

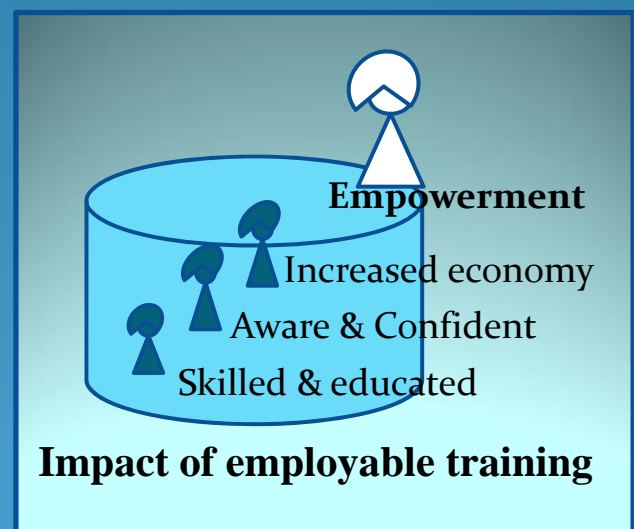
Women & skill development training

An increasing number of women are entering the labour workforce because of acute economic necessity. However, most of them are engaged in less paying, low -skilled jobs . Lack of education , training opportunities, employer biases, and limited mobility due to social responsibilities combine to keep them at these lower echelons.

Some percentage of women make use of skills training opportunities provided by government agencies and/or NGOs. Further, most are trained in knitting, candle making, book binding, basket weaving etc., trades which no longer have the potential to generate sufficient income to make them independent or self-sufficient due to impoverishment caused by competition from factory produced goods. For example, the availability of cheap plastic goods have shrunk the market for traditional craft workers. Thus, there is an urgent need to find and create increased and more economically beneficial opportunities to mainstream girls and women. There is a need for alternative vocational/skills training in which women could develop their potential and be assisted in becoming economically independent. This training should not merely be a pathway for income generation but should also contribute in enhancing their career graph.

We can not undermine the fact that many training programs have been devised for women groups in the past. Some of them have played an effective role in eliminating gender discrimination while some have been just any another program . Of late, many donors have increased their focus on impact oriented program and conscious effort is being made in removing occupational segregation based on gender. Inclusion of women in so called male friendly trade is being promoted. This isn't being done just to prove that women are as capable as men but because such kind of vocational and technical trades fetch higher income and is a lucrative profession.

Employment and income is the direct impact of an employable skill training opportunity. Alongside, It builds their confidence and empowers them with essentials of dignified living. All in all, education and training is one of the most important tools for human development and nation building.



DASKEM... *District led VET system*

District Assessment for Skill and Employment (DASKEM) is another combined effort of SKILL and LIVE/Helvetas to uplift VET sector in rural districts of Nepal. The main objective of DASKEM is to provide a base for planning and managing VET sector in a demand-led way.



The major function is to form a steering committee of likeminded stakeholders under the leadership of Local Development Officer. Following tasks and roles will be carried out by the group:

- Common Understanding of rural VET in line with TEVT policy
- Labour market assessments of local, regional and Indian markets
- Identification and mobilization of resources (including TTPs)
- Identification of target groups
- Develop & updates database (labour market information system)
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Coordination on certification of skilled people through skill testing
- Develop annual plans & review
- Coordinate and cooperate to organize vocational education and training



DASKEM helps to develop uniformity of vocational training across the district. With clear adaptation of this concept we hope to avoid duplication of training events in the district, ensure proper channelization of fund, promote employable quality training events in line with OSS and provide employment opportunities to unemployed youths so that their standard of living is enhanced.

This concept is being implemented in Achham district currently. A steering committee has been formed and labour market assessment has been completed in the district. SKILL conducted labour market assessment and has submitted the report to the committee for further action. Based on the findings of the report, training events will be planned in the first quarter of 2009. It will soon be replicated in Kalikot district in 2009.



LIVE: Livelihood Improvement for vulnerable & excluded

TTP: Technical training provider

VET: Vocational education and training

TEVT: Technical education & vocational training

SKILL: Skill and Know how Imparted at Local Level

Output based initiative in rural water supply training

In order to seek quality training program as well as to attain return on investment, SKILL and Rural Village Water Resource Management Project, bilateral project being supported by Governments of Nepal and Finland have agreed to initiate output based approach in its rural water supply training programs. Unlike in other training models, impact will not be limited to just employment and income status of trainees. Bearing the nature of the trade, range of impact indicators have been broadened. .

The quality of work demonstrated by the graduate in their schemes, maintenance of their respective schemes, employment and income level, ability to find the job of a technical freelancer in their own vdc or elsewhere, potential for upgrading training and evaluation of trainees mark sheets are some of the indicators that have been identified. Further, in order to give their skill the national recognition, skill will be tested through National Skill Testing Board by developing appropriate occupational skill standards in this sector. Water user committee will be benefited from these trained people by timely availability of technical services. Their respective user committee will pay them for their services.

Water is life. There is nothing more significant and pious as making water available to people. It is important to see that people assigned responsible for the distribution of water and maintenance of its source are capable and competent. Thus, output based concept was developed in order to ensure that qualified technicians are produced and the drinking water system is operated, cared and maintained for sustainability.



For further information, please contact

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