



Engineering Faculty Training visit to Urmul Natural Dye cluster in Bhajju, Bikaner, Rajasthan

About the Course

Indian Micro Enterprise Development Foundation (IMEDF) conducted the third cluster visit training session on the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) programme. Held under the guidance of AICTE, the training was attended by 15 faculty members, who were shortlisted by AICTE, from different Engineering colleges, Technical and Management Institutes of Rajasthan.

The 12-day training programme was divided in two parts that is- 10-day virtual training and 2-day cluster visit (physical). The training course module was prepared, keeping in mind the different academic and professional backgrounds of the participant faculty members.

The objective of the training was to train the participants in identifying and presenting a project proposal through an understanding of SFURTI scheme, develop in depth understanding of project management and challenges prevalent in their communities, and further understand resource management for building a project with technological and social innovations.

For the previous sessions, engineering colleges & technical institutes were selected as they possess a fair understanding of technologies that can be utilised in the clusters in order to enhance processes and productivity, if they represent themselves as Technical agencies to SFURTI clusters or even be interested in working for cluster development as technical consultants. This also would enhance their community perspective and develop an understanding of project management and resolve challenges faced in rural development. The course module is divided into 4 capsules, with a detailed plan to ensure smooth covering and delivery of each topic. The pedagogy used for the training was a mix of (i) lecture (ii) group

discussion and presentation by participants (iii) audio-visuals (iv) Case-studies (v) doubt clearing sessions and feedback (vi) assimilation exercises, all of which was available on UTS learning platform in online and offline (downloadable) version

Field Visit

Visit to Urmul Natural Dye cluster was organised on the last two days of the training for the participating faculties. All the necessary arrangements were made within the cluster keeping in mind safety protocols and security of the participants. The purpose behind the scheduled visits was to give the participants a practical assessment of the ground realities, strategies adopted, services given, beneficiary groups, geographical limitations and a deeper understanding on certain Hard and Soft interventions under SFURTI related to the functioning and sustainability of a 'Cluster'.

Training Day 01

On day one, participants were welcomed for the session and were provided with the welcoming kits on their arrival with the products made in the cluster, followed by a welcome address conducted by the field team of Urmul. Moving forward, a beneficiary interacted with the women artisans from the villages nearby, who were associated with the programme and also directly impacted through the SFURTI scheme. Throughout the two days of visit, specific Rajasthan cuisines were planned to share the variety of food cultures from the state.

Training Day 02

On day two IMEDF organised visits for participants to different craft centres in Deli Talai village, located approximately 60Kms from the Bhajju town. More than 60 women from nearby villages are given technical training and skills to become economically independent through creation of quality naturally dyed products in traditional art form and traditional apparels in new designs.

Later on the second day, a detailed technical session was held by IMEDF and accompanied by Urmul field team to discuss the experiences, knowledge, outcomes, and key takeaways, they received through the SFURTI training course and the visits. Participants were also invited to share their suggestions to improvising the cluster development initiatives and the scope for social innovation. At the end, the training was closed with enriching cultural program was organised for the participant to enjoy the traditional folk art of Rajasthan performed by locally renowned artists.

IMEDF truly believes that with the involvement and active interest of faculties, academic professionals and speakers from different Technical Institutes, Colleges and Universities across the country, Cluster development initiatives can be taken to new heights. With the greater institutional linkage being created, marketing of the cluster made products can be improved through technical support and various technology driven solutions provided by the expertise.

IMEDF looks forward to more collaborations with AICTE, to introduce new solutions and module course books to change the outlook of instructions towards livelihoods of millions of artisans and farmers.



