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# **SKILLS FOR FREEDOM:**

## **AN ANSWER TO MODERN SLAVERY IN TAMILNADU**

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**PERIOD: 1.6.2014- 31.5.2016**

**LOCATION: VITTALNAYAKKANPATY, NH-7 KARUR ROAD,  
VEDASANDUR, DINDIGUL DISTRICT**

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**NATURE: A joint effort for enhancing the Employment Opportunities  
for rural youth in Dindigul District**

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**INDISKA**

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### **BACKGROUND**

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Peace Trust, Non-Governmental Organization in Dindigul, India has been implementing right based development programmes for vulnerable section for more than three decades. Indiska Magasinet, Swedish business firm has been providing financial assistance to Peace Trust for nearly two decades for the release and rehabilitation of child labourers and build the skill capacity of rural youth.

This joint effort by Peace Trust and Indiska initially helped to release 150 child labourers from hazardous occupations in spinning sector and rehabilitated and mainstreamed them into school education from the year 1996 to 2000 in Vedasandur taluk of Dindigul district, TamilNadu.



Then Peace Industrial School (PIS) has been launched by Peace Trust in 2000 with the financial assistance of Indiska Magasinet and provided technical education for the ex. Child labourers and underprivileged youth to get suitable industrial employment as well as self-employment. Peace Industrial School has so far provided technical education to 1076 youth in various technical courses from the year 2000 to 2013.

734 youths have got gainful employment in nearby garment factories, textile industries, computer and browsing centers, petrol stations and rental shops schools (including government) etc., and 214 youths have started their own micro and small enterprises. These technically qualified youth are currently earning an average annual income of Rs. 96,000 which is recurring, stable and sustainable, thereby have improved their standard of living. These youths, if not trained, would have become unskilled labourers and toiled for very meager income which is also not guaranteed every day. The employment details of the youths studied in various trades is given in the below graph.

The programme “Skills for Freedom” is the goal of the revisited projects which were designed based on the following context analysis for achieving effective outcomes from each activity.

#### CONTEXT ANALYSIS

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The requirement of skilled human resources in Tamil Nadu is 1.9 million and semi skilled 1.5 million by the end of 2017 but the current availability is 1million and 0.2 million respectively. The National Policy on Skill Development formulated by the Ministry of Labour & Employment has the objective of creating a workforce empowered with improved skills, knowledge and internationally recognized qualifications to gain access to decent employment and ensure India’s competitiveness in the dynamic Global Labour market. It aims at increase in productivity of workforce both in the organized and the unorganized sectors, seeking increased participation of youth, women, disabled and other disadvantaged sections and to synergize efforts of various sectors and reform the present system. Thus, there is a greater need for increasing capacity and

capability of skill development programmes which support employment generation, economic growth and social development.

A detailed situational needs assessment study was taken up in Dindigul to understand the problems related to employment of rural youth, factors influencing education and employment, and scope for a possible intervention. In Dindigul a large number of children are forced, for want of any alternative, to go back to working in their fields after spending ten or more years studying in school or else head to various jobs, in which they take up petty, relatively low-paid jobs, such as manual labour works and in mills. Besides achieving basic literacy, numeracy and a smattering of English, the several years of schooling that they have gone through proves to be of little use in the work that they will for the rest of their lives.

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## INTERVENTION

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### **Overall Objective**

Improved standard of living among rural families through skill training programmes in Sumangali Modern Slavery, prone Karur, Tiruppur and Dindigul districts of Tamil Nadu

### **Outcomes**





- Improved awareness on vocational skills and employability among youth, general public including the main stakeholders of the target area
- Established affordable, market-driven vocational education and ensured job perspectives

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## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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Three major interventions are proposed in the present programme

-  Community based initiatives
-  Institutional interventions
-  Employment facilitation
-  Clean up pilot programme in Textile mills

## COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES

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### COURSES OFFERED

Peace Industrial School offer quality education to youths through formal stream.

The one year certificate courses being offered in the formal stream are

- Computer software
- Data Processing and Computer Application
- Electrician
- Tailoring
- Embroidery
- Technical Teacher Training

These courses have been approved by State Council for Vocational Training, Government of Tamil Nadu.

1. Cutting and Tailoring
2. Embroidery and Needle work
3. Desk Top Publishing

These courses have been awaiting approval by National Council for Vocational Training, Government of India.





### PEACE INSTITUTE OF FIRE AND SAFETY

Peace Institute of Fire & Safety is affiliated by National Development Agency of Planning Commission of India one year Course with job opportunity both in India

& Abroad. These courses are aimed to the upliftment of youth and career guidance with moderate fees.

#### COURSES OFFERED

-  Diploma in Fire & Safety
-  Diploma in Industrial Safety

#### PEACE GARMENTS AND HANDICRAFTS CENTRE

The unit create livelihood opportunities for the landless women and poor young women who are socially and economically oppressed in the society and conducts various short terms vocational programme such as greeting card and wire basket making. Printing unit supports the above activities and also prints pamphlets, books, journals etc.

#### PEACE CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP

The sister centre of Peace Trust aimed to nurture leadership skills among youth, college students and also conducting coaching class for various competitive exams.

Special coaching classes are conducted for 2 months for underprivileged rural youth so as to improve their participation in competitive examinations conducted by Government's public service commissions. The candidates who have passed these examinations will become eligible to get employed in Government, public sectors and in banks.

Spoken English has become one of the requirements not only for the white collar job but also for every blue collar job. Hence 2 months course on communicative English are conducted for underprivileged rural youth from Dindigul district so as to improve their communication in English with which they become eligible to get employed in Private and corporate sectors.

## ECO FRIENDLY CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Besides our regular other activities, Peace Industrial School arrange Radio Programme, sports activities, Tamil Literature Association, Eco- Friendly Associations, Holistic health improvement programmes, etc are arranged to stimulate children's ability.

## EMPLOYMENT FACILITATION

### PREPARATION OF MOU WITH EMPLOYERS

Prospective employers will be identified in and around Dindigul. In consultation with the employers MoU will be prepared to employ the candidates who have completed vocational the courses. Project will develop formal contacts with at least eight prospective employers/recruiting firms and have MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) signed with them in the year 2014-15. In the subsequent years more number of employers will be contacted and efforts made to get placements for the trainees. Alumni of the PISE will also play a vital role for the placement of trainees in the successive years. Employers such as ASSISI sisters/ SANTHOME, Tiruppur BPOs (Trichy / Madurai) will be contacted for job placement of trainees.

### ESTABLISH JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAMME

From the earlier experience of Peace Trust it is expected that a minimum of 5% of the enrolled candidates will drop out of the course, hence 95% will be completing the course. At the end of each course, at least 75% of the candidates those who have completed the course will be facilitated to get employed at different firms and employers. Candidates will be sent to the prospective employers/recruiting firms with whom MOU signed already, for interview and appointment.

### AVAIL BANK LOANS AND GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR TRAINED CANDIDATES

Linking the trained trainees with the potential banks and relevant Government agencies for financial assistance will be facilitated by the project in order to ensure self-employment for those who are interested to start the enterprise of

his /her own. It is estimated that 25% of the trained youth those who would opt for self-employment will be linked to banks and government department for availing financial support, subsidy programmes and other resources.

#### STRENGTHEN FORMER STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Registers will be maintained to keep track of employed and self-employed alumni / alumae of PISE. Follow-up efforts will be made by the project to get employment for the non-employed. Every year one meeting will be conducted with alumni / alumae from third year onwards, in order to motivate the current students and establish contact with former students and explore employment market. This opportunity will also be utilized to improve the curriculum of respective courses by receiving feedback from former students.

We welcome supporters to get involved as volunteer, partner and employment provider.

#### **For Details**

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