

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE
PROCEEDINGS OF
NATIONAL MEETING ON
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND
TRAINING FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL**

**23 to 25 February, 2005
Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India**

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Executive Summary

Vocational Education and Training (VET) plays an important role in empowering individuals to become self-reliant and to increase production and productivity through acquisition of skills needed to perform in the world of work. It serves as a bridge in connecting knowledge, skills and abilities with developmental activities for harmonizing economic prosperity, environment conservation and social well-being. The integration of knowledge and skills relating to occupation technical know how with entrepreneurial and sustainability skills is an important step in providing sustained livelihood to the youths. Working on this premise, the PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE), Bhopal organized a three day National Meeting on “Vocational Education and Training for Sustainable Rural Livelihood” in collaboration with Dr. Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar from 23 to 25 February, 2005 at Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar.

The objectives of the national meeting were to provide a forum for exchange of experiences, lessons and views on various aspects related to vocational education and training for providing sustainable rural livelihood, develop consensus on the nature of vocational education and training programmes needed for rural youths, and to evolve strategies for implementation of VET programmes for strengthening the links between VET and rural development and to make rural youths employable.

The National Meeting was inaugurated on 23 February, 2005 by Dr. Gyanendra Singh, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot (Madhya Pradesh) in the presence of some 500 people, comprising invited guests, participants of the National meeting, faculty, staff and students of Dr.H.S.Gour University, Sagar and faculty and staff of PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education, Bhopal. Participants and guests were welcomed by Prof. S.P.Vyas, Head, Pharmacy Department, Dr. H.S. Gour University and the Programme Director of the National Meeting.

Prof. D.P.Singh, Vice Chancellor, Dr.H.S.Gour University, Sagar gave the inaugural address. A presentation of the thematic units was made by Dr. V.S. Mehrotra, Senior Lecturer, PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education and the Programme Coordinator of the National Meeting. The Chief Guest Prof. Gyanendra Singh gave the keynote address. Prof. S.Z.Haider, Joint Director, PSSCIVE, Bhopal gave the presidential address.

Sixty-seven participants representing 14 States/UTs of the country attended the National meeting. Thirty-seven papers on various issues, concerns and strategies related to livelihood opportunities and vocational education and training were presented from 23 to 25 February 2005 in the Seminar Hall of the University. During the three-day deliberations, papers on the status of vocational education and training programmes (formal and non-formal), emerging rural employment opportunities in farm and non-farm sectors, mobilization of community resources for providing employable skills through training, strategies for promotion of sustainable rural livelihood opportunities and systems and promotion of women participation in livelihood diversification through enhancement of asset status, skill training and independent ownership rights were presented in technical sessions, which was followed by plenary discussions.

Four working groups of participants deliberated upon the questions related to strategies for promoting sustainable livelihood through vocational education and training. The major recommendations of the working groups include the need to bring about awareness among stakeholders viz., parents, religious and political leaders, children, youths, etc., on the importance of vocational education and training, implementation of the concept of Providing Urban amenities to Rural Areas (PURA), promotion of rural industrialization, promotion of equity through greater access to resources and employment opportunities, use of Information and Communication Technology in VET, encouraging entrepreneurship development, promotion of gender sensitive livelihood systems, and capacity building of rural children, youths and adults through vocational education and training.

The working groups also suggested that the design of VET programmes should be such that it leads to an understanding of economic, political, social and environmental implication and benefits. VET programmes must be flexible enough to accommodate the various training needs of a variety of target groups and provide greater opportunity for entry and exit in offering of courses. The Universities, Colleges and Schools should make concerted efforts in providing training to rural youths in sustainable utilization of resources and technologies. The groups were of the view that a framework for Vocational Education and Training for providing sustainable livelihood may be developed and necessary reforms in curriculum for schools and higher education should be taken up on a priority basis to include study on entrepreneurship and sustainable development. The groups proposed a wide variety of vocational courses for providing VET in rural areas.

The closing ceremony of the National Meeting took place on 25th February, 2005. Prof. Dhyan Pal Singh, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jabalpur was the Chief Guest. Dr. (Mrs) Meena Pimplapure, a well-known social worker was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. Prof. S.Z. Haider presided over the function. Prof. D.P. Singh, Vice Chancellor, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar gave his observations about the three-day National Meeting. To seek unanimous commitment of the participants on the establishment and promotion of Vocational Education and Training programmes for Sustainable Rural Livelihood to rural youths. Prof. S.Z. Haider proclaimed a Sagar Declaration on behalf of the participants. The salient features of Sagar declaration includes the following: (i) Livelihood opportunities, without any stress or fear and Vocational Education and Training should be made available to all, (ii) A comprehensive Vocational Education and Training programme for promoting the overall development of rural areas shall be provided for imparting quality skills training to the rural youths, (iii) States should provide quality VET programmes by appropriate use of infrastructure and technologies to meet the growing demand of skilled manpower in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors, (iv) Vocational Education and Training Centres, with residential facilities established at block level would motivate girls and women to join vocational courses in rural areas, (v) Offering VET programmes in collaboration with the open learning system and ensuring involvement of Non-government organizations and private educational institutions working in remote areas would be useful in reaching the unreached and the marginalized groups, (vi) The Institutions of Higher Education (Universities and Colleges) shall make provision for the vocational courses in a wide variety of disciplines so as to provide a seamless link with the vocational courses at the higher secondary stage of education and to give an opportunity to the workers to upgrade their skills.

At the end of the closing ceremony, participants expressed their pleasure over the fruitful exchange of experiences and views during the three-day National meeting and the hospitality and comfortable stay arrangements provided by the Dr. H.S. Gour University. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.

For Full Report and Information Please Contact:

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