



Let's have more welding training institutes

It is very commonly known that welding activity has a direct correlation with the quantum of steel consumption. According to some recent data, all the steel consuming industries of India are on a fast track of growth. Out of the major steel user industries, the fabrication sector, which is generally considered to be the major consumer of welding products has been going through a year by year average growth of 6.8% for the past 5-6 years. Other steel consuming sectors like Construction, Automobiles, Tubes and Wire Drawing etc. using welding to a lesser extent, have also grown consistently at rates varying between 4.8% to 8.3%. However, Oil Piping alone has seen a growth of as high as 41% and welding is very vital for this sector. The total projected demand of Steel even at a minimum GDP growth of 5% would be anywhere around 56 mtpa in the year 2010.

One only needs a calculator to figure out the projected demand of the welding industry from now till 2010 and this trend may very well continue even after that.

Exciting challenges for welding professional indeed!

Industries and investors are surely expected to take a plunge to reap the benefit of this fast growing market in the above sectors and the associated demand for Welding Consumables, Arc Welding Equipment, Resistance and other Welding Equipment, Gas Welding and Cutting Equipment. Moreover, automation is going to play a major role in the emerging scenario. Since most of the automation processes are electronics and software based, automation suppliers in India may have significant expectations, given the size of investments promised by the Government and other private sector companies and the existing knowledge base of software in India.

India by all accounts therefore, would be the focus of overseas investments. However it is strongly felt that all investors, foreign or domestic, should simultaneously focus on developing welding engineers, professionals and above all, skilled welders. Ironically, the best of the talents particularly from the urban areas are today driven towards software and the average age for welders in India is perhaps around 45 years. It is therefore absolutely essential that more and more vocational welding institutes are immediately set up with Government, Private or Foreign investments and even liberal scholarships and grants may be considered to attract aspiring young brigade from semi urban and rural locations areas. Such investments in human resources development are surely going to pay dividends in the not so long run and propel the booming welding industry forward. And days may not be very far, when welding as a career would be highly remunerative, rewarding and above all interesting.

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