

July 2011

Vol 6 No. 3

## Ms Ellen Pedersen, Deputy Head of the Development Co-operation, European Union Delegation Visits Nagaland

Ms Ellen Pedersen, Deputy Head of the Development Co-operation, European Union (EU), Delegation to India embarked on a three-day visit to Nagaland on 11-13 April to overview the interventions under the project. Ms Pedersen accompanied by Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS visited Dimapur regional office and interacted with the team about the project and programmes supported.

She participated in the Stakeholders' Meet, Entrepreneurs' and Youth Conventions and interacted with trained youth and entrepreneurs supported by the service provider organisations.

*Contd: Page 4*



Ms Ellen Pedersen at FVTRS Regional Office, Dimapur, Nagaland

## Annual General Body Meeting

The AGBM of FVTRS was held on 9-10 June at Bangalore. While taking stock of the activities, the Board gave the following suggestions on the occasion.

- 30 per cent of the budget may be reserved for agriculture sector-based trades
- More of women friendly trades to be identified
- 5 per cent of the budget shall be dedicated for innovative trades
- Data on differently-abled persons who are trainees to be shown separately
- Invite lead bank managers while organising EDP training to discuss on hurdles being involved in enterprise development and bank loan matters

- Applicants who have applied for 'Research and Study' to be called for a one-day orientation to fine-tune proposals
- Additional effort to be taken up for getting more research and study proposals
- A social audit on projects to be carried out
- FVTRS should reform as a 'Centre of Excellence' while promoting the cause of vocational training
- Annual Retreat to be organised on 16-17 of September 2011
- National Skill Conference will be organised at Kolkata during November/December 2011
- NIOS affiliated courses and the institutions to be added with their addresses
- RTE act and its benefits to be communicated as and when possible while organising various programmes
- Support more of multi-skilled and teachers' training



INSIDE	
Highlights of the Quarter	2
EU-Supported Programmes	4
Success Stories	6
From the ED's Desk	8
Forthcoming Events	8

The European Union



Annual General Body Meeting at Bangalore

## New Project Partners' Meet and Project Implementation Plan (PIP) Workshop

A one-day Partners' Meet along with PIP workshop was organised for the new partners of FVTRS on 28 April at Hyderabad. Representatives from 35 partner agencies attended including the VET service providers of EU-supported project.

The objective of the workshop was to familiarise the new partners on the processes of project implementation, reporting patterns and formats, trade selection methods and modules, and on accounting processes of FVTRS.

Sessions were facilitated by FVTRS staff Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager; Mr C P Nicholas, Project Monitoring Officer and Ms Diviana Nayagi, Programme Secretary. EU-supported project staff were also present on the occasion.

DataMedu, an Australian organisation based at Hyderabad spoke on their products related to soft skills, entrepreneurship development and training of trainers that could be incorporated at the workplace to raise the quality of programme delivery.



Partners' Meet and PIP at Hyderabad

## New Co-operation with DataMedu

A new cooperation is being worked out with DataMedu which is an Australian group based at Hyderabad on soft skills development. The first batch of the ToT will be held from 22-26 August at Lucknow.

## Inauguration of NIOS-Study Centre

NIOS study centre was inaugurated on 30 April at the Alleppey Diocesan Charitable and Social Welfare Society (ADC-SWS), a project partner of FVTRS from Kerala. Most Rev Stephen Athipozhiyil; Mr Rajendran, Regional Officer from NIOS-Kochi; Fr Romance Antony, Director, Kerala Forum attended the meet where the trainees, parents and well wishers were present. Fr Siju P Jacob organised and anchored the programme successfully.



Inauguration of NIOS study centre at Alappuzha, Kerala

## Monitoring Review

A brain-storming session on existing mechanisms and systems in FVTRS on project monitoring, and measures to improvise the same was facilitated by Dr Joseph Sebastian, Executive Director of IGSSS on 2 May with staff of FVTRS. The momentum will be taken forward further with implementing partners. A monitoring meet is being planned for October 2011.

## National Jackfruit Fest 2011

Santhigram –a partner organisation of FVTRS– has successfully coordinated a three-day 'National Jackfruit Fest – Key to local food security' on 4-6 June at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. 250 participants from 36 partner-organisations, NGOs from Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and delegates from other countries attended.

Prof K V Thomas, Hon. Minister of State for Agriculture, Govt. of India inaugurated the festival. Dignitaries present on the occasion were Sri K P Mohanan, Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Kerala; Dr M K Muneer, Hon. Minister for Panchayat and Social Welfare, Govt. of Kerala; Sri K C Shashidhar, CGM, NABARD; local MLAs; representatives of PRIs and Municipalities.

The objective of the fest was to synergise the expertise of all stakeholders involved in the production and use of jackfruit for their deeper engagement for the promotion and propagation of jackfruit as a nutritious food to position it as a key fruit to ensure food security and diversification of its various usage to consumers with new skills being brought in, and to ensure minimum wastage of the fruit in rural areas.

Programme included of three-day workshop on jackfruit, skill training for trainers on value-added jackfruit products, exhibitions, photo contest, cookery & quiz competitions, and a plantation campaign of one lakh jackfruit saplings on the World Environment Day.

A network of the members of partner and interested organisations was formed on the occasion to promote the theme with value addition and to take forward the cause for its promotion and conservation on a collective mode.



Sri Padre, Environmental Activist and Editor addresses the audience; Present dignitaries (from Left): Dr K Prathapan, Director, State Horticulture Mission, KERAFED; Advocate K Chandrika; Mayor, Thiruvananthapuram; Smt B Sugathakumari, Poetess, Environmental Activist; Dr M K Muneer, Minister for Panchayat and Social Welfare, Govt of Kerala; Sri R K Sundaram, Chairman, Santhigram; Sri K P Jayachandran, DGM, NABARD

## World Bank and ILO Meet on NVQF

A one-day meet was organised by ILO, World Bank and Ministry of Labour and Employment on National Vocational Quality Framework (NVQF) on 3 May at New Delhi in an effort to introduce a single value system in educational and vocational training courses to upgrade and standardise quality. Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director represented FVTRS in the meeting. Delegates from Australia, South Africa and European countries shared their experiences on the benefits of NVQF.

## Meeting with NIESBUD

A meeting was held with Mr Rishi Singh, Director, Training of National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida on 19 June to explore possibility of organising entrepreneurship development programmes.

## NIPCCD Meet

Mr Albert Joseph presented a paper on 'Developing impact, outcome and process indicators and on ensuring sustainability of a project' at the orientation programme for project partners of NIPCCD at Bangalore on 14 June. The programme was held from 13 to 17 June on Planning, Designing and Resource Management of Project.

## Partnership with ILO for Entrepreneurship Development

A meeting with the concerned officials of ILO was held on the proposed ToT (Training of Trainers) for Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) at New Delhi on 7 April. A follow-up meeting with employers, workers and labour ministry is being planned on 11 July at New Delhi as a prelude to formalise the cooperation.

## Endosulfan Meet

A team from national level organisations met at Kasargod on 22 June to get appraised about the miserable conditions in which the victims in Kozhikode and Kasargod districts of northern Kerala live due to the pesticide used in cashew plantation sites by the Kerala Plantation Corporation and private planters. The team was briefed on the occasion by Mr Narayanan Periya and other local activists. It was felt that apart from medical interventions, employment is an issue for the affected victims and people who look after them. The participating organisations expressed their solidarity with the victims and cause, and committed to be part of the action package.

The team also had a briefing and stock-taking session with the district magistrate and collector Mr S K Sateesh and district medical officer Dr Joseph D'Cruz for 3 hours. The need for drafting a master plan was felt appropriate on the occasion as against piecemeal and patchy efforts. Fr Mani Melvettom, Director of Tellicherry Social Service Society coordinated the meet.

## News of NIOS-FVTRS Cooperation for VT and Academic Certificate

### Meeting held at NIOS

Discussions were held on 19 June with Dr S S Jena, Chairman; Dr Wasnik, Director-VT and Mr P P Chugh, Asst. Director on aspects related to the collaboration, admission procedure, and relationship of partner-organisations and NIOS regional offices.

### Progress during the quarter

Conferences were held at regional offices of NIOS where new associated AVIs (Accredited Vocational Institutions) under NIOS-FVTRS collaboration invited to interact with officials of NIOS head office. AVIs clarified their doubts during the face-to-face dialogue with the officials.

- A total of 4915 trainees are proposed by these AVIs in 33 trades.
- Admission process is currently going on for vocational courses by all 38 AVIs.

## Hearty Welcome!

Mr M L Satyan and Mr Ashoka V joined FVTRS as Project Manager (EU-Project) and Project Monitoring Officer from 13 June 2011.

## Participation in Meetings/ Conferences

### CII National Conference

CII has organised a two-day National Conference on 'Securing the Future: Framework for Inclusive Growth' on 8-9 April at New Delhi where officials from several ministries and government secretaries participated and addressed the programme along with industrialists. Mr Albert Joseph from FVTRS attended the conference. Discussions were held with CII members and various Secretaries of Govt of India on the issue of skill development.



Meet on Endosulfan issue at Kasargod, Kerala

### Projects

- 77 Project Proposals were received
- 22 Proposals for Research and Study were received from 22 applicants
- Rs. 1.07 crore was released for projects
- 23 agencies were visited for pre-assessment and 16 projects on monitoring in ten States by FVTRS staff from Bangalore and regional offices

### Finance and Account

#### Misereor Auditors' visit

Ms Claudia Hartmann from Finance and Mr Diogo H Ferreira, Auditor of Misereor visited FVTRS on 29-30 March and again on 5 April to streamline all the project grants from 2004 to 2011.

- Auditing of Accounts for the financial year 2010-11 was carried out by the Auditors and final report submitted.
- Audited Statement of Accounts are being collected from partners for final reporting to donors.

### Miscellaneous

**Article Published:** 'A Plumber is as Important as a Doctor' in The Hindu on May 22 in the open page section on the core issue of skill development.

**Three Documentary Films:** Video shooting is done for three projects; Centre for Development in Ahmedabad, Upaya in Sambalpur and Garden Reach Bangla Basti Academic Development Society in Kolkata by Mr Madhava Murthy and his team from 26 to 30 April. Script writing is going on.

**Electronic Attendance System** introduced at FVTRS office from 1 April 2011

**Staff Appraisal** for the year 2010-11 is done in the month of April.

**Interview** was organised for the position of Project Monitoring Officer on 3-4 May at Bangalore. Mr V Ashoka has been selected for appointment.

**Renewal of Society's Registration:** Annual returns along with the AGBM documents were filed with Registrar of Societies of Karnataka for renewal of registration.

**Employee Gratuity Fund:** The process of opening Employee Gratuity Fund account with LIC of India has been initiated.

The European Union



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

### Stakeholders' Meeting at Dimapur

24 stakeholders participated in the meeting with Ms Ellen Pedersen, Dr P Basak, Member of Governing Board of FVTRS and members of regional team at Dimapur on 12 April. Participants discussed on the VET specific problems of North East youth and rising the employability prospects through skills training.



Stakeholders' Meeting at Dimapur, Nagaland

### Entrepreneurs' Convention

#### 'If I Can...So Can You'

An Entrepreneurs' Convention was held at Dimapur-Nagaland on 12 April where 43 trainees of five service provider organisations from Nagaland, Assam and West Bengal participated. Ms Aokok Imsong, Regional Manager, FVTRS Dimapur welcomed the participants and Ms Ellen Pedersen gave the inaugural speech emphasising on the need of entrepreneurial initiatives to promote self employment.

Mr Arindam Dasgupta, Director of DHRITI-The Courage Within, Barpeta took sessions on entrepreneurship and schemes and opportunities for entrepreneurs and emphasised that self confidence is important for succeeding as an entrepreneur. Trainees from Mon-Nagaland, Silchar and West Bengal shared their experiences of their journey of success through skill training.

An exposure visit to Country Craft Production Unit of Mr Alem Longkumer was organised. He has taken a motivation session based on his experience of exporting bamboo and wood handicraft and on his book 'Soul of a Bamboo'. Dr P Basak took a session on 'Key challenges for success in a new business' highlighting problems of starting a business. Mr Raju Teron, Documentation Officer, from Dimapur regional office proposed vote of thanks.



Entrepreneurs' Convention at Dimapur, Nagaland

### Youth Convention

#### 'Skills and Vocational Trainings as an Alternative Career Options'

A one-day Youth Convention on 'Skills and Vocational Training as an Alternative Career Options' was held at Dimapur-Nagaland on 13 April. Ms Ellen Pedersen addressed the gathering of 77 youth who participated in the convention and spoke on the need of vocational and skill training to bring them to the mainstream lime light. Support to skill development to raise employability is one of the key intervention areas of EU, she told in the meeting.

A motivation session was presented by Dr P Basak to encourage the trainee youth for diversification of vocational trades with inspiring video-clips and stories.

Mr B Panda, Asst. Project Manager (EU) facilitated the session on livelihood options by suitable vocational trades including traditional and innovative in nature through the FVTRS Documentary film 'Not Born to Burn'. Translation in local language (Nagamese) was done by Mr Raju Teron, Documentation Officer from Regional Office at Dimapur. Session was followed by interaction with trainee youth.

A 45-minute concert with collaboration of Peace Channel Band enthralled the crowd with music and the message of Peace and Love. The youth felt the time was well spent.



Ms Ellen Pedersen addressing the gathering



Participants at Youth Convention, Dimapur, Nagaland

### EU Project Review and Staff Development Training

To review the progress of work done and finalise action-plan for the year 2011, a two-day review meeting cum staff training was organised at Hyderabad on 26-27 April. All regional and Bangalore staff attended.

Project implementation plan (PIP) was reviewed and plan of action was formulated by the team. The occasion was utilised to share the experiences by members of three regions and cross learning.

Issues addressed were strengthening the working pattern of regional teams, reporting pattern, PIP, financial implications, and goal setting for the remaining of project period. Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director and Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager, FVTRS facilitated the sessions.



EU-supported Project Review Meet, Hyderabad

### Promotional Consultation at Puducherry

A one-day Promotional Consultation was organised at Puducherry on 29 June. During the inaugural session Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager, FVTRS welcomed the Chief Guest and all the NGO representatives. Mr M L Satyan, Project Manager (EU) made a brief presentation about FVTRS and the objectives of the Consultation. In his inaugural address, Mr Sreepathy Kalkura, the Chief Guest stressed the need for skill promotion in the present context. He mentioned various aspects of skill promotion with a special reference to banker's perspective on development sector. He also spoke about the need for skill branding, market survey, follow-up services to beneficiaries with regard to preparation of products and marketing.

In his keynote address Mr Felix D'Souza focused on the skill scenario including the skill mismatch and skill shortage in India, the need of bridging the existing gap in demand and supply of skilled manpower for the development of the nation, the importance of making the vulnerable and marginalised sections of the society employable by giving them need-based vocational education training.

After the lunch, the documentary film titled 'Not Born to Burn' was screened. The participants were inspired by this film. It was then followed by a panel presentation on the importance of skill training.



Chief Guest Addressing Participants at Puducherry Consultation

The panel comprised of Mr Parmeshwaran, Chief Manager/Director-Indian Bank Self Employees Training Institution, Puducherry; Ms Indra, Assistant Project Officer-DRDA, Puducherry; Ms Anitha, District Employment Officer, Labour Department, Puducherry, and Mr Gunashekharan, Govt ITI, Karaikal. All the Panelists focused on the need for supporting the skill training initiatives. **The District Employment Officer in her sharing mentioned that any person after completing a minimum of 3-month skill training in any trade, whether with Government Certificate or Private Certificate can approach the district employment office for his/her registration. Whenever there are opportunities the registered candidates would be given preference.**

The final session was on the dynamics of EU supported project, funding criteria and other related aspects. The FVTRS team clarified all the questions raised by the participants. Mr Nageshwar proposed the vote of thanks. There were 53 representatives from 39 NGOs from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

### STNA at Puducherry

#### Facilitating Partners to organise VET

Skill Training Needs Analysis, a one-day programme was organised at Puducherry on 30 June. There were 16 representatives from 13 NGOs from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

The FVTRS team consisting of Mr Felix D'Souza, Mr M L Satyan, and Mr Nageshwar, conducted sessions on the Skill scenario in India, Target Group Analysis, Market Analysis, Different models of VET, Certification, etc. The highlights of all the sessions were the importance for skill promotion, selection of the target group, implementation of market demand-based trades, certification and placement.

During the post-lunch session Mr Prakash of Anbalayam shared with the participants a list of trades related to food, health, hospitality, service sectors that have a good market-demand in Puducherry. Mr Jaishankar, Senior Business Associate, Life Insurance Corporation of India shared his personal experience on the need for soft skills. The sharing sessions were very educative for the participants. The FVTRS team clarified various questions raised by the participants.

Mr Raghuveer, Documentation Officer, Hyderabad thanked the Resource Persons and all the participants.



Participants at STNA, Puducherry

### Meet on FCRA

Mr Albert Joseph participated in the one-day meeting on Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) organised by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) at Hyderabad 27 June. It was organised at National Institute of Rural Development premises. Mr Venugal Sarma, Joint Secretary from MHA explained and clarified salient features of the FCRA Act that has come into force from 1 May 2011. The meet was facilitated by VANI and Financial Management Department Services (FMDS), New Delhi.

### Visit to Regional Offices

Mr M L Satyan, Project Manager (EU) visited the regional offices at Hyderabad and Dimapur on 21-24 June to get acquainted with the regional team and work. He has visited one organisation at Dimapur for pre-assessment along with the team.

### Other Information

- Report of 2010 is complied with the Delegation office of European Union along with supporting documents and audited statement of accounts.
- Modification on approved budget line-items was worked out during the meeting with the staff of EU finance and audit department. The same was finalised and approved by the Delegation of office of EU, New Delhi and contractual agreement signed.
- Regional teams visited 11 NGOs for the purpose of familiarisation in the States of AP, Karnataka, MP and Nagaland.

### Making a Difference in Their lives

#### From a school dropout to teaching assistant and inspiring kids



Mukesh is taking a class

Mukesh (25) was a school dropout at class 9<sup>th</sup> with no hope or direction. He became a successful and inspiring teaching assistant after going through the vocational training programme in teaching assistant course at Akhil

**Gramin Yuwa Vikash Samiti**, Muzzaffarpur, Bihar. He got a job in a child labour school with a monthly salary of Rs. 2500/-. He teaches about ethics, good manners and behaviour changes to students. A confident Mukesh became self-reliant and now supports his family.

### Domestic Maid to Clinical Assistant



Laxmi is attending a patient in the clinic

Laxmi belonged to a very poor stone-cutter family at Wodder colony, Adilabad town of Andhra Pradesh. She left studies after class 7<sup>th</sup> to support the family working as domestic helper in neighbouring houses along with her mother. She learnt about vocational courses run by the organisation-**SAIDS** and joined in clinical assistance training course. She was regular and attentive during the training and completed it successfully. Laxmi got a job in Quiets Clinic at Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh. The doctors in the clinic are quite satisfied with her work.

### Plumbers at Work

Kadendo Dhar Seth (26) and Saroj Behera (35) from Titlagarh block in Odisha are school dropout youth. They were working at construction sites to support the poor financial condition of their families. They used to get daily wage of Rs. 60-70.



Skilled Plumbers securing their future

To upgrade their skill, they joined the four-month plumbing and masonry course offered at **UDYAMA**. Their average daily income rose to Rs. 100-120. At present they started working on contract basis and took over the plumbing work of a building. They are getting good income and planning to work in construction sector on contract basis in the future.

### Skill to own a boutique



Jaya, Skilled in embroidery work

Jaya Ramesh Sonwani (28) belongs to a poor family and lives at Nagpur- Maharashtra. She could not study after class 8<sup>th</sup> because of her ill health from childhood. Jaya was good in singing hence joined a local orchestra which was a seasonal occupation. She was searching for a regular source of income. One of her friends told about the mobile training centre of **CNI-SSI**. She took admission in the six-month certificate course of electric machine embroidery and completed the course successfully. Jaya is now working in a boutique on embroidery work and getting Rs. 150 per day.

She is saving money to purchase an electric embroidery machine to start a boutique of her own.

### Training transforms Manoj's life

Manoj Kumar (28) is a resident of village Rud in Ichak block, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. He was a school dropout and was working as a labourer in construction work.



Manoj engaged in work

He came in contact with **Chotanagpur Vikas Manch** and started learning skills in electronics; repairing of TV, stabilizer, DVD/CD player. After completion of the training, he got a job in Sapna Electronics at Ichak More, Hazaribagh. He now earns a monthly salary of Rs. 3200 and is happy.

### Confident Chandana



Chandana taking classes of fashion designing

Chandana, a physically disabled among six siblings had to discontinue her studies at class 10<sup>th</sup> due to poor financial condition of the family. Her father sent her to the training centre to learn the skill that helped her to be self-reliant.

She has completed the training in tailoring and fashion designing from **KDDC**, North Canara, Karnataka. After the training she started working from home and is helping her father in meeting the family's needs. She took loan from a self help group to set-up a stitching and fashion designing centre at home. She is repaying the loan from her monthly earning of Rs. 2000. Chandana has also started taking classes on fashion design to girls in the neighbourhood.

### Setting an Example

Rukhsar (20) a school dropout at class 8<sup>th</sup> is the eldest amongst the four siblings in her family. She was searching for work to support her father who worked in a small cycle-repair shop. His income was insufficient for the family.



Rukhsar - fulfilling dreams of her parents

In July 2010, she came in contact with **Sahas Sewa Sansthan**, Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh and joined the six-month course in electrical works. After the training Rukhsar started working in a shop earning Rs. 50 per day. Simultaneously she used to work at home getting orders from neighbourhood. Now she is earning Rs. 150 per day and supporting her family. Her father is proud of Rukhsar who became an earning member at an early age.

# A plumber is as important as a doctor

Albert Joseph

India is a skill deficit nation where 12 per cent of its population is skilled and only two per cent receive any formal skill training in any employable trade. A young nation with 52 per cent of its population aged below 25 years and where 88 per cent school dropout rate exists, one can only imagine the way they are deprived of a dignified life for no fault of theirs. With June 2011 projected as the month when the seven billionth child will be born in India, it is going to be the illiteracy capital of the world along with other undesirable indices on many other fronts.

The first window in the life of a young person is the school and that is shut to them for reasons of access, poverty and tradition as planners put it. The second

window that could be opened in the lives of young people is through a 'skill window' which has a dignity, equaliser and currency role as the person takes on in life.

There is no perceptible effort done at the lower educational level to sensitise and orient the young understand that it is a stigma that prevents them from entering the 'skill world' and thus save them from the aimless pursuit of higher education. The myth and greatness attached to professional courses could be broken only with purposeful efforts from parents and at school level in today's highly polarised and diversified world. Only 25 per cent is employable out of the six lakh engineers who come out every year is a sad pointer in this context.

Thus stigmatised, India's 9,000 ITIs and polytechnics

with 10 lakh seating capacity can only expect students to enter these premises with a frustrated mindset, as being not otherwise useful. Australia, where this stigma existed 15 years ago, is now rid of it. A plumber is the most sought after person there than a medical doctor.

A recent incident in London showed that an Indian medical doctor changed his profession to plumbing, realising that a plumber there earns much more. China has started giving Ph.D. for plumbers who excel in their line of work. Are these jobs not dignified enough? The celebration of skilled manpower has to be the order of the day as we celebrate people who sing well, dance and act. Everything done well contributes to the growth of the comfort that we enjoy as like an electrician, carpenter, driver or

sweeper without whom no life is possible.

The archaic teaching curricula in the ITIs, poor infrastructure, and the fossilised teaching methods will become a thing of the past if young dedicated minds start entering these premises and the governance feels the heat to improvise the infrastructure, curricula and expertise. Proportionate improvement of enrolment and services will be felt vertically and laterally at all erstwhile defunct institutional levels.

For that to happen a 'skill movement' should take place from school education and at plus-two level onwards..

*(The writer is executive director, Functional Vocational Training and Research Society, Bangalore. His email is [annalbert@rediffmail.com](mailto:annalbert@rediffmail.com))*



**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](mailto:fvtrs@dataone.in)  
[www.fvtrs.org](http://www.fvtrs.org)

## Forthcoming Events

- 11 July: ILO Meet on ToT at New Delhi
- 14 July: World Education Summit-NIOS, New Delhi
- 12-15 July: Mid-Term Review of EU supported Project
- 21 July: Governing Board and Project Selection Committee Meetings
- 27-28 July: Promotional Consultation Meet and STNA at Siliguri, West Bengal
- 4 August: Save A Family Programme at Ernakulam, Kerala
- 9 August: Promotional Consultation Meet at Phulbani, Orissa
- 18 August: Meet of Research and Study Partners
- 22-26 August: ToT for Trainers at Lucknow
- 27 August: NIOS Accredited Partners' Meet at Lucknow
- 16-17 September: Annual Retreat & Memorial Lecture at Bangalore

## The Marble Players and the Post-Graduates!!

An interesting story was told by the former Principal Secretary of PMO, Mr B N Ugandhar at Hyderabad recently in a conversation. One person who is a post graduate went and told him. *'...the most unbearable thing in my life is when I see my peers who are gainfully employed and contribute to their family's income at least in a modest way. They were those days playing marbles when I studied in schools and colleges. I am despite having a post-graduate degree not able to contribute a single penny to my family's income. What shall I do?'* An example of how aimless pursuit of higher education and lack of skills make lives miserable and unbearable.

-A J