

Topic:

MGNREGA and National Skill Development Mission: Possibility for convergence
(Impact on deskilling of artisans and suggestions to tackle its impact).

a) **Statement of Objective:** The objective of MGNREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the poor households in the rural area by providing at least 100 days wage employment guarantee to every household whose adult members are voluntarily willing to do unskilled manual work. In rural India, apart from the agricultural and allied sector, large number of work force is traditionally self employed and engaged in artisanal and other works pursued from one generation to another without formal training. These occupations have been under stress due to radical changes in economy over the period of time. The change in local demand and needs, use of machines and technology, unavailability of infrastructure, transport and connectivity is adversely effecting these occupations and their livelihood. Due to lack of opportunities and enabling environment, the rural people acquainted with traditional skills are often tacking-up unskilled works. Since MGNREGA is primarily targeting unskilled workers, there is an apprehension that it is working as one of the factor for deskilling the rural people. Thus there is a need to assess the impact of MGNREGA on such people engaged in rural area and explore the possibility to cover unskilled workforce in MGNREGA at present under the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) having target to skill 500 million people in the country by 2022.

The purpose of the study is to explore the possibilities of skill development initiative for rural artisans and other people perusing traditional occupation now working under MGNREGA to have sustainable livelihood in the long term. Then they will be able to get better income through skill development rather than perusing unskilled wage employment under MGNREGA. The study may cover at least 10 districts of major poverty centred States spread across the country including North Eastern States, specially areas having major concentration of artisans.

b) **Outline of the task to be carried out:** The study will focus on skills available with the people engaged in MGNREGA and explore the possibility of up-scaling their skills to have sustainable livelihood opportunity instead of working as unskilled manual worker under MGNREGA. How these people can be brought under the preview of NSDM to get the benefit of existing scheme of various

Ministries and private initiatives through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) etc. A mix of survey of target beneficiaries and review of existing policies may be considered for achieving the study results.

- c) **Schedule for the completion of tasks:** The total time for the study may be in between 6 to 9 months, but should not be more than 12 months.
- d) **The support or inputs to be provided by the Ministry or Department to facilitate the consultancy:** The required data of MGNREGA workers and other beneficiaries could be provided by concerned ministries in selected districts to facilitate consultancy.
- e) **The final outputs that will be required of the consultant:** The study should be useful to assess the impact of MGNREGA on artisan and other people perusing traditional occupations in rural area. It is expected to come up with a roadmap/framework for providing them sustainable livelihood and income generation opportunities through skill development, ensuring appreciable increase in their income over a period of time.