



General Education Department
Kerala Government

SDC



SDC



SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES



समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha

STARS

Strengthening
Teaching-Learning
and Results for States

Skill Development Centers

SDC

V. Sivankutty
Minister for General
Education and Labour
Government of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
17/07/2025

Message

Kerala has always been a role model among all states in the field of education. Performance excellence and quality are the hallmarks of General education in Kerala.

The Kerala society's emphasis on education has contributed greatly to this achievement. The General Education Department and Samagra Shiksha Kerala, hand in hand, are implementing numerous quality interventions, paving the way for the empowerment of public education and thereby creating a new Kerala.

Kerala is among the states that have shown the best performance in the National Quality Index. This achievement has earned Kerala a place in the 'STARS' project. The goal of the 'STARS' project is to implement necessary reforms to enhance the quality and credibility of public education, design and implement innovative and flexible activities to improve educational quality, and ensure better outcomes.

This is a brief document about the major activities implemented by Samagra Shiksha Kerala under the STARS project in Kerala. I extend all my best wishes for the continuation and quality implementation of excellent activities.

With affection,

V. Sivankutty

Dr. K. VASUKI IAS
SECRETARY



General Education Department
Government Secretariat
Thiruvananthapuram-695 001

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Date



Message from Secretary, General Education

Samagra Shiksha represents an integrated and inclusive approach to school education, and this document reflects the innovative practices, collaborative initiatives, and community engagement that have enriched our educational landscape. I am delighted to note the commendable effort taken to present a document showcasing the academic activities carried out under Samagra Shiksha in Kerala under the STARS Project. This initiative is a significant step forward. Creating a comprehensive record of our academic endeavours is crucial for several reasons: it allows us to effectively showcase the depth and breadth of the programme, serves as an invaluable resource for future planning and implementation, and enables us to identify best practices and areas for further improvement. This document not only reflects the dedication and hard work of our educators, administrators, and stakeholders but also serves as a valuable record of the innovative and inclusive practices being implemented across the state.

The holistic development of learners is always the focus of the Samagra Shiksha, Kerala. This documentation highlights our collective strides towards that goal. From strengthening foundational learning to fostering equity and excellence in education, the initiatives captured in this document reflect the spirit of collaboration and commitment that defines Kerala's education system.

The hard work demonstrated in creating this document is truly appreciated. Such thorough documentation will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and evolution of educational initiatives across the State, ultimately benefiting our students and the entire academic community.

I congratulate the entire team behind this initiative for their dedication and vision. May this report serve not only as a record of achievements but also as a source of inspiration for future educational endeavours.

Dr. K Vasuki IAS
Secretary
Department of General Education
Government of Kerala



Dr. Supriya A.R.
State Project Director
Samagra Shiksha Kerala

Introduction

STARS (Strengthening Teaching-learning and Results for States) is a sponsored project of the Central government implemented in Kerala through Samagra Shiksha since 2020. Numerous commendable activities have been implemented through the STARS project to improve the educational quality of Kerala. Early childhood education, foundational literacy, evaluation, improving classroom learning, streamlining educational service activities, interventions in vocational education, and physical infrastructure development are among the various programs implemented as part of the project. This booklet introduces some of the most commendable programs among them. We hope that the information in this book will be beneficial for future educational planning and implementation.

Department of General Education
Samagra Shiksha Keralam

STARS Project Document 2025

SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

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Skill Development Centers



Vision

Kerala envisions an education and training ecosystem that effectively bridges the gap between academic learning and employability by equipping youth with industry-relevant skills. The State recognises that a skilled and competent workforce is essential for sustainable economic growth and for enabling young people to actively participate in the evolving job market.

In this context, the Skill Development Centres (SDCs) initiative reflects Kerala's commitment to creating accessible, structured, and quality skill training opportunities for youth. By establishing centres across the State, the programme aims to provide equitable access to modern, demand-driven skill development programmes for individuals below the age of 23.

Aligned with the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF), the initiative ensures that the courses offered are standardised, competency-based, and relevant to current industry requirements. Each centre is designed to function as a hub of skill excellence, equipped with modern infrastructure, expert trainers, and updated training modules.



The programme also emphasises strong industry linkages, enabling learners to gain exposure to real-world work environments and facilitating smoother transitions from education to employment. By focusing on job-oriented training and practical skill acquisition, the initiative enhances employability and prepares youth for diverse career pathways.

Through the Skill Development Centres, Kerala reaffirms its vision of building a skilled, confident, and future-ready generation, capable of contributing meaningfully to the State's economic development and the broader knowledge economy.

Objectives

The programme aims to provide a wide range of employability-oriented and industry-driven skill courses to students and youth across Kerala, including those who are out of school. By expanding access to relevant skill training, the initiative seeks to ensure inclusive opportunities for all sections of society.

It focuses on establishing skill training facilities of high standards in each development block of the State, thereby ensuring equitable access to quality training infrastructure and resources for learners in diverse regions.

The initiative also aims to create a parallel skill development pathway alongside the academic stream of education. This ensures that skill training is accessible not only to students currently in education but also to those who are employed or have discontinued formal schooling, thereby promoting lifelong learning and reskilling.

Special emphasis is placed on providing appropriate and inclusive skill training opportunities for Children With Special Needs (CWSN), enabling them to acquire employable skills and secure sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Further, the programme seeks to integrate entrepreneurship with skill development by encouraging trained learners to explore self-employment and venture creation in their chosen domains. This approach promotes innovation, self-reliance, and economic participation.

The initiative also ensures optimal utilisation of existing school infrastructure by conducting skill training programmes during weekends and holidays, thereby maximising resource efficiency.

In addition, it strengthens industry linkages within the skill education ecosystem, facilitating practical exposure, relevant training, and improved employability outcomes. Through these efforts, Skill Development Centres are envisioned to evolve into Centres of Excellence in their respective domains.

The state government has launched Skill Development Centers under the STARS Project to enhance the state's skill base and empower the youth to become self-reliant. Across the state, 210 Skill Development Centers (SDCs) have been opened. This initiative provides opportunities for skill development free of charge for youth up to 23 years of age.

The curriculum of the skill development centers has been developed in accordance with the NSQF. The new generation possibilities in various vocational areas are given prime consideration. Accordingly, the main objective of the project is to create a generation that can easily switch from academics to the workforce.

To overcome Challenges

Equipped with modern facilities, competent trainers, and strong industry partnerships, SDCs impart both theoretical knowledge and practical training. Implementing this innovative and focused initiative is intended to bring progress as envisioned by the Department of Education. SDCs play a crucial role in nurturing a skilled workforce that contributes to Kerala's economic growth and social development with expertise and productivity.



Kerala is witnessing a major skill gap. In a rapidly developing economy, there is no way to nurture the skills of young people according to market demands. This mismatch leads to increased rates of unemployment rates and hinders the state's competitiveness in the knowledge economy. To address this challenge, the Kerala government has launched Skill Development Centers (SDCs).

SDCs across the state aim at creating platform for skill development for learners in the higher secondary vocational higher secondary dropouts and those enrolled for programmes that come under scole Kerala.

SDCs eliminate the gap between theoretical understanding and practical knowledge. This comprehensive initiative includes theoretical instruction, practical training industry based internships and mentorship programmes. It equips the youth to secure vocations that suit their talents and Make meaningful contributions to the economic growth of Kerala.







Towards New-gen Employment Opportunities

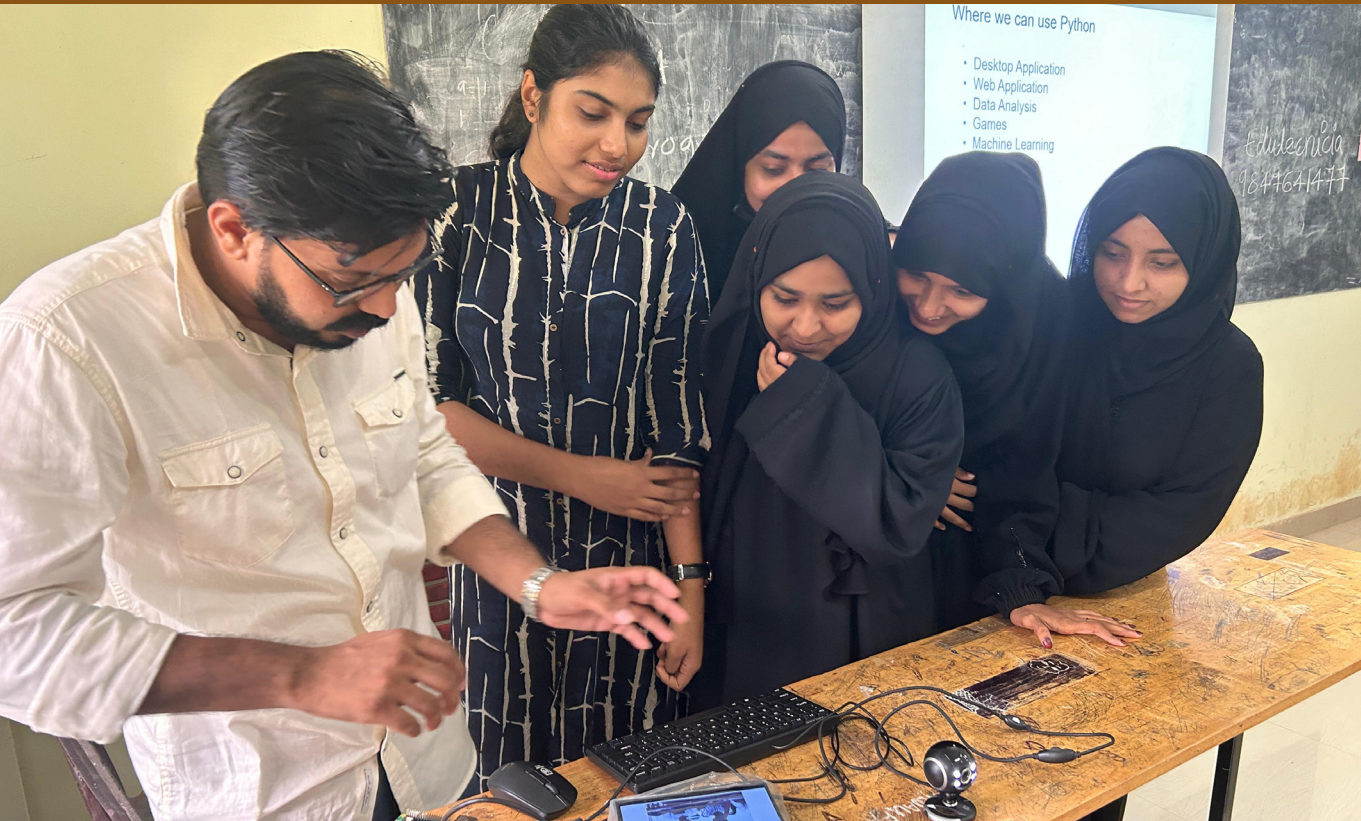
Various job roles across 15 sectors such as agriculture, telecom, electronics, automotive, banking, logistics, and healthcare are included, amounting to 29 different positions. Considering regional opportunities, skill gaps analysis, and the scope of each job role, 210 centers have been allocated specific job roles. A high-level committee, led by the Principal Secretary to education and the Director of Primary Education, has determined the job roles for these centers.

The project was launched in the experimental phase in 14 districts, each starting as an SDC. On March 2, 2024, studies began in all 14 SDCs. Each SDC was assigned two different job roles. Schools and local self-government centers, along with the community, have explained great interest in the activities of these centre.

Phase one as the Pilot Phase



14 centres of Skill development



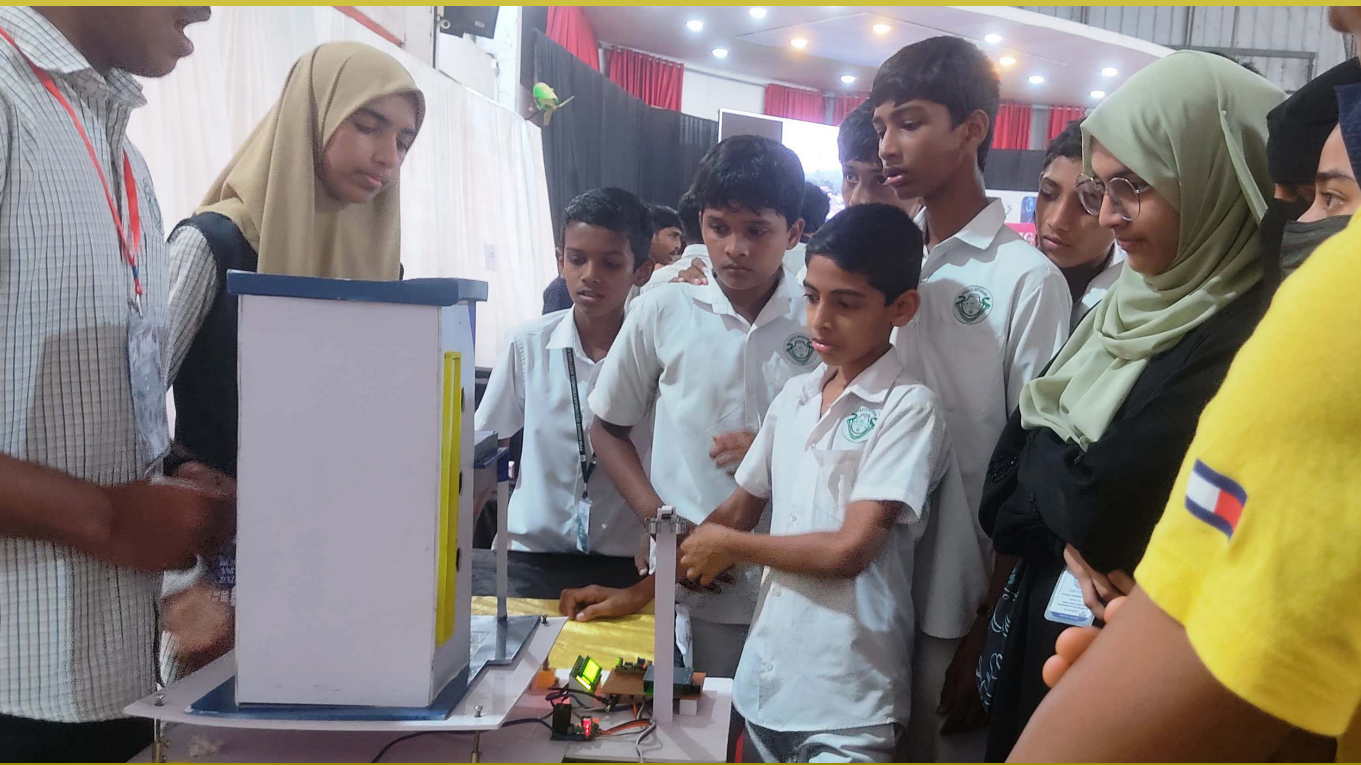
During the pilot phase, one SDC was established in each of the 14 district. On March 2, 2024, classes commenced across all 14 SDCs. Each centre was assigned two distinct job roles. These centres were embraced with great enthusiasm by schools, local self-government institutions, and the community alike.

Ensured equality of opportunity



25 students from various categories were given admission. The fact that there were more than a hundred applications on an average highlights the necessity of this initiative. Priority was given to those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. Opportunities were ensured for the differently-abled. In this way, equal opportunities in admission were ensured.

A grand opening with Pravesanolsavam



On May 14, 2025, classes started with Pravesanolsavam (a grand celebration) at skill development centers. On this special day, celebrations were organised under the leadership of MLAs and officials from local self-government institution. This helped in increasing participation. On the inaugurate day, an orientation was conducted for the learners. The various opportunities of the newly introduced job-related roles were explained to the learners.

Flawless system and accurate planning



Under the chairmanship of the District Collector, district skill center development committees were formed. These committees oversee the implementation process. Additionally, to ensure oversight and coordination at the local level, a school-level skill center committee was formed under the leadership of the MLA. Following the guidelines, purchase committees were also formed in each center to supervise the procurement of furniture and other equipment. A comprehensive orientation programme was conducted for all principals who are to lead the operations of the skill development centers, providing them with an understanding of the project's objectives, scope, and SOPs. Online training was also provided to streamline purchase procedure. Principals were instructed to allocate two rooms each for SDCs in designated schools.



Skilled organisers and trainers are essential for the success of SDC programmes. Under the school principal, the school center coordinator is given responsibility for the functioning of the center. Considering educational qualifications and work experience, a precise selection procedure is followed to appoint officials concerned. Additionally, the center also has two qualified trainers and a school center assistant. Trainers are selected based on expertise and experience in their field. Suitable individuals with necessary qualifications are appointed as school center assistants to support respective activities.

Foundation Module

To empower skills and mindsets for the knowledge economy and to strengthen Kerala's knowledge-based eco-system, a 40-hour Foundation Module has been prepared for Skill Development. Coordinators have been assigned to implement this module.

This module focuses on transforming students and Fostering an entrepreneurial mindset through attractive and activity-based sessions that emphasise creative thinking, self-management and communicative skills.





A prospectus that contains everything you need to know

A comprehensive prospectus has been prepared to provide a clear understanding about this initiative and the admission process for those seeking admission to the Skill Development Centers. This document thoroughly explains all matters related to skill development centers. It provides detailed information regarding the admission process, eligibility criteria, and operational procedures. Application forms are also appended to the prospectus. This prospectus is made available through the comprehensive education portal.



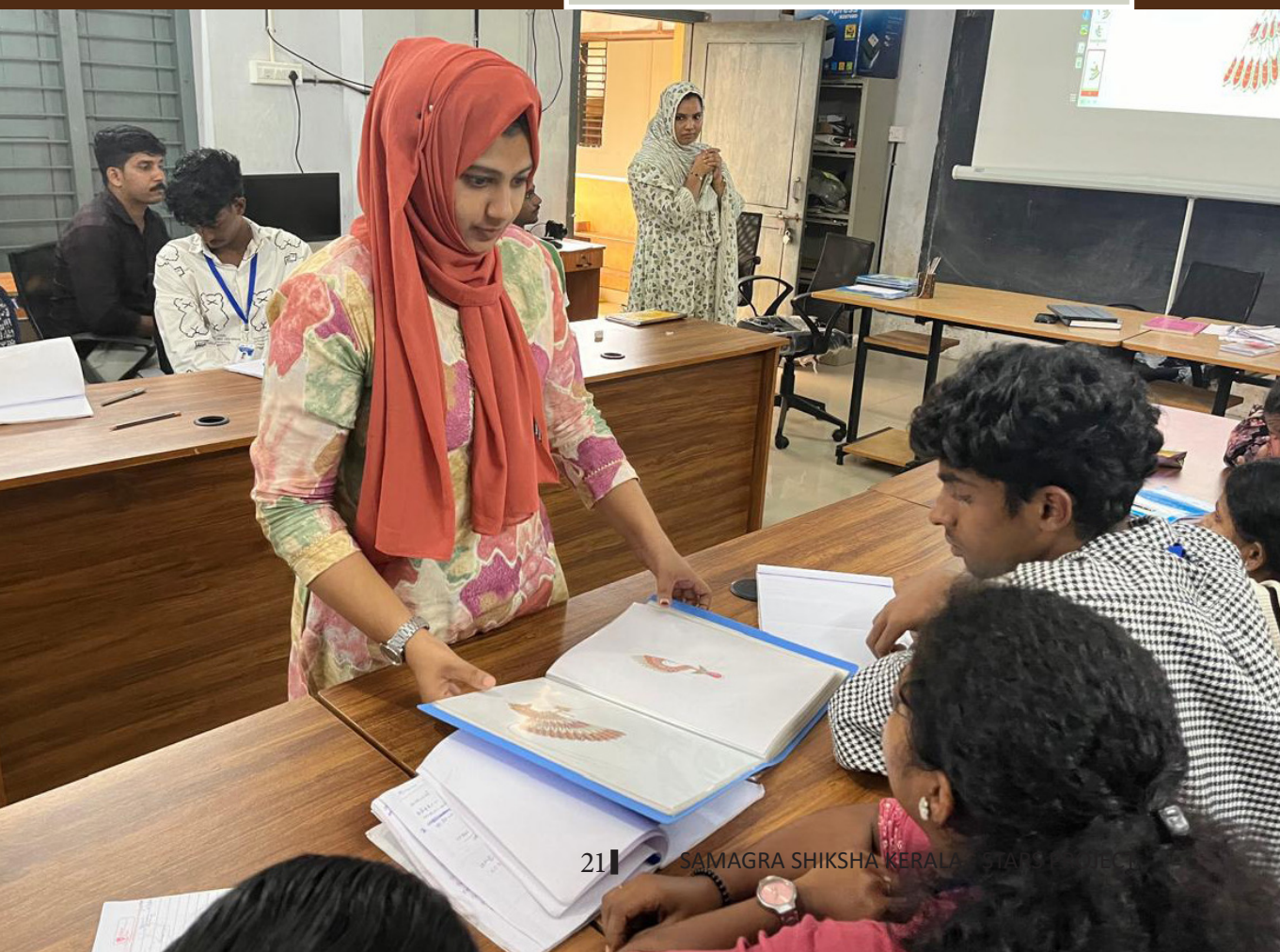
Simple and transparent admission process

A selection process for SDCs was conducted to ensure fairness and transparency. For this, a precise criterion for evaluation was prepared. Preference is given to students from economically backward sections. This ensures that such opportunities reach eligible candidates.

A widespread awareness campaign was conducted at the school, district, and state levels for admissions. As a result, a large number of young people applied for admission. A total of 14,569 applications were received for 10,500 seats in the state. This reflects the strong demand and interest in SDC programmes conducted by SDCs.

A well equipped learning environment

Under the STARS scheme, 21.5 lakh was allocated for each center. Out of this, about 11.5 lakh is for setting up basic facilities. Efforts were made to provide necessary equipment, laboratories, workshops, and materials required for various activities. Pilot centers were established with the support of local self-government institutions as well as school teachers and parent-teacher associations.





Industry collaboration: The foundation of success

The main reason for the success of the pilot SDCs is a strong industrial collaboration. Each center identified entrepreneurs connected to their job roles and organised activities as described below.

- On-the-job training: Through compulsory internships ranging from 80 to 120 days, students were given provided practical training.
- Interaction and idea exchange with experts: Providing opportunities for interaction and idea exchange with industry experts gave the participants students insights and inspiration. Experts shared success stories and lessons.
- Field visits: By providing opportunities to visit important industrial establishments, students gained first-hand knowledge about the actual work environment, production processes, and methodology of work.

By emphasising practical training, industrial collaboration, and guidance from experts in this manner training became highly effective.

Gateway to employment

- Many students have secured jobs in renowned institutions after completing their on-the-job training.
- All students who completed their Food and Beverage Service Associate course at Pilot Centers received job offers from well-known hotels such as G.R.T, Ocean, and Greengates.
- Those who completed the Electric Vehicle Service Technician course from Palakkad, Balussery, and Ambalapuzha were placed through their on-the-job training centers. Some students in Palakkad district even opened their own service centers.
- SDC Kulakkad and Kollam students in Graphic Design are working as freelance designers.
- Learners who completed the Fitness Trainer course at SDC Kunchathur and SDC Thodupuzha got jobs at Kanhangad Mithal Fitness Center and Thodupuzha R.F.M. Gym.
- Students completed their studies at SDC Arimpara and SDC Kunnumkulam.



Comprehensiveness, Precision and accuracy in education



With precision and accuracy, the evaluation was conducted in Jan. 2025 in the Pilot SDCs. The Examination Division of General Education department, led the process, ensuring a strong and impartial assessment. Before the evaluation, it was ensured that each student had undergone 400 hours of skill training.

The results were announced on 22 May 2025. Everyone in the state except two candidates passed the rigorous skill assessment. This highlights the effectiveness of the training.





SDC

Towards expansion with confidence

196 Centres well equipped system

Based on the successful implementation of the pilot phase, the second phase of the Skill Development Centre (SDC) programme was launched as part of STARS under the overall leadership of the central government. During the pilot phase, based on the evidence and feedback received, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was reviewed and revised. Apart

from the 14 centers that were opened in the pilot phase, 196 additional centers commenced in the second phase. Of these, 145 centers are operating in higher secondary schools, 64 in vocational higher secondary schools, and one in a high school. On an average, it was a proud achievement to be able to launch 210 centers at one level in a single block.

Empowering SDC Co-Ordinators

As part of the initiative to empower newly appointed SDG coordinators at the district level, a comprehensive capacity-building programme was organised in collaboration with central level coordination. This key training was designed to ensure that all district coordinators are fully prepared to implement foundation modules effectively. Training centers were set up in Thiruvananthapuram, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Palakkad, Kozhikode, and Kasaragod. A major component of this training was a 40-hour foundation module.



Online Orientation for Trainers

As the first step to ensure quality of training, trainers were given online orientation in their respective departments. Experts from the respective fields conducted the sessions.

This helped to enhance the involvement of trainers in their own areas and provided them with timely understanding. The primary aim of the



orientation was to give trainers a comprehensive understanding of the curriculum and syllabus that they are expected to teach. Following that, a residential empowerment programme was organised to provide hands-on experience.

Vision for the future

These SDCs are destined to become hubs of skill development in the future. They will play a crucial role in making school education throughout Kerala more skill-oriented. By adopting the hub-and-spoke model, SDCs can function effectively to promote skill development at all levels, starting from the primary level. Moreover, these centers will evolve into institutions that advance diverse skill training programmes aimed at empowering individuals and contributing to the overall socio-economic development of the region.

Conclusion

Skill development centers are a crucial step to address skill gaps, ensure the skills necessary for the economic and social progress of the youth in Kerala, and empower them. Through careful planning, active industry participation, emphasis on experiential learning and innovation, skill development will enhance Kerala's human capital and provide decisive support for the state's economic growth and social development, aligning with the SDGs.





General Education Department
Kerala Government

About STARS

STARS (Strengthening Teaching-learning and Results for States) is an education project designed and implemented by the Central Government with World Bank assistance to improve education standards. Among the states of Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Kerala implementing this project, Kerala was included considering its excellent education quality index. Kerala has been receiving the benefits of the STARS project since 2021. Numerous suitable and commendable education programmes for Kerala have been implemented as part of the STARS project.

This booklet presents one of the most important activities among them.

