

DB Tech News

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Cover story

Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India and DB Tech join hands to give thousands of youngsters new life

Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India and DB Tech partner to train 23,800 youth in placement linked skill training.

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I believe...

Dear Friends,



A UN official told the Salesian representative at the UN in New York City recently that the Salesians are the largest single educational agency in the world, touching 132 countries. No other private educational group has such a vast reach and magnitude. All the members of

the Salesian Family, i.e. Don Bosco and its sister institutions, are in daily contact with some 15 million youngsters in the world!

Don Bosco started with technical schools, not academic ones, because he knew that the fastest way to give livelihood for children pushed out of the school system was to provide them with vocational education. Following his example, the Don Bosco fathers, brothers and sisters have always given importance to technical and professional education. It is thus that in India too we have the largest private

chain of technical schools, ranging from engineering colleges to simple non-formal vocational training centres.

I am proud that Don Bosco Tech, under the umbrella of 'DB Tech' has united all these institutions and is maximizing their contribution to the poor boys, particularly the dropouts from the main educational system. Partnerships with the government and prominent private sector companies will enable us to reach out to more from the marginalised communities. May this newsletter serve as a connecting instrument among all the stakeholders and to bring together our ideas, energies and resources for serving the marginalised youth of India.

I invoke God's blessings on all who join themselves in the family of Don Bosco in favour of the young.

Fr. Maria Arokiam SDB, Regional Councillor for south Asia, Salesian Generalate, Rome.

Messages



Our pilot project with the MoRD is quite momentous in nature by the scope of reach it promises in terms of numbers – close to 24,000. I must say that we at DB Tech are fully equipped for this challenge as we are the largest NGO operating in this space – our reach into the

interior most regions of India covering central India and the North East is unrivalled.

Standing at the threshold of these most exciting times, we can allow ourselves to be daunted by the Himalayan task that lies ahead or be spurred to greater heights to benefit

India's poor youth who number in millions; we chose the latter. Towards this end, we are bringing out this first issue of our newsletter 'DB Tech News'.

DB Tech News will not just be a programme specific newsletter, but will, in time, strive to be an industry resource where practitioners and beneficiaries including both employers and employees can meet and interact for furthering their individual agendas and betterment of the sector as a whole.

We look forward to your cooperation and valuable feedback.

Fr. A.M. Joseph SDB, Director, DB Tech.



Real rewards cannot be quantified

MoRD projects: New hope for thousands of youngsters



A better future beckons

In what could be called a landmark event, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India sanctioned DB Tech two placement linked skill development projects under its SGSY – Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana – special projects. While BASE N&C (Bosco Academy for Skills and Employment, North and Central India) landed the first project, BASE, N&NE (North and North East) was awarded the second one.

Under the first project, DB Tech will train 11800 rural youth belonging to rural impoverished families hailing from the states of Haryana, Punjab, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The training will be followed by placement linkages in the relevant industry. The training cost will be shared in the ratio of 75:25 between the



Spacious halls for training

MoRD and Don Bosco. At the rate of Rs 10,000 per trainee, the MoRD has sanctioned Rs 1,180 lakh for the project. The second project, which was sanctioned recently, covers the North East where Don Bosco has a tradition of unmatched penetration and coverage. The BASE N&NE project will cover 12,000 youngsters from the seven sister states of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura,

Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram and West Bengal. Factoring in the higher costs of operation, access, awareness generation and mobilisation, the per beneficiary costing is slightly higher at Rs 11,800 for this programme. Here too, the training costs will be shared as in the previous project.

“The sanctioning authorities were happy at our reach and spread,” says Fr. A.M. Joseph, executive director, DB Tech. DB Tech, with its 125 centres comes an immediate second to the Government of India when it comes to reach and spread. Especially in states like Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh where there is plenty of scope for skill development, the society has many centres and community enmeshment. “We conducted due diligence visits to all the Don Bosco Technical Institutes, schools and



New building at Kokar, Ranchi

outreach centres,” said Minu Thommen, programme director with DB Tech. “The focus was the central Indian states as they require as many such initiatives as possible.”

This extensive exercise was part of pre-training research aimed at collecting information about current capacity utilisation of the centres, spare capacity available, current trades and residential arrangement, socio-economic patterns of the area, adjacent districts, existing industries and employment opportunities available. Two more projects of DB Tech are under various levels of screening by the Ministry.



Ficci partnership for knowledge and placements



Federation of Indian Chamber for Commerce and Industry – Ficci – has entered into a partnership with DB Tech for best practices and knowledge sharing in skill development. The MoU has been entered into with the aim to design and scale up outcome driven market-oriented, industry-certified skill development programmes for the existing as well as

prospective Indian workforce. A repository of initiatives and best practices in the area of vocational training is also on the anvil.

The ‘Ficci – DBTI Partnership for Skill Development’ will strive to design and implement skill development programmes to train the youth across the country to meet the growing manpower shortage. Other areas of collaboration will also include: developing industry ratified curricula, competency based assessment, facilitating industry association certifications, providing placement linkages and support through industry networks, periodic youth surveys and skills need mapping, customising successful development models across the world and influencing skill development policies through research and advocacy.

Accenture tie-up for hospitality training

India has always been a favoured destination among the global traveller – be it the beaches, the backwaters, the mountains or the forest. Though the recent economic recession did take its toll on the tourism industry, things are looking up with this tourist season expected to be the harbinger of a turn in the tide. The Commonwealth Games to be held in New Delhi next year too will be giving a further boost to tourism in the country. With a host of new star and medium level properties coming up across the country, the job opportunities for trained hospitality professionals is on the rise.

The IT industry behemoth, Accenture, as part of its corporate social responsibility, has decided to make its foray into hospitality training for the marginalised urban youth by entering into a MoU with DB Tech. As per the agreement entered into at their Bengaluru office premises, DB Tech will provide training in hospitality and facilities management to 500 youth in the age group of 18 – 29 years. The young-



Serving the future on a platter

sters will be selected from impoverished families and training will be imparted at the DB Tech centres in Mumbai and Bengaluru .

To ensure that the programme is market relevant and the students are sought after by the industry, DB Tech has entered into an agreement with a hospitality industry leader for knowledge partnership.



A better world begins with a better me

Inclusive hospitality training

Recognised as one of Asia's largest and finest hotel companies, the Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) and its subsidiaries are collectively known as the Taj group of hotels. In 2003, the Taj group completed its centenary year, which was a landmark year for Indian hospitality itself. The Taj group of hotels consists of 60 hotels spread across 45 locations all over India and has an additional 15 international properties in different countries.

In October, DB Tech entered into a partnership with the Taj group of hotels to 'manage identified skill development centres at designated locations in the country to train economically weak rural students in skills relevant to the hospitality industry.' Other areas of collaboration include development and sharing of curriculum for the identified courses, assistance in the setting of training centres, training of trainers as well as providing on-the-job training for the students. The Taj group will also assist in setting certification criteria and issue joint certification to the students with another suitably recognised industry body.

Driven by the passion to excel in the industry, the Taj group of hotels strive to make the travellers' experience as harmonious as possible. "Consistently high quality service and style which set new standards are accepted norms with



Passion to serve and excel

the group," said Mr Vasant Ayyappan, director, corporate sustainability with the Taj group of hotels. "Our staffs are trained for crisp and courteous service which ensures the business and leisure traveller gets to do more during their stay. Our people are the best in the industry. Our agreement with DB Tech will surely help us mould world-class hospitality professionals from all corners of the country and all walks of the society."

A course that is backed by the curriculum developed with the Taj group's inputs is sure to make the students of these new academy gain profitable employment in the travel and tourism sector.



DB Tech is a network of 125 skill training centres spread across 25 states of the country. All these centres provide employment linked, market driven short duration courses to the economically and socially marginalised youth. There are 85 skill development courses which are imparted as per the trainee's interest and aptitude. Our target is to reach out to 2 million youngsters by 2022.

We need graduates / post graduates in any discipline as project trainees for community mapping and labour market studies all over India. Interested individuals / institutions please get in touch with Linto at 09899417585 or email your resumes to: hr@dbtech.in

*Join us to begin a career
in the fast growing development sector.*



News from the provinces - New Delhi

Global Skills Summit:

DB Tech, among the largest private skill training providers, has succeeded in rewriting the skilling landscape with its unmatched penetration into the forgotten hinterlands and quality training centres. With an intention to gain a stronger grip and nation-wide recognition in the skill development sector, it participated in the Global Skills Summit organised by Ficci on the 20th and 21st August 2009. There was a 15-minute presentation on the skill development initiatives of the Don Bosco National Network for Vocational Training and its future plans by Fr Noble George, principal, Don Bosco Technical Institute.



FINE (Final Inputs for New Employment):

This training session is structured exclusively for the final year students of the Don Bosco Technical Institutes with the sole objective of making them smarter and better equipped to confidently face



interviews and group discussions. They are also taught in the finer aspects of the right body language, attitude, attire etc. when appearing for a job interview.

Mumbai

MES-VTP registration: DB Tech has applied for the status of a national vocational training provider under the DGET (Directorate General of Employment and Training) MES (Modular Employable Skills) programme. This will enable all the training institutes under DB Tech to receive the benefits of reimbursement of training fees by the government and national level certification for all the trainees. This being a competency-based skill assessment and certification, not only enhances employability options of the students, but is also valid for manpower exports to the overseas market.



Standardisation of training of trainers:

DB Tech has established common facilities and resources at the national level for conducting capacity development programmes for the trainers covering

updated modules of technical and soft skills, classroom delivery, programme management, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Centres of excellence: DB Tech is in the process of establishing trade specific centres of excellence across the country through domain specialisation, industry interfacing for content upgradation and training of trainers. The planned centres of excellence in the Delhi province are Najafgarh for tailoring and Jumaikala for beauty culture.

MES orientation: Don Bosco Centre for Learning (DBCL), Kurla, organised a meeting of all the principals of the technical training institutes. The national policy on skills development and the skills development initiative by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India, were discussed. An orientation on the MES programme was given wherein the salient features of the scheme and its importance in reaching out to the marginalised were emphasised.

Sewing machine operation:



In collaboration with the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) and instituted by the Apparel Training and Design Centre (ATDC), the training was successfully conducted among the women from Jyoti, Virar and other slum areas of Mahim and Dharavi.

Career counselling: Creating Social Awareness is one of the keys to a developed nation. DB Tech held a one day workshop on social awareness. The objective of the programme was to create awareness about various career opportunities for the students. More than 250 participants including school drop outs participated in the programme.

Opening the doors to a world of possibilities by holding my hand and giving me that all important stepping stone; this is what DB Tech did for me.

Radhika, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh



Soft skills: Don Bosco Development Society, in collaboration with Ekvira Mitra Mandal conducted a three-month spoken English and basic computer course for school dropouts, un-

employed youth and housewives. This has proved very helpful to the beneficiaries gain access to the enormous opportunities in the growing economy.

New frontiers in training: Considering that hand pumps are a necessity in every village, a



workshop on hand pump repairing was organised in collaboration with Gujarat Jal-seva Talim Kendra, Gandhinagar. This workshop was specially designed for the

youth of Jambhughoda Taluka who were motivated to build sustainable livelihoods for themselves. Close to 60 youngsters from 25 villages benefited from this workshop.

Retail academy with Tata Trent Ltd: Don Bosco, Matunga recently held a Bosco Plus skills training programme in retail management, basic life skills, spoken English and computer skills. Of the many who attended the programme including those who had lost their jobs to the recent recession, 24 successfully completed the course. Senior HR manager from Tata Trent Ltd was the guest of honour at the valedictory function which marked a new beginning in the lives of these youngsters.

Kolkata



Workshop for job interview: A one-day workshop for youth on preparing for job interviews was conducted at Don Bosco Nitika in which 40 youth from Don Bosco Krishnagar, Mirpara and Tangra

participated. In this workshop, the youngsters were taught about one of the most important elements of success – risk

taking. The thought that 'When you try to do something you have 50% of success and when you do not try it at all you have 100% failure' was at the core of the training and the discussions.

MES assessors training programme: A training programme for MES assessors was held in Don Bosco SERI, Mirpara which was attended by about 50 Instructors from Mirpara, Asansol, Liluah and Park Circus. The main aim of the programme was to enable every instructor to independently manage the entire process of employability – from teaching to the preparation of a common question bank.

Soft skills training:

DB Tech team frequently organises soft skill training programmes for the students which focuses on their overall grooming with thrust on topics like communication,



motivation, emotion, cultivating a positive attitude, how to cope with failure, stress management, personality development, HIV / AIDS awareness and leadership skills. A two-day workshop was conducted in the DB Tech schools of Krishnanagar, Park Circus and in Monsada, a rural area bordering Bangladesh.

Chennai

Livelihood opportunities in water management: PETERS – Promoters of Environmental Technologies and Energy Resources – an NGO which promotes integrated water and energy management system organised a seminar on business / employment opportunities in water and energy for all VTC principals and staff. Sharing their expertise and presenting their views were eminent resource persons from the field like Mr Rana Subramaniam, Head (Training), EXCEL HR, Mr Ramesh Subramaniam, Director, KAYESSAR Project and Services, Mr Peter Rajan, author, Principles of Water Treatment.

I was taught to have a cheerful disposition at the workplace and take on every challenge with a smile.

Arun Das, Maram, Manipur

Soft skills training:

A one-day Skill Orientation Programme was held on August 29th for the first year agricultural students at Don Bosco SIARD Sagayathottam by Don Bosco Vazhikatti. The programme which included sessions on self motivation, interpersonal skills, personality development, leadership, goal setting, problem solving, etc was aimed at primarily improving the participants' confidence levels to ensure them better job opportunities.



Bengaluru

Soft skills for success: Don Bosco Plus envisages setting up a finishing school where the youth trained in various skills at different locations will undergo an intense programme of life skills, English language proficiency and computer skills which will enhance their employability potential. The second batch of Don Bosco Plus programme at BREADS, Bengaluru successfully completed its course for 32 young people in October.

Advanced welding lab at Hassan: The academic year 2009 – 2010, of Don Bosco Technical Institute (Hassan) was formally started on 19th September 2009 which was followed by the inauguration of new Advanced welding Lab by Mr. Frederic D'Souza, the manager of Vijaya Bank.

Personal Effectiveness Learning Laboratory (PELL):



As part of the capacity building programmes for the management and staff of the skill training centres, work began on customised training programmes with the Netur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF). This was launched with the first programme for management and staff of skill training centres in Karnataka on September 1, 2009. There were 20 participants from six centres across the state. Wg. Cdr. (Retd.) Raghavan and Mr. Francis Xavier Royan of NTTF were the chief resource persons of the five day workshop.

DB Tech provincial skills convention: All the Salesians, trained and presently engaged in the field of skill training came together for a two day convention held at Don Bosco Provincial House in June this year. The event created immense interest and provided the needed impetus to skill training interventions. Nearly 40 participants from Karnataka and Kerala representing different skill training institutions came together for this convention. The theme of this convention was 'Skill Development: Opportunities and Challenges.'

Capacity building: A four-day training programme was organised for the staff of Vaduthala which was attended by 20 members from six training centres across Kerala. Organised at DB Tech BREADS in collaboration with NTTF, PELL formed the core of the sessions with focus on working towards enhancing the quality of our skill training initiatives.

Goa

Training of trainers: A workshop for training of trainers was organised by the DB Tech team in life skills programme at the Don Bosco Oratory in Panjim on 28th and 29th August 2009. It was held for the staff of the vocational and technical Institutes of Don Bosco, Goa region. The two-day intensive program focused on soft skills training delivery.



Career guidance fair: Getting the students started in the right direction career wise is as important as training them. The career guidance fair held in July at Panjim was



organised with this in mind. Present at the fair were 176 students from Don Bosco night schools, open schools at Parra, Auxullium convent and Chimbel slum colony. The day was made memorable as resources were drawn from

There is so much emphasis on all round development. Here my leadership qualities were developed and my personal strengths were given a boost.

Victor Dodray, Liluah, Jharkhand

a wide range of sectors like environment, health and safety, hospitality (Leela Kempinsky) and empowerment (AIMS). Focus was given on the opportunities for woman for self employment in garment making and catering.

Training on placement interface: Placement coordinators



from different provinces were brought together in September for the three-day workshop by Ms. Susanna Maria Kraft, a German CIM expert. The importance of customer relationship in our fast growing world and

the need to be professionally trained to meet the demands of the time was emphasised upon. Topics included were 'how to earn trust, how to approach a customer, building sustainable relationships, effective ways to meet customer expectations, concepts of networking and the strategies for effective placement.'

Guwahati

Centres of excellence:

To upscale the training quality and to meet the diverse requirements of the employers, DB

Tech partnered with

JDW, Germany and COMIDE, Belgium for the upgradation of the electrical trade in DBTS, Shillong, language lab in DBI Guwahati, tailoring centre in Silchar, ITES in Jowai and welding in Maligaon.



Conclusion of academic year and certificate day:

Several of our technical institutions concluded their academic session with the examinations and certificate day. In DBTS Shillong, the ITI examinations concluded in the first week of August 2009. More than 200 formal and non-formal trainees passed out from the institution. In Silchar too, about 100 trainees have passed out from the institution.

Awareness programmes on social issues and issues affecting the young:

In order to raise consciousness on the issues affecting the general public and youth in particular three awareness programmes



were conducted. Topics such as RTI, social development schemes of GOI (NREGA, SGSY, MES, etc), career guidance, HIV/AIDS, self-employment schemes, entrepreneurship awareness etc. were covered.

MES registration: Don Bosco Technical School Shillong is now registered as Vocational Training Provider in 20 modules under Modular Employable Skills under the Ministry of Labour & Employment Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) from the month of June 2009.

New academic year for technical schools in the province:

There was a good response this year from the youth and their parents for the technical courses. In non-formal alone, there were about 500 trainees who were admitted into different courses of one year to six months duration.

Network and linkages: Unlike the rest of the provinces in the mainland, Guwahati province does not enjoy proximity to big corporates. However, our resource centres and training institutes make every effort to network and establish linkages with home grown medium or cottage industries or with subsidiary offices of the big companies. We achieved a record placement of 300 trainees in the last two years in different industries, business houses, educational institutions and private commercial establishments.

Hyderabad

Evaluation and planning meet: In October, technical schools heads, commission members and other DB Tech collaborators gathered in the provincial house in June this year for reviewing the year gone by and chalking out plans for 2009. The meeting concluded that DB Tech was evolving

The personality development that happened during the course of the programme was a bonus and a boon for me; it made me more affable and helpful which helps me in my job.

Linus Jharia, Ranchi, Jharkhand

ing and emerging as a strong network in the country in the field of skilling and attracting government bodies and corporate tie ups. As partners of DB Tech, it was decided unanimously that all technical institutes should rise up to the new challenges and rising demands of the new programmes underway. Importance of local industry recognition and collaboration for on-the-job training, placement and up gradation of technology at par with the present demand and requirement was stressed upon.

DB Plus for a faster career growth: In September, after 25 days' of DB Plus training, 57 youth received their certificates which promised them a faster climb up the corporate ladder.



Out of these, 37 already had secured their jobs with prestigious companies with promise of good salaries.

Collaboration for skill development: A conference on 'Integrating Needs of Industry and Present Day Youth and Achieving Employment Objectives' was held in August by different groups working in the skilling space including the community from Don Bosco Tech India, Boys Town ITC. It was the first time such an initiative was spearheaded for the youth.

Alumni meet: For the first time ever, students from Don



Bosco Prem Seva Sadan at Hayathnagar gathered together to share their experiences and thus motivate others to try harder to get better jobs in the job market that has begun to look up. Among

the 40 who attended, 25 were those who had already successfully bagged lucrative jobs. They got together to reduce the dropout rates, to provide psychological and moral support and to help in reaching out to more youngsters.

Dimapur

Training programmes: A 10-day life skill training programme was held at the Institute of Development and Leadership (IDL) in September which was attended by participants from Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

A month long residential programme on life skills training was held at the Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre (DB-VTC) in August for the students of carpentry,



driving, welding and motor mechanics. This was attended by 30 youth from economically backward families.

A two-day training on classroom management was held for the instructors of technical institutes of BVTI Maram and DBVTC 3rd Mile. The residential programme was attended by 12 instructors who went back better equipped.

Soft skills training: A social awareness programme was held at the IDL which was attended by 200 youth. During the occasion, a language lab was inaugurated by Lt. Col. K.S. Bankoli. This newly started facility has 25 computers installed with the latest communication software which will go a long way in equipping the students to communicate effectively and with ease.



DB Tech gave me an unfailing belief in myself and give me a headstart. Now I dream bigger.

Mukta Kujur, Lucknow, UP

Rising stars

Living her dreams



The strata of the society where you belong to decide how far you are even allowed to dream. This is a sad fact that holds true for millions of youngsters all over the country whom penury and familial pressures force to give up hope for a better tomorrow. Rising like the phoenix,

from the ashes of oppressive social norms, Kamala Lakshmi from Hassan in Karnataka, is a role model for every girl who aspires of a better future.

One of the two daughters of a farmer, Kamala enrolled at the Don Bosco Technical Institute in Hassan after her pre university course. She dreamt big – she wanted to be proficient in computers and live and work in the happening Bangalore. However good she was technically, she found that her lack of ability to communicate effectively in English was a big hindrance to her getting a gainful employment with a good company in the metro city. “I knew I wouldn’t be able to perform well in any interview especially as I was looking for a job in Bengaluru,” Kamala says.

That is when the Don Bosco Finishing School program conducted at BREADS Bengaluru came to her rescue. “Along with communicative English I also got training in life skills and did my advanced training in computers,” she says. It was just a matter of time, Kamala improved her communication as well as presentation skills. “Today I can face anybody, talk to anybody and put across my point effectively,” says a beaming Kamala. Her self belief and confidence played a crucial role in helping her get selected by the multinational LG Electronics for their showroom in the metro. Talk about living your dreams!

The goodwill goes a long way

Like most lads of his age, Somveer Singh too stood at the crossroads of life after completing his 12th standard, wondering as to what to do next. There were not many around him who could guide him on a proper career path. As luck would have it, Somveer zeroed in on a course



on AC and Refrigeration as his future. To pursue it, he enrolled at the Don Bosco Vocational Training Institute at Najafgarh which was just four kilometers away from where he stayed.

“The course proved to be the turning point of my life,” says Somveer. “I realised that with a little bit of determination and a whole lot of hard work, I could succeed in not just business, but in life as well.” He worked for six months in a private firm as an AC repair mechanic before he started his own business which honed his own skills both in the technical as well as entrepreneurial aspects. Though he started off with an initial income of Rs 4,000 per month, he now earns about Rs 30,000 every month. “The air conditioners are repaired at site,” Somveer explains his business model. “In case they require any further attention, they are taken to a friend’s workshop.”

Somveer’s business has been on the growth path, thanks to his reputation for being available ‘24x7’. His enterprising nature has enabled him to enter into an AMC (annual maintenance contract) with seven housing cooperatives in Dwarka, Delhi’s largest housing colony. To what does Somveer attribute his success to, besides his own hard work? “My six helpers, motorbike, mobile phone and of course, the goodwill of my customers who are impressed by the promptness of my service.”

The facilitators at DB Tech helped me out of my self imposed isolation. Today I have a new job and of course, a new life.

Nilofer Pathan, Jogeshwari, Mumbai

Never give up



Jofin Joseph hails from the backward Wayanad district in north Kerala. His father, a small farmer, struggled to make both ends meet and provide for the joint family of seven. Jofin's brothers were forced to take up jobs with the military and another at a factory at a very young age to lend a much needed helping

for their father. Needless to say, it was a respite but definitely not enough. That is when Jofin decided to take things into his own hand and shoulder responsibility for the family.

A youngster with his own dreams and ambitions, Jofin stood out from the rest of his age – he believed that success was the outcome of undiluted hard work. Perseverance paid, he knew. Upon completion of his higher secondary education, he joined the welding course at the Don Bosco Institute at Sulthan Bathery. There was no looking back for him. Never missing on any class, he took his studies with utmost seriousness and strove hard towards his goal. “Besides the technical training, I also got additional skills in basic computer, spoken English and communication through Don Bosco Plus,” Jofin says. “This vastly enhanced my confidence and social skills.”

At present Jofin works as a welding instructor with a reputed technical institute. He aims to gain good experience from his current workplace and becoming better in his job where he can train many others like him. Looking back, Jofin feels proud of his achievement and has a word of advice to the other youngsters like him who are on the brink of losing hope. “Never give up,” he says emphatically. “Set your goals and work hard day in and out towards achieving them and success will be yours.”

In Toppo gear

Nirmal Toppo always loved bikes. So it was almost a dream come true when he was selected to work in the showroom of Hero Honda, the largest two wheeler manufacturer in the world. Today, his career is vrooming ahead, in top gear. But things were not always so rosy for the vibrant and energetic Nirmal. He came up in life the hard way – fighting against all odds including hunger, poverty and lack of opportunities hailing from the state of Jharkhand.



“I completed my 12th standard with great difficulty,” says Nirmal. “And in order to help my family, I decided to join some vocational course of short duration.” Asking around, he came to know about the Don Bosco ITC at Kokar and with suitable guidance from the staff, he enrolled for the two-wheeler course. Making the course further attractive was the affordable fee which was charged by the centre with no compromise on the quality of the training.

“Here I got every opportunity to learn the technical skill as well as inculcate life skills through training programmes, seminars, games and other socializing activities,” Nirmal gives full credit for his personality makeover to the curriculum which included life skill training as well. These not only made him technically competent, but also good at interpersonal skills which was crucial in getting the coveted job with Hero Honda. As his career progresses in top gear, Nirmal thankfully remembers all his teachers who were responsible for moulding him the way he is today.

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