

CRASH COURSE FOR COVID WARRIORS

In a nutshell: Customized crash course programmes for COVID warriors were implemented through NSDC with due support from District Skill Committees (DSCs) and State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs)

Nodal agency: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through its implementing agency National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

The COVID-19 pandemic was an unprecedented crisis that affected people of all sections of society. Without prior knowledge of the virus and ways to mitigate its impact on human life, people relied on existing knowledge, advice of doctors, and to some extent, on social media.

Objectives

The crash course programme aims to train about 1 lakh candidates ('COVID warriors') in COVID response and around 2,800 drivers in handling and transporting Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) across the country. This programme would provide avenues to youth for skill training, certification and opportunity for wage employment. The key objectives include:

- Meet the rising demand of skilled healthcare professionals and associated workers from logistics sector
- Reduce the burden of existing healthcare workers
- Provide timely healthcare services in every corner of the country

As part of MSDE's flagship programme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 3.0, the customized crash course programme for COVID warriors was implemented through NSDC with due support from district skill committees (DSCs)/State skill development mission (SSDMs). It aimed at overcoming the COVID-19 crisis by imparting skills to eligible citizens under different short-term trainings.

Uttar Pradesh (23743), followed by Maharashtra (22805), Karnataka (16818) witnessed maximum enrolment. As on February, 2022, 1,18,386 candidates were enrolled for on-the-job training. Further, under this programme, the list of successfully trained candidates are made available on the Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping portal (ASEEM) for providing further placement by matching candidates and their skills with market demand.

Challenges

- Launching the program to meet the COVID-19 healthcare worker requirement in a short duration of time.

- Onboarding of huge number of organizations on Skill India Portal (SIP) especially hospitals that were relatively new to the system.
- Mobilization of candidates across India in a short duration of time.



COVID warriors at work