

One India One People Sadanand A. Shetty, who was a successful industrialist. There are many inspiring stories of people who are products of night schools but sadly these schools have been victims of government apathy. These institutes need more support in terms of infrastructure and finance for their survival. If these institutes are forced to close down due to lack of funds, it would spell darkness for the young migrant population who learn while they earn.

### Initiatives of Masoom

As a result of the findings of a research fellowship on the problems of night school students, in 2008, this writer set up MASOOM – a non-profit organisation with a vision 'Every Child's Right To Learn Right'. In order to overcome these issues Masoom has created a pool of resources that can help sustain and improve the quality of night school education. Masoom is a unique organisation in the sense that its team members are former students of night schools and thus know the system well. It is the first and till date, the only organisation in Maharashtra, running a comprehensive

intervention programme for night schools. The intervention programme currently runs two night schools, namely, Maratha Mandir Night School, Worli and Milind Night School, Parel on a pilot basis. It is implementing the pilot programmes with the financial support of EdelGive Foundation – a subsidiary of Edelweiss Company. Masoom's founder is a level 2 investee with UnLtd India - an organisation that supports social entrepreneurs. Masoom has also got international funds from Global Fund For Children for its night school programme.

If this gives any indication of how strong is the need of night schools for the society and their contribution in nation building, besides an active government support in terms of sound policies and financial grants, they certainly need the generosity of philanthropists. ■

Those interested in supporting the cause of night schools can contact Masoom at [nikita@masoomforu.org](mailto:nikita@masoomforu.org) and [nikitaketkar@gmail.com](mailto:nikitaketkar@gmail.com)



The writer is ex Assistant Director-Personnel Department of DRDO (Defence Research Development Organisation) and founder of Masoom.

## Vocational skills in demand

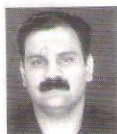
(Continued from page 40)

- Provision of customised VET programmes based on needs of individuals and industry to fulfill the immediate skill needs of the industry.
- Enhanced provisions for in-plant training, on-the-job training and apprenticeship training in industries for vocational students.
- Flexible and better working arrangements, performance based pay package and continuous training provisions for the teachers and trainers to enhance their motivation and competence.
- Provision of training vouchers for those who are willing to undertake training but are not able to do so due to economic reasons.
- Promotion of innovative VET delivery models like open and distance learning, mobile training vans and e-learning.
- Provision for preparation of students through aptitude tests and mock group discussions and interviews within the VET institutions for recruitment through campus placement or outside campus placements. Adequate feedback sessions to be organised to provide individualised remedial instructions to the students for improving upon their skills.

### References

1. Cygnus Business Consulting & Research (2008). [http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/655567/vocational\\_education\\_and\\_training\\_in\\_india](http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/655567/vocational_education_and_training_in_india): Vocational Education and Training in India.
2. EDINVEST. A Key Resource on Global Developments in Private Education. <http://www.ifc.org/edinvest>
3. India Labour Report-2007. [http://www.teamlease.com/images/reports/Teamlease\\_LabourReport\\_2007.pdf](http://www.teamlease.com/images/reports/Teamlease_LabourReport_2007.pdf)
4. Mehrotra, V.S. (2009). Fighting the Unemployment Virus-Pulling the Strings of Vocational Education. <http://www.digitallearning.in/articles/article-details.asp>
5. Australian Bureau of Statistics (2003). *Employer Training Expenditure and Practices, 2001–2002*, ABS, Canberra. <http://www.abs.gov.au/>
6. World Bank (2007). Unleashing India's innovation: toward sustainable and inclusive growth. <http://books.google.co.in/books>
7. GOI (2009). National Policy on Skill Development. <http://dget.nic.in/>

**Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author and in no way reflect the views of the organisation. ■



The writer is Reader, PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education, NCERT, Bhopal.