

# Uphill task for Skill India mission

Just over one in 10 adults received training: survey

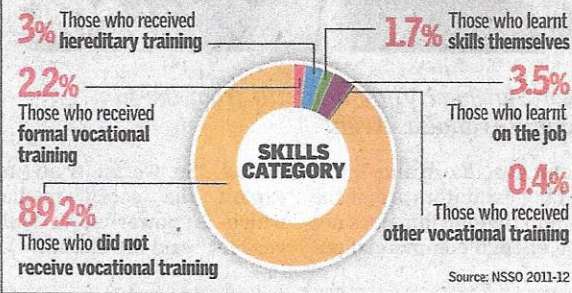
Rukmini S.

**NEW DELHI:** The Modi government will have its work cut out on skill development; just over one in 10 adults reported having received any vocational training, and the bulk of it was informal, according to new official data.

The National Sample Survey Office on Tuesday released data from its 2011-12 round on education and vocational training. Among persons in the 15-59 age group, about 2.2 per cent reported to having received formal vocational training and 8.6 per cent non-formal vocational training. The non-formal variety mainly comprised the

## CHALLENGING TASK

Nearly 90 per cent of employable people did not receive any vocational training, posing a challenge for the government's Skill India campaign



passing down of hereditary skills, or on-the-job training.

Among rural males who received formal vocational training, the most common field was 'driving and motor mechanic work' while among urban males it was 'computer trades.' Among rural females 'textile-related work' was

most common, while among urban females it was 'computer trades.'

The rate of vocational training had barely increased between 2004-05 when the data was last collected and 2011-12. This was despite the fact that the UPA government announced an ambi-

tious National Skill Policy in 2009 and created a National Skill Development Coordination Board earlier.

In July this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Rs. 1,500-crore Skill India campaign, which aims to train 40 crore people by 2022. Senior officials say that while there is a strong focus on skilling in the new government, there is little clarity on how to achieve it.

"If you ask me exactly how we are going to do it differently, I cannot tell you yet," a senior bureaucrat in the new Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship told *The Hindu*. "We are starting with a poorly educated youth population and little linkage with industry. There is a lot of corporate support, but it will take time," he said.

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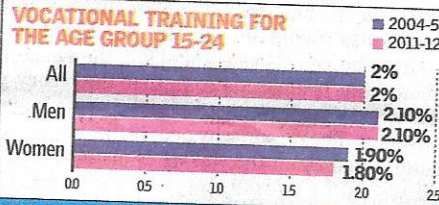
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Among people aged 15 and above, the NSSO data showed, only 2.4 per cent had technical degrees, diplomas or certificates in fields like medicine, engineering or agriculture. The proportion was 1.1 per cent in rural areas and 5.5 per cent in urban areas.

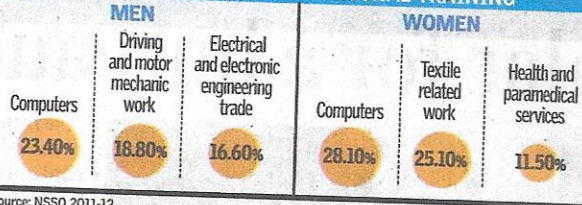
Just over 60 per cent of those aged 5-29 were currently attending an educational institution. 'To supplement household income' was the main reason for more than 70 per cent of males currently not being enrolled in any educational institution, while more than half of females not studying said they had 'to attend to domestic chores.' Attendance rates were the highest

## TALL ORDER

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### TOP THREE AREAS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING



in Uttarakhand in both rural and urban areas, and lowest in Gujarat among rural ar-

reas and Odisha among urban areas. Attendance rates rise sharply with income levels.