

Sustainable Development Goals Center (SDG Center)

Inaugural Project

TITLE: TECHNO-SOCIAL SURVEY & DESIGN OF YOUTH UP-SKILLING IN SELECTED RURAL CLUSTERS

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Background

Every developing society looks forward for growth and stability by removing poverty through employment generation. Skilling/ up skilling and re-skilling new generation of youth and making them future ready is imperative for the countries' growth and prosperity. The National sample survey organization data provided by Ministry of statistics and programme implementation in India confirms the apprehensions that India is facing rural distress. The scenario in India is that there are fewer jobs created in public sector and increasingly jobs are created in unorganized and private sector.

Though Karnataka ranks only 2nd to Gujarat in low unemployment rate, and fares far better than national average, there are many pain areas to address in the fast changing world. Presidency University has a current focus to contribute to rural issues through its activities towards benefit to the society. These have direct relevance to Presidency University's social outreach priorities. Towards realizing the pertinent goals, the Presidency University has taken initiative by investing internal funding to conduct techno-social survey and subsequent design of youth up

skilling criteria as a start-up activity in the field of multidisciplinary investigations in sustainable development.

I. Objectives

- (1) To conduct baseline survey in selected clusters located in Bangalore Rural District (min. 2, max. 4) to understand the demographic and youth skill pattern.
- (2) To conduct the techno-social survey at a preliminary micro scale to understand the techno, social and economic barriers for youth up skilling
- (3) To design youth up-skilling strategy and training for rural development

II. Review Of Efforts to Date

The millennium development goals of the United Nations and other international agencies has categorically emphasized the need on sustainable development. The concept of sustainability is important in the Indian context as we embrace the trajectory of a fast growing and developing economy.

The project involves the faculty members who have their interest aligned with that of the University, the SDG center, national and international academic partners, industry and NGOs.

As part of UK's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) proposal, a good start has already been made by mobilization of a strong multi-disciplinary team involving all the 3 schools of the University- SOE, SOL and SOM. The ODA Project proposal acts as a backdrop for the proposed project as the PI has already put-together (as India Coordinator) a multidisciplinary consortium of academic practitioners from United Kingdom: University of East London, Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) at the University of Gloucestershire, the University of Exeter, Warwick University and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC); and

India: Pondicherry University, Presidency University, Institute For Youth & Development (NGO), Childreach (NGO), Jalankur Agro Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Blue Yonder (eco-tourism consultant), other consultants from leading institutions Indian Institute of Science and Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI-CSIR Lab). The Indian members have strong links with local policy makers and governing bodies including Panchayats, local agricultural officers, and Agriculture Commissioner of Karnataka (currently Mr. G. Satish, IFS, with whom the PI of the inaugural project has developed direct contact).

Preliminary work has been started at cluster level with a group of 3 motivated students Mr. Madan Gowda, Mr. Sunil and Mr. Narendra with strong agricultural roots under the summer apprenticeship/ internal guided practice school course (Please see project photos in Gallery).

iii. Specific Scope

The internal funding has enabled to kick-start activities that are proposed in the ODA project and establish a solid foundation during the period May-December 2018 (proposed ODA project start date is 1 January 2019). Parts of ODA project started under the internal funding are extracted and summarized as follows.

The peri-urban zones near major metropolis with substantial water bodies support several ecologically fragile and economically important ecosystems in terms of local economy as well as trade for youth. However, rapidly developing countries such as India are characterized by weak legislation/policy support and youth skill development systems that fail to recognize the needs of the small/marginal farmers, small-scale traditional and artisanal workers, fishers, micro food processors and several other unorganized sector operators; many of whom depend on subsistence income relying on common

property resources that are under serious threats. A majority of the populations from such regions are engaged in unstable, and low return livelihood activities causing inequalities either while remaining at their rural habitats or on migration to urban hubs causing slums (e.g. Bangalore). Peri-urban areas of Bangalore Rural district have been recently boosted with increased number of water bodies by government supported schemes such as Krishi Bhagya that provided funding for formation of artificial water bodies with subsidised geo-membranes for longer water retention. However, practical skills required to exploit the potential of such water bodies for improved sustainable livelihoods, particularly for youth and their families through agro-eco-enterprises needs urgent attention. In this backdrop the specific scope of the current study under the mini-project is:

- To identify the technological, social and economic barriers experienced by rural youth in India for skills empowered egalitarianism: ascertain what type of skills empowerment is required for the rural youth to overcome the identified barriers and access livelihood enhancing opportunities.

IV. Research Methodology

The need for improved skills is particularly acute for young people living in rural poverty where inequalities are pronounced in terms of access to resources, employment opportunities and training. Firstly with respect to those living in areas of ecologically fragile and economically important ecosystems, such as small/marginal farmers, small-scale traditional and artisanal workers, fishers, micro food processors and several other un-organized sector operators who depend on subsistence income relying on common property resources that are under serious threats. In addition, inequalities such as gender, class and caste manifest as barriers in access to and experiences of

formal or informal skills training programmes for young people both within and outside employment. These marginalized communities fall outside the scope of conventional educational and skills based institutions. Hence, context specific targeted skills input is deemed essential to enable this cohort to achieve their potential and transition to meaningful work.

The study is using secondary data to understand the socio-economic conditions of the study location and further proceed for a Participatory rural appraisal method to collect the primary data from 100 individual respondents. The tools we are using are unstructured questionnaires. The results would help us to develop specific youth up-skill training programs for youth in Bangalore Rural District. The sample size is 30 for skill base training identification and start-up prototyping implementation. The study is being executed among 3-4 clusters (samples will be collected from Itgalpura, Doddabelavangala, and Jyotipura (Hoskote and/or Saasalu Hobli) clusters as specified in the ODA Project.