

Forging Partnership in Training in Statistics  
- A way forward

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*“Training is to the mind what physical exercise is to the body”*

## 1. Situation Analysis

1.1 “Information” is the key for any developmental activity and “Statistical System” of a country is the “mirror of the nation” which depicts the status. The “mirror” can focus the true status / picture of a nation so long the Statisticians are in a position to discharge their functions and mandates as responsible custodians of the Statistical System. This can be achieved if and only if she / he can keep her/his **Statistical antenna up**. Application of appropriate Statistical tools is the key to her / his success. But how ? Herein lies the importance of appropriate capacity development programme.

1.2 In view of the increasing demand for Statisticians in the open market, there is, at the moment, a shortage of qualified Statisticians or Statistical offices globally. India is no exception. Thus, appropriate human resource development in SIDA (Statistics, IT and Data Analysis ) plays a significant role in producing quality “Statisticians” from the very inception **at entry level before they are put in the system.**

1.3 Government Statisticians are to play the role of both senior Managers & Administrators and work as catalectic agent for policy making process as and when they move along with vertical ladder of the system and as such, besides advance training in SIDA one has to be quite knowledgeable in *Policy formulation in System Management according to national needs and international developments* for which regular in-service training and interface with policy makers is a must.

1.4 At International level the PARIS-21 document on *National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)* talked about development of statistical system through accomplishment of “assessment of the current status” and incorporating a “comprehensive appraisal of statistical outputs measured against agreed criteria”. On April 14, 2007, the World Bank, OECD/ PARIS21, and the UK Department for International Development sponsored discussions on “how to scale-up efforts to improve statistical capacity in developing countries. The Hanoi Third International roundtable conference in February 2007 identified weak statistical capacity as a key constraint for managing for better results. The present endeavour was endorsed in the recently concluded meetings of PARIS21 during Nov 13-14 and MAPS Advisory board of World Bank during Nov 15, 2007 at Paris.

## **2. Conceptual Framework**

2.1 The forging of partnership in capacity building can be taken up through two stages namely,

- “Statistical Process Assessment and Re-engineering” or SPARe process, and followed by
- What I call “Cross Country Statistical Coordination” or simply CCSC.

2.2 To understand the weakness in statistical capacity of a country, it is necessary to carry out Statistical Process Assessment (SPA) of the statistical system. Essentially, SPA is a sub-component of SPARe (Statistical Process Assessment and Re-engineering) on which the author has been working on. This new concept is in a nascent stage and to be built up keeping in view the specificity of each country. A framework has been suggested for development of SPARe has been suggested particularly for countries interested in strengthening their human resources as a catalytic agent to boost their statistical system.

2.3 As I mentioned earlier, Statistical system is not just merely a system, which should “Collect”, “Compile” and “Disseminate” the data. In terms of *need of the society*, a statistical system should function both as a “MIRROR OF THE ECONOMY” and also a “MIRROR OF THE SOCIETY”. Thus, for strengthening the system, there is a need to assess and re-assess the system against “what are the needs of the country” before one could talk about its strengthening process of their available human resources through

forging partnership. The *Statistical Process Assessment* is a study of identification of such *needs* and related *core* statistical activities and makes assessment of the *system* in terms of *knowledge analysis* and *deliveries* before any re-engineering process is taken up in the form of capacity development. This calls for understanding the following:

- *Needs within the framework of PARIS21*
- *Indicators* associated with programme monitoring for attaining the *societal needs especially MDGs*

2.4 SPARe is basically composed of two components namely,

- Statistical Process Assessment and identification of weak areas
- Re-engineering the system with appropriate capacity development programme with forging partnership.

### **3. Statistical Process Assessment**

3.1 In order to develop a framework of Statistical Process Assessment (SPA) of a country, it is essential to understand what the process is supposed to deliver with respect to the domain of *core* statistical activities within a country. Since Statistical process is a dynamic concept depends on the multiplicity of changes taking place due to globalization, Statistical Process Assessment should look into the priorities/needs of the country ( or the region) in order to identify the domain of related *core* statistical activities. For many developing and least developed countries, the priorities could possibly be set as:

- Reduction of Poverty
- Improvement of Health Care programme
- Improvement of Education and Quality of life
- Enhancement of Economic Growth

Let us now look at the *core* Statistical activities, which will have direct links with the priority programme of a country.

3.2 The *Core* Statistical activities under the national statistical system which will be required for monitoring the progress of the priority programme, as mentioned above can be identified from Statistical programmes mentioned below:

- Household Income Expenditure Statistics
- Employment/Unemployment Statistics
- Housing condition Statistics
- Village facilities Statistics
- Agriculture and land use Statistics
- Demographic Statistics
- Educational Statistics
- Health and family welfare Statistics
- Economic and Financial Statistics
- Informal sector Statistics
- Population and Migration Statistics
- Price and wage Statistics
- Disaster Management Statistics
- Natural Resource Accounting

3.3 Method of assessment: In the absence of any *benchmark* , it is difficult to make assessment of a system. However, the *best country practices among developing nations* could be basis for development of a 5-point scale based on following parameters:

- Trust worthiness in terms of transparencies
- Adoption of Statistical Standards
- Reliability in terms of methodology followed
- Data availability at sub-national levels
- Timeliness in data dissemination in terms of defined benchmark ( say SDDS).

3.4 Development of road map: Strengthening of statistical system is a dynamic process and therefore, there is a need to develop a clear-cut road map of the developmental process. This can be achieved by developing a 5-point scale (say) where for each activity ( or, related performance indicators of the activity), at least three milestones may be fixed- two intermediate goals and one final/desired goal after rigorous scrutiny and assessment by an Expert group.

**3.5 Essential Inputs for development:** Performance of the statistical system highly linked with the following minimum knowledge base:

- Knowledge of socio-economic classifications
- Knowledge of survey techniques and survey operations
- Knowledge of System of National Accounts
- Knowledge of Data processing capabilities
- Knowledge in Computer / IT application

3.6 Statistical Process Re-engineering : Strengthening of statistical system is dependent on where the country stands with respect to above knowledge base, to start with. This can be done through *Statistical Process Re-engineering* (SPRe). There are two components of SPRe namely, a) Knowledge re-engineering and b) Infrastructure development and re-engineering. The main concern of SPRe is Knowledge re-engineering. This calls for development of comprehensive *Capacity development programme* (CDP) keeping in view in intermediate and final /desired targets of statistical activities/performance indicators. The second aspect needs funds, which is not the subject of discussion here.

3.7 Capacity Development Programme(CDP) should be need-based in order to ensure economy in expenditure, effective and purposeful. To implement CDP, it would be necessary to develop a 7-point knowledge base scale to record score of each practicing Statistician on the following criteria based on specially designed questionnaire:

- a) Knowledge in “Socio-economic classification”
- b) Knowledge in “Survey techniques and sampling”
- c) Knowledge in “Health Information system”
- d) Knowledge in “National Accounts Statistics”
- e) Knowledge in “Large scale Data Processing techniques”
- f) Knowledge in “Computer applications in relation to RDBMS/ Statistical package and Networking”
- g) Management Development programme

3.8 Two-tier intensive programme may be organized under CDP, namely,

- a) Essential CDP
- b) Specialised CDP

Each practicing Statistician may be trained in the last four areas namely (d) to (g) above under the scheme “Essential CDP”. “Specialised CDP” could be arranged for the practicing statisticians after identifying acumen of the officials in relevant field using a 7-point knowledge base scale as stated in above. Under specialised programme practicing statisticians should be encouraged to carry out analytical and research work in relevant areas of applied statistics

#### **4. Need for better regional and sub-regional cooperation:**

4.1 It is well known most of the developing countries in this region are generally having similar socio-economic structure, systems and problems largely related to poverty, poor health conditions, low education level, to mention a few. Although Millennium Development Goals provide some uniform standard indicators for monitoring development, in reality many of those indicators do not fit in to the proper data system of these Countries. In order to assist the planning process there is a need for strong cooperation in Statistical activities besides, development of common development indicators with time specific goals, which could work as benchmark for these nations.

4.2 All countries. except a very few, cannot reach same level of competence in official statistics and this has resulted in wide inter-country variations if not disparity. While as a region, we are quite competent to handle our own requirements for re-engineering statistical process through appropriate capacity programmes through forging our partnership within the region- what I call cross country statistical care (CCSC).

#### **5. Plan of Action:**

5.1 The capacity of exiting countries should be assessed as per SPARE first based on structured questionnaire, which should be the basis for organising training programmes through partnership under CCSC for which following actions are needed :

(a) To prepare a *directory of experts* according to subject and distribute among all countries within the region and put on the web. For this a structured format should be developed keeping in view NSDS model.

(b) Secondly, to prepare a *directory of countries*, who are having infrastructural capabilities to work under CCSC programme for the region and sub-regions in the areas as determined through SPARe.

(c) Thirdly, to prepare uniform detailed guidelines for various training modules indicating the number class room lectures, tasks for the experts etc. to attain uniform standards.

(c) Lastly, arrange workshops for senior Statisticians involving various important target groups like, important Ministers, Policy makers, Civil Societies and other sector-specific audience.

Maximum thrust should be given for Training of Trainers (TOT) for replication of the programmes within the country.

## **6. INDIA Experience**

6.1 India has a long experience in organising training programme for the Statistical Officers working in the Government- especially at central level. It has three tier programmes:

- At entry level – 2 years’ compulsory training for all Group-A Statistical officers as per SIDA- about 20 new recruits are there per year. But this number is coming down sharply. Countrywide recruitment is made by a highly specialised body through written examination followed by interview. The minimum education qualification is post-graduate degree in Statistics.
- Regular in-service capsule training programme for middle and senior officers – about 250 officers are trained each year.
- Modular training programme for State officials and for subordinate Statistical officers- about 600 officers are trained each year.
- Special demand based programme for visiting officials from other countries both within ESCAP / Outside ESCAP programme

- Special programmes collaborated with UNSIAP / UNIFEM / UNSD and also ISI, Kolkata for ISEC students.

6.2 At present there is no drop out of Statistical officers in the country, except at entry level- which is becoming alarming over years. But however, those direct recruits who receive full training, remain in the system. At present the officers are receiving training mostly within the country except a few under UNSIAP / JICA programme. The total number of such training abroad is very limited as compared to the need for training of about 500 middle level officers within a span of 4-5 years. It may be examined whether the intake of UNSIAP / JICA programme could be enhanced in sectors relating to a) IT applications and b) Seoul based research programme. Even domestic training cannot take care of entire training needs for primary, secondary and middle level officers whose number is extremely high touching about 50,000 in number. What is the way out ? The detailed programme organised by India is appended. The Indian training calendar is also available on the web namely, [www.mospi.nic.in](http://www.mospi.nic.in) .

6.3 The achievements of each staff are assessed through annual confidential reports indicating performance in all aspects. The need for specialised training is also recorded there. It is however not possible to manage the cadre according the type of training received in general. However for specialised training in IT etc., selection of officials are made according to the job handling.

6.4 Very recently, India has constructed a world class training campus on about 37000 sq. meter land which will be furnished with state of art library IT lab facilities for practicing Statisticians of the country. This will bring a sea-change in the country's programme on Human Resource Development for practicing Statisticians. This facilities will be open to International statisticians also. The new campus will have full residential courses of about 45 trainees at a time. The commissioning of the new infrastructure is expected to start from mid 2008.

6.5 India would welcome if UNSIAP uses this facility as their regional hub training centre and would like to join in the partnership approach.



## **Training Programme for Indian Statisticians**

### **1. Indian Statistical System**

India has a federal structure with 35 States / Union Territories. India is having decentralized Statistical system with Central Statistical Organisation as the nodal Statistical Authority and Apex body.

The Indian Statistical System functions within the overall democratic and federal polity of the country, which has provision for separation of powers between the centre and the states mentioned under the Union List, State List and Concurrent List in our Constitution. Generation of statistics belongs to the Concurrent List and the Central Government, through the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, plays the lead role in generating and maintaining reliable and credible statistics consistent with the International standards for all users. The Indian Statistical System has a 2-tier structure with horizontal and vertical functional decentralisation. Although the authority and responsibility for the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics relating to a particular subject is determined by the overall responsibility for the subject under the Constitution, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) is the nodal Statistical Ministry in the Government of India, which acts as the apex policy making and coordinating authority for official statistics on an all-India basis. The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), MOSPI, is the apex statistical body and vested with the function of coordination of all statistical activities and development of statistical standards at the all-India level. The State Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DES) are empowered with

the responsibility of coordination of statistical activities at the State level. However, the CSO advises the DES on maintaining uniformity in concepts, standards, and methodologies etc.

Indian Statistical Service (ISS) caters to the needs of Central Ministries/Departments. Many State Governments have also constituted similar cadre services for statistics/economics for manning their state statistical systems. Further, the Government of India has very recently constituted Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) for providing statistical support in different Central Ministries/Departments. MOS&PI is now the cadre controlling authority for ISS as well as SSS.

## **2. Capacity Development Programme:**

India has a long tradition of development of Statistical manpower and the teaching of Statistical science at post graduate level had started in 1940 at Calcutta University, India. At present, there are more than 200 universities and institutions who are engaged in teaching and research in theoretical Statistics.

Indian Statistical Institute has a prominent position in this respect. The ISI has an International Statistics Education Centre (ISEC), which runs a regular programme on Statistics for foreign students. Besides ISI has various regular programmes at graduation and post graduation level. It is a premium centre for research in Statistics, IT and other related subjects. Besides ISI, there are various specialized institutes in India who are engaged in teaching and research in various disciplines of Statistics.

### **3. Training in Official Statistics**

The Central Statistical Organisation, India gives a strong importance for capacity development and promotion for all levels of official statisticians. Training is an integral part for promotion of human resource development and capacity building, which, in turn, includes development of leadership and managerial traits. Accordingly, promotion of human resource development in official statistics and encouraging research and development in theoretical and applied statistics is one of the missions of the MOS&PI accomplished through the Central Statistical Organisation. Statistics is a dynamic subject and there is continual change and expansion of areas covered by official statistics. To keep abreast of developments and improvements in methodology of data collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination, a properly organized training for practitioners of statistics is a must for all levels of officials. The objective of the Training Division, of CSO is to conduct training, in-house or outside, in areas of Official Statistics, Theoretical and Applied Statistics, Survey technology, Information Technology and other related management development programmes, such as Management, Communication and presentation skills, Financial Management, Poverty measurement, WTO issues etc., for the statistical personnel of the country. Such facility can be extended to the statisticians of Asia and Pacific Region and other developing nations.

The Central Statistical Organisation has a full fledged Training Division with a mandate to train about 50000 statisticians belonging to Union Govt and State Governments – this inter-alia includes more than 600 Indian Statistical Service officers and about 3800 Subordinate Statistical

Service (SSS) officers on regular basis. It also organizes customized trainings for statistical officers of State/UT Governments and Public Sector Undertakings. The Division has also been assigned the responsibility of International Technical Cooperation and Training.

#### **4. Major Target audiences**

- Indian Statistical Service Officers
- International Statisticians
- Su-ordinate Statistical Service Officers
- State Government Officials
- Students of various universities including ISI, Kolkata
- EDP officials for Statistical Computing
- Officials of other disciplines using Statistical techniques

. The training in various fields can be broadly classified as below

- a) Official Statistics ( Social , Economic and Environment Statistics)
- b) Survey sampling
- c) Theoretical Statistics
- d) Economics and Econometrics
- e) Operation Research
- f) Software engineering
- g) Management
- h) Administration and Finance

The details of the programme for various target audiences is given at Annexure-I. The entire training programme is governed by a high power Training Programme Advisory Committee (TPAC).

## **5. Evaluation**

All the training programmes conducted/organized by the Training Division of CSO are evaluated periodically. For this purpose, feedback is taken from the participants in the pre-designed format devised, at the start of the programme regarding their expectations, utility of the course, etc. The views of participants on the usefulness of other programmes organized by the training Division are also obtained. At the end of the programme, a feedback session is held, which is attended by the Training Division faculty where views of the participants regarding fulfilment of their expectations, their grading of course content, course duration, course design, course material, faculty and training facilities are obtained, analysed and discussed. Suggestions given by the participants are considered and actions are taken to the extent feasible.

## **6. Recent initiative:**

India is going ahead with a very ambitious project under which a full fledged Training academy entitled “National Academy of Statistical Administration (NASA)” is ready pending furnishing. This will be functional from early 2008. This academy will have facilities of international standards with following visions and missions.

## **Vision**

- To Develop Training Division as a “*Centre of Excellence*” in Human Resource Development in Statistical Administration and Management in Asia and Pacific Region.
- To Develop as a *Premier Knowledge Partner* in Asia and Pacific Region for capacity building of Statistical Managers.

## **Mission**

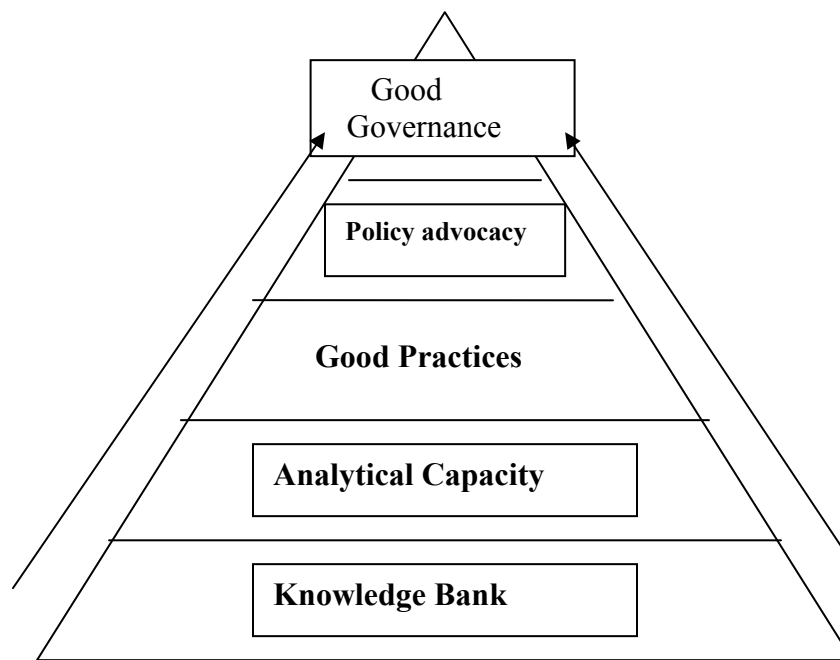
- Development of managerial traits in handling National Statistical System.
- Development of specialized skills in knowledge management.
- Provide leadership in administrating the statistical system

To accomplish the above vision and mission a set of guiding principles have been laid down. These are:

- Capacity building and all round Human Resource Development of the Statisticians to take the burden for management of Indian Statistical System to deliver “quality”, “timely” and “appropriate” information to the government for policy advocacy and policy analysis.
- Enhancing the domain of activities and strengthening the international linkage
- More MDPs (Management Development Programmes) and emerging areas of official statistics will be introduced keeping pace with time and need.

- .Establishing MOU (memorandum of Understanding) with reputed institutes for exchange programme through development of partnership
- Use of latest IT technology in HRD such as CRM, SQR, HRDM for better management.

## 7. The ultimate goal



## ANNEXURE I

Training Programmes being conducted/organized by the CSO, India

### **Regular programmes are:**

Two-year Probationary Training for direct recruits to ISS

- i) Refresher training programmes for in-service ISS officers
- ii) Induction Training Programme for Feeder-grade officers
- iii) Training Programmes for Non-ISS Statistical Personnel of Central Government/State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings
- iv) Official Statistics module for M. Stat Students of Indian Statistical Institute,
- v) Official Statistics module for the participants of International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC).
- vi) Training for Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) Officials

### **(i) Two-year Probationary Training for direct recruits to ISS**

The Direct recruitment at the entry level of ISS is made through an All India Competitive Examination held by Union Public Service Commission. A comprehensive two-year probationary training programme for these ISS officers is conducted to equip the officers with the requisite knowledge and skill to enable them for effective and efficient discharging of their duties. Successful completion of all the modules of the probationary training is mandatory. The training programme includes: Foundation Course

(this course is meant for all Govt. of India Class-I officers of the country to understand the Indian System, constitutions, management etc.); Official Statistics; Software Engineering; Sample Surveys and Small Area Statistics; Operations Research; Macro and Micro Economic Theory; Econometrics; Time Series Analyses and Forecasting; Planning & Evaluation; Organisation of Sample Surveys; Large Scale Data Processing; Management Techniques; Estimation of Poverty and Evaluation of Poverty Eradication Programmes; Parliamentary Procedures and Practices; Office Procedures, Communication and Office Administration at Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM)); Field training in conducting Socio-economic surveys through field visits; Attachment to State Directorates of Economics and Statistics; Project Report preparation and presentation; and on the job training. During the training, officers are also taken to leading Institutes/organisations working in specialized fields to acquaint them with their statistical activities.

**(ii) Refresher training for In-service ISS officers at middle and senior levels;**

ISS Cadre has strength of 600 plus officers. For these officers, training programmes of one/two weeks' duration are conducted/organized in important, relevant and newly emerging areas to enhance and up-date their knowledge and skill. As per the recommendations of the National Statistical Commission (NSC), an ISS officer should undergo refresher training for a period of at least four weeks every two years. The Training Division, accordingly, prepares the training calendar in advance and before the start of the Financial year. Each officer is asked to choose 3 programmes in order of

preference from the approved training calendar. Eligibility level of officers for a particular training programme is decided in advance. The request for exemption is generally not encouraged. After the NSC recommendations, the refresher courses for ISS officers were revised. The specific subject areas of refresher training programmes include:

- a) Official Statistics
  - i) System of National Accounts
  - ii) Social and Environment Statistics
  - iii) Prices & Cost of Living
- b) Theoretical and Applied Statistics
  - i) Small Area Estimation
  - ii) Time Series Forecasting & Modelling
  - iii) Quantitative Economics
  - iv) Market Research
- c) Information Technology
  - i) MS Office XP (emphasis on MS Access)
  - ii) Visual Fox Pro
  - iii) Visual Basic net
  - iv) Oracle
  - v) SPSS
  - vi) Website design and Management
  - vii) Geographic Information System
- d) Other Subjects of Interest
  - i) Communication & Presentation Skills
  - ii) Management including WTO Issues
  - iii) Financial Management
  - iv) Poverty Estimation & its Evaluation

The list of participants for various courses is decided keeping in view of the option given by the officers. In a year about 20 programmes are conducted on an average.

### **(iii) Induction Training Programme for Feeder-grade SSS officers**

The officials promoted to ISS from the feeder-grade posts have experience of several years before they are inducted into the ISS. An 8 weeks' Induction Training programme is organised for these officials in order to enable them to discharge their added responsibilities,. The training programme includes modules on statistical methods (one week); Official Statistics and related methodology (3 weeks); Management Development (one week); Office Procedures, Communication and Office Administration (one week) and Fundamentals of Computers (two weeks). It is compulsory for every officer to successfully complete the Induction Training. Induction Training Programmes are organised as per the demand of the ISS cadre. Generally one Induction training programme is organised every year. However, more than one programme is also organised in a year whenever required.

### **(iv) Training Programmes for Non-ISS Statistical Personnel of Central Government/State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings**

There are about 4000 statistical officials working in various Ministries/Departments of Central Government and about 10,000 State statistical persons ( primary workers not included) are working in 29 States and 6 Union Territories of our country. These officials are working in

various fields of Official Statistics. To acquaint them with the latest developments, training programmes of two/three weeks' duration on Official Statistics have been designed. Presently the following training programmes are being conducted once during a year:

- i) Statistical Systems & Basic Statistics (2 weeks)
- ii) Agricultural Statistics (2 weeks)
- iii) Industrial, Trade and Services Statistics (including Transport Communication and Finance) (2 weeks)
- iv) Labour, Employment & Price Statistics (2 weeks)
- v) Social Statistics including Population Statistics (3 weeks)
- vi) National Accounts Statistics & National Resource Accounting (3 weeks)
- vii) Sample Surveys and Organisation of Large Scale Sample Surveys including field visits (2 weeks)
- viii) Computer level I-Foundation course on Information Technology including Data Analysis and Data Presentation Skills (2 weeks)
- ix) Computer level II –Electronic data processing (2 weeks)
- x) Computer level III –Advanced IT Technology on Networking & RDBMS (2 weeks).

**(v) Programme for M. Stat Students of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata:**

Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is the premier Institute of India in the discipline of statistics with the status of a deemed University. A three-week

course on Official Statistics is organized for M. Stat students of ISI once in a year during May-June. The course is divided into 2 modules of one week and two weeks respectively. Module 1 comprises of lectures on (a) National and International Statistical System, b) Agriculture Statistics, (c) Industrial Statistics, d) Social Statistics, (e) Price Statistics, (f) Financial/Banking Statistics and (g) National Accounts Statistics. One of the six topics from (b) to (g) is chosen as specialized field of training in advance and theoretical background of the chosen field is imparted for two days. In the next two weeks, students are assigned project-work in groups and they are assigned to senior officers working in the chosen field, who serve as their guide and also evaluator. The trainees are required to submit project report at the end of the module to the guide for evaluation. Successful completion of this programme is compulsory for obtaining their M.Stat Degree.

**(vi) Programme for International Statistical Education Centre(ISEC), coming from various developing countries.**

The International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC), Kolkata, is jointly operated by the International Statistical Institute and the Indian Statistical Institute. The ISEC organises a regular 10 months' Diploma course in Statistics for International participants. Out of this, six weeks' training on "Official Statistics" is organized at CSO and rest at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. The six weeks' course is divided into two modules of four weeks and two weeks respectively. In the first module, participants are acquainted with the basic concepts, definitions and

clarifications of all principal subjects of Official Statistics. The methods of data collection are also discussed, with particular reference to the conditions prevailing in developing countries. Conceptual problems are covered using the international standards recommended by the United Nations and other International Agencies. Emphasis is given on the development of an integrated system of economic and social statistics. The curriculum normally covers the following subjects, but the programme can be modified depending upon the specific needs of the trainees:

- (i) Agricultural Statistics
- (ii) Industrial Statistics
- (iii) Prices and Index numbers
- (iv) Foreign Trade Statistics
- (v) Balance of Payment Statistics
- (vi) Public Finance Statistics
- (vii) Money & Banking Statistics
- (viii) Transport Statistics
- (ix) Social Statistics
- (x) Population and Vital Statistics
- (xi) Education and Cultural Statistics
- (xii) National Income & related statistics

The second module of two weeks is a specialization course in the subject opted by the participants.

#### **(vii) Training for Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) Officials**

The Government of India has constituted the Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) by merging 3894 statistical functional posts in 40 different participating Ministries/Departments/Organisations of the Government of India. The incumbents who have been absorbed in the service have the experience in the activities of the Ministry/Department where they were posted. As the nature of work in different Ministries is different, every member of SSS has a different experience. Since these officials are liable to be transferred to/ posted in any of the 40 participating Ministries/Departments/ Organisations, it is indispensable to bring all of them to the same level of knowledge and awareness to enable them to discharge their duties effectively. It has, therefore, been decided in consultation with SSS cadre to give induction training to all the SSS officials.

The Training Division has designed a 3 weeks' training programme comprising of "Official Statistics" (2 weeks) and Field Training (1 week) in National Sample Survey Organisation (Field Operations Division). The field training module is only for those officials who are not working in NSSO (FOD) prior to their induction into SSS. The training modules have been approved by SSS cadre. A group of ISS officers has been formed to prepare the training material and power point presentations. The text and material prepared by these officials is to be objectively reviewed by another group of senior ISS officers to ensure perfection, usefulness and relevance of the material for the assigned subject. The officials preparing the course material are also to act as core faculty and conduct trainers' training for officials identified to conduct Induction training at various centres including

the zonal centres of NSSO . Induction Training started from 2005-06 and would be completed in three years.

The same training module is to be used for new recruits to SSS. However, new recruits would be imparted additional one week training on Computer Applications for which training module has also been designed. The Computer Centre of MOS&PI has been entrusted the responsibility of preparing the training material for this module.

**(viii) Adhoc programmes**

In addition to the regular programmes, the Training Division of CSO organizes short-term customized training programmes for the benefit of visiting foreign participants. It also organises international Training programmes in collaboration with other International agencies like UNSIAP. At regional level, India is taking the lead role for Capacity Development Programme for the benefit of the countries of SAARC region.