A brief report on the meeting
held with

Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL)

on

Monday, February 20, 2023

By

**Centre for Rural Alternatives for Rural Areas
(CTARA), IIT Bombay
Subject Expert Group – Ethos in Technical Institution**

We as a subject expert group, CTARA, IIT Bombay had a meeting with Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL) on 20th February 2023. MKCL is working with higher education institutes to develop learning, governance and empowerment systems which are world-class and value-based and which are responsive to the individual and social developmental needs of the people by bridging the Digital Divide. To achieve UBA's goals, we decided to explore the possibility of collaboration between MKCL and UBA, and a meeting was convened at the ICC Trade Tower in Pune.

Attendees from MKCL: Mr. Vivek Sawant, Mr. Sameer Pande, Mr. Uday Panchpor, Dr. Revati Namjoshi, Dr. Satish Karande, Mr. Amit Ranade, Mr. Gajendra, Mr. Amol Waghmare, Mr. Shrinivas Kher.

Attendees from IITB: Prof. Anand Rao, Ms. Pauranmasi Khurana, and Ms. Megha Chougule.

From the perspective of introducing meaningful community engagement among college students, the following points were discussed in the meeting:

- The 'लाभार्थी' portal can be introduced to HEIs. Students can take on the role of 'प्रेरक'. Grading can be done based on the number of people students have assisted (no. of people registered, no. of people who got the benefits, etc.) Around 400 schemes have been mapped. The schemes have been mapped well for Maharashtra because GRs (Government Resolution) are available online. Other states' GRs are not easily available online.

- There are many single teacher schools. Apart from teaching related activities, teachers are assigned around 152 other tasks. Students can either help teacher in these other tasks such as conducting surveys, censors, etc. OR they can teach school kids when teachers are away from the classroom due to such duties.

- Students from HEIs can be briefly introduced to sustainable agriculture, enabling them to serve as a connection between NGOs engaged in this area and farmers. Students can sensitize farmers about sustainable agriculture practices.

- Students from higher education institutions can introduce young people in rural areas to the world of digital freelancing. There are open-source tools that can be learned by watching YouTube videos. Students can figure out how they can assist rural people in gaining skills that will help them in digital freelancing.

- Students from HEIs can set up call centers for villagers. Students can be encouraged to record, understand and analyze villagers' problems and get back to them with possible solutions.