

## National Skill Conference-2013

Vocational Training with Special Focus on Agriculture and Excluded Sections

Breaking the Myth 'One Size Does Fit All'

**Context:** Functional Vocational Training and Research Society, in brief FVTRS, ever since its inception in 1993 has been spearheading a movement in India to make its underprivileged youth employable through skill training with special focus on the school dropout youth who have little or no opportunity for any formal training for a decent livelihood. The strategy to realise the objectives has been through funding and knowledge support to non-profits all over India who are interested to organise skill development based on location specific skills along with imparting training on enterprise development. FVTRS could so far support training to more than a lakh youth in various trades with 70 per cent placement effected as successful employees and as entrepreneurs by implementing more than 900 vocational training projects in different parts of the country.

**National Skill Conference (NSC):** FVTRS embarked on a national level conference annually, with an appropriate theme on skill development since 2007. The conference involves a galaxy of stakeholders from government departments, autonomous institutions, banks, business, industry, media and civil society organisations of various shades and programme partners of FVTRS, to discuss and deliberate on what should be the right direction - a movement in mind - to make a difference in the lives of the hapless youth through focussed skill development. These conferences were useful to all the participants in many ways exploring new avenues and possibilities related to skill training, to be better informed and equipped, to emulate on the emerging best practices, areas where more focus is required to improve the quality of training, and most of all on the quintessential aspect of capturing the untapped entrepreneurial energy lying dormant and unexplored among the youth who have been forgotten and written off as being redundant and useless or possibly the last priority of the planners.

**NSC 2013:** The theme selected for 2013 is pertaining to exclusion with special focus on agriculture and farming and excluded segments with the running message being 'a single size does not fit all' as is experienced from a multi-diverse country like India where formal efforts continue to hover around the privileged few and catering to the organised industrial needs. New sizes and experiments as practised in community colleges and vertical and lateral entries are essential in breaking the myth of lower value/status attributed to vocational training and establishing the fact that skill education is second to none. In addition to access to education, skill development of the marginalised and 'excluded' segment is the key to inclusive growth.

**Take-Home Benefits:** Best practices in newer areas in agriculture and farming where majority of the population depends for a livelihood, practices in community colleges and possible emulation, facilitation as activists to encourage vertical and lateral entry to educational institutions so that the early school leavers and school dropout youth do not remain ever as unproductive adding to the millions of already existing unemployed, are some among them.

**28-29, November 2013**  
**Hotel Marigold by Green Park, Begumpet, Hyderabad**



### NSC Inauguration by

**Shri Kodikunnil Suresh**

Hon. Minister of State for Labour  
and Employment, Govt. of India

### Keynote Address by

**Mr JP Rai, IAS (V.Retd.)**

Director General, National Skill  
Development Agency, New Delhi



### From Executive Director

#### A Point of Increasing Concern

The country saw the emergence of a number of federations, institutions, organisations and universities and some of them even international outfits that came forward to organise national level skill conferences which intensely discussed about the scope, length and reach of skills initiatives to different strata of people with an inclusive agenda. However over a period last 3years, many of them have vanished from the scene either by design or choice.

The reasons for this retreating mindset either disillusioned, felt lack of resources, or developed disinterestedness are worth a thought for the existing players and take affirmative action as not to fall back, as the country still needs to serve to the needs of the really deserving millions of waiting youth to be skilled at their appropriate level.

**Albert Joseph**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

### Refresher Programme

ILO in collaboration with FVTRS organised a 3-day Refresher Programme from 12-14 August in Bangalore for those EDP trainers who had attended the ILO's ToT programme in 2005, 2007 and 2012. 16 trainers representing 12 non-profits attended. The objective of the programme was to help the participants share their experiences and also give them new inputs so that they can conduct the training programmes more effectively. Mr Gemunu from Sri Lanka, Mr Khaleelul Rahman and Mr G Y Reddy from India were the resource persons.



Mr Gemunu conducting session

### ToT Programme

FVTRS and ILO organised a 2-week Training of Trainer (ToT) programme on Generate Your Business (GYB), Start Your Business (SYB) and Improve Your Business (IYB) in Bangalore from 20-30 August, 2013. 19 persons (15 FVTRS partners, 3 from MSME and 1 from Aide et Action) underwent the training. Mr Gemunu from Sri Lanka, Mr Khaleelul Rahman and Mr GY Reddy from India facilitated the training. Various methodologies such as group works, games, video clips, lecturing, power point presentations etc. were used.



Participants of Training of Trainers

The valedictory on 30 August was attended by Ms Anjana Chellani, Programme Officer-ILO and FVTRS Board and Advisory members Dr Antony Kariyil, Dr Ghandi Doss, Dr J Alexander, IAS (Retd.) and Mr Albert Joseph.



Ms Anjana Chellani speaking during Valedictory session

### The Role Of FVTRS In The Changing Scenario



Ms Koely Roy addressing the participants

The Annual Retreat of FVTRS was held at Bangalore on 27 September. FVTRS General Body and Governing Board members, nine partners and the staff of FVTRS participated. Dr Antony Kariyil, President-FVTRS welcomed the participants and pointed that retreat is the time for introspection. A panel session was held in which Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, Ms Koely Roy, Fr MV Thomas and Mr Jagadananda spoke on *The role of FVTRS in the changing scenario-national and global*. Dr J Alexander, IAS (Retd.) moderated the session. Based on the inputs from the Board members and the vision and mission statement of FVTRS group discussions were held. Each group made a presentation after the discussion.

### Consolidated suggestions:

- Find new funding partners especially CSR groups. Also create a fund- raising or resource mobilisation team.
- Create a strong baseline line data on no. of youth trained, employed, self- employed and follow up etc.
- Prepare a Directory of innovative and specialised trades
- Go beyond funding and create national level implementing agencies' network and strategic partnership etc.
- Create network with other govt. and non-govt. organisations like National Skill Development Agency etc.
- Prepare curricula in regional languages
- Include more agriculture-based trades

During the post-lunch session Recommendations of the previous Annual Retreats and National Skill Conferences and the actions taken were presented by FVTRS staff and the participants discussed in detail. Dr Antony Kariyil proposed the vote of thanks at the end.



Participants of the Annual Retreat

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

### Founder Memorial Lecture

The Founder Memorial Lecture was organised at Bangalore on 27 September from 6.30 to 8.30 PM. Students of Christ University, Dharmaram College, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, and representatives of different non-profit organisations were present on the occasion. The dignitaries lit the lamp to mark the start of the event. Ms Nirmala Rao gave an introduction on FVTRS and Founder Memorial Lecture. A short documentary film was screened on Bro Jose Veticattil, the Founder-President of FVTRS. Followed by one minute silence Ms Sheela paid homage to Bro Jose Veticattil. The dignitaries offered floral tribute to Bro Jose. Dr Antony Kariyil, FVTRS President welcomed the participants. Mr ML Satyan introduced the speaker of the day.

Dr MV Rajeev Gowda, Professor-Economics and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore delivered the lecture on the theme "From Skills and Jobs to Entrepreneurship". He gave the background trends such as India's demographic transformation, migration, education system, growth of service sector, manufacturing sector, demand for skilling and growing gaps etc.

#### Salient Features of the Lecture:

- Appropriate skill formation raises wealth of an economy both qualitatively and quantitatively

- It evolves from commodity to knowledge centric
- A workforce with enhanced skills is more productive and potentially generates higher incomes for themselves
- Instead of being substitutes, a strong correlation exists between formal education levels and vocational skill development
- Need for soft skills-language and communication, confidence and presentation, commitment and professionalism, management and execution capability etc.
- Importance of building brand-social networks now allow people to create brands based on clients' ratings. They can motivate skilled workers to develop a reputation for professional excellence
- Certification is mandatory
- Nurturing entrepreneurs-commercial knowledge, cooperative sourcing networks, brand building and marketing, continuous training and development, tap into traditional knowledge networks and upgrading the skill with technology and soft-skills (agri-business and tourism), bring back respect in jobs where one works with hands (Gandhian concept).

After the lecture the speaker answered the questions raised by the participants. Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath moderated the session and Ms Koely Roy, Vice-President FVTRS proposed the vote of thanks.



Dignitaries lighting the lamp



Floral tribute by Mr G S Sethi



Dr MV Rajeev Gowda answering the questions

### Promote The Youth As Young Entrepreneurs

"Do not stop with skill training for the youth but promote them as young entrepreneurs" exhorted Ms Heena Shah, Director of ICECD, Ahmedabad during the promotional consultation. Ms Annie Prasad, IAS (Retd.) from Ahmedabad attended the programme. She stressed the need for promoting vocational training among the school dropout youth.



Dignitaries and the audience

The objective of the promotional consultation held at Ahmedabad on 30 August 2013 in collaboration with Unnati was to sensitise different stakeholders on the importance of vocational training for the school dropout youth and to identify credible non-profits to partner with FVTRS to

impart vocational training. Mr Binoy Acharya, Director of Unnati and Board member of FVTRS welcomed the participants and Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager FVTRS explained the objective.

Participants from SAATH, Mahila Housing Sewa Trust, Vivekananda Research and Training Institute, Parivarthan Trust, Antyodaya Vikas Shikshan Centre shared their experiences in vocational training. Mr Felix D'Souza spoke about unorganised sector, scenario of the school dropout youth, FVTRS, its activities and funding criteria. Thirty five persons representing non-profit organisations from different parts of Gujarat participated in the programme.

#### WELCOME

FVTRS extends a hearty welcome to Ms Shweta Tiwary who joined FVTRS as Project Monitoring Officer on 19 August, 2013.

Monitoring Visits - 10

Pre-assessment visits - 3

New proposals received - 34

Fund released - Rs.27,89,250

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

**"There is no dearth of jobs in the country but youth are not employable"** said Mr Sashikanth Sendil IAS, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer while inaugurating the Job Fair organised by Shimoga Multi-purpose Social Service Society (SMSSS) in collaboration with FVTRS and L&T Company Bangalore on 22 July 2013 at Chaitanya, Shimoga. Rev Felix Noronha, the Vice President of SMSSS, Mr Nagaraj Training Officer L&T Company, Rev Veeresh V Moras and Madhukeshwar Bhat of 'I create India' were present.

In his inaugural address Mr Sendil mentioned that today's youth are not employable as they are unskilled. He quoted former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam who had rightly said that India does not have problem of unemployment but unemployability. As the educated youth lack vocational skills the educational institutions have to focus on reducing the skill gap by improving the curriculum and teaching methods. In order to change the current scenario, educational curriculum needs to be examined from time to time to ensure that education received by students is relevant and up-to-date. He encouraged the job seekers to take up skills provided by L & T Company.

In his address Rev Veeresh mentioned that developed countries have 70 per cent skilled workers where as India has only 5 per cent and stressed the need for making use of the wonderful opportunity provided by L&T Company. Out of 130 participants 32 youth registered their names to join L & T.

Mr Salvadore Pereira, Project Coordinator of SMSSS facilitated the programme.



Rev Felix Noronha inaugurating the Job Fair



Participants of the Job Fair

### L & T Training under progress

As a follow-up of the Job Fair, SMSSS sent eight school dropout youth to L & T Construction Skill Training Institute, Bangalore for a 3-month training in Farm work Carpentry. The training that started on 29 July will conclude on 26 October 2013. Mr ML Satyan, Programme Manager and Mr RB Prashanth, Asst. Manager-IEC from FVTRS office visited the training site on 30 September. They interacted with the trainees and the trainer. The trainees expressed their satisfaction about the training, the monthly stipend of Rs.1700 and the accommodation.



FVTRS team with trainees at L&T training site

As per the training procedure of L&T, these trainees will get a Certificate and a Workman Referral Card (WRC) with an ID number to track the history of the trainee. They will be sent to different L&T construction sites after completion of the training. Each trainee will be able to earn Rs.8,000 and more per month. L&T has a grading system in which the trainees will be made to appear for an exam after one year of practical work. All those who pass will be under Grade III. After completion of one more year of practical work the trainees

will attend an exam and reach Grade II. They will work for four years and then appear for the final exam to reach Grade I. In this system each trainee will have to work for 6 years to reach Grade I from Construction Skill Training (CST) level. Under Grade I the trainees can function as Engineers or Officers depending on the skills they have exhibited during the 6 years of work.

### Training and Research Centre for FVTRS

On 30 August 2013 the building construction work was inaugurated with prayer and blessing by Dr Antony Kariyil, President FVTRS. Dr J Alexander, IAS (Retd.) FVTRS Advisory Board member, Dr Ghandi Doss, FVTRS Governing Board member, Fr Peter Brank, Director-KROSS, Mr Albert Joseph and the staff of FVTRS were present on the occasion.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Visits/Meetings

#### Annual General Body Meeting

The AGM of FVTRS was held along with Governing Board meeting on 25-26 September in Bangalore. Annual report, audited accounts for 2012-2013, plan of action and budget for 2013-14 were presented and passed.

#### Project Selection Committee

19 proposals were presented at the Project Selection Committee meeting held on 25 September. The total cost of 19 projects is Rs.1.7 crore.

#### Meeting with SCHNEIDER Electric Foundation

The CSR Director of SCHNEIDER Electric Foundation and his team visited FVTRS office on 8th August and held discussion with FVTRS team regarding possible collaboration with FVTRS for their CSR programme.

#### CBM and Mobility India

Mr SN Anand, Programme Manager, Mobility India-Bangalore and Ms Fairlene Soji, Coordinator and her team from Christoffel Blinden Mission-Bangalore visited FVTRS office and held discussion with FVTRS staff on the possible collaboration for community based rehabilitation of youth with disabilities in Karnataka.

#### GLEN Internship

An internship proposal for 2014 was submitted to Global

Education Network of Young Europeans (GLEN) office, Germany in August, 2013. The result will be intimated to FVTRS by the end of October, 2013.

#### NRLM

FVTRS is processing a skill training project proposal to NRLM under the Ministry of Rural Development. FVTRS has identified 26 existing partners to be co-partners in this project. They were asked to furnish certain project-specific data and 19 partners have sent the requested inputs. Final proposal will be prepared based on these inputs.

#### Odisha Study

The initial process (signing of MoUs) of conducting a study on the school dropout youth in Odisha has been completed. The study will be done by two partner organisations viz. Seba Jagat and KIRDITI.

#### Partners' Proposal Presentations

During July 6 prospective NGO partners from Jharkhand, WB, Karnataka, Bihar, Odisha and T. Nadu visited FVTRS to present and defend their project proposals.

#### Interview

On 30-31 July 2013 FVTRS conducted interviews to select staff for the vacant positions i.e. Assistant Accounts Officer and Project Monitoring Officer. Two candidates were selected.

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES

### Corporate Social Responsibility

Under the new Companies Act, 2013, which has replaced nearly six-decade old legislation, all profitable companies with a sizeable business would have to spend every year at least 2% of three-year average profit on CSR works. The CSR is applicable to companies with: A net worth of Rs.500 crore or more; a turnover of Rs.1,000 crore or more; and a net profit of Rs.5 crore or more during any financial year. Companies should formulate and recommend a 'CSR Policy' to the Board which indicate the activities to be undertaken by the company; Recommend the amount of expenditure to be incurred in relation to the CSR policy; and monitor the progress of the CSR policy from time to time. The CSR policy is required to be disclosed on the company's website.

CSR activities recognised under the Bill include:

- Eradicating extreme hunger and poverty
- Promotion of education
- Promoting gender equality and empowering women
- Reducing child mortality and improving maternal health
- Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
- Ensuring environmental sustainability
- Imparting employment enhancing vocational skills
- Social business projects
- Contribution to certain funds

Expecting an annual CSR spending of Rs.15,000-20,000 crore by India Inc, Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India, has

asked companies to see the new law as an investment opportunity to create a better work environment, rather than a forced expenditure, in the recently held National Summit on CSR at New Delhi on 30 September 2013. The summit enabled varied stakeholder to come together to discuss and deliberate on critical issues. Ms Koely Roy, Vice President, FVTRS and Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager, FVTRS attended the summit.

*(Source: National Summit on CSR-Embedding CSR into Business Strategy - 30-09-2013)*

#### A Unique Skill Training Opportunity

L&T is offering free skill training to the school/college dropout and unemployed youth at Construction Skills Training Institute in Bangalore. Free accommodation and monthly stipend are provided to the trainees. After the training all the trainees are employed by L&T. In 6 years' time the trainees become full-fledged engineers or officers depending upon their skills.

#### Contact Persons:

1. Mr R Ravi Kumar, Regional Training Manager  
(Construction Skills)  
Ph. 080-40100180; 9886300976

2. Mr Nagaraj, Project In-charge, Construction Skills Training Institute  
Ph. 91+ 99803 67297  
Website: Lntecc.com

### Efficient Beautician



Vanlalsiami from Rawpui, Aizawl, aged 17 has two younger sisters. When these three children were young, the parents got separated. She managed to study till 7th class and discontinued her studies in order to support her mother who was running a petty shop. Often her mother used to work under a landlord as a daily wage agricultural labourer. Her family was having a hand-to-mouth existence. Through her friends Vanlalsiami learnt about vocational training offered freely by a local organisation. She underwent beautician training. She was awarded as the best trainee in her batch. After completing the course, she started working as a freelance beautician. She is invited to different houses to do hair dressing, body massaging and facial. She also does the beautician work at her residence whenever clients come to her. She is now able to earn more than Rs.5000 per month. She is slowly becoming famous in her locality due to her quality work. She has plans to get more clients from other localities in future, earn more and develop this enterprise.

### Rewarding Skill

Nilufa Seikh, a school dropout girl aged 27, is from an orthodox family but her mind is quite progressive and able to reinforce her ideas among others. Due to poverty and unemployment she was finding difficult to run the family with the meagre income of her husband. She attended the training course on Nursing Assistant and completed successfully. She was offered a job of Health Worker by Ambuja Cement Factory situated in the locality. She did the assigned work very efficiently resulting in an opportunity for an advanced nursing training in Himachal Pradesh. Now she has been selected for another training to be held in Maharashtra. The factory has met all the expenses of the advanced training.



She is earning Rs.5000/- per month as a part-time worker with the bright prospects of an increment and a permanent job in the factory. With this income she is now able to meet the household expenses and educate her children. She feels that her skill has rewarded her.

### Green Trade



Usha's dream of creating her own garden has come true today and she feels proud of her bio-garden. Belonging to an economically backward family living at Kenchatanahalli village in Karnataka she had to drop out of school after 7th class due to poverty. She started working as a daily wage labourer to supplement her husband's meagre income. As the income from the daily wage work was insufficient to meet the household expenses she looked for better opportunities of livelihood. At this stage she learnt about vocational training offered by a local non-profit organisation named READS. She joined the training course on bio-garden and obtained theoretical and practical knowledge on all aspects of bio-garden raising, seeds collection, preparation of saplings and vermin compost. After the completion of her training she raised a model bio-garden in a small piece of land adjacent to her house. Due to her hard work the garden looks very green and started yielding good quality vegetables. She plans to expand her bio-garden and convert it into a profitable enterprise.

### Budding Entrepreneur

Srinivas lives at Nethajinagar in Bangalore. He is now 20 year old and lost his father at the age of 12. His father's sudden death made him drop out from school and work in a motor garage near his house. With his small income he took care of his mother, sister and family expenses. He took up different jobs to stabilise his family and to educate his sister. All the jobs gave him temporary income with less satisfaction. He had a desire to undergo skill training in cell phone repair. When he came to know about skill training for school dropout youth at BMSSS, a local non-profit, he got himself enrolled and underwent the said training regularly. The practical classes and EDP training helped him to gain more knowledge on various types of cell phones, customer relationship and enabled him to undertake cell phone repair works confidently.



After the completion of the training he was placed at a Mobile Service Centre in his locality. The training has helped him to earn a decent salary of Rs.5000 per month. In addition to this, he does cell phone repair work at his house whenever clients approach him. He is able to earn an additional income of Rs.2000-3000. The skill training opportunity has helped him to understand his entrepreneurial abilities. He has plans to start his own business very soon and move towards progress in his life.

**AGRO-ECOLOGY**

(Excerpts from an interview with Hans Rudolf Herren President, Millennium Institute, Washington published in Down to Earth - December 16-31, 2012)

**What is the significance of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) report?**

The report looks at agriculture as not just the production of food but its multi-functionality, in its impact on the environment, society and the economy. It looks at all this in a holistic manner. The report is unique because it also includes the farmer's knowledge, the traditional knowledge of agriculture. This caused the most problems with industry and academics. It advocates ecological or sustainable farming. When I was asked to be co-chaired, I was very excited. It was to look back at agriculture over 50 years to find why we are where we are. And to see what we should do to make sure that life goes on in our planet. Disappointingly, the future part was monopolised by International Food Policy Research Institute.

**India has launched a major initiative to expand its Green Revolution. But you are highly critical of the system Why?**

The Green Revolution paradigm makes farmers dependent on external inputs that are non-sustainable and costly. These are becoming more and more expensive because they are petroleum based, which is a finite resource. The main issue here is that the Green Revolution sees agriculture as simply the production of food, whereas it produces a number of essential ecosystem and social services. When we consider the food security system, we need to look at it as a whole, from production to consumption.

**Are you also against biotechnology or is it specifically GM?**

What does one need this tool for? That's what you have to decide. If you have a hammer in your hand everything tends to look like a nail. This is an expensive technology that makes farmers dependent on big agribusiness and is of no use in ecological systems. On the other hand, they create more problems as when crops and weeds become resistant to particular genes and farmers are forced to use ever increasing quantities of pesticides. GM technology is a reductionist approach.

**Are you saying that we can produce enough food ecologically to feed the growing population?**

**GLOBAL AGRICULTURE IS AT A CRITICAL POINT**



**Major reasons current agriculture and food security systems are not working**

The world produces 4,600 calories per person per day, which is enough food to feed twice the present population. Yet close to a billion out of total 7 billion go hungry: **ACCESS AND EQUITY PROBLEM**

In addition, there are 1.5 billion obese people and 300 million with diabetes-2: **SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEM**

Industrial agriculture system uses 10 kilocalories to produce one kilocalorie of food: **ENERGY PROBLEM**

Industrial and conventional food systems, including traditional systems, are a major contributor to **CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEM**

Soil degradation, water shortages and biodiversity loss underlie food security: **NATURAL RESOURCE PROBLEM**

Industrial agriculture has emptied rural areas as well as multidisciplinary research labs: **SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM**

Source: Millennium Institute & DTE

I am fed up with people saying we need to produce more food. We already produce 4,600 calories per person per day which is twice as much food as we need. The problem of nearly a billion people going hungry is not for want of food but of access and equity. India produces excess food-grains and yet it has the largest number of hungry people in the world. The US has 42 million hungry people. So what needs to change? The other big issue is wastage. About 30-40 per cent of what is grown is wasted.

**You say that we need to change of food habits. How?**

The world produces mostly cheap commodities that are of poor nutritional value but entail huge costs environmentally, socially and economically through chronic diseases, such as diabetes. We must encourage developing countries to grow their own healthy food by providing all kinds of support: financial, technical and with access to markets. We need to come to our senses and also eat less meat. Nothing will change unless we make the right choices.

**As long as the US and the EU provide huge subsidies to their agriculture and deflate food prices would it make any difference if India and other countries switched to agro-ecology?**

True. Cheap food policies are a major issue and call for a radical rethink. On the one hand, we need to keep food costs low to make it affordable for the poor but by doing so we make the problem worse. Politicians do not have the courage to tackle this. We have to rearrange the system perhaps by changing the tax structure. The US is talking of removing subsidy on ethanol and switching things around. Governments are more and more squeezed and can no longer afford the high cost of subsidies.

**Your work focuses a lot on climate change and sustainable agriculture. Is there a sense of urgency on this issue?**

Governments are not doing anything, although they know that climate change, natural resource depletion and unsustainable agricultural practices are interconnected with food insecurity and hunger, the marginalisation of millions of smallholder farmers, poverty and migration. Rio+20 in June dedicated an extensive chapter on Food Security and Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in its declaration. But there has been no follow through. Nick Stern (of the Stern Review) says two per cent of the global GDP should go for meeting climate change challenges, of which a tiny proportion is earmarked for green agriculture. I think all of it should go towards sustainable agriculture. It makes sense to change things slowly.

**Skill Development is Vital**

The workforce of the future will come from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, with developed States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu hitting - or even bypassing their peaks, new census data show. Today's children, who come overwhelmingly from U.P. and Bihar, will form workforce of the future.

One in every three children under 14 in India comes from Bihar or Uttar Pradesh. While India as a whole has 31 per cent of its population under 14, the corresponding number for U.P. is 35.69 per cent and an astounding 40.1 per cent for Bihar; four out of every 10 people in Bihar is under 14.

According to Census Commissioner C Chandramouli skill development is going to be make or break for India's demographic dividend to pay off.

Source: THE HINDU, 8 September 2013

## National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) Takes Shape

**No.14/27/2012-EC.-** In pursuance of the decision of the Cabinet in its meeting held on 9th May, 2013 the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) is hereby notified as per the following guidelines:

- a) The NSDA will subsume the Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development (PMNCSD), the National Skill Development Coordination Board (NSDCB) and the Office of the Adviser to PM on Skill Development.
  - b) The NSDA will coordinate and harmonise the skill development efforts of the Government and the private sector to achieve the skilling targets of the 12th Plan and beyond and endeavour to bridge the social, regional, gender and economic divide (i) by ensuring that the skilling needs of the disadvantaged and marginalised groups like SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, women and differently-abled persons are taken care of through the various skill development programmes and (ii) by taking affirmative action as part of advocacy by the NSDA.
  - c) The Central Ministries and NSDC will continue to implement schemes in their remit.
  - d) The NSDA will anchor the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) and facilitate the setting up of professional certifying bodies in addition to the existing ones.
2. The NSDA will discharge the following functions:
- i. Take all possible steps to meet skilling targets as envisaged in the 12th Five Year Plan and beyond
  - ii. Coordinate and harmonise the approach to skill development among various Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments, and NSDC and the private sector
  - iii. Anchor and operationalise the NSQF to ensure that quality and standards meet sector specific requirements
  - iv. Be the nodal agency for State Skill Development Missions
  - v. Raise extra-budgetary resources for skill development from various sources such as international agencies, including multilateral agencies, and the private sector
  - vi. Evaluate existing skill development schemes with a view to assessing their efficacy and suggest corrective action to make them more effective
  - vii. Create and maintain a national data base related to skill development including development of a dynamic Labour Market Information System (LMIS)
  - viii. Take affirmative action for advocacy
  - ix. Ensure that the skilling needs of the disadvantaged and the marginalised groups like SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities, Women and differently-abled persons are taken care of
  - x. Discharge any other function as may be assigned to it by the Government of India
3. NSDA will be an autonomous body chaired by a person of the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister, supported by a Director General (officer of the rank of Additional Secretary) and such officers and other support staff as may be required. Additional officers and staff shall be sanctioned and inducted as and when required in accordance with the prescribed procedure.
4. The current office of the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Skill Development with its existing manpower and sanctioned strength shall stand transferred to and form the nucleus for staffing the NSDA. The existing manpower would move to the same/corresponding positions in the NSDA which they are currently holding in the O/o the Adviser to the PM on Skill Development.
5. Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance shall be the Nodal Department for the NSDA for providing logistics, planning and budgetary support.
6. This notification will come into force with immediate effect.

**SHARMILA CHAVALY, Jt. Secy.**



### PMGP-Creating Employment Opportunities By Nurturing Entrepreneurship

The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a unique scheme that harnesses the strengths and skills of various individuals and helps them setup self supporting business. Launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in 2008, it has empowered people across the country, leading to the objective of inclusive growth.

#### Highlights

- 2.21 Lakh Number of Units Established
- 20.34 Lakh Persons Employment Opportunities Created
- Rs. 5,037 Crore Margin Money Subsidy Released
- Rs. 10,949 Crore Bank Credit Extended

#### *Fund Eligibility*

**Manufacturing - Rs.25.00 lakh**  
**Service Industry - Up to Rs.10.00 lakh**  
**Margin Money Subsidy - 15% to 35%**

#### New Initiatives

- Provision of Online Submission of applications provided. Applicant can click [www.kviconline.gov.in](http://www.kviconline.gov.in) for details.
- Special Subsidy for SC/ST, Minorities, Women and special categories.
- Minimum of 100 projects per district planned for 2013-2014



### Functional Vocational Training and Research Society

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