

Skills training needs a push

GET 'EM YOUNG Despite the government's emphasis on skills training, a formal MoU between CBSE and the National Skill Development Corporation for implementation of vocational training in schools has been pending for a year

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Against the backdrop of high dropout ratio in schools, the Centrally-sponsored scheme of vocationalisation of secondary and higher education (CSSVSHE) is aimed at helping students get easy placements. Even under-performing students can do a PhD in the skilling domain by just obtaining minimum passing marks in academics till post-graduation.

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The dropouts who might otherwise have landed a job in some informal sector, thus getting deprived of social security benefits, can secure a job in the formal sector with the help of a Sector Skills Council (SSC) certification and by enrolling for a vocational course in school in Class 9.

The first pilot of CSSVSHE was launched in 40 schools in Haryana on September 3, 2012. Out of 209 students enrolling, 152 candidates were successfully placed - 25 in retail, 85 in security and the remaining 42 in IT/ITES. The scheme is operational across 240 schools and has 23,000 enrollments in Haryana. "Going forward, we are looking to scale up the programme in 500 schools and across sectors like media and entertainment, agriculture, gems and jewellery, banking insurance and finance," says KK Agnihotri, advisor, department of school education, Government of Haryana.

Nearly 90,000 students in 1,190 government schools across Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh are already a part of the scheme. However, the CBSE board students have to wait for some time before they reap the benefits. "We would work with CBSE and get the SSCs to help align the curriculum to the needs of the industry and also work to introduce

WHY SKILLING?

- You can attain a PhD equivalent in the skilling domain, independent of your academic excellence
- If you drop out after class 12, but have done a vocational course from class 9, a NSQF Level 4 certification can make you employable in a formal sector
- If you're a school dropout and skilled informally, you can approach SSCs and get assessed under Recognition of Prior Learning for getting certified to enhance credibility in the job market

new sectors. We will work with stakeholders to define a standard for the job roles and align it to the different levels of teaching," says Dilip Chenoj, managing director and CEO, National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC). All of this, however, can happen only with the signing of a formal MoU between the two parties. "So far the MoU has not been finalised, it is under process," says M V V Prasada Rao, director (EDUSAT and Vocational), CBSE.

Recently, the SSCs have started doing assessment of CBSE schools across various states, including Delhi, Sikkim, West Bengal and Jharkhand - very much in line with what's happening in various state government



GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS GET GOING ON SKILLS TRAINING

State	Number of schools(in 2014)	Sectors	Expected number of beneficiaries (in 2014-15)
Uttarakhand	44	auto, healthcare, retail, IT-ITES	5,000
Madhya Pradesh	50	auto, IT-ITES	2,500
Punjab	100	auto, retail, IT-ITES, security, beauty and wellness and healthcare	5,000
Rajasthan	70	automotive, gems & jewellery, health-care, travel & tourism and beauty & wellness	3,500
Nagaland	6	IT-ITES	300
Karnataka	100	auto, healthcare, IT-ITES, retail	15,000
Chhattisgarh	30	automotive, retail and IT-ITES	2,000

schools, says Rajiv Mathur, head - standards and quality assurance at NSDC. Supporting the introduction of skills training in schools, Sanjeev Duggal, CEO and director, Centum Learning says, "Schools following the national skill qualification framework (NSQF) curriculum would not only achieve seamless

integration with university education, but also create employable youth."

Currently, NSDC has signed MoUs with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), University Grants Commission (UGC), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and 10 state governments.

However, additional skilling can just make you employable. "Look at skills as an enabling education paradigm where employability is built into education," says Prof (Dr) S S Mantha, former chairman, AICTE to the students. AICTE has mandated skills training for 7,500 institutes from academic year 2015-16.

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Smriti Irani lays stone of I.P. University East Delhi campus



The foundation stone of I.P. University's East Delhi campus in Surajmal Vihar was laid by the Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani recently. With an estimated cost of Rs 285 crore and a land area of around 19 acres, the new campus will witness the construction of University School of Architecture and Planning and Univer-

sity School of Design. The campus will be an architectural marvel of this country in terms of its design and will be a front ranking institution in the field of architecture, planning and design in the Asia - Pacific region.

In the admission process for the year 2014, the university, for the first time, introduced online

process. There was no offline mode. The experiment got phenomenal success as the university received a record of 2.25 lakh applications for about 29,000 seats.

The fee for online application was also scaled down to Rs 750 as against the previous year's fees of Rs 1,100 to attract more applicants.

IIFT student earns selection in OPJEMS, felicitated



Another feather has been added in the cap of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). One of the students of the institute, Vaibhav Srivastava, has been selected as O.P. Jindal Engineering and Management Scholar (OPJEMS). He was felicitated with a cheque of Rs 1.5 lakh and a silver medal by the corporate HR team of Jindal Saw Ltd in the presence of the Director, Dr. Surajit Mitra, in a grand event held at IIFT recently.

The scholarship, instituted in 2007, has recognised more than 700 meritorious students till date. In the current year, the programme was aimed to identify around 100 deserving students from 40 prestigious institutes across India.

CSKM Public School celebrates 29th Annual Day

CSKM Public School celebrated its 29th Annual Day recently. Justice Suresh Chugh, the former IB Officer and ex judge CBI court and ex. spl. judge (Delhi High Court) was the Chief Guest and Ajay Lochan Mathur, Director, V.L. Memorial School, Chief Mentor Sahodya Schools Complex, Alwar, was the Guest of Honour.



An exhibition was organised on robotics, embroidery, eco club, dance, theatre, music - vocal and instrumental, taekwondo and yoga.



Mukherjee Memorial Society celebrated its annual function recently on the occasion of 116th birth anniversary of Late Moti Ram Aggarwal, the founder of the society. Present on the dias is Mukherjee Memorial Sr. Sec. School's award winning team with the Vice Principal P.K. Jain.

IDP Education to organise 'Australian Education Fair' across India

IDP Education India, the leading student placement service provider, will be organising education fairs in 14 cities for students aspiring to pursue their higher education in Australia. Scheduled to take place from January 24 - February 12, 2015, the fairs will bring together prominent universities and educational institutions from Australia under one roof.

They will kickstart in Kolkata and conclude in Vijayawada. They will also be organised in Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Gurgaon, Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi and Coimbatore.

Harmest Pentel, Regional Dir, South Asia, North America and the UK, IDP Education said, "IDP seeks to provide an

all-inclusive platform to provide details to the aspiring students. We offer students an opportunity to interact with the institution representatives directly and help facilitate exchange of information."

Over 34 Australian institutions are participating in this. It is a free platform for all students to gauge their prospects of studying in Australia.

spotlight FRENCH SCHOLARSHIP WORTH €21,500 P19

'Children need appreciation'

Aanchal Bedi
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Continuing its efforts to reach out to students getting ready for the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Board exams, HT Education, with HT's learning centre, Studymate and Expressions India, the National Life Skills, Values Education and School Wellness Programme organised its second academic and stress/anxiety counselling workshop of the exam season at Mount Abu Public School, Rohini.

Participating in interactive sessions on the occasion, students said that exam stress was compounded by friends, relatives and parents, especially when comparisons were made with peers. Many students had problems dealing with their parents' expectations and match up to the

high standards set by them. Dr Jitendra Nagpal, a senior psychiatrist at Moolchand Medcity, suggested that parents help their children by guiding and not controlling them. "Many students are unable to make a career choice on their own. Parents naturally need to be consulted before making appropriate career choices. Parents should participate in their choices, give children the freedom to make goals and achieve them," he said.

Exam stress is very common and some students feel totally overwhelmed and distracted. It also reduces their efficiency and adversely affects performance. Children should be given the freedom to choose a career and set goals for themselves. As teachers and parents we should be there to facilitate them," said Jyoti Arora, principal, Mount Abu Public School.



Students were given a platform to voice their concerns and opinions.



Manju Arora, HOD economics, Studymate (left), interacts with students at Mount Abu Public School.

exam stress helpline

Hi students, Exams are fun - no regular classes and lots of pampering by your family to ensure you stay fit and healthy during this time. However, many of you might be feeling the pressure of completing the syllabus, not being able to understand tough concepts and having problems memorising things. HT Education, with the Association of Indian School Counsellors & Allied Professionals, is starting a helpline from January 5 to 31, 2015 for students needing counselling and support during the exams. Call these numbers for help:

Morning slot: 08:00 am to 2:00 pm	Evening slot: 02:00 pm to 08:00 pm
Geetanjali Kumar: 9810435544	Saroj Sharma: 9811209012
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Exam-related queries can also be addressed online, just mail to examscounseling@gmail.com, contactexpressionsindia@gmail.com For any other information, connect to 011-64594939 & 64700117

An initiative of AISCAP supported by Expressions India: The National Life Skills, Values Education & School Wellness Programme

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THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you think Vedic math works?

Last week's winner is Rashi Shrivastava
Debate is open to school, college students under the age of 25. Best answer wins a HT T-shirt. Dear winner, send your contact details and age in 10 days as a Facebook message.

quiztime

Answer the following questions. The answers can be found in this edition

What is the full form of CSSVSHE? State with maximum number of schools in skilling programmes? Who is Prof (Dr) S S Mantha? Last week's winner is Pranet Sharma
Send your answer to: hteducation@hindustantimes.com

Tips on chemistry, accountancy

HT Education Correspondent
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Subject experts from Studymate had important tips to share with students of Mount Abu and other schools who participated in HT Education and Expressions India's 'Smile through the Boards' workshop. For accountancy, the tips offered by Sharad Agarwal were:

- Read questions carefully
- Write the tables daily
- When making the balance sheet, always write the figures in order (unit place below unit place only).

For chemistry, Dr. Alok Bariyar said:

- Divide the syllabus into smaller chunks and prepare physical, organic, inorganic and applied chemistry
- For economics, Manju Arora advised:
 - Practice numerical of national income accounting, multiplier, and equilibrium level of output, cost, and elasticity of demand and supply, and producers' equilibrium
 - Practice making diagrams and make sure you label both the axes.

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