

STARS Forum Annual Report 2022



Vision and Mission

Our Motto is to bring all like minded NGO's on one platform to share ideas, experiences and concerns and explore the possibilities to evolve a supportive network within and across state boundaries, for the larger common purpose of imparting vocational and marketable skills training to those who need it most.

Our Mission is to serve as a collaborative body for mutual support of those engaged in vocational skills training, facilitate advance in this field and promote innovative approaches to reach larger needy populations

Our Goals

1. Serve as a resource for mutual benefit of individuals and NGOs working in the field of vocational knowledge transfer.
2. Provide a platform for dialogue, share ideas, outcomes and best practices.
3. Facilitate networking within the rural skills and livelihoods sector
4. Promote connectivity to relevant information.
5. Encourage and support younger workers to emerge as future leaders
6. Advocacy on curriculum, minimum standards, certification and accreditation of training programs with the Government as necessary.

Inception and History

STARS ("Skills Training for Advancement in Rural Societies") Forum was established in 2010 with the objective of constituting a common platform for NGOs and individuals working in the area of knowledge-transfer of relevant marketable/vocational skills in rural and tribal populations and also among the urban poor anywhere in India, for mutual support and to advance this field by providing a forum to dialog, problem solve, and facilitate sharing and evolution of best practices & innovative approaches so as to reach as many needy people as possible through practical, relevant and cost effective ways. Started as an informal group, the activities of the Forum witnessed sustained participation from NGOs, indicating that the platform was not only sustaining but also growing. The STARS Forum was registered as a public trust in 2014 in order to give further impetus to its mission.

Report on activities during 2022.

During 2022 the STARS Forum executed the following programs:

1. Running the “Introduction to Basic Technology” program in several rural schools in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
2. Creation of a Digital Distant Learning library containing courses on skills that are valuable and of importance in the rural and semi-rural context.
3. A residential capacity building program for small NGOs interested in starting skill training programs.

Details of the above are shared below:

1. IBT program FY 2022- 2023.

Report by Shri Sachin Punekar (Head of IBT Programs, STARS Forum)

The Introduction to Basic Technology (IBT) program is being implemented in 73 schools in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The program is supported by SCHAEFFLER India Ltd. in 10 schools and Tata Technologies in 3 schools in Maharashtra and by UNICEF in 60 schools in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Approx total 6800+ students across 73 schools are taking benefit of the IBT program. The program has also provided the part time job opportunity to 115 instructors.



Key achievements:

- Successfully launched the IBT program in 60 schools from 15 districts of UP. Now the Govt and UNICEF is planning to scale up the program in 2000-3000 schools in the next 1 year.
- Developed the ‘Learning By Doing’ booklet in collaboration with UNICEF for class 6th to 8th, which is aligned with the NEP 2020 policy.
- UNICEF Goodwill ambassador actress Priyanka Chopra visited an IBT school on 7th Nov 2022. She visited the IBT lab in Aurangabad, Uttar Pradesh school and appreciated the hands-on project based training program.



This visit has inspired the students as well as all the instructors, teachers and all the members working on the IBT Program.

- Tata Technologies supported the advanced IBT program in total 3 schools in pilot mode.

These schools are equipped with 3D printer and advance electronics tool and equipment to undertake sensor-based projects and robotic activities.

Key activities from the schools:

- Total 4 IBT Schools participate in the 'Tinkering Day' event organized by AIM (Atal Innovation Mission) Atal Innovation Mission NITI Ayog Central Government of India on 14th to 16th November 2022 Children's Day (1 school from SCHAEFFLER and 3 from TATA project)

- IBT students tested a blood group of total 260 students in the Navlakh Umabre school.

The IBT students cycle stand for under engineering section as per the need of school at

Nigade school. Capacity 24 cycles. (Schaeffler project)

- The community services of total approx. amount 1,50,000+ provided by the IBT students. In which they have provided Diwali products, repairing, electrical fitting, food product and agriculture services and products as per the school and community needs. (Schaeffler project)

- The IBT students successfully fabricated the shed of size 396 Sq. Ft. at Tulapur school. (TATA project)

- Students of engineering section constructed and fabricated a nursery at Nirgudsar school. Video link: https://youtu.be/Qc_a-B3gwG8 (TATA project)



2. Distant Learning Project

Report by Smt. Bhakti Talwelkar (Programme Manager, STARS Forum).

A Distant learning project started with the support of **LA Fondation- Dassault Systemes** in Dec 21. We are in the process of creating e- learning content for youth specially from the village areas. We intend to create a video library for many topics from different skill sectors, e.g. Solar water heater installation and maintenance, Paver Block manufacturing unit, Biofloc fish farming etc.

We have launched these video sets on a dedicated website: <https://www.theskillsguru.in/> with a strong Learning management System for easy navigation and smooth flow of course. One course consists of 5-6 modules (videos).

A Student has to enroll for the course and pay a nominal fee. He/she can complete the online course within stipulated time. She/he has to clear an online exam to avail e-certificate.

This project is supported by Dassault Systemes Foundation.

Dassault Systemes Foundation is dedicated to transforming the future of education and research with the learning and discovery capabilities of 3D technology and virtual universes. Dassault Systemes Foundation supports projects in India to bring about transformation in Education and Research. (It is working with the objective to improve engineering skills and support innovation in Indian Academia/ Research Centres, to accelerate education transformation, to encourage scientific research, to encourage vocation for science and engineering among young people and to support education programs for Underprivileged & Specially abled citizens. Dassault Systemes Foundation will help teachers, learners and scientists to leverage the power of 3D virtual world to stretch the limits of knowledge and to invent new ways to pass on this knowledge to current and future generations of Indian thinkers, inventors, builders and leaders.)

Till now we have produced 5 video topics, each topic having around 5, 6 videos, each of around 5 min.

3. Building Effective Skill Training Programs: Capacity building program for NGOs.

Report by Smt. Bhakti Talwelkar (Programme Manager, STARS Forum)

Every year STARS Forum conducts an annual conference in the month of December. This was the 13th year of the conference. This year we conducted a Skill training program for NGOs. The workshop was designed for those NGOs who want to start skill training programs or are looking to improve the effectiveness of their training. The workshop covered topics like

- Identifying training needs
- Training methodology
- Design of training program, hands on activities
- Documentation and Tracking



The objectives were:

- To train participants in adoption of appropriate & effective teaching methodology in skill training viz. Pre-training surveys, need identification, use of hands-on activities, use of new tools like videos, LMS based course content, post-training support.
- To introduce application of 'Design Thinking' approach for identification of community need.
- To introduce appropriate methodology of documentation of training and its follow-up (pre and post training).



- To train participants in selected hard skill/technology, pedagogy for skills training and appropriate business & personal skills, as applicable.



52 participants from 18 different organizations and 10 states from all over India participated in the workshop. Padmashri Dr. Kshama Metre from CORD (Sidhbari, H.P.) inaugurated the conference.

The faculty and resource persons for the workshop consisted of:

- Mr. B.R Venkatesh: A passionate trainer promoting entrepreneurship as a mission with a view of nation building.
- Dr. Yogesh Kulkarni: Expert in technology based entrepreneurship development, technology development for rural areas.
- Mr. Narendra Paul: Serving rural areas with comprehensive community based and skill development.
- Mr. Ranjeet Shanbhag: Training rural youth in Science and Technology, Technology entrepreneurship development.
- Mr. Sachin Puneekar: Expert in skill training, entrepreneurship development and providing training, mentoring support.

Administrative policy:

STARS Forum, in partnership with UNICEF is working on the IBT project in Uttar Pradesh. Being a UNICEF partner, you need to follow PSEA - (Prevention against Sexual Harassment and Abuse) policy. STARS has been following this policy since 2021. STARS Forum has zero tolerance against SEA. We have a Vishakha committee in place for investigation of such complaints. Till date we have not received any complaint.

People at STARS Forum

Board of Trustees

Chairman of the Board: Shri Ashok Kalbag

Treasurer: Shri Chaitanya Nadkarny

Members: Shri BR Venkatesh, Shri Narendra Paul, Shri Ranajeet Shanbhag

Advisory Committee

Dr. Yogesh Kulkarni, Dr. Rita Sengupta, Dr. Sudhir Prabhu, Dr. Kshama Metre, Dr. Reghu Rama Das, Shri Ashish Chavan

Identity:

Trust Registration No. E-7042/P (Charity Commissioner, Pune)

PAN Number: AAPTS6149F

80G Certification Number: AAPTS6149FF20206

12A Certification Number: AAPTS6149FE20206

MCA CSR Registration: CSR00019778

Name and address of Bankers

Bank : ICICI Bank

Branch: Bandal Spaces, Paud Road, Near PMT Bus Depot, Kothrud, Pune - 411038, India

Account number: 649305050737

IFSC Code: ICIC0006493

Bank: State Bank of India

Branch: Bandal Spaces, Paud Road, Near PMT Bus Depot, Kothrud, Pune - 411038, India

Account number: 40298781358

IFSC Code: SBIN0030456