



Presenters: Kumar, Sachin
Project Manager, The Promise Foundation

Ramachandrappa, Nagesh
Documentation officer, The Promise Foundation

Contact Information: 346/2, 1-A Main, Kormangala 8th Block, Bangalore – 560095, India.

email: nagesh@t-p-f.org, sachinkumar@t-p-f.org

Language: English

Type of Presentation: Scientific Paper

About Presenters:

Nagesh R is currently working as a Documentation Officer in the Jiva Project an initiative by The Promise Foundation. He holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science and an M Phil degree in Library and Information Science. He has also done a Post graduate Diploma in Computer Application. He has wide ranging experience in knowledge management within the context of educational institutions and research Organisations. He takes care of acquisition, organisation, storage and dissemination of careers information to Career aspirants. He also trains trainees to use the Career Information Data Manager and also manages Career Resource Centres. Nagesh's motivation to be a professional is: *'To make the correct information available, at the right time in the appropriate package.'* A vital element of career guidance is career information.

Sachin Kumar holds a Master's degree in Geography and an M Phil degree in Career Counselling and Livelihood Planning. He started his career from Indian Military Academy, Dehradun (India) and then worked as a Lecturer in Geography in different government colleges under Himachal Pradesh University in North India. Sachin has wide ranging experience in working with young people and in training teachers and youth workers. He is a life member of Indian Society of Training & Development and an office bearer in the governing council of Indian Association of Career and Livelihood Planning. He is currently working with The Promise Foundation, Bangalore (India) as a Counsellor, Master Career Counsellor Trainer and Project Manager.

Title of Paper: Collating Information about Career Development Resources: Building bridges for the disadvantaged

Abstract:

Access to relevant educational and occupational information is considered vital for career development. In the Indian context, this information is neither organised by any agency in a user friendly way nor is it accessible to career choosers. What little information is available seems to be geared for people who belong to middle and upper middle socioeconomic status (SES) groups. It maybe surmised that students from more privileged



backgrounds are likely to have better access to resources through their networks and other sources. Students from low SES find it hard to get information relevant to their career development. A number of governmental and non governmental organisations have come up with a number of support services in the form of schemes and programmes for the career development of young people who are victims of poverty and structural disadvantage. These support services include opportunities for education/training/work experience and financial assistance in the forms of scholarship and loans. However, while resources exist on the one side, there is no mechanism to collate, classify this information and organise it in a user-friendly way for the intended beneficiaries. It falls upon a career counsellor to collate information according to the target group s/he is working with and bridge the gap between resources and beneficiaries. This is difficult exercise for a lone career counsellor.

This paper will present a method developed by The Promise Foundation to collate information about career development resources meant for young people coming from disadvantaged homes and make it available to them. The framework has drawn upon theoretical models of Library and Information Science and this paper presents the steps in the process. This process includes methods for identification of resources, listing of possible source organisations, procurement of information from their respective websites, personal visits to the organisation for verifying and supplementing information, classification of the collected data around themes and presentation in a user friendly format. The method has been used as a model to train the Careers Facilitators to prepare location -specific resource books.

This paper would be interesting to all career counsellors who are concerned about linking their clients to career development resources.