

Workshop on 'Supporting youth in Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Skill Development is the process of identification of the skills gap in youth and providing skilling training & employment benefits to them. Skill development programs aim to acknowledge the ability of the youth and extend their support by serving them with the proper guidance; infrastructure, opportunities, and encouragement that help them achieve their ambitions.



Education and skills are essential for everyone, and they both walk hand in hand in everyone's career journey. They are the roots behind the economic growth and community development of a country. Therefore, both central & state governments are continuously making efforts to provide skill development to the youth with their skilling partners around the country. The benefits of Skill Development include increased business profits, improved performance, improved accuracy & quality, improved communication, complies with rules & regulations, improved recruitment & career opportunities, and development of good customer relations.



Skills Meghalaya' envisions designing and implementing practical programmes for youth development and youth empowerment. The scheme shall emphasize on arming the youth with the required skill-sets to the path of achieving self-dependency and a growing

career. It aims to empower youth above 18 years to become 'market ready' by means of imparting skill training, providing incubation support, alleviating poverty, raising incomes,

and enhancing livelihood, among others to make youth more productive in the local economy. Though this scheme, they provide different types of training such as Mobile Repairing, Tailoring/Embroidery, Farming/Agriculture, Food processing, Hospitality, Sports, Cooking and beverages, beautician etc.

Several training programme are provided to the self-employed from 15 years of age and wages employees from 18 years above according to the duration of training which depends on the courses chosen by the aspirant candidates. The training programme for the aspirant candidates is free of cost which includes food and accommodation. They also provide stipend and remuneration after completion of the training. Therefore, the aspirant youth who wish to apply can register themselves in the website: **mssdspmis.in**. Hence, there has been a paradigm shift in the course of providing training to the youth which was then a 'Supply Chain Model', however, the result was not productive as many trainees did not complete the course of their training and hence it result in the failure of the approach they practice. Thus, the organization decided to transform the approach to a 'Demand Driven Model'. Consequently, the organization carried out the 'Demand Driven Model' where they provide trainings to the youth according to the need and demand of such courses of the training.

On the 26th of May 2022, the MSW 2nd semester of St Edmunds College, Shillong conducted a Workshop on 'Supporting youth in Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with Meghalaya State Skills Development Society, Government of Meghalaya. The program starts with a welcome speech from MSW 2nd semester student, Mr Nathan Dondor Langstieh. The workshop was graced with the presence of Dr B.W. Nongbri, Dean of St. Edmund's College, the Sordar of Riangmang village Mr. Kwom Lawriniang, the Secretary of the Village, Mr Wanlambok Marbaniang, the Anganwadi worker, ASHA, the teachers of Riangmang U.P School and the participants. The Resource Person for this workshop was Mrs. Audrey Khonglam, the Skill Development Officers of the Meghalaya State Skill Development Society, Government of Meghalaya. In this workshop, there are 44 participants who attended the workshop including the youth (both male and female), key stakeholders of the community and the MSW 2nd semester students.

The main objectives of the workshop are:

- To introduce and make the youth in the community aware of a scheme ‘Skills Meghalaya’ which envisions to design and implement practical programmes for youth development and youth empowerment
- To emphasise on the employability of the youth through skill development and entrepreneurship.
- To enhance the youth in achieving the career success and supporting entrepreneurship with their goals

The resource person started to interact with the youth who attended the programme and also highlighted some points, by asking questions to the youth about their talent and skills. After that she starts explaining about the organization, “Meghalaya State Skill Development Society” (MSSDS). The Government of Meghalaya has established the “Meghalaya State Skill Development Society” (MSSDS) on the 5th December 2011. The society is registered under the Meghalaya Society Registration Act XII of 1983 and was designated to promote employable skill formation in Meghalaya. The basic purpose of forming this society is to develop cohesive skill information, entrepreneurship, and placement framework for Meghalaya, based on current and emerging needs of the economies of the state and to carry out skill development & placement activities through its Project Implementation Agencies. MSSDS aims to implement the Meghalaya State Skill Development Mission, and all such matters incidental to it, to collect, collate, analyze, process, and document all skill development initiatives of the state.



In this workshop, the resource person emphasized on "knowing yourself first, in order to know your skills" and realized the passion, in order to achieve the goals.. She further mentioned that not everyone one can become a doctor or an engineer. However, we should be responsible and be accountable for our own skills by making use of the talent and ability that they possess. Moreover, she addresses that everyone is gifted with a talent and they need to strengthen and build up their skills to improve and enhance our talent and make it productive. She encouraged and supports the youth to attend the Skills Oriented Training, which has a market value, rather than searching and waiting for employment from any private or a government organization.

Furthermore, she mentioned on the support and help provided by this organization which has change the lives of many youth and pave a way for them in becoming self-employed through several trainings provided by the organization. On completion of their training, the organization helps and support the youth for starting their own business and getting a loan to start their business. The organization funds the private parties or training provider agency to set up the training centre in different areas as per the need and requirement.

Towards the end of the workshop, the session was opened for discussions whereby the participants discussed and inquired to clarify their doubts by interacting and consulting with the resource person. Hence, the session with the youths and the village key stakeholders was productive and effective since it paved the way for the youth to envisage and visualize ahead of the various opportunities for their future in sustaining their livelihood.