

METSCON Business Consultancy

Government agencies in the last three decades have created community based organisations (CBOs) to implement their programmes on a large scale. Subsequently, these government bodies have drastically cut back or ended their programmes, leaving behind a strong legacy in the form of CBOs whose capacities have been built to handle some functions. These CBOs have also committed leadership who can, if given a chance, run these organizations.

It is seen as important to build economic self-sustainability within these populations by enhancing their livelihoods, which includes development of entrepreneurial and technical skills for CBO members to start their own enterprises and improve livelihoods, primarily through BPF's award winning livelihood model, Market Oriented Value Enhancement (MOVE).

A multi-stakeholder partnership, led by Best Practices Foundation (BPF) has come together to further the efforts of these CBOs and work towards the goal of making them self-sustaining and autonomous. In order to work on this envisaged scale, it is necessary to have systems in place, which can respond to variations and problems that arise in the field. For this, we need the assistance of technology.

BPF has a strategic alliance with METSCON Business Consulting, Bangalore, India, to create a Center of Excellence (CoE) for Strengthening Livelihoods and Collectives. This is in response to a steady demand for MOVE from marginalised groups, landless women, quarry workers, beedi workers, slum youth, MSMs, and more recently, female sex workers and federations of marginalized women, namely untouchables. Each group has embedded challenges linked to different forms of discrimination which need focused effort. This has pointed to the need for a platform in the form of a Center of Excellence for MOVE training that can provide systematic support to a series of stakeholders involved in both livelihood and institutional strengthening initiatives.

The CoE will build the capacities of CBOs to generate and nurture livelihoods while also addressing issues at a larger scale through technology platforms designed for this purpose. The MOVE CoE would play an instrumental role in providing the following forms of support:

- Support for Enterprises:*
- Support for Partners:*
- Support for CSOs:*
- Support for Trainers:*
- Support for CBOs: them.*
- Outreach to donors and NGOs:*
- Build the technology platform for outreach, handholding of trainers and businesses as well as provide support to CBOs, CSOs, and partners (corporates and banks). A new partnership established this year IIT-IIT (currently housed within BPF) will guide this process.*