

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
AND SKILL TRAINING

By

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Introduction: -

Vocational Education and skill training prepare people to take up employment in a skilled craft or trade as a tradesperson. Vocational Education is a type of education that gives an individual to be gainfully employed or self-employed with requisite skills. Vocational Education is known by various names depending on the country concerned.

Whereas, skill training is a career-oriented method of teaching workplace skills. It is aimed at providing personalized, hands-on training to employees in the workplace or prospective employees looking for workplace or prospective employees looking for employment, in order to equip them with the competencies required to perform a particular job.

Lets see about few contemporary issues on vocational education

Dearth of Institutions: -

All vocational institutions established after independence cannot said to be adequate. This problem can be solved with imparting more vocational education institutions at all stages. Government at the Centre and in states should provide more institutions to cope with the increasing demand. However, in recent years, vocational education has grown popularly that makes learning various trade and soft skills from established professionals easier than ever.

Narrow Curriculum: -

In Technical and Vocational Institutions there are provisions for only technical subjects. There is no place for liberal education. So, with their technical knowledge the young men are not able to acquire knowledge of human relations and social objectives of productions. So, it is needed that curricula of technical and vocational education should be broadened with general and liberal education.

Unsuitable Medium of Instruction: -

In all the 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 vocational education in English. Such students are disappointed and leave vocational institutions after a term of stagnation. This sort of frustration brings loss of money, time and energy.

Dearth of Teachers: -

Meritorious and able persons having received vocational education are always after fat salaries and other material gains. Sufficient respect is not accorded to teachers in society. Consequently, such institutions are deprived of able and talented persons. Government can solve this problem in attracting talented persons to be teachers in vocational institutions. Teachers should be given decent pay packets and the society should respect these builders of men.

Lack of continuation education: -

Young person completes 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 provided to such persons employed in jobs in order to improve quality of work.

Refresher Courses may be organized these in-service people with the recent development of knowledge in the field of Science and Technology.

Lack of Practicals: -

Mere theoretical knowledge will not suffice for successful candidates to go for establishing small workshops and small industries. So, a practical training should be properly organized and young enterprises need be given Practical knowledge of starting industries and setting up business firms.

Few other reasons to be eradicated in vocational education and skill training are :-

1. There is a high drop-out rate at secondary level.
2. Private & Industry Participation is lacking.
3. Less number of Vocational Institutes in the country.
4. Not adequate number of trained faculty.

5. Vocationalization at all levels has not been successful.
6. Lacking new sectors of vocational education and skills training.
7. Acute shortage of skilled instructors and teachers in the country.
8. Absence of a sound National Vocational Education and Training (VET) System and standard.
9. Irrelevance of courses leading to a mismatch between the labour market needs and the training skills.
10. Absence of an integrated in-plant Apprenticeship Training.
11. There is a high drop-out rate at secondary level. Vocational Education is presently offered at Grade 11, 12th.
12. Private and Industry Participation is lacking
13. Less number of Vocational Institutes in the country.
14. Inadequate financing of VET system.
15. Shortage of qualified trainers.
16. In India vocational training is always about entry-level jobs and never counted as aspirational.
17. Lack of social acceptability.

WHAT TO DO: -

- Adequate infrastructure should be provided in schools, and schools also should be properly equipped for teaching and learning.
- Adequate enlightenment campaigns should be carried out in order to educate the society about the importance of technical and vocational education.
- There should be industrial participation in vocational schools and also there should be an arrangement for students to visit the industrial areas.
- Contemporary instructional materials should be provided. Vocational subjects should be taught by using up-to-date modules.

Skill training needed in the Domains are: -

Banking and Financial Services, IT & IT-Enabled Services, Electronics Design, Engineering Design, Retail, Beauty and Wellness, Health, Hospitality, Apparel, Textile, Food Processing, Gems & Jewellery, Handicraft, Media & Entertainment, Automotive, Strategic Manufacturing, Telecom, Power, Rubber, Business Process Outsourcing, Sports-Physical Education-Fitness & Leisure, Management & Entrepreneurship.

Conclusion: -

The vocational education ecosystem in its current form has not succeeded in creating adequate employable job seekers in India as more than 60 percent of candidates and employers find these courses ineffective. The survey revealed that primary reasons for the disconnect between vocational education courses and the industry is the absence of rich academic content, inadequate funding, and negative perception about these courses. Another key issue is the lack of awareness about these courses as well as the lack of scope for continued learning, it added. Vocational Education strengthens any country's employment and the same way its economy.

VISION 2030

Central Bharat Sevak Samaj has developed big vocational education ecosystem in India and trying to extend to all common wealth countries.

Hope within 2030, Central BSS will reach atleast 100 countries with its vocational and skill training wings.

Thank you

Jai Hind