



'Public interest key to get govt funding for NGOs' ideas'

Minister, CS, IT czar explain need, ways for working with govt

HUBBALLI: In a punch to bust the 'myth' among some NGOs that working with the government to scale up the implementation of their ideas is very difficult, Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Minister Krishna Byre Gowda noted that the government would absorb their solutions if they are proposed really with public interest.



EXPRESSING VIEWS: RDPR Minister Krishna Byre Gowda speaks at the 'Development Dialogue-2019' at the Deshpande Foundation in Hubballi on Saturday. Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy, and State Government's Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar are present. DH PHOTO

"If you approach the government with an idea with public interest in mind, and not with your personal interest, the elected representatives and bureaucrats would definitely co-operate. I am saying this based on my experience. But, one should make proper preparations, as there are elaborate procedures in the government to spend public money. Therefore, getting government funding for social welfare-oriented ideas would take a considerable time, as officials have to do their duty," Narayan Murthy said.

He also rubbished the view that everything in government is bad, and everything in private sector is good.

Speaking at a keynote panel discussion on 'Reimagining partnerships' on the inaugural day of 'Development Dia-

logue-2019' social entrepreneurship summit organised by the Deshpande Foundation here on Saturday, he recalled that it took six months for him to export a computer from USA to India in 1983, when he was in the US.

Giving the example of mid-meal scheme being executed by the Akshay Patra Foundation, Murthy noted that the government is funding 50% of the cost, while the number of children getting meals supplied by the foundation has increased from 100 to 18 lakh, explaining how partnership with government scales up a social innovation idea.

He also stressed the need to

improve healthcare, shelter, education, and nutrition by 10% in every five years.

'Come with homework'

RDPR Minister Krishna Byre Gowda felt that only those who have not worked with the government feel that having partnership with government is very difficult.

NGOs or private companies with social ideas should come with proper study and should understand the complex system of the government. Government would fund those ideas which people demand for and express satisfaction about the pilot project, he said, giving the examples of custom hire

'Don't touch sensitive issues'

Infosys founder Narayana Murthy suggested NGOs, especially those from foreign countries, to think twice before working in fields related religion, caste, and government's efficiency, as they can create ripples in the society.

"They should focus on adding value to fields like education, shelter, health, and livelihood, but they should not touch those issues which may give room for misinterpretation," he added.

centres being run in the State, on public private participation (PPP) model.

"Government alone cannot find or implement solution for everything. Therefore, social enterprises should join hands with government," the minister said.

'Govt adapts innovation'

State Government's Chief Secretary T M Vijay Vijay Bhaskar stated that innovations take place in the government also, and successful ideas would be upscaled immediately, giving the example of 'Bhoomi' project to issue land records.

Getting ideas from NGOs or private sector, and learning from other countries are other sources of innovation, he said.

China developed fast as it

achieved total literacy, gender equality, and social equality. We should also first lay such a foundation for the fast growth.

Ideas in this direction, if implemented outside the government system, cannot scale up fast for better impact, he said, mentioning the government's support to the initiatives of Ajim Premji Foundation, Agastya Foundation and Akshara Foundation in education sector.

Piramal Foundation head Paresch Parasnis noted that innovation seeking government support should be for public good, and not to get royalty.

Ford Foundation regional director Pradeep Nair, Deshpande Foundation founder Gururaj Deshpande, and others were present.

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'Bring skilling initiatives to campuses'

Only 20% of job openings are in formal sector: MD & CEO RCM Reddy

HUBBALLI: Need for teaching skills required to get jobs in organised, unorganised, and self-employment sectors, is not just an add on, but should be as a blended learning in education institutes to fill the skill gap, was highlighted by skill training providers and academicians.

In a keynote panel discussion on 'Reimagining skilling' at the 'Development Dialogue-2019' event organised by the Deshpande Foundation here on Saturday, iMerit Technologies founder and CEO Radha Basu stated that skill training should be customised in tune with the need of the market, and it should be updated regularly, with new technologies including artificial intelligence.

IL&FS Foundation and



Audience at the 'Development Dialogue-2019' social entrepreneurship summit held at Deshpande Foundation in Hubballi on Saturday. DH PHOTO

Tech Services MD and CEO R C M Reddy noted that only 20% of job openings are in the formal sector, and skilling should focus on other sectors too, while IT is an enabler in this task.

Year Up founder and CEO

Gerald Chertavian shared his story of training low-income youth in the USA to get jobs.

'Create models'

KLE Technological University (KLETU) Vice-chancellor Ashok Shettar opined that

innovative skilling methods should be brought to a few educational institutes first, to create a model to motivate others, instead of trying to change the entire academic system suddenly by fighting with the bureaucracy at the beginning itself. If successes are created, it would influence policy makers too, he said.

"We are sitting on a bomb as millions of graduates are coming out every year, but there are no sufficient jobs for them. We have to change this by making them skilled, and innovative skilling initiatives should enter the campuses," he added.

IIM Bengaluru former director Sushil Vachani noted that India is a young country and the challenge is to make youngsters skilled.

'Agri research centre soon'

Earlier, in his inaugural remarks of the two-day event, Deshpande Founder Gururaj Deshpande noted that an agriculture research centre would be started in Hubballi soon to guide the farmers.

"Most of the ideas, solutions, and technologies are aimed at the benefits of two billion people in the world who have disposable income. The need is to bring solutions for remaining five billion people who do not have disposable income," Deshpande added, explaining the social innovation initiatives of the foundation.

Deshpande Foundation CEO Vivek Pawar, and others were present on the occasion.

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