

Job creation holds the key

I have always wondered why vocational service is so difficult to render. The answer probably is simple and also complex. Only you can render vocational service. No one else can do it for you. This second avenue of service is integral to the spirit of Rotary even though it is often overlooked by clubs. Today, as sweeping changes are taking place in the places where people work, the role of vocational service becomes more critical and Rotarians are in a unique position to open doors and mentor those who are seeking career guidance and employment.

There seems to be more disturbing news flowing in everyday on the economic front. The curbs imposed by developed countries on migrant workers in fields such as IT has already had its impact. Disappointed youngsters are returning home from countries such as USA and others who were aspiring to go to USA for a handsome pay have now realised that it may be a distant dream. These people probably form a creamy layer but there are millions who are struggling to just find any job within the country. These include a host of people starting from skilled and semi-skilled workers in every conceivable field. They need guidance and jobs just to keep themselves alive. They need money to build a decent roof over their head. They need money to support a family, aged parents, unmarried sisters, brothers and even to buy that one strip of aspirin to look after their health.

Rotarians should see the present crisis as an opportunity to reshape their vocational service projects. The International Labour Organisation has warned that the global unemployment could increase by 50 million in the next couple of years depending on the severity of the global economic meltdown. If this is an indicator of the global downturn, then urgent and

supporting the concept of self-help groups promoted by local governments, Rotary clubs have been able to contribute a little to the life of the individuals. But this is not sufficient. Rotarians are in a position to create jobs. They can re-skill workers facing redundancy. Rotarians who are business leaders can create new avenues for employment which will also bring in profits.

What is now needed is a strong sense of entrepreneurship and creativity amongst the Rotarians. But all these activities must be guided by the Four Way Test. The most important factor is conducting our activity in an ethical manner. Ethics is central to vocational service and Rotarians should arrive at moral standards that regulate right and wrong



workable solutions are needed. Governments are doing what they can by restructuring the monetary policies and cutting taxes. But these measures take time to translate into jobs.

We have spoken extensively on how agriculture sector can generate mass employment in a short span of time. Industry can also generate employment over a period of time. Government has identified infrastructure and technology as two areas where there is an untapped employment potential. Infrastructure creation has a multiplier effect. Rotary's experiment in micro-credit has begun to produce the desired effect. Thousands of men and women have begun to benefit from such schemes and by

conduct.

Vocational service is about enriching the lives of others through your work. This work of yours must not only be just good business but also be good for the community and instill pride within you and others who are working for you. I would like to quote PRIP Luis Vicente Giay. He said, "A Rotary club that does not promote vocational service is removed from Rotary's basic principle."



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