

LIVELIHOOD SCHOOLS IN SIKKIM

With an aim to hone the skills of unemployed youth, the State Government has launched a novel concept of livelihood schools across Sikkim. Chief Minister Dr. Pawan Chamling is the first Chief Minister in the nation to introduce capacity building programme and livelihood schools for the youth of Sikkim.

The project aims to make them capable, competent and self reliant individuals enabling them to sustain themselves economically. There are 19 functional livelihood schools all over Sikkim. These schools provide skill development training in 55 disciplines to unemployed youths according to their educational qualification and their personal capacity. A certificate is awarded after the completion of training certified by IGNOU.

Each livelihood school has an official in the rank of Secretary or the Head of Department as its in-charge to supervise training and capacity building.

The state government has taken a decision in this regard to make the Regional Administrative Centre at Karfector in South Sikkim as the headquarters of the Directorate of Capacity Building for implementation of the livelihood schools and other such programmes. These livelihood schools have trained and taught the local youths in various programmes and till date a total of 176 trainees have graduated from different livelihood schools established in different



constituencies of Sikkim and have got placements in different private institutions. At present 1040 students have been enrolled and are undergoing training on various employment oriented programmes in such schools. The students are being trained on making handmade paper, the trainees are given the knowledge on Horticulture, Agriculture and Floriculture and also students are being given one year training on computer skills and others. Presently a total of 150 students completed the training for spoken English /personality development, driving/tour guide, and retail management. The Government has plans to add 12 more such schools by July 2011.
