

**Draft Proceeding**  
**Regional Consultative Workshop, Sambalpur University,**  
**20th October 2009**

The Task Force recently constituted by Higher Education Department of Govt. of Orissa to prepare vision document, perspective plan and Higher Education Policy for Govt. of Orissa organised its first Regional Workshop at Sambalpur in the conference hall of Revenue Divisional Commissioner, on 20th October 2009. Hon'ble Minister, Higher Education, Tourism and Culture Mr. Debi Prasad Mishra, Hon'ble Minister Health and Family Welfare, Mr. Prasanna Acharya joined the workshop. Many other academicians, professors, leaders of Civil Society, people's representatives and other stakeholders of the western part of Orissa discussed thread-bare different issues concerning higher education of the state and suggested ways and means to overcome those.

Speaking on the occasion Hon'ble Minister Mr. Mishra highlighted the global and national happening and the demographic dividends which warrant a well-designed action plan and shared vision, if Orissa is to share the benefit out of it. While at the national level the effort is made to enhance the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education, Orissa should not lose the opportunity and must come up with ideas, innovations and resources to enhance the GER in higher education in Orissa, keeping in mind the issues concerning inclusion and geographical balance. Hon'ble MLA Sambalpur Shri J.N. Mishra pointed out the importance of veterinary and sports education. He also highlighted the urgency of curriculum renewal to solicit our views.

The Hon'ble Minister Mr. Acharya commenting on the employability part of higher education opined that education in general and higher education in particular should be relevant for catering to the need of the society and the students. He emphasised on the need for mainstreaming vocational education into the purview of higher education.

Convened by Prof (Dr) A.K. Pujari, Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University, the regional workshop discussed in detail various problems and challenges confronted by higher education.

Mr D.K. Ray, IRS, Executive Director of HDF gave the opening remarks and informed the house about the purpose and mandate of the Task Force on Higher Education. Principals of different colleges of Western Orissa had organised a meeting among themselves, prior to the workshop and had presented their views in the workshop. Issues concerning quality, investment/ financing higher education, establishing centres of excellence and education corridors, introducing various courses, establishing institutes, taking care of the emerging need of the state, regulatory and governance mechanisms were also discussed. Mr. Gangadhar Singh, Additional Secretary, Higher Education, Govt. of Orissa, Former Vice-Chancellor Prof. Aditya Prasad Padhi, Prof. Sadhu charan Panda, former Member of Parliament Mr. Bhabani Sankar Hota, Hon'ble Member of Assembly Mr. Jaynarayan Mishra, Vice-Chancellor of VSS Technology University, for Programme Executive of AIR, former Principal of GM College Dr. B P Nanda, RDC Mr. J A Khan, Prof. Bimal Prasad Mohapatra, Prof. B K Tripathy, Prof. P K Mishra, Principal GM College, Prof. Durga Prasad Nayak, Principal GM Junior College, etc. spoke in the workshop.

Mr. Sudarsan Das, Secretary of Human Development Foundation (HDF), Bhubaneswar coordinated the proceedings of the workshop while the Registrar of Sambalpur University Mr. P.K. Samal offered a vote of thanks.