



What Ails Skill Development in India?

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ABSTRACT

Vocationalization of education has always been on top of the agenda of the Government of India and various governments in different states and union territories of the country. During the first decade of 21st century, the economy touched a double-digit growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for a brief spell of time. When the GDP growth rate was in the range of 8-10% per annum and plenty of job opportunities were being generated in the economy, the major employers started complaining that the skill sets required by the recruiters amongst the potential employees are quite different than the skill sets possessed by the job seekers. Debates started in the concerned Ministries and Departments and finally a decision was taken by the then Central Government to take up skill development in a mission mode. The country was given a target to skill 500 million of youth by 2022. In view of India being a young country, the emphasis was laid on reaping the demographic dividend by empowering Indian youth by way of skilling and upskilling. Simultaneously, the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) was also announced by the Central Government. In 2014, Government of India took charge of the country, created a separate Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship by 2020-400 mn persons with the Rapid technological advancements like internet of things, artificial intelligence, block-chain technology, application of robots' in industry, big data, machine learning coupled with industry 4.0 proved that whatever is being done in skill development space is perhaps not adequate. National Skill Qualification Framework, Community Colleges Scheme, and vocationalization of school which were and all started with lot of enthusiasm have not met the expectations of our planners and policy formulators. The ongoing slowdown in the economy has further complicated the problem. Despite Sector Skill Councils' backed curriculum in many of the schools, colleges, technical institutes and universities, the passouts are still facing serious problems in securing reasonable jobs. The kind of response being given to skill development by the Indian youth, prevailing rate of unemployment in the country, prevailing rates of wages in the private sector and the net job opportunities being added in the economy are not going to make us reap the anticipated demographic dividend. In the absence of a thorough overhaul of the vocationalization of education and skill development initiatives in the country, the anticipated demographic dividend may turn into the demographic disaster for the country.

Keywords: Up-skilling, Skill Development, Vocationalization, Employability

BRIEF CV

Professor J. S. Saini superannuated from National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research Chandigarh on 31st January 2019 after rendering dedicated service for 40 years. After working in industry for a year and public sector consultancy organization for 5 years, he joined NITTTR Chandigarh as Associate Professor in 1984 and worked as Professor and Head Rural Development Department EDIC Department. Information Management and Coordination Department and Dean-Extension Services and Consultancy.

His outstanding work in the disability sector brought laurels to him and NITTTR in the form of National Awards. While at NITTTR he was closely associated with programmes and activities of AICTE UGC CABE NBA and skill development initiatives of Government. of India. He is member of Committees of AICTE and well aware of schemes of AICTE. His scholarly work and diverse experience make him capable of taking forward mission of AICTE.