

# 'Skilling' to prosperity

Decent work through focused education and training, a key area

M SRIKANTH / MA LAGESH

**R**ecently, NITI Aayog released its third edition of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index for 2020-21. Since its inception in 2018, the index has been ranking the States and Union Territories (UTs) while achieving the SDGs such as economic growth, education, health, and so on.

Out of all these goals, 'SDG8: Decent work and economic growth', has broader implications since it cuts across several targets in the context of building a sustainable and resilient society, wherein no one is left behind.

**Skilling, the German way:** According to a recent study by the World Economic Forum, India would create 3.2 million jobs and increase the Gross Domestic Product by \$570 billion by 2030 through investment in skilling of its people. This would be a reality if the policy-makers take a cue from the German way of skilling: Dual system of vocational education and training programme – in which nearly half a million companies provide apprenticeship to the youth and four-fifth of those companies hire them later by offering full-time jobs based on acquisition of their skill-sets.

**Focus on placement-based education:** Every student in government run Industrial Training Institute in Balasore, Odisha, has at least two job offers on hand before completion of the course. This is possible because of strong academic leadership, political will, dignity of labour, and on-the job training provided in collaboration with various employers like Blue Star, Hero Motors, and Samsung.

**Three dimensions of literacy:** While Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic (3Rs) fall under general literacy, proficiency in computers provides digital literacy and awareness on savings, investments, assets, and liabilities bestows financial literacy. Cognizant of this, the RBI impressed upon various State governments to include basic modules of banking and finance and a course on digital channels in school curriculum.

**Convergence of skilling projects:** The Human Development Report (2020) mentioned that only 21.2 per cent of Indian labourers are skilled and more than 42 per cent of the employees are "working poor" as they earn just ₹70 a day. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen

Kaushal Yojna (DDU-GKY), and Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) are some of the skilling projects under the Public Private Partnership model. Since their inception, though more than a crore of youth have been trained through PMKVY, over one million rural youth have been imparted skills through DDU-GKY, there is a lot of scope for improvement in terms of employability of these trainees. Therefore, with a view to reaping the demographic dividend, the government needs to converge various skilling programmes.

**Promotion of social enterprises:** Naandi Community Water Services supplies affordable and safe drinking water in Telangana, and Gramen Village Ventures provides rural electrification in Uttar Pradesh through solar power.

**Building infrastructure through RURBAN clusters:** The government has aimed at developing 300 RURBAN clusters in rural India over the next five years to check migration to urban areas. SKDRDP (Shri Kshetra Dhar-masthala Rural Development Project) in Karnataka empowers Self-help Groups (SHGs) and provides infrastructure and finance through micro credit to engage in sustainable rural livelihoods such as bee-keeping and honey processing, construction of ponds as part of watershed management, and custom hire service centres to supply modern agri-machineries.

**Creation of jobs:** In the digital era, while some jobs disappear from the market, several new employment opportunities emerge that leverage technology, know-how, and the internet. Youngsters should enable themselves to ride the Third Wave (information age) through proper training and capacity building in an innovative manner.

That 'skill shortage reduces productivity' is a well proven hypothesis in the academic circles. Adequate investment in education and training is the most suitable solution to achieve the decent work and economic growth. Accordingly, SDG 8 may be achieved – through skilling, sustainable livelihoods and economic growth – sooner than later.



Srikanth is Associate Professor and Director (Finance), DDU-GKY, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad, and Lagesh is Assistant Professor, ICFAI Business School, Hyderabad. Views expressed are personal.

# मॉडर्न गांव के रूप में विकसित होगा गांव

पंचायत भवन में आयोजित कार्यशाला में बोले परियोजना निदेशक

संवाद न्यूज इएजेसी

श्रावस्ती। जीपीडीपी परियोजना के तहत गिलौला का चंद्रावां, तिलकपुर व दंदौली ग्राम का चयन किया गया है। इसका समग्र विकास कर इसे मॉडर्न गांव के रूप में चयनित किया जाएगा। इसके लिए रविवार को चंद्रावां में कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। जहां पीडी ने प्रोजेक्टर के माध्यम से ग्रामीणों को जानकारी दी।

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं पंचायती राज संस्थान पंचायती राज विभाग भारत सरकार द्वारा जीपीडीपी परियोजना संचालित की जा रही है। इसके तहत गिलौला विकास क्षेत्र के ग्राम चंद्रावां, तिलकपुर व दंदौली का चयन किया

प्रोजेक्टर के माध्यम से ग्रामीणों को दी गई जानकारी

गया है। इसके तहत गांव का समग्र विकास कर उसे मॉडर्न गांव के रूप में विकसित किया जायेगा। इसे लेकर चंद्रावां के पंचायत भवन में प्रोजेक्ट फार क्रिएशन मॉडल जीपी कलस्टर का अनुश्रवण हुआ। इसमें परियोजना निदेशक डा. एम श्रीकांत, राज्य परियोजना समन्वयक पंकज नाथ कल्कि व राज्य नोडल अधिकारी आरजीएसए डा. प्रीति सिंह, डीपीआरओ आनंद प्रकाश, डीपीओ जटाशंकर मिश्रा सहित अन्य अधिकारियों ने ग्रामीणों को प्रशिक्षित किया। परियोजना निदेशक ने मौजूद ग्रामीणों को बताया कि इस परियोजना का लक्ष्य ग्राम पंचायत को

संस्थागत रूप से मजबूत करना व उन्हें स्वशासन की स्वतंत्र संस्था के रूप में कार्य करने में सक्षम बनाने के लिए सहायता प्रदान करना है। ग्राम पंचायतों को एक समग्र और संधारणीय ग्राम पंचायत विकास योजना (जीपीडीपी) बनाने में सहायता की जायेगी।

ग्राम पंचायतों के लिए संवैधानिक रूप से यह अनिवार्यता की गई है कि उनके पास उपलब्ध संसाधनों का उपयोग करते हुए आर्थिक विकास और सामाजिक न्याय के लिए ग्राम पंचायत विकास योजनाएं (जीपीडीपी) तैयार की जाएं। जो इस परियोजना के तहत ग्राम सभा स्तर पर ही होना है। परियोजना को सफल बनाने के लिए प्रशंसा जयसवाल को गांव में यंग फेलो नियुक्त किया गया है।