

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3793
ANSWERED ON 05.04.2023

DIGITAL DIVIDE BARRIER TO SKILL DEVELOPMENT

3793. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) steps being taken to ensure that digital divide doesn't become a barrier in accessing skill development programs for women since lesser women have access to the internet than men as per the NFHS-5, details thereof; and
- (b) how many women have benefitted from the "Skill India" initiative since its launch, details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (b) Under Skill India Mission, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers training programmes for skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling, through an extensive network of skill development Centres/ Institutes under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of society including women across the country. The number of total candidates and women candidates trained under skill development schemes of Skill India Mission is as below:

(in lakh)

Scheme	Total candidates trained	Women candidates trained
PMKVY (FY 2015-16 to December 2022)	137.24	59.53 (43.37%)
JSS (FY 2018-19 to December 2022)	15.74	13.33 (84.69%)
NAPS (FY 2018-19 to December 2022)	17.59	3.50 (19.89%)
CTS (2015 to 2022)	85.30	12.02 (14.09%)

As can be seen, participation of women in the short term skilling programmes, namely, PMKVY and JSS is significant and not impacted by the digital divide. Short term skilling programmes are of shorter duration and organized at more decentralized locations, making it easier for women participants. Further, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) implements fee-based courses under its Market Led Program under which training is provided in online courses in various skill sectors pan India including remote areas. Also, Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched the Skills Build platform, an online platform, in 2019, in collaboration with International Business Machines (IBM). Through this platform, the students are taught technical and professional skills related to Information Technology (IT) in order to make them job ready. It is available on the open source, open access platform of the DGT, namely, Bharat Skill Portal (<https://bharatskills.gov.in>). Also, following specific provisions have been made to support women candidates, as part of Common Norms :

- (i) Transport cost for training programmes anywhere in the country where women trainees have to travel more than 80 kms from their homes to reach the nearest training centre and who are availing boarding and lodging arrangements made for them.
- (ii) Post placement support is provided directly to the women candidates, at the rate of Rs. 1500/- per month (upto two months for placement within District of domicile and 3 months for placement outside District of domicile)

Under PMKVY, in order to increase the participation of women, conveyance cost and boarding & lodging facilities are being provided for them. The priority group under JSS includes women. Under long term skilling by DGT, vocational trades particularly suitable for women are identified and their implementation is planned. Also, to increase the women participation in Skill Development ecosystem some ITIs are opened exclusively for women. Presently, there are 311 women ITIs in the country. Out of 33 National Skill Training Institute (NSTI), 19 are exclusively for women. In general ITIs and NSTIs also, 30% of seats are reserved for women.
