

OUTCOME OF THE GUIDANCE WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CSS OF VSHSE HELD ON 30TH AND 31ST JULY, 2014

A two day Guidance Workshop on the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (CSS of VSHSE) was held on 30th and 31st July, 2014 at the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), Bhopal. The workshop was organized by the PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE), a constituent unit of NCERT on the behalf of Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

The Workshop had the following objectives: (i) To examine the progress and guide the States/UTs on issues and challenges in the implementation of CSS of VSHSE (ii) To discuss strategies regarding integration of vocational education with general education, industry interface , horizontal and vertical mobility of students and assessment and certification framework (iii) To identify best practices (iv) To prepare an action plan to resolve issues and provide strategic directions for effective implementation of CSS of VS & HSE.

An open discussion on the various issues related to the implementation of CSS of the Scheme including infrastructure, scheme of studies, linkages with industry, role of NSDC and Sector Skill Councils in training, assessment, certification and placement was coordinated by Prof. Vinay Swarup Mehrotra, Head, Curriculum Development & Evaluation Centre and NSQF Cell, PSSCIVE, Bhopal.

Participants included representatives from Ministry of Human Resource Development, National Skill Development Agency, National Skill Development Corporation, State Departments of School Education, State Boards of Education, Central Board of Secondary Education, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Sector Skill Councils and Civil Society Organizations engaged in Skill Development .

During the Workshop the following Action Points emerged.

1. Need for a coordinated and converged effort between the State Education Departments, Training Providers and Industry at the grass root level.
2. It was observed that `Scheme of Subject' mandating vocational education to be taught as an additional (6 subject) at the secondary level and as a compulsory elective at the higher secondary level has yet to be implemented in some of the States. Karnataka, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, continue to offer vocational education as a 7th subject.
3. It was reiterated that if vocational education is to be treated at par with other academic subjects, as the first pre requisite, it has to be accorded a similar status in the scheme of subjects. This is also important to enable vertical mobility of students. Adequate time and resources can be provisioned if vocational education is taught as the 7th subject. It may not

only lead to compromising the quality of vocational education but also over burdening students with more subjects.

4. Need for credit framework to enable vertical mobility, standards for accreditation of training providers was also highlighted by State representatives.
5. Since the coverage of students over the years under the Scheme is increasing it was suggested that a Management Information System be set up for tracking students in terms of their exit to work situation or vertical mobility etc.
6. Concern was expressed regarding quality of assessors and capacity of Sector Skill Councils to take up assessment of large number of students simultaneously. The States expressed the need for laying down standards for Assessment including Qualifications of Assessors and Guidelines regarding the process of assessment.
7. It was felt that certain vocational courses/qualification packs pegged at level IV may not be amenable to a four year downward expansion from Class IXth onwards. As such some courses may therefore be permitted to be started at higher secondary level.
8. As regards engagement of implementation partners it was clarified that while `tasks' can be delegated to Skill Knowledge Providers however the `ultimate responsibility' regarding implementation shall lie with the State Government.
9. Need was also expressed for Qualification Packs cutting across sectors e.g. vocational courses in "Design" in Textiles, Apparels, Leather etc which will draw on National Occupation Standards laid down by SSC Textiles, SSC Apparels and SSC Leather.
10. The issue of simultaneous implementation of STAR scheme and CSS of VHSE in schools covered by the scheme was discussed and it was clarified that wherever Training Providers have been engaged by the State Government for providing skill training to the students in the schools under the scheme and in case such Training Providers are also registered under the STAR scheme of NSDC, the students funded under the scheme should not be shown as "achievement" by the Training Providers as it will lead to double counting.