

ROLE OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Vocational education is the driving force of economic growth and social development for any country. India has largest technical manpower in the world. In India, the emphasis has been given on vocational education. Vocational Education is based on occupation and employment and it is the need of the hour for every country to have strong vocational education system. It can be defined as skilled based education. Vocational Education helps in Economic growth. The Indian education system recognizes the role of education and particularly Vocational Education. As India moves progressively towards becoming a knowledge economy, it becomes increasingly important that the country should focus on advancement of vocational education, relevant to the emerging economic environment.

KEYWORDS: *Economic Growth, Vocational Education, Social Development, Knowledge Economy.*

Introduction

Education serves as capital for a society. Vocational Education has faced immense challenges by Individuals, Institutions, Systems and Societies due to ample of problems, in the context of various other factors that are simultaneously operating on the current education system. The main agencies of Government of India involved in Vocational education and its implementation include Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher / Technical Education, National Skills Development Council, Ministry of Labour and Employment & Department of School Education and Literacy. These agencies involved in to make policy to aim at empowering all individuals through improved skills, knowledge and internationally recognised qualifications to enable them to access decent employment, to promote inclusive national growth and to ensure India's competitiveness in the global market. Thus, Vocational education improves and enhances efficiency of labour for better participation in economic development.

Vocational Education can be defined as the education that is based on occupation and employment. Vocational Education is also known as career and technical education (CTE) or technical and vocational education. It prepares people for specific trades, crafts and careers at various levels in all spheres of life. It involves various practical activities. It helps students to be skilled and in turn, offers better employment opportunities:

- The main objective of Vocational Education is to provide the education that should be applicable in the workplace and it is evident that Vocational Education has a positive impact on productivity and economic growth in India.
- The economic competitiveness of a country depends on the Vocational Education of its work force. The Vocational Education and competencies of the work force, in turn are dependent upon the quality of the country's education system. Vocational education is perceived as one of the crucial element in enhancing economic productivity in India.

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- The contribution of entrepreneurship education in Vocational Education programmes is also helpful in poverty alleviation from the society point of view.
- Based on social efficiency theory, education institutions should prepare and supply future workers with appropriate knowledge and Vocational Education skills to enhance their productivity and, therefore, promote economic growth in India.

Narayana Nettimi (University of Botswana) reveals in his study that there is a positive and significant relationship between economic growth and vocational education and technical performance in the country. It is necessary that the expansion of vocational and technical performance should be accompanied with appreciable growth in employment in the formal sector.

Objective

The objective of this study was to investigate the perceptions of educators and employers regarding the role of vocational education in the economic development of India. Specifically, the research questions were:

- What are the factors that facilitate or inhibit the restructuring of vocational education in serving the needs of India's industrialization?
- To what extent does vocational education contribute to the economic development of India?
- To what extent do educators and employers believe that government is responsive to the needs of vocational education in India.
- What are the perceptions of educators and employers regarding the employability of graduates of vocational programmes in India.

Vocational Education Training in India

In India, we believe that vocational education is the key to the task of nation-building. It is also a well-accepted fact that providing the right knowledge and vocational education skills to the youth can ensure the overall national progress and economic growth. The Indian vocational education system recognizes the role of education. Vocational education training in India is provided on a full-time as well as part-time basis. Vocational Education strengthens India's employment and same way its economy. India being a developing world has come a long way to enhance and implement Vocational Education.

Measures Government should Take to Expand Vocational Education

A balanced approach should be emphasized in the school curriculum through the integration of technical, employability, and generalizable skills in vocational programs. In addition, vocational curricula should be flexible and responsive to the present and future needs of the nation. Federal, state, and local agencies should provide a clear vision and mission for vocational education. The government should work collaboratively with the private sector to maintain and expand vocational education in India. In particular, the government should draw upon the resources of employers and solicit private sector investment in vocational education. The government, especially the Ministry of Education, should seek input from numerous stakeholders, such as educators, business/industry personnel, parents, students, academicians, and other professionals, before formulating major policy decisions regarding vocational education.

Major Challenges

Various Reasons for Low Performance of vocational education are as under:

- Lack of equivalence for employment purposes and vertical mobility.
- Absence of a National Competency Testing and Accreditation system
- Low priority for Vocational Education and Shortage of trained teachers.
- Lack of convergence between various agencies and social recognition.
- Inadequate linkages with Industries and Lack of infrastructure.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The following are the conclusion and recommendations:

- The government, especially the Ministry of Education, should seek input from numerous stakeholders, such as educators, business/industry personnel, parents, students, academicians, and other professionals, before formulating major policy decisions regarding vocational education and training.

- Policymakers should introduce legislation related to new reform initiatives such as school/business partnerships, school-to-work activities, technology preparation, and workforce development to sustain employer and private sector commitment to education, training, and human resource development.
- Federal, state, and local agencies should provide a clear vision and mission for vocational education and training. In addition, the government should provide effective leadership and incentives to the private sector to encourage partnerships and collaboration with vocational institutions.
- The government should work collaboratively with the private sector to maintain and expand vocational education and training in Malaysia. In particular, the government should draw upon the resources of employers and solicit private sector investment in vocational education and training.

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