

Question & Answers / Observations from the Livelihood Webinar – 31 August 2024

Somayajulu Karamchetty: Busy people have a variety of tasks, paid work and unpaid domestic work, to do while the unemployed have no work and have a lot of time. By outsourcing such domestic tasks to the unemployed, unskilled, less knowledgeable people, the unemployment problem and economic problems can be addressed. Do you agree that by providing tax incentives, government can incentivize such methods?

Ans: I wouldn't say that the government should follow-up these things. 80-85% are informal workers India (Domestic help, drivers etc.,) and cannot access any schemes or financial services. If we can start a movement to give contracts, supported by Pan IIT, to them and formalize, we need not look at government. If we succeed a bit in this, then the government will step in.

Arun Sriram G V: What is the synergy which government is exploring between education and skilling?

Ans: GoI has created a National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) which links skill related courses to mainstream education courses.

Q: With sustainability and circularity as key imperatives - how is government or NGOs working to develop local economic models that enable communities to achieve sustainable consumption and local employment?

Ans: Individual women enterprise models are there to develop local economy, after doing relevant market research (Eg: Blacksmith). People were not able to bank services due to the distance they have to travel. Created women financial advisors using smartphones with online bank connectivity to fill this gap locally. This helped not only the local economy but enabled financial inclusion for the whole community. Improving the income of farmers and women, created allied complementary/supplementary opportunities for new businesses.

Q to Sarika Kulakrni: Can we translate ecological restoration to livelihoods for the communities?

Ans: Raah Foundation's Agro Forestry (Agro Bio diversity) program creates income and ecological improvement. Vetiver grass and herbs cultivations also add to the income. In large afforestation programs, 30-40% of the crops are income generating ones while the rest are native trees. All such programs have a livelihood component.

Ram Ramanan: Skilling to earn is half the story. Providing for family and not vices is critical. Manish Kumar and Pradeepji your thoughts?

Ans: True. That's the reason the non-cognitive aspects of skill development is very important, including imparting the right values.

Ram Ramanan: Thank you, Manish for your response. In this context in the US and EU they are incorporating basic financial literacy training in schools now, an opportunity with spoken tutorial

Ans: Vocational education is being promoted in schools across India now under the New Education Policy. Financial literacy is definitely a very important life skill. I have personally seen women in tribal areas getting transformed because of financial literacy.

Warren Bannister: Does the panel consider skills development starting at the primary education level? What proposal or suggestions are there for supporting the early years education to achieve this goal?

Ans: New Education Policy of India is promoting skill development from schools. The approach in early years is more to introduce and socialize the idea while later years is more hands on....

Prof. Vinod Menon: Mr. Kalyan Chakravarty, how many people have benefited from your programs and that too in how many years? Very impressive work!

Ans: Our scale is about 10000 candidates per annum. We would have touched 80000 direct students in the past decade including 2 years of covid when we had to suspend operations as technical trades we work cannot be 100% online.

Prof. Vinod Menon: Would like to connect with Wheels Global Foundation and the distinguished panelists

Ans: Pls see <https://wheelsglobal.org/get-involved/> and you can follow us on <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wheels-global-foundation/> to stay connected.

Chary Gopal (Sudhakar) Tamirisa: I graduated from IIT Chennai. I am trying to develop skills in my village. I can utilize any help I can get from WHEELS. How do I get started? Chary Tamirisa, Cgtamirisa@gmail.com.

Ans: Please write to info@wheelsglobal.org.

Ram Ramanan: Arun over several decades I have been trying to develop a thought leadership in Sustainability area - the returns come - not as much from just mandates, compliance and avoiding fines and other risks. The real step change can only occur - the needle can only be moved by INNOVATION new creative thinking and design Thoughts?

Ans: We need to have proper holistic design for Change starting from D1 : Belief and personal development, D2 Social Development, D3 Economic Development, D4 Ecological development, D5 - Institutional development.

Q to Raghuraj Rajendran: What is the role that you see for IT in livelihood programs in MP? The skills initiative involving regional industries to predict job requirements to align skills to market demands. There is a working model with PARFI. Can we adopt it at a wider scale?

Ans: IT is a great space to include. Enhancing the IT skills for students will create opportunities. Of course, the future courses we develop will be aligned to market demands.

Observations

Indrajit Chatterjee: A great line up of speakers moderated by our Ambassador Pradeep Kapur

Rajat Jay Sehgal: Wonderful webinar full of a lot of information! Thank you!

Hiten Ghosh: Building on Arun Jain's comments -Look upon rural skills in Software business. Indian workforce in SW met international quality and now a shift to rural population solves retention of skills in villages, a good example thru Rural shores and can be scaled thru CII.

Sudha Ramasamy: The webinar is excellent and highly informative. Thank you!

Yogesh Andlay: Wish to share that the Swavlamban villages in Jharkhand are moving to the next stage. This year we expect that about 800 farmers will be producing about 300+ Tonnes of native rice using natural Agri-practices. This will result in generating an income of more than Rs 1 Cr for these villages. This produce will be processed locally and sold thru multiple modern retail / e-commerce and q-commerce channels.

Piyush Dubey: If we are talking about skilling and employment than we have to keep in mind that everybody has different issues and responsibility. I think there is no common model for such jobseekers. skilling should be with motivation and handholding both.

Avi Dear: I have nearly 45 years of experience, including 25 years in SAP in the U.S. I am now launching <https://ideagens.com/> - a platform for understanding and solving complex problems. If you like what you see, you can reach me via the WA button on the site.

Ankush Bhandari: Namaste, great work is being done at grassroots level. Salute to you all.
