

## Upskilling Rural Youth of India

### Why in News?

In a recent group discussion held by Life Skills Collaborative, most of the rural youth preferred to stay in their village which necessitates the importance of upskilling them.

### Why is upskilling necessary for the rural youth?

*UN projects that almost 50% of the Indian population will be living in urban areas by 2047.*

- **To overcome agrarian crisis** - Farming is the main source of rural livelihoods including children who work on family-owned farms.
- But the rural economy is experiencing a major occupational shift with more farmers quitting agriculture to join non-farming jobs, hinting at an agrarian crisis.

*The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data recorded 34 million farmers leaving their farms and transitioning to other sectors such as construction during 2004-05 and 2011-12.*

- **To reduce unemployment rate** - According to NSSO, the unemployment rate among rural male and female youth stood at 17.4% and 13.6% respectively in 2020.
- **To control migration** - Many rural youth migrate to urban areas in search of meaningful employment which impacts livelihood of urban dwellers.

### How can youth in rural India be made employment-ready?

- **Rural education** - Technical as well as life skills are needed to empower youth in these areas through formal education.
- The success stories of Mexico's tele-schools and Bhutan's well-being-infused curriculum can be introduced.

*According to 'LSC Voices 2023 survey', of 15,856 young people across 11 districts, 66% of youth aged between 19 and 22 had never taken any kind of vocational training with only 5% of them enrolled in these courses.*

- **Vocational training** - It will imbibe relevant rural skills in them to ensure a secure living where they currently live.
- **Placement opportunities** - Industrial Training Institutes need to provide avenues for

placements to vocational skill aspirants.

- **Alternate employment opportunities** - Rural India can boost employability in both traditional and non-traditional trades, leading to a vibrant economy by offering skills in fields like agricultural mechanisation, pollution monitoring, nursing and digital technologies via e-learning,
- **Upskilling opportunities** - Indian government have launched '***Skills on Wheels***' initiative with NSDC and IndusInd Bank to promote skilling to students' doorsteps.
- **Promoting life skills** - If learning is infused with rural life skills in schools, rural education will have the potential to nurture a generation capable of thriving.
  - Example, courses in both industry-specific skills (such as in healthcare, electrical, construction) and life skills by Pratham.
- **NGO's participation** - Bharat Cares, a non-profit organisation in India is working towards empowering the underprivileged through skilling.

### Skills on Wheels

- A customized bus will promote 'Skill India Mission'.
- **Initiative by** - NSDC and IndusInd Bank in 2023
- **Objectives** - To equip rural youth, particularly women with key Digital Skills and make them job and future-ready and to improve their livelihood.
- To bridge the gap between the skilled people required in the industry and the unemployed youth.
- **Target** -60,000 youth will be empowered over a period of **5 years**.
- **Activities** - It will travel across the length and breadth of aspirational and backward districts and spreads awareness at grass root level about free skill training programs.

### References

1. [The Hindu| Upskilling Rural Youth of India](#)
2. [PIB| Skills on Wheels Initiative](#)