

## **Challenge to opportunity**

Skill development is an important drive in India to address poverty reduction by improving employability, productivity and helping sustainable enterprise development for inclusive growth. As compared to other developed and developing countries, India has a unique window of opportunity for another 25 years called demographic advantage, if India is able to skill its people with technical entrepreneurial and life skills in the years to come. The demographic advantage can be converted into dividend. People who are entering the labor market after receiving skill training, or are already in the labor market; contribute productively to economic growth of the country.

Bastar is relatively a younger division in skill development compared to the other parts of our nation. Skill development has been considered as one of the critical aspects for job creation in India, especially in tribal region. Our tribal region's greatest challenge is that a huge number of youth leave schools early, resulting in low educated labor force entering the labor market without technical skills, due to their poor economic conditions. They remain as low paid employees due to lack of entrepreneurial and life –skills.

To address this challenge, BDKS has started skill training for the early school leaving youth in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. For the past few years BDKS has provided training to a good number of tribal youth in different domains. BDKS always gives importance to the placement of trained youth. To have a better understanding on the needs of the people, BDKS is trying to conduct necessary research in the field of skill training.

Fr. Tiju Mankottil CMI

Director, BDKS

1. On March 19 the day of St Joseph, BDKS distributed grocery items to the cycle rickshaw pullers of Jagdalpur. We conducted this programme in the remembrance of the pioneer missionary Fr. Thomas Vadaparambil. Fr. Antony Konumada (Provincial auditor) was the chief guest of the day. Around 35 rickshaw pullers were benefited from the programme.



2. Under Manos Unidas project an income generation programme was started at Mardoom. Under this project, health camps, health awareness programs etc were conducted.



3. In the month of May the literacy India trust, Chennai's project was started for the better education of the tribal elderly people in Bastar division.



4. The new project of FVTRS, a skill project was started at Jagdalpur. Under this project around 90 school dropout students are benefited.



5. Together with BDKS and ORIEN, a job fair was conducted on the occasion of the second batch students pass out day. Around 450 students were benefited.



6. The Mission projects are going on well. 24 tuition centers are functioning well at different parts of Bastar.



7. KKF India's project co-coordinator visited our center, and conducted discussions on a new project. BDKS hopes to start new project in the month of september-2022.

8. KNH and Christ university's five year project was successfully completed. The Next phase of five years may start in the month of August 2022.



9. The BDKS director attended National skill conference at Bangalore in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May, 2022.



10. One of our BDKS staff attended EDP training at Goa in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, 2022.

