

## Drivers for Employment and Entrepreneurship

### Capacities and Technologies

#### Skill Development

While the world grows older, India is becoming younger. With 54% of its population (over 600 million) aged below 25, and with the second largest workforce in the world after China, India is poised well to achieve its tryst with destiny. However, India's formally skilled workforce is approximately 2% - which is dismally low compared to China (47%), Japan (80%) or South Korea (96%). Therefore, to avoid this demographic dividend from becoming a liability the country needs to leverage its young population more meaningfully and substantially through a stronger focus on skill development. With India making a firm commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals there is a big opportunity on the horizon for skill development to take a front seat in India's development agenda.

#### Impact of Capacities and Technologies

Skills are the most essential drivers for transforming lives and for fueling economic growth. Honing skills in one individual opens up opportunities for social and economic growth, not only for the individual, but also for the larger community through the individual. The government has acknowledged these needs and has embarked to provide skills and train 500 million people by 2022 through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). India's future will now be defined by how well it is able to skill its young population and enable their absorption into productive and gainful employment on a large scale.

Technology is also increasingly being seen as a business enabler and as a vital tool for bringing in process efficiencies, and higher degree of standardization. For MSEs to develop a competitive advantage and to operate in rapidly a globalizing market, a strong focus on implementing technology is likely to play a crucial role in the growth of the MSE sector. Technology will also play a pivotal role in access to finance in the future. A low technology base results in low productivity, which makes these enterprises incompetent and thus undesirable for financial institutions. Moving forward lack of technology will have a direct bearing on the financing opportunities for MSEs.

At the same time a sizeable number of enterprises are set up and managed by first generation entrepreneurs with limited managerial training, particularly in the micro and small enterprise segments. With limited training and capacity building of entrepreneurs, such enterprises experience significant challenges in resource management, technology adoption and financial planning. Thus, technologies and capacity will play an important role in the growth of MSE sector, which is a backbone of any economy - developed or emerging.

#### TARAGram Yatra 2016: Capacities and Technologies for Employment and Entrepreneurship

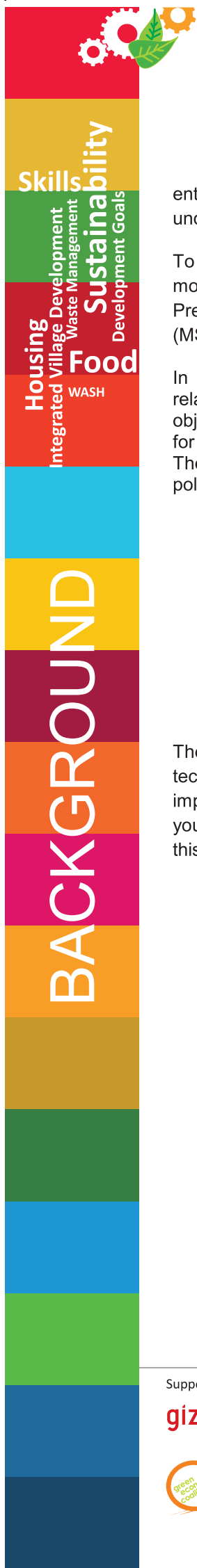
Development Alternatives Group in collaboration with UNDP is working on a project called DISHA with the objective of building capacities in girls and women and linking them with employment or

Supported by



Organised by





entrepreneurship opportunities. This project and other similar initiatives will be discussed in order to understand the role of capacities as a driver.

To understand and explore the role that Technology plays, discussions will center around innovative models and scalable technologies. One such model that would be discussed in detail is the i-G Preneur model of TARA, which facilitates establishment of eco-friendly micro and small enterprises (MSEs) by application of readily available technology solutions for green entrepreneurs.

In this regard, a Round Table Consultation (RTC) would be conducted in Delhi to address issues related to Technology and Capacity building for Employment and Entrepreneurship. The overall objective through the discussions is to form a “policy to practice connect” to create scalable solutions for employability and entrepreneurship where the major drivers are capacity building and technology. The RTC will involve ground level practitioners, experts, technology partners, private sector heads, policy makers and government representatives to help with the following:

- What is the role of capacity building, especially for the girls, women and youth in the field of employment and entrepreneurship?
- How to overcome the employment challenges that the youth faces once he/she gets trained? Need for government and industry to be working on collaborative platforms on this matter?
- What are the barriers/challenges for technology in the eco-friendly MSE’s system and how to address these?
- What are the gaps in the demand and supply in terms of technology and what are the solutions to bridge this gap?
- What are the technology innovations that are required for the MSE’s ecosystem?

The round table consultation will help identify and address the challenges and gaps pertaining to technology in the eco-friendly MSEs ecosystem and come up with a solution/action plan for improvement/strengthening this sector. Additionally, solutions addressing livelihood challenges faced by youth after getting trained, and the role of government and industry to collectively build a platform for this will be brought into discussion.

Supported by



Organised by

