

EMPLOYABILITY, EDUCATION DISCUSSED IN JSDP EVENT JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH KAS AND CREATE

Focus on skill development

BY SPJS STUDENTS

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The 32nd annual Joint Staff Development Programme (JSDP) jointly organised by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship and Technical education (CREATE) was held at Goa from 9th-12th October 2015. The theme of the conference was "vocational and skill development-impact on youth".

The function was inaugurated by Dr Lars Peter Schmidt, resident representative to India, KAS Dr V G Patel, Founder Director of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India. In his key-note address, Dr Patel presented a five-part module while addressing the need for employment and employability in India. He pondered on the increasing demand for higher education vis-à-vis the increase in population. He said that the population growth for employment may pose a



grim situation, adding, "India is way behind competing nations in skills and education."

Offering a solution to the problem, he proposed a five-pillar effective framework, including availability, accessibility, adaptability, acceptability and sustainability which would create opportunities for; capacity building, reaching out skills training to remote areas, making an integrated flexible structure which will enable learn-

ers to shift from skill-based training to academics and vice-versa, create an advanced curriculum using international experience and maximize in-plant training and finally increase budgets without totally depending on public finance.

While praising the success of "Make In India", Mr Krishan Kalra, Member Proposal Approval Committee, NSDC, also said that the present scenario in rural India is very bleak due to

industrialization. With the growing threat of a landless class eventually leading to unemployment, it is NSDC that plays the crucial role of providing adequate technical guidance to the unemployed, said Mr Kalra. He added that the organization is also looking to fund businesses that seek to create employable people across all sections of the society. Another NSDC representative, Mr Ranjan Choudhury stressed on the

importance of integrating vocational training in schools as well as in the universities. Elaborating on the various programmes of NSDC like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Mr Choudhury described it to be useful for those people who have the skills but are denied certifications. NSDC through its path-breaking scheme like Udaan in Jammu and Kashmir has been able to reach the marginalized sections by getting them enrolled in trainings which will give them a good ground in the job sector.

Discussing at length the success of German, Australian and Chinese models in the field of vocational skills and development, Mrs Pragati Srivastav, Deputy Director, FICCI, said that the same model can be implemented in India. She stated productivity holds the key to youth employment in India and how FICCI can help them achieve the same. She pointed out the possibili-

ty of a skill-development university which will allow the students to take up courses and thus get recognized in the corporate and public sector.

Fabian Weingart, German representative working on skill trainings in India, focused on the differences in education systems of India and Germany. He said that while Germany closely followed the dual-education system, incorporating much of practical training alongside theoretical classes, education in India is only the latter. Emphasising further on the importance of practical training, he said, "If you want to prosper in the future get educated now. If you want productivity in the future, get them skilled now."

WITH INPUTS FROM - NEELABH RAJ, TRISHA BHATTACHARJEE, SABYASACHI SENGUPTA, SOMALI MUKHERJEE, BARNALI MITRA, SHUVAM CHOUDHURI, SOUNITA SARMA CHOUDHURY, KRISHNASH DASGUPTA, SHRAMAN BANERJEE, SHREYOSI CHAKRABORTY