



Technical Session V : Presentation- 5

Improving Collaboration between School and Industry for Meeting Future Skills Needs

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ABSTRACT

The economic development, industrialization have intensified the pace of change in practically all sectors of the economy impacting on manpower needs to fill the wide variety of positions in different sectors. Government of India has taken many initiatives to meet the various challenges in skilling India, one of the examples is National Skill Development Policy which reflects that skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development; and hence a major effort in this direction is required. A comprehensive system for this purpose was developed and implemented by establishing National Skills Development Council, National Skill Development Corporation, National Council for National Skills and Developing a National Skill Qualification Frame Work [NSQF]. This was followed by forming various Sector Skill Councils, each looking after the interest of its area e.g. Automotive Sector Skill Council, Agriculture Sector Skill Council etc.

These Sector Skill Council have identified job roles at various levels in there sector and developed Qualification Pack [QP] and National Occupational Standards [NOS] for each Job-Role. An independent Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was established to coordinate all these activities and the institutional arrangement required. In spite of tremendous efforts at various levels majority of workforce is still in urorganized sectors without any formal vocational education and training.

The number of dropouts is still quite a high at different stages of school education. In view of these problems, there is need for re-imagining Vocational Education and Training System – to provide meaningful and sustainable vocational education and training as alternative pathway to all those youth who do not intend to continue in academic stream; for providing opportunities for gainful employment and entrepreneurship development; thereby to meet the challenges of skill, human resources required for various sectors of economy at local, district, state and national levels. This paper highlights the various strategies and possible pathways for addressing the challenges and issues in TVET.

Keywords: TVET, Industrialization, Skill Councils, Job-Role, Entrepreneurship

BRIEF CV

Professor Syed Zargham Haider holds Master degree in physics and has been Fellow of the British Council at Huddersfield College of Technology, UK and UNESCO, fellow at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (USA). He retired as Joint Director PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education Bhopal, National Council of Educational Research and Training and also worked as Professor at National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Bhopal and Senior Education Officer at Federal Advanced Teachers College, Nigeria.

During his tenure at PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education, Dr. Haider looked after the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of vocational education of MHRD in all the states of the country covering 7000 secondary schools. A large number of instructional materials (text books, workbooks) in different vocational areas were got prepared and printed. Contributions were made for the National Curriculum Framework 2005 and the National Curriculum for School Education 2000.

As Professor / Associate Professor at NITTTR, Bhopal, Dr. Haider undertook many projects for the improvement of polytechnic education in the states of M.P., Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa in addition to teachers training. He also coordinated World Bank Assisted Project for the quality improvement of polytechnics at NITTTR for the states in the western region (M.P, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa). He also introduced Multipoint Entry and Credit System in polytechnics of Gujarat and Goa states. He was invited for FOCUS GROUP meeting on TVET by UNESCO – UNEVOC International Institute of Vocational Education, Bonn, Germany and Hongzau, China, TVET Conference at Bangkok, Thailand, and International Conference on Technical Education: Challenges Adelaide, Australia.