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### **Abstract:**

*Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development for any country. Countries with higher and better levels of skills adjust more effectively to the challenges and opportunities of world of work. The NEP 2020 emphasizes key strengths for a fulfilling career, highlighting the value of education in providing students with the necessary skills. NEP 2020 focuses on the value of education in empowering students with the skills they require. The paper attempts to look into an importance of skill-based education, the benefits of skill based education, and also review the measures that need to be taken up for developing skill base education.*

**Key Word:** *Skill Based Education*

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### **Introduction:**

A student must have a degree and the skill. Skill means the ability to achieve something. A degree without talent is as meaningless as a skill without a degree. Both must coexist for the battle of the fittest to occur. A degree is just the certified verification of an individual's expertise. Every student with the ability may not be able to obtain the degree. Likewise, not every university graduate is necessarily skilled. The degree or expertise required is determined by the company, the nature of the position, and so on. In general, which criteria is more important: the degree or the skill? Let us get to know what are skills and why skill-based education is important?

### **What is Skill?**

In order to complete tasks successfully, you must have knowledge, ability and competence. These qualities, known as skills, can be developed to help you gain expertise in a specific area. A skill is the ability to do something that requires training, practice or experience. For example, Swimming/Mountaineering will not be learnt by reading a book. To develop the

skill, it is necessary to make practice and to show how to transfer the knowledge into practice, how to organize and combine the knowledge; and how to activate and use cognitive and physical resources (Perrenoud, 1999; Perrenoud, 2004).

### **Types of skills:**

Basic skills are very important. These are skills like reading, writing, number skills and computer skills that we use every day. There are different types of skills. According to a survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), the most important skills, are problem-solving skills, the ability to work in a team, a strong work ethic, analytical and quantitative skills, communication skills, and leadership qualities. Skills can also be measured, and levels determined by skill tests. Most jobs require multiple skills, and likewise, some skills will be more useful for certain professions than others.

### **Why skill-based education is important?**

The word "skill" denotes the capacity for proficiency or knowledge in a given field. As a result, knowledge-based learning serves as the cornerstone for skill-based



learning. This gives the students an additional opportunity to improve their skills in their chosen field. Where students may organize, use, and practical process the knowledge. The students learn while they are working rather than spending hours ingesting information. As a result, when mastering a particular specialization, the student quickly acquires a complete comprehension of the principles when applied in practical circumstances. Additionally, it makes it possible for them to deliver high-quality work anytime a task is assigned.

#### **Skill in Education:**

These include empathy, time management, conflict resolution, adaptability, engagement, enthusiasm, multitasking, innovation, a passion for self-improvement and lifelong learning, and just plain old thinking on your feet. There are classes you can take for many of these skills. Skill-based learning is an approach to education that emphasizes developing practical skills and competencies that apply to real-world situations rather than just acquiring knowledge. Skill development is important in education because it prepares students for the demands of the workforce, enhances their social and emotional well-being, and helps them become more well-rounded individuals. An example of skill-based learning could be a project-based learning approach where students work collaboratively to design and build a sustainable garden, developing skills in teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity.

#### **Benefit of Skill Based Education:**

It often helps in breaking the monotony of a work life, creates interest in doing better at work and applying new techniques in achieving greater heights. The hands-on experience enhances the scope of applicability of the knowledge gained through training all the more. A skill-based curriculum helps students develop the skills and habits needed to continue learning throughout their lives. This includes critical

thinking, problem-solving, research, and self-reflection skills, as well as time management, organization, and goal-setting skills. Skill-based education is an effective way for students to acquire knowledge and develop essential skills. It encourages students to actively engage in learning rather than passively listening or memorizing information. With skill-based learning, students gain a deeper understanding of their subject matter as they practice analyzing, synthesizing, and applying information in various contexts.

The following are some of the benefits of skill-based education:

**Gaining experience:** Students are nurtured in skill-based education to become great leaders in the chosen sector. To support this process, students must think beyond academics and gain real-world skills. Unfortunately, these physical experiences are frequently missed in traditional teaching.

**Flexibility:** Skill-based education gives students ownership of their learning and helps them close the comprehension gap. The evaluation, rather than grades, proves their proficiency. The education process is a beautiful advantage for dropouts since they may go ahead without the need for a gap. The framework depends on the individual; students direct their learning through examinations and hands-on projects.

**Education with a purpose:** The conventional educational system has taught pupils to evaluate themselves regarding grades and test scores. Beyond test results, however, providing life skills-based education at a young age helps students prepare for the real world.

#### **Develop Critical Thinking:**

When student can study everything and express their opinions freely, they acquire advanced critical thinking skills and make better decisions overall. Additionally, interviews with well-known individuals and business people are displayed to students so that they may comprehend their attitudes and internalize such traits.

**Improves Creativity:** A schooling system that combines skill-based learning improves children's creativity. Schools must encourage kids to participate in hobbies such as dance, singing, and sketching, as the benefits of doing so extend beyond learning those specific abilities.

**Enhance Teamwork:** Students have the freedom to choose projects and topics to study when they receive a skill-based education. Students that operate together as a team begin to make decisions after consulting one another. This plays a significant role in their early growth, and they will undoubtedly pick up on teamwork and management skills.

**The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Skill Based Education:**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 lays the foundation for a transformative education system that aligns with Indian ethos, aiming to propel India towards becoming a global knowledge superpower. The NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of vocational education and skill development. It proposes that all students should receive vocational education from Class 9 onwards. Teacher Education Reforms: The NEP 2020 proposes a major reform of the teacher education system. NEP 2020 promotes skill-based education, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving. Inclusivity is a key focus, offering equal opportunities for diverse learners. Emphasis on local languages and cultures provides a global perspective.

**Measures that need to be taken up for developing skill base education:**

Following measures are to be taken for implementing NEP-2020 in fruitful manner-

- a) Revamping Curriculum: Set curriculum does not provide any chance of exploring new ideas, new skills and new innovation as students have to rote syllabus and get the marks anyhow. Open

curriculum promotes creativity, innovation and free thinking.

- b) Soft skills can bridge the employability Gap: Lack of soft skills is main obstacle in the path of getting employment for students. Many of suggestions have been raised for inculcating soft skills among Indian students which can make them more employable.
- c) Conduct employability assessments and training programs: Students lack the pre- requisites for college and often lack employability skills that should have been learned in school such as basic computer literacy, basic mathematics, English reading skills and deductive logic. Therefore, it is suggested that all incoming students should be assessed on basic skills. Then, institutions can provide 4 months training programs in students' gap areas which will improve graduation rate.

**Conclusion:**

Degrees are essential because they require a person to have some skills to obtain them. In order to meet the demands of changing world and face the challenges with confidence, it is necessary for the students to acquire skill based education. The skill based education enable the students to acquire confidence and to adapt to the changes in the educational environment which is not static but dynamic.

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