



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN INDIA- PROBLEMS & PROSPECTUS

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Abstract

The aim of vocational education in India is to develop skilled manpower through diversified courses to meet the requirements of mainly the unorganized sector and to instill self employment skills in people through large number of self employment oriented courses in rural & urban area of the country . In India, vocational education is imparted through industrial training institutes (ITIS) & Polytechnics. The skill shortage in the Indian Economy today is largely due to neglect of vocational education. Vocational education is the tool for economic, social & political development as well as economic stability of the nation.

Introduction

India has the third largest system of education in the world. It is the constitutional obligation to provide free and compulsory school education to all the children in india. Education now is a fundamental right to every child. Simple general education may not be a good means of livelihood. Hence, the vocationalization of education at all levels of knowledge acquisition has attained importance in india. Vocational education refers not only to the development of specialized skills but also to the development of a positive attitude to work and the dignity of labour.

Vocational education and training has been given importance throughout the history of education in india. Even in ancient Gurukula system, the shishya (disciple) was expected to earn his livelihood by way of manual work. Work and education were integrated and imparted by the Guru (the preceptor) to his shishyas (disciples).

The greatest challenge in Indian education system today is to provide skill based education to the youth. This is exacerbated by a mismatch in demand and supply for the skilled workforce. The penetration of vocational education and training remains poor not only in rural areas but also in urban regions. This post is an attempt to make the readers understand the need of vocational education in India.

In India, we believe that education is the key to the task of nation building. It is also a well accepted fact that providing the right knowledge and skills to the youth can ensure the overall national progress and economic growth. The Indian education system recognizes the role of education in instilling the values of secularism, equalitarianism, respect for democratic traditions and civil liberties and quest for justice:

With the fact that India is a nation of young people- out of a population of above 1.2 billion, 672 million people are in the age group of 15 to 59 years which is usually treated as the working age population. In the year 2001, 11% of population of the country was in age group of 18-24 years which is expected to rise to 12% by the end of XI five year plan. This young population should be considered as an invaluable asset which if equipped with knowledge and skills, can contribute effectively to the development of the national as well as the global economy.

The report of the Education Commission (Kothari – 1964-66) which was titled “Education and National development” set a number of goals to be pursued. One of them was “to vocationalise secondary Education.” Hon’ble Prime Minister of India addressing the nation on Independence day speech 2007 announced that 1600 new industrial training Institutes (ITIS) and polytechnics, 10,000 new vocational schools, and 50,000 new skill development centres would be opened to ensure that annually, over 100 lakh students get vocational training which would be four fold increase. The finance minister in his budget speech 2007 also mentioned the emerging shortages in the reservoir of skilled and trained manpower in a number of sectors. There is thus a need to expand the VET programmes to take advantage of the demographic dividend of the country and to fulfill the aspirations and right of the youth to gainful employment and contribute to national productivity.

System of Vocational Education and Training in India

The technical and vocational education and training system (TVET) in India develops human resource through a three-tier system.

1. Graduate and Post Graduate level specialists (e.g.IITs, NITs, engineering College)trained as engineers and technologists.
2. Diploma level graduates who are trained at polytechnics as technicians and supervisors.
3. Certificate level for higher secondary students in the vocational stream and craft people trained in ITIS as well as through formal apprenticeships as semi-skilled and skilled workers.

There are more than 17 ministries/Departments of govt. of India providing or funding formal/ non-formal vet programmes. The total annual training capacity of vet programmes thus offered is estimated to be about 25 lakhs.

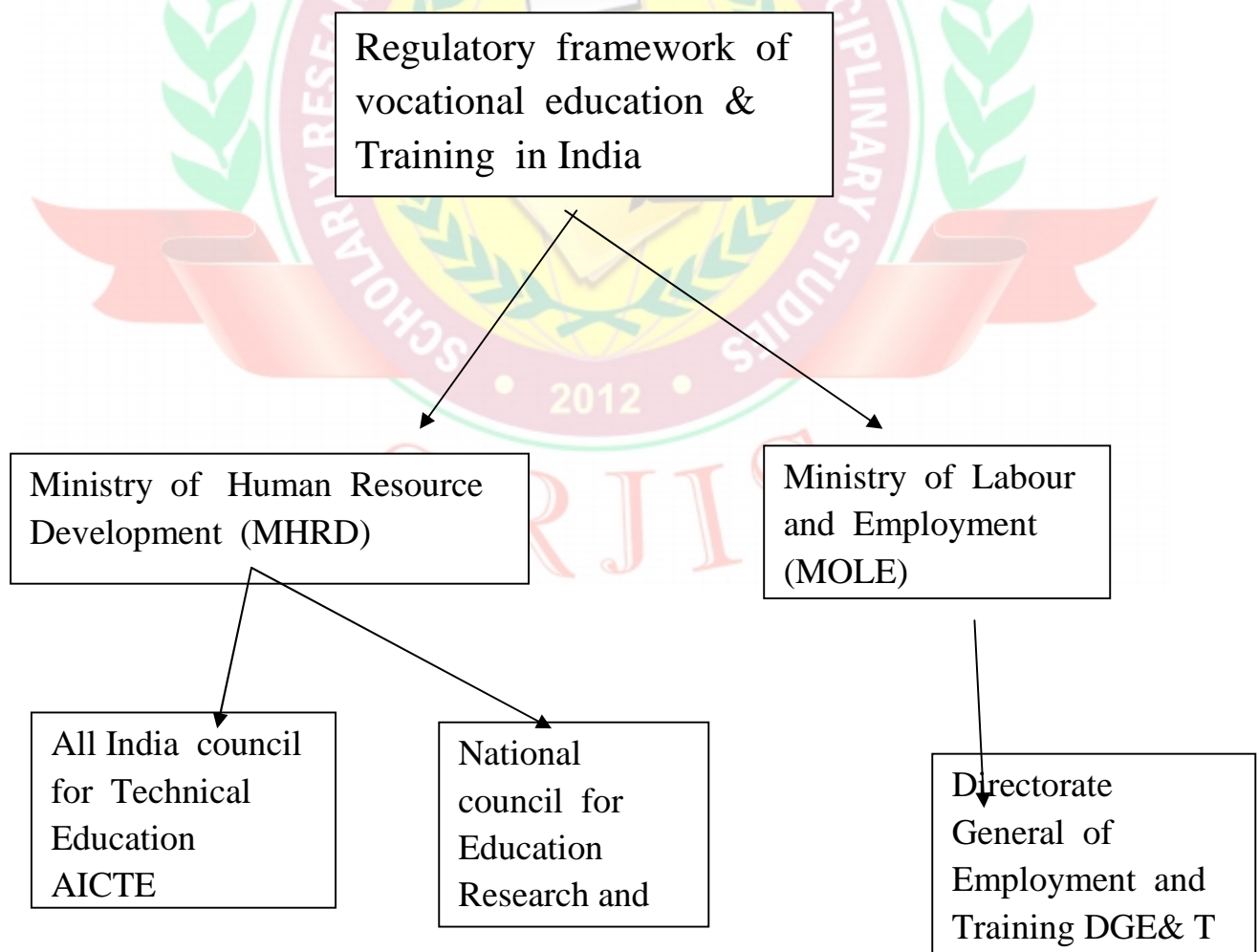
Recent survey conducted by NSSO.

1. The percentage of population that completed primary education was 70% but less than 10% went on to complete a graduation course and above . Almost 97% of individuals in the age bracket of 15-60 years had limited exposure to technical education, which is another indicator of Low skills set among indians.
2. According to the occupational profile of india's workforce, 90% of the workforce population is employed in skill based jobs, where as more than 90% had no exposure to Vocational education or training even though more than half of the seats remain unutilized in vocational education.
3. There is a lack & training facilities and skills development in as many as 20 high growth industries such as logistics, health care, construction, hospitality and automobiles.

4. India has roughly close to 5500 public (ITI) and private (ITC) institutes as against 500,000 similar Institutes in china. As against India's 4% formally trained Vocational workers, Country like korea had 96% vocationally trained workforce. Even relatively under- developed countries like Botsuvana had a surprisingly decent score of 22%.

The economic competitiveness of a country depends on the skills of its workforce. The skills and competencies of the work force, in turn, are depend upon the quality of the country's education and training systems. Vocational education is perceived as one of the crucial elements in enhancing economic productivity. Vocational education has sometimes become a tool for addressing the economic, political and social crises that are threatening the political and economical stability of some nations.

Regulatory framework of Vocational Education & Training in Inida.



Problems of Vocational Education

Lack of continuation of education

Many students and young persons complete the technical and vocational education and get employed. In the beginning they are with full of knowledge, but in course of time they forget many things. This brings lack of efficiency in their work. Part time instructions should be provide to such persons employed in jobs in order to improve quality of work.

Dearth of Teachers

Meritorious and able persons having received technical and vocational education are always offer fat salaries and other material gains. They are not after teachership. Besides, sufficient respect is not accorded to teachers in society.

Lack of Practicals

More theoretical knowledge will not suffice for successful candidates to go for establishing small workshops and small Industries.

Unsuitable Medium of Instructions

In almost all technical institutions of modern india, English is the medium of instruction. The students who have passed through medium of Hindi or other regional Languages find it very difficult to receive technical and vocational education in english.

Wrong Attitude

All the while more respect has been paid to the intellectual activity than physical labour. On the basis of work or labour, the caste system has been built in India. The roots of division of Labour based on thousands of years of caste system have gone deep into our society. The people engaged in

handicrafts and other physical works for earning their bread are not looked with respect.

Narrow Curriculum

In technical and vocational institutes there are provisions for only technical subjects. There is no place for liberal education. So with their technical knowledge the youngmen are not able to acquire knowledge of human relations and social objectives of productions.

Dearth of institutions

All technical and vocational institutions established after Independence can not be said to be adequate. The youth of the country with aims of receiving technical education can hope for a bright future, but such institutions are very few in considerations to such a huge population.

Poor infrastructure

Most of too vocational institutes basically at rural and backword area, vocational institutes are run in a poor kind & infrastructure even basic needs are not fulfilled.

Lack of funds

In many Vocational training institutes, basic needs are not fulfilled due to lack of funds. e.g. classrooms without light and fans, no sufficient classrooms for lectures, no drinking water, urinals etc. So they are described as virtually academic slums.

Prospectus of Vocation Education

Vocational education has a vital role to play in today's global world, where everything changes so fast that it makes it difficult for organizations to survive the growing competition. This had led to the need for vocational

schools and colleges in developing nations to impart relevant education to students, which reflects the changes in society.

Increase in employment

Due to vocational education training unemployment in the nation will be reduced and the maximum employment will get available.

Creation of Skilled , technical workforce

Because of vocational education we will create a skilled and hitech workforce in our country. In future, there will be no requirement of dependency on foreign countries regarding skilled and technical workforce.

Economic development of the nation

Due to vocational education all the youth workforce will get employed and hence economic development will be done in high ratio comparatively with other developed countries.

Development of entrepreneurship, business and Industry

Vocational education will create maximum skilled workforce, hence maximum entrepreneurship will be established. So business and industry will increase rapidly.

Element for Rural development

Vocational education is the big element to increase the rural development. Because of vocational education employment in all sectors of rural area will grow rapidly. So it is a main element for rural development in India.

Help for to become world super power

If the rural area as well as urban area of India get developed through vocational education, then economic development will be increase in high ratio. It helps to the nation to become world super power in coming years.

Help for wide variety & career options

In rural area of the nation, students of poor economic family can get the jobs employment through vocational education. Students can get variety of career options through vocation education.

Export of knowledge and skilled workforce

If maximum population of our country get employed and have skilled workforce, then we can export this skilled workforce to the foreign developing countries to help them for their development of nation.

Conclusion:-

Vocational education and training is not an option but has become the need of 21st century. It prepares learners for jobs that are based in manual or practical activities traditionally non-academic and totally related to a specific trade & occupation. Many efforts have been taken by Government of India in the field of vocational education and training still lot more is to be done. Many different schemes have been framed which are proving very effective. International organizations are also taking many initiatives to help the Indian Government in framing & Implementing the polices. Now it is upto the Indian Public how to take benefit of these schemes for getting them converted into highly skilled and multi-tasked human resource for the nation.