

Skills Required by Plastic Industry Post Covid- 19

11th June 2020 | Online

The banner is for a live webinar titled "Skills Required by Plastic Industry Post Covid-19 Scenario". It is organized by AIPMA and RSDC. The event is part of the "PLASTIVISION" series, which is a monthly initiative. The banner features a list of panelists: Vinod Kumar R (General Manager, Reliance Industries Ltd), Vinod Simon (Chairman RSDC and Executive Director, Simcoo Rubber & Plastic (P) Ltd), Dr. Raju Desai (Managing Director, Jyoti Plastic Work Pvt. Ltd), Hiten Bheda (Chairman - AIPMA Environment Committee), and Gaurav Kapoor (Senior Head - NSDC Industry Partnership, CSR Engagement, Media & Advocacy). The moderator is Meghna Mishra (CEO, Rubber (and Development) Council (RDC)). The webinar is scheduled for 11th June 2020, Thursday, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM. It is free online and includes a "REGISTER NOW" button.

The 10th edition of webinar jointly organized by AIPMA & RSDC to discuss required skills that industry would be needing in new normal world because of COVID 19 crisis that left the industry with thoughts which is worth pondering upon that how the world would look post COVID 19 scenario. Virtually today industry has gathered to discuss and ponder upon skills development and entrepreneurship that is going through largest setback as manufacturing undergoing immense challenges due to COVID 19 crisis.

Experts from RSDC & NSDC along with AIPMA joined program to discuss what a new world would look in terms of skills required by industry in post COVID scenario and what are the short term & long term action plan. The unemployment figure in India remains to be high which had started showing signs due to economic slowdown before the pandemic arises. However it's the prime concern of association that jobs of millions of skilled and unskilled workers who are contributing to the plastic industry should not be lost.

The post COVID world will be riding on new wave of revolution in many aspects of the method in enhancing innovation & automation.

AIPMA is trying to help industry in meeting demand of new skills that will be required by setting up state of the art AIPMA management technology centre & entrepreneurship centre in Mumbai & Gurgaon. AIPMA is also an official training partner of skill council and looking forward to train people on various new job roles.

More than 500 industry people participated actively in webinar to exchange their thoughts and clear doubts and concerns relevant to the subject.

Mr Arvind Mehta said that pandemic brought overwhelming change in manufacturing units of processing industry, there are hygiene factors issues that going to play major role. Due to lack of manpower because of large migration recently; automation can play major role in near future. Introduction of new technology in the industry would also need new skills. Taking up issues of up skilling and reskilling of the manpower that is locally available, the reverse

migration is a huge challenge which were not as expected in such a shorter time, Indian petrochemical industry should identify new requirements & strategy to make manufacturing cost effective such as bridging gaps between skilled and unskilled should narrow down.

AIPMA has joined hands with RSDC & NSDC to bridge those skills gap by making curriculum for the new job roles. Together we should be able to address the challenge. Recently industry representatives at ministry decided to include plastics & petrochemicals in RSDC though it is running training for rubber sector. Very soon it will be rename as Rubber & Petrochemical Skill Development Council.

RSDC is an organization who trains the industry in rubber sector across the value chain. Similarly they would be now taking up responsibility of skilling manpower in plastics & petrochemical industry as well. They develop short and long term curriculum and content based on identified skills gap and impart training to the industry.

Dr Raju Desai gave industry perspective on new skills that is required. He said covid does not only brought challenges but also ample of opportunities to the industry. This crisis is going to offer fantastic opportunity to SME's but ofcourse safety is first, overcome covid and industry who survives covid economically and physically will see great days ahead. Secondly India has advantage of labour cost however with new age technology like AI, IOT , etc have greater advantage but deploying same force for better productivity rather than focusing on reduction of manpower by doing automation.

People who come from outside are more focused and dedicated but ofcourse skilling local people can have great advantage but cant replace workforce coming from outside due to specific ability and productivity they bring with them.

Mr Hiten Bheda shared his perspective on Industry perspective on skilling for plastics processing industry post covid scenario. He emphasized on the statistics due to pandemic and how it has impacted projected economic globe of 2020 except India and China all other major countries in the world seems negative economic growth. India is at 2.5 % GDP which gives some relief however at the same time GDP fell from 6.5 % - 7% to 2.5 % is worrisome for all.

He also emphasized on pillars for growth such as production technology, R & D, standardisation, quality and design capability however to build these pillars industry require skills like technical, quality assurance, design, digital knowledge and export management to address the current and forthcoming gaps.

Mr. Vinod Kumar, GM, Reliance Industries shared his perspective on Downstream Machinery Industry- Performance Trends & Skills Needs. He said in 2019, the global machinery manufacturers reported negative growth. The reasons were market sentiments due to single use plastic banned and automotive segment also did less sales due to certain plastics machinery

segment were highly impacted. He emphasized four areas where demand has increased due to lockdown like health and hygiene, packaging, agriculture and industrial and in connecting with that the relevant skills would be required such as soft skills, HSE, Machines & Screws designing, Management systems and services.