ahmedabad. Held discussion with them on 1 and 2 July 2008. The occasion was used to discuss possible collaborations to organize various programmes for partners of FVTRS. EDI has agreed to facilitate *Vision Building Programme (VBP)* for the directors of partner organizations. The discussion with NIF is in the process and the partnership will be finalized soon.

MEETING OF FVTRS, NEG-FIRE AND CBR FORUM

FVTRS, NEG-FIRE and CBR Forum took one step further by finalizing Koraput in Orissa as the district for their joint interventions. The meeting discussed parameters, responsibilities and future course of action. Mr. Rama Krishna is identified to facilitate situational analysis of the project area.

We sincerely thank the outgoing president Padmashree Sr. Sudha Varghese for effectively guiding us in the past.

REGULAR PROJECTS

Pre-funding Partners' Meet

A one-day pre-funding partners' meet was organized at Bangalore on 4 July 2008. The main objective of the programme was to help acquaint new partners with the reporting procedures of FVTRS and to clear queries of partners to facilitate smooth and effective implementation of projects. Eleven partner organizations from various regions of the country participated.



Pre-funding partners' meet at Bangalore

New Proposals

Thirty six new proposals were received during this quarter from NGOs for skill training from across various states in the country.

MONITORING AND PRE-ASSESSMENT VISITS

Nine regular projects were monitored in Jharkhand, Karnataka and Maharashtra during the quarter.

Pre assessment of eleven projects were done in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT)

FVTRS organized a two-day TOT at Ranchi for the instructors belong to Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh states. Mrs. M. Tirkey, Principal, Women's Polytechnic, Ranchi inaugurated the training programme. 33 instructors from twelve partner organizations from Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh participated. Mr. Harpreet Singh and Mr. Xavier Tirkey facilitated the training.



Participants of TOT at Ranchi

The major inputs were on trainee motivation, inter personal relationships, incorporating EDP in vocational skills, stakeholders' analysis, etc.

Partners' Meet

A one-day partners' meet for the partners of Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand was held on 30 July at Patna. Mr. Awadesh Narayan Singh, Hon. Minister of Labour and Employment, Government of Bihar was the chief guest on the occasion. He appreciated the initiatives of FVTRS in Bihar and other states, and told that Government of Bihar is going to open district level ITIs very soon.

Partners from the three states shared their experiences of the skill training and the challenges they face in their respective areas. Discussion took place on the capacity building of partners and the trainers. It was decided that partners will organize ToT and exposure visits which FVTRS will facilitate. A Vision Building Programme is proposed for the Directors of the NGO partners and will be facilitated by EDII, Ahmedabad and FVTRS. It will be organized with the help of a local partner Nav Jagriti at Patna. Twenty eight partner NGOs participated and the programme was covered in almost all the leading local print and electronic media.



Mr. A. N. Singh Hon. Minister of Bihar and Sr. Sudha Varghese, Board member of FVTRS



Partners of FVTRS at the meet



EU SUPPORTED PROJECT MID-TERM REVIEW MEET



EU project partners with Dr. Cherian Joseph

An EU supported project review meeting was held at Bangalore from 15-18 July 2008 to revisit the project objectives and to identify the impediments so as to achieve maximum efficiency as per the project stipulation. Partners actively shared the present status of the project. Detailed discussions were held on achievements, impacts, strengths and shortcomings of the three regions, and based on that future action plan was developed. Dr. Cherian Joseph facilitated the review. Thirteen participants including FVTRS staff attended.

INTERFACE MEETINGS

Faridabad

A one-day regional level Interface meet was organized on 25 August 2008 at Faridabad in association with Meerut Sewa Samaj. The theme of the interface was Functional Vocational Training and Unorganized Sector in India with objectives to sensitize the partners and other stakeholders on the relevance of skill training in the context of unorganized sector, define already initiated measures to reach at effective placement, identify prospective partners and make use of the occasion for lobbying and advocacy.



Mr. A.C. Choudhary, Hon. minister, Haryana inaugurating Interface meet

Mr. A. C. Choudhary, honourable minister of labour, technical education, vocational training and industrial training, govt. of Haryana was the chief guest while Mr. Choudhary Khurshid Ahmed, former minister and M.P of Haryana was the guest of honour. Honourable minister gave a speech on the reality in the unorganized sector, and demand and supply of the skills scenario in Haryana.

FVTRS gave a detailed presentation on relevance and significance of skill training in the unorganized sector. The role of EU supported project along with the procedures for prospective practitioners joining hands with FVTRS in skill training were discussed at length. Fr. George, Principal and Rector, Don Bosco Technical Institutes took a session on Development of Indian Youth through Vocational Training. Dr. Kurian Joseph, Founder of Komark Education Services, Delhi spoke on Career Technical Training in the context of Globalization. Seventy three participants from various NGOs, government departments, financial and academic institutions participated.

Pune

A one-day regional interface meeting was organized at Muttha Chambers, Pune on 11 September 2008 in association with Ashankur Rural Women's Centre (Western RPPC), Ahmednagar. The objectives of the interface included sensitizing and fine tuning the measures involved in by the associating partners, doers and stakeholders, and taking up skill training as one of their main agenda in development work.

Dr. P. Basak gave the key note address highlighting the Indian workforce in the unorganized sector. Mr. Prafulla Parakh, Secretary, Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) spoke on its history and various programmes it had undertaken across the country. Dr. Medha Puroo Samant, Founder Director, Annapurna Mahila Mandal (AMM) shared her innovative experiences on skill training. AMM works on need based skill training and trained a galaxy of youth in the last 33 years. Mr. S. K. Ghosh, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Pune spoke about financial schemes of NABARD in promoting skill training on various trades.

EU project partner Sr. Daphne Sequeira was felicitated on the occasion for receiving 'Savitri Bai Phule Award' from the govt of Maharashtra for her contribution towards reformation of women in her region. Forty representatives from NGOs and financial institutions participated.

CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. P. Basak felicitates Sr. Daphne Sequeira for receiving **Savitri Bai Phule Award**



Panel discussion during Pune Interface meet

Ranchi

Keonjhar Integrated Rural Development and Training Institute Orissa organized a two-day interface meeting at Ranchi on 26 and 27 September under the EU supported project. The objective of the interface meeting was to create awareness among different stakeholders on the need for vocational training and cause a ripple effect in the region to motivate more practitioners for the skill training in the unorganized sector. The first day's theme was 'Vocational training in the context of unorganized sector'.

Hon. Minister Mr. Bhanu Pratap Sahi for Health, Family Welfare, Labor and Employment training, govt. of Jharkhand was the chief guest who inaugurated the two-day interface meeting.



Mr. Bhanu Pratap Sahi, Hon. minister, Jharkhand at Ranchi Interface

Mrs. Rama Khalko, Mayor of Ranchi Municipal Corporation was the chief guest with Mr. Akhilesh Prasad Shukla as the guest of honour on the second day. The theme was 'Vocational training, Life skills and EDP'. Bro. Sushil Toppo, Prof. Ramesh Sharan and Mr. M.L. Satyan were the resource persons. 70 participants representing various NGOs in Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh participated.

Monitoring Visits

Ten projects in the Western and six projects in Northern regions were monitored during this quarter.

TSUNAMI INTERVENTIONS

SPiN- South India Chapter

A meeting of the Skill Promotion Network SPiN network took place on 22 August 2008 to discuss the future of the network. Discussions held on the legal registration of the network and availing financial support from the donors like MSME and Cord Aid.

Interaction with Trainees

Interacted with the trainees and trained youth who are successfully managing their own income generation ventures at Kaniyakumari and Trivandrum

The ventures started include electronics goods repair and sale, two/three-wheeler garage, garments and toy making. They are confident of making a difference in their lives and hope to be successful to a higher order in their enterprises. They are earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.1500 to Rs. 5000/-.

Video Documentation

A four-day video documentation of projects in tsunami affected states was organized from 22 to 25 September 2008 at Kanyakumari, Trivandrum and Quilon. The video documentation incorporated the ongoing training, self-employment ventures of the trained youth, and interaction with the staff who are associated with the project. Mr. Madhav Murthy from Bangalore covered the documentation.

Meeting of Core Committee of SPiN

A one-day meeting of Core Committee Members of Skill Promotion Network (SPiN) was organized at Bangalore on 30 September 2008. The main objectives of this meeting were reviewing the erstwhile activities of the network, structuring of the network, and fund raising prospects to carry on with skill training activities.



SPiN Network in session

Mr. Isac Singh, Convener of the network made a presentation on proposed action plan of SPiN on which detailed discussion took place. FVTRS will organize a fund raising training for the members of the SPiN to acquire the required tools in fund raising. The next meeting of SPiN will be held tentatively at Madurai.

Monitoring Visits

Monitoring visits were made to ten projects in the tsunami affected states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala by Mr. Nicholas.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Interim reports of EU project and FVTRS sent to Misereor, Caritas India and annual report to CBCI, New Delhi
2. Annual report for 2007 -08 published
3. Students of St. George College of Management from the faculty of Social Work interacted with FVTRS on 5 August 2008
4. FVTRS participated in a two-day workshop organized by Caritas India at Bangalore on 'Community Organisation: It's relevance and future direction
5. Preparations are in full swing for the forthcoming National Skill Conference

PROJECT SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETS

The maiden PSC meeting was organized on 27 September. Six projects were approved by the committee for funding assistance.



PRIME MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)

Salient Features:

1. Rs. 15000 crore estimated total credit flow in the scheme setting up microenterprise across the country.
2. Rs. 4485 crore government subsidy will be provided.
3. 37 lakh additional employment opportunities will be created between 2008-09 to 2011-12 in rural and urban areas of the country.
4. Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are eligible for assistance under the scheme.
5. Rs. 25 lakh maximum cost limit of project/unit under manufacturing sector and Rs. 10 lakh under business/service sector.
6. Maximum educational qualification- VIII pass for manufacturing sector above Rs. 10 lakh and above Rs. 5 lakh for business/service sector.
7. Backward and forward linkages support for awareness, project formulation, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) training of two to three weeks duration, marketing support, electronic tracking of applications of beneficiaries etc. envisaged.
8. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) a statutory body under the ministry of MSME will be the single nodal agency for the implementation of the scheme at the national level.
9. Dovetailing Credit Guarantee Fund Trust Scheme to help the entrepreneurs for collateral security free loans.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Skill intervention project drafting for communal riot affected youth of Khandhmal ,Orissa on 8 October
2. Board Meeting on 20 October at Bangalore
3. Fund Raising Training for members of SPiN in Tamilnadu
4. Western Regional Interface at Rajkot on 17 October
5. Sharing workshop at Moradabad at 21 October
6. Northern Regional Market Fair at Mordabad on 21 October
7. Northern Regional Interface at Mordabad on 22 October
8. Eastern Regional Market Fair at Ranchi in November
9. National Skill Conference December 2008

ANY TAKERS?

MODULAR EMPLOYMENT SCHEME (MES)

A novel programme promoted by ministry of labour, govt. of India.

The MES programme is an outcome based concept in the sense that if the trained hands measure upto standards set by the ministry's assessors on completion of the training and that they are efficient to do the job, then they will be issued the certificate by the National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT). The cost of organizing the programme will be reimbursed by the ministry on completion of the training.

Features and Advantages

MES is highly a decentralized ambitious programme inviting all capable institutions to start their own vocational training programmes. They have also given an extensive list of courses in their website at www.dget.nic.in.

This means institutions that have experience and infrastructure could throw their hat as that they could be a well established institution in skill training.

We present here a calculation based on the offer by the ministry.

The ministry is planning to reimburse Rs.15/- for each trade for one hour, per trainee.

If the course one selects requires 300 hours of time, this means a Vocational Training Provider (VTP) will get an amount of Rs.4500/-per trainee from government on completion of the course. In addition, the VTP is bound to charge a trainee a sum of Rs.300/-to Rs.800/- which should be refunded to the trainee on completion of the course.

If a VTP thus organizes various training programme for 1000 trainees, the ministry will reimburse $Rs.4500 \times 1000 = Rs.45,00,000/-$ (Rs.45 lakh) to the VTP.

As it stands, a serious VTP does need to invest only half the above amount to produce 1000 trainees, meaning the VTP will net in a huge margin of money by the end of the first year for successful retention and expansion of the institute.



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