

IMPLEMENTATION OF VOCATIONAL / SKILL ENHANCEMENT COURSES (SEC) IN NEP 2020: A FUTURISTIC APPROACH FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN UTTARAKHAND

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Abstract

Increasing population and unemployment are major challenges for India. It is considered as country of the youth which can contribute in development and growth of country. Present status of employment rate is only is 43% contrary to 74 percent of the literacy The NEP 2020 focuses on both the requirement and consumption faces of vocational education and makes to fill this gap. The main focus of new education policy is to emphasizes teaching in practical aspects rather than theoretical part. of vocational training. A proper skills gap analysis and mapping of local opportunities are one of the most important recommendation of NEP 2020 for frame working vocational courses relevant a particular area.

Present paper deals with the importance of implementation of vocational studies in Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand, which is majorly a hilly state, where job opportunity is too less, best utilization of local resources may enhance the per capita income. Implementation of vocational courses may act triggering factor for boosting employment based on local resources. Industries based on floriculture, horticulture, apiculture, aquaculture, hydropower, tourism, agro based food processing, spice processing, beverage processing, exploration and use of medicinal plants require skill. Enhancement of such skill are urgently needed for reverse migration.

Keywords

NEP 2020, Skill enhancement course, Vocational courses, employment generation, Uttarakhand.

Reference to this paper should be made as follows:

Received: 12.10.2023

Approved: 25.12.2023

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VOCATIONAL / SKILL
ENHANCEMENT COURSES
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RJPSSs 2023, Vol. XLIX,

No. 2, pp.257-263

Article No.32

Similarity Check: 28%

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<https://anubooks.com/journal/research-journal-of-philosophy-amp-social-sciences>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31995/rjpss.2023v49i02.32>

Vocational Education in India

India has adequate human resource still the industry is facing critical shortage of skill and quality of manpower. 80 percent of India's youth are from low income families who have low quality of educational standards coupled with a high dropout rate beyond primary school stage. Also their knowledge in terms of various options related to skill training is minimal and are often unable to pay the admission fee for such training. It is critical for the country to make secondary education more job-oriented through skill training within the schools.

Vocational Education improvises economy of the nation by increasing employment. The idea of It commenced on the 20th century. A Commission held on 1964 emphasized that application of knowledge is must and that should be taught after formal schooling Presently Vocational training in India is provided on a full-time as well as part-time basis. Full-time programs are generally offered through I.T.I.s Industrial training institutes. The nodal agency NCVT under the Ministry of Labor, Govt. of India is granting the recognition to the I.T.I.s. Part-time and full-time courses programs are offered through state technical education boards or universities. The technical and vocational education and training system (TVET) in India develops human resource through a three-tier system.

Graduate and post-graduate level specialists (e.g. IITs, NITs, and engineering colleges) trained as engineers and technologists. Diploma-level graduates are trained at Polytechnics as technicians and supervisors. For higher secondary students Certificate-level in the vocational stream. Semi- skilled and skilled Craft people are trained in ITIs through formal apprenticeships. (<https://forumias.com/blog/vocational-training-in-india>)

There are Some benefits of the vocational courses which are as follows:

Benefits of Skill Enhancement Courses

New dimension of the Employability: Skill enhancement courses served individuals with specific skills and knowledge that are in demand in the job market. These courses can cover a wide range of sectors, such as information technology, tourism, hospitality, healthcare, and agriculture, among others. By acquiring these skills, individuals become more employable and can compete effectively for job opportunities.

Bridging the Skills Gap: It courses can help bridge this gap by providing targeted training and education to meet the specific needs of employers. This helps reduce unemployment and underemployment by ensuring that job seekers have the skills required by the local job market.

Economic Growth: Skilled workers contribute to economic growth by increasing productivity and efficiency in various sectors. When individuals undergo skilled enhancement courses, they gain expertise in their chosen fields, which can lead to improved job performance and higher productivity. This, in turn, can drive economic growth in Uttarakhand by attracting investments, creating new job opportunities, and boosting the overall competitiveness of the region.

Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment: Skilled enhancement courses not only prepare individuals for traditional employment but also empower them to start their own businesses or become self-employed. These courses can provide valuable insights into entrepreneurship, business management, and financial literacy, enabling individuals to establish successful ventures. This entrepreneurial spirit can contribute to job creation in Uttarakhand and stimulate local economic development.

Upgrading Existing Workforce: Skilled enhancement courses are not limited to new job seekers; they can also benefit the existing workforce. Continuing education and training opportunities allow employees to upgrade their skills, stay relevant in a rapidly evolving job market, and enhance their career prospects. This up skilling of the workforce can result in increased job retention, improved job satisfaction, and higher earning potential.

Problems for Vocational Education Implementation

In India Vocational training has been successful only in industrial training institutes and engineering trades. There are many private institutes in India which offer courses in vocational training and finishing, but most of them have not been recognized by the Government

Through, the study of the prevalent Vocational Education System in India the following problem areas has been identified such as: high drop-out rate at Secondary level, participation of Private & Industry is lacking. There is Less number of Vocational Institutes in the country and no adequate number of trained faculty.

Vocational education is not successful at all levels. New sectors of vocational education and skills training are yet to be explored. Shortage of skilled instructors and teachers in the country. Lack of opportunities for continuous skill up-gradation. Current education system is non-responsive to the skill demands of the existing and future industry, leading to a supply-demand gap on various the demand and are accessible to only a selected number of students. There is huge demand-supply skill gap. There is 90% of the jobs in India are “skill based” while only 5% of the youth in India are vocationally trained.

Presently most of the Vocational Education Training Institutes are structurally rigid and outdated. All over country a common syllabus is imposed that

do not have much sync with the prevailing market conditions. Moreover, there is absence of monitoring committee.

Skill Development / Vocational Education in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand was formed on 9th November 2000 as the 27th State of India. According to the Census of India 2011, the population of Uttarakhand was approximately 1.01 crores. The state is the home to around 0.8 percent of the total population of the country and is the 20th most populous state in India. There are 13 districts in the state which is grouped into two divisions - Kumaon division and Garhwal division.

It is predominately a rural state with 70 percent of the population residing in rural areas. In the hilly areas of the state, 90 percent of the people resides in rural areas. As per the Human Development Report (HDR) 2017 of the state, the labor force participation rate was 53 percent and unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. Among those who were working, 56.9 percent was self-employed, 24.2 percent was regular employed, and 18.9 percent was casual workers³. The working age population of Uttarakhand in 2018 was 62.4 percent of the total population, with an increase of 1.9 percent as compared to 2013. Migration of youth to the urban areas in the state as well as outside state is very frequent. The state is growing fast and have a favorable demography but suffer from high rate of youth unemployment. Thus, development of the skills and training sector in terms of access, quality and relevance is one of the key priorities of the Government of Uttarakhand. (State Report – Uttarakhand)

Uttarakhand Vision 2030 prepared by the government of Uttarakhand in 2018, which identified high value agri-business based livelihoods, tourism, green energy, eco- services and forestry as major drivers of employment and economic growth. The Government can create employment opportunities by creating an Eco-Task Force with due social security benefits, which will help in conserving forests and environment and could generate revenues for their sustainability. The expansion of education needs to be strongly supported with the intensive efforts of skill development in local resource-based occupations and also in broader skill sets in emerging occupations to compete outside the region/state. Uttarakhand Skill Development Mission (UKSDM) has been providing free skill development training to youth over all 13 districts urban and rural sectors of state. In order to address the challenges of unemployment and ensuring gainful and sustainable employment to the youth of the state. Skill development in the state is gaining momentum given the changing dynamics of the demography and the upcoming demand of skills and jobs in the future. Now more than ever, governments, institutions, employers, and individuals are realizing that industry relevant skills and knowledge are of prime

importance for both a sustainable livelihood and the development of the state. Lack of relevant skills and knowledge will result in greater consequences in the years to come, which may prove to be an uphill task for the state in generating adequate jobs. (State Report – Uttarakhand Skill Gap Study December 2021)

The technical education in the state is provided through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), polytechnics, engineering colleges, MBA colleges, pharmacy colleges, HM&CT institutes, university constituent engineering college as well as IIT, Roorkee. A variety of courses are offered in the institutes like engineering (agricultural, automobile, chemical, civil, computer science, electrical, electronics, mechanical), fashion designing, garment technology, IT, interior designing, mining, PGDCA, pharmacy and others.

NEP 2020: Hope for Gaining Knowledge vis a vis Employability for Uttarakhand

Implementation of the National Educational Policy 2020 is expected to improve the educational standards. It focuses on the employment generation by educating skill courses at school as well as higher education level. In the present global scenario the transition of the market from a learning-based approach to a skill-based model has been attributed to the policy. Its main proposal is to introduce vocational education from sixth grade onwards and create a National Committee for the integration of vocational education (NCIVE). This experimentation will certainly connect the education with the employment.

NEP 2020 will provide students a plethora of promising career avenues. The policy will equip the human resource by developing technical as well as soft skills amongst graduate and post-graduate students. NEP 2020 focuses on employability and acknowledges the role of education in providing students with the right skill sets. The vision of the government via this initiative is to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which strives to ensure inclusive and equitable education as well as promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

This change in education system will expertise our youth generation with expertise along with digital literacy and industry-relevant skills. It is urgently required by the employers on the lookout for talent that possesses domain in fourth phase of the industrial revolution. NEP 2020 is an important step that will change the face of the Indian educational system. It is due to this initiative that the market will transform significantly and the evolving needs of employers will be catered to effectively. The National Educational Policy 2020 propagates experiential and skill-based learning.

Uttarakhand, located in northern India is primarily a hilly state, offers various job opportunities in the field of Natural resources. The state has a rich biodiversity and is known for its natural beauty, making it an ideal location for research,

conservation, and pharmaceutical industries. Implementation of the Skilled enhancement Courses (SEC) can have a positive impact on employment in Uttarakhand, as they provide individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the demands of the job market. All universities of Uttarakhand have mandatorily implemented SEC/ vocational courses as the curriculum at the Undergraduate level from the session 2022-23. These courses are designed as per the job opportunity of that particular locality having multifaceted dimensions.

Skill enhancement course such as Fish farming can enhance Uttarakhand's economy. Course related to fishing business in the state is a profitable proposition. Study on the market and commercial fish farming and then invest in the business. Cultivation of state specific fishes such as Trout, Mulley, Rohu, Butchwa, Carp, and Monstrous Goonch can boom the economy. Course related to the cultivation of the mushrooms and biofertilizers are also cost effective. Horticulture is a decent profession to take up in Uttarakhand. Learners can become horticulturist and grow indigenous and exotic plants, fruits, crops, flowers, etc., to the region.

Women can even set up a greenhouse at home and establish a side business. Agro-business of the medicinal plants and millets, horse gram (*Kuleth*), soybean (*Bhatt*), plums, and apples and many other indigenous crops can boost our economy. The trend of using greener and sustainable products has created innumerable opportunities for entrepreneurs. Contributing to sustainable energy generation and providing clean electricity by reducing carbon footprint. Students can start a sustainable energy project or invest in existing projects.

Conclusion

Skill enhancement courses play a vital role in improving employment opportunities in Uttarakhand. By educating students with the right skills and knowledge, these courses can fill the skills gap, enhance economic growth, encourage entrepreneurship and empower the state economic and social growth.

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