

COMMUNITY POLYTECHNIC SCHEME

The question of developing an effective methodology for the application of science and technology in order to solve societal problems continued to be a matter of serious concern for India. In 1978, on the recommendation of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Government of India designated 35 institutions as Community Polytechnics in the country, out of which 6 were in the Western Region. These were to act as focal points to promote transfer of technology to the rural community.

At present, the number of community polytechnics has risen to 145 in the western region, and these institutions cover more than 5000 villages. They carry out a wide variety of rural development work. NITTTR Bhopal has been associated with this project from the conceptual stage. It assisted the Government of India in finalizing the guideline document. It conducts workshops for clarifying the roles of these institutions, transferring skills for rural development work, developing techniques of survey methodology and curriculum development for non-formal training. Significant Achievements of Community Polytechnic Scheme during 2002-2003 are depicted in Table

Table: Community Polytechnic Scheme Significant Achievements during 2002-2003

S. No.	Achievements	Numbers
1.	Establishment of village extension centres New centres established	138
2.	Man power Development Training Persons trained in various vocational trades/ skills Persons gained self/ wage employment	47,309 13,126
3.	Technology Transfer No. of Technologies transferred No. of Technology units / items transferred Villages covered under technology transfer No. of beneficiaries	85 4,483 1,162 1,05,694
4.	Technical Support services provided No. of Technical support services No. of beneficiaries under support services No. of villages covered under support services	45 23,629 1,151
5.	Community services No. of Community Services	25

S. No.	Achievements	Numbers
	No. of beneficiaries under community services	67,148
	No. of villages covered under comm. services	1,546

This movement has gained sufficient momentum, and it is expected that more polytechnics will be designated as Community Polytechnics in near future.