

Vocational Skill Development Initiatives for Sustainable Livelihood at SCTE-Kohima, Nagaland

Nagaland, a state endowed with rich biodiversity and vibrant cultural heritage, holds significant potential in sectors such as horticulture and handicrafts. According to the Annual Report of Nagaland – NITI Aayog 2018 (Pages 7–10, 13–16), while these sectors offer promising avenues for sustainable livelihoods, the region continues to face critical gaps in technological expertise and structured skill development. Bridging these gaps is essential for fostering inclusive growth and economic empowerment, particularly among women.

In response to this need, the **Women Technology Park (WTP)** was established at the **State College of Teacher Education (SCTE)**, Kohima, Nagaland. Launched in 2021, this pioneering initiative is funded by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST), SEED Division, New Delhi**, under the scheme titled *Innovation, Technology Development and Deployment*. The WTP is envisioned as a platform to empower educated yet unemployed Scheduled Tribe (ST) women, as well as student-teachers undergoing the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) programme, by equipping them with scientific, technical, and entrepreneurial skills.

Objectives of the Women Technology Park

The WTP at SCTE, Kohima, operates with a multidimensional approach to women's empowerment, focusing on the following objectives:

- 1. Technology Promotion:**
Promote sustainable technologies in Food processing, Basket making, and mushroom cultivation, offering alternative livelihood avenues for educated unemployed women.
- 2. Technology Information Hub:**
Serve as a centralized platform for disseminating relevant technological information, addressing women's specific needs in livelihood generation and enterprise development.
- 3. Indigenous Knowledge Enhancement:**
Upgrade traditional skills and refine indigenous technologies prevalent among tribal women to align with modern market demands while preserving cultural identity.
- 4. Skill Development and Entrepreneurship:**
Provide training in small- and medium-scale entrepreneurial ventures to build self-reliance and foster economic independence among women.
- 5. Market Access and Linkages:**
Create marketing linkages through Self Help Groups (SHGs), collaborative agencies, and entrepreneurial networks to ensure that women-led products and services reach wider markets.

Infrastructure and Technology Integration

Under the DST scheme, infrastructural support was provided for various trades to create an enabling environment for practical training and enterprise incubation. These include:

- A **Greenhouse for Mushroom Growing** to facilitate scientific cultivation practices.
- **Sewing Machines** for garment production and tailoring training.
- A **Doona Machine** for producing disposable paper plates as an eco-friendly enterprise.
- A **Solar Heater** to support food processing activities using renewable energy solutions.

These infrastructure components not only support vocational training but also reflect the principles of sustainability and innovation outlined in the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**. The project aligns well with the vision of NEP by integrating vocational education with higher education and preparing student-teachers for real-world community engagement.

Capacity Building through Skill India Initiatives

Building on its foundational goals, the WTP has collaborated with national flagship programmes such as **Skill India** under the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) – Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY-4.0)**. In 2023, SCTE, Kohima introduced **NSQF Level-3 certification courses** in two trades:

- **Sewing Machine Operator**
- **Small Mushroom Grower**

These courses were offered free of cost to both B.Ed. student-teachers and ST women from the community. A total of **161 trainees** – comprising **111 B.Ed. students** and **52 community participants** – received certification. This initiative not only enhanced their technical competencies but also prepared them to take up income-generating ventures independently.

In addition, through the PM Vishwakarma (PMVK) framework, **119 artisans** engaged in **Traditional Doll Making** and **Traditional Basket Making** were upskilled to **NSQF Level-2.5**. Each certified artisan received:

- **A stipend of ₹6,250 was provided to participants for attending the upskilling programme.**
- **Toolkits worth ₹15,000** to support the initial phase of business setup.
- **Financial support of ₹3,00,000** for entrepreneurship development (*Conditional*).

These measures aim to boost traditional artisanship while providing modern avenues for commercialization and enterprise management.

Towards a Sustainable Future

The WTP at SCTE, Kohima, stands as a beacon of innovation-driven empowerment. It not only addresses the region's challenges of unemployment and underutilization of indigenous skills but also nurtures a culture of entrepreneurship and self-reliance among women. The convergence of technology, education, and tradition within this initiative has set a precedent for sustainable community development.

Furthermore, the activities and curriculum developed under the **Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP)** and the **Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)** have been designed in alignment with NEP 2020, ensuring that future educators are equipped not just with pedagogical skills but also with tools to contribute to economic and social transformation.

As we reflect on the achievements and ongoing journey of the Women Technology Park, we recognize its profound impact—not just in terms of numbers and certifications, but in the lives transformed and communities strengthened through the power of knowledge, skill, and self-belief.

Number of Candidates certified under PMKVY 4.0

Batch ID	Job Role	Date of Enrolment	Date of Assessment	Number of Candidates		Total	Status
				BEd	Community		
2208790	Sewing Machine Operator	Apr 12, 2023	Aug 3, 2023	19	1	20	Certified
2209065	Small Mushroom Grower	Apr 18, 2023	Jun 7, 2023	14		14	Certified
2236012	Sewing Machine Operator	Jun 7, 2023	Aug 18, 2023		13	13	Certified
2309491	Sewing Machine Operator	Oct 11, 2023	Nov 29, 2023	12	5	17	Certified
2309494	Small Mushroom Grower	Oct 13, 2023	Nov 22, 2023	28		28	Certified
2375012	Sewing Machine Operator	Feb 15, 2024	Apr 16, 2024	10	3	11	Certified
2593040	Sewing Machine Operator	Jun 5, 2024	Aug 21, 2024		17	17	Certified
2688823	Sewing Machine Operator	Sep 10, 2024	Nov 30, 2024	11	13	24	Certified
2688872	Small Mushroom Grower	Sep 10, 2024	Oct 29, 2024	17		17	Awaited
Total=				111	52	161	

Number of Candidates certified under PMVK

Batch ID	Job Role	Date of Enrolment	Date of Assessment	Number of Candidates	Status
				Community	
3144098	Traditional Basket Making	17-Feb-25	22-Feb-25	31	Certified
3167895	Traditional Doll Making	26-Feb-25	31 Feb 2025	32	Certified
3275940	Traditional Basket Making	28-Mar-25	04-Apr-25	28	Certified
3313614	Traditional Basket Making	05-May-25	10-May-25	28	Certified
Total=				119	

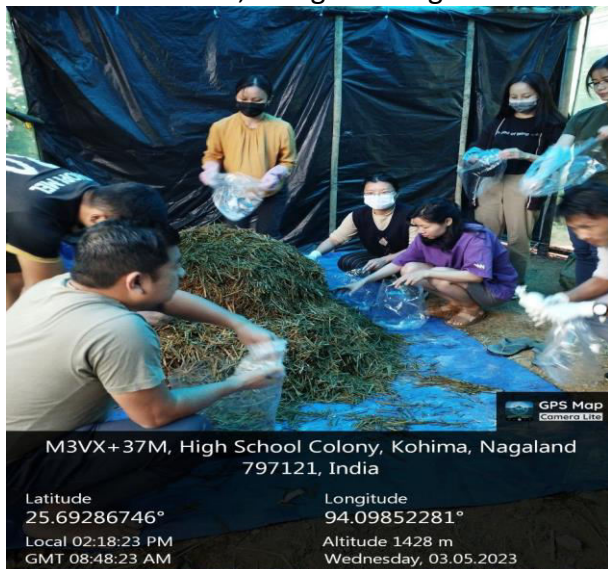
Number of SHG Supported with Machine = 02

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DHE Officials, Inaugural Program WTP



Disposal Paper Plate Machine



Small Mushroom Grower in work



Blooming Mushroom Cylinders



Mushroom 1st Harvest



Sewing Machine Operator



SHC- Sewing Machine



Traditional Basket Make



Traditional Doll Make



A batch from Community Members