

A STUDY ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

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Abstract:

The Government of India plays its important role in implementation of Vocational Education in India. Under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, recognize the role of education and particularly Vocational Education. It indicates the potentially volatile growth of vocational education in the country as it requires all educational institutions to integrate vocational education into ordinary education.

Vocational education prepares people for work and develops citizens' skills to remain employable and respond to the needs of the economy. Vocational Education can be defined as skilled based education. It is the need for every citizen under the country to have the best vocational education system. It also helps in the way of economic growth as well as socially. This paper is an attempt to study vocational education in India and to study the new approach of NEP 2020 for increasing employability amongst the youth of India and in turn, leading to sustainability.

Keywords: *Vocational Education, implementation, economic growth, NEP 2020.*

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Introduction:

Vocational Education (VE) is a significant component of the nation's education initiative. The National Policy on Education (2020) recognizes the vital role of Vocational Education and the Ministry of Education (MoE) has already taken a number of important initiatives in this area. In order for Vocational Education to play its role effectively in the changing national context and for India to enjoy the fruits of the demographic dividend, the National Policy has reimagined the critical elements of vocational education to make it more accessible, flexible, contemporary, relevant, inclusive and creative. This document presents a comprehensive explanation of the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020 has envisaged a reimagining the role of Vocational Education in the current education system.

Vocational education is perceived to be inferior to mainstream education and meant largely for students who are unable to cope with the latter. This is a perception that affects the choices students make. It is a serious concern that can only be dealt with by a complete re-imagination of how vocational education is offered to students in the future. This policy aims to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with vocational education and requires integration of vocational education programmes into mainstream education in all educational institutions in a phased manner.

Beginning with vocational exposure at early ages in middle and secondary school, quality vocational education will be integrated smoothly into higher education. It will ensure that every child learns at least one vocation and is exposed to several more. This would lead to emphasising the dignity of labour and importance of various vocations involving Indian arts and artisanship.

NEP 2020 seeks to change this scenario by shifting the paradigm from a rote-based academic approach to a skill-based education system as it recognises the importance of vocational education and equips students with the necessary skills to thrive in a rapidly evolving job market.

Objectives:

1. To understand in the current scenario of vocational training hands-on experience in a specific field.
2. To understand how vocational education makes education more inclusive, equitable and holistic.
3. To study Vocational education which can make students more attractive to potential employers.

Implementation:

Implementation of the NEP 2020 requires various initiatives and actions, taken by multiple bodies in a synchronised and systematic manner. The policy provides different timelines as well as principles and methodology for its implementation. Therefore, the implementation of this Policy will be led by various bodies i.e., Union and State Governments, Ministry of Education (GoI), State Departments of Education, Various Boards, NTA, the regulatory bodies of school and higher education, schools, and HEIs, along with timelines and a plan for review, in order to ensure that the policy is implemented in its spirit and intent, through coherence in planning and synergy across all these bodies involved in education.

NEP 2020 provides for careful planning, joint monitoring and collaborative implementation by Central and States for full fledged execution of this policy. Timely infusion of requisite resources - human, infrastructural, and financial - at the Central and State levels will be crucial for the satisfactory execution of the Policy.

The progress of NEP 2020 is intended to be monitored through five themes, namely: Learner-centric education, Digital Learning, Industry-institute collaboration, Academic Research and internationalisation, and Indian Knowledge System.

Need of Vocational Education:

Vocational, or skills-based, education is becoming more and more important today, with many employers expecting new employees to have all the practical skills they need to start work and also for those who have to support their families immediately after senior secondary education.

Vocational courses are typically more practical and skills-based than academic degrees, but they are often taught at universities as well as colleges and technical institutes. Vocational Education and Training (VET) is an important element of the nation's education initiative.

Vocational education has to be viewed from different multi-layered practices. One is of course the hands on training component. The other is employment generation and sustainability. If you know exactly what you want to do in your career and it requires practical skills, then vocational learning is important. It could be hospitality and tourism, retail management, software development or interior design. There are literally thousands of skills



based training options out there. In today's technical world, even an engineering graduate is supposed to have some technical skills apart from the degree possessed by him or her i.e. in the form of certification etc.

National Education Policy 2020:

The National Education Policy 2020 proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of education, including the educational structure, regulations and governance, to create a new system which is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century students.

According to the policy, by 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to vocational education, for which a clear action plan with targets and timelines are to be developed. The policy aims to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with vocational education and integration of vocational education into mainstream education in all educational institutions in a phased manner. Beginning with vocational exposure at early ages in middle and secondary school, quality vocational education will be integrated smoothly into school and higher education.

Every child will learn at least one vocation and is exposed to several more. This would lead to emphasising the dignity of labour and importance of various vocations involving Indian arts and artisanship. By 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to vocational education, for which a clear action plan is prepared.

Research Methodology:

This research paper is based on secondary data used in the research that was collected using the internet, research journal and books.

Literature Review:

The review is based on research of Dr. Namita Sharma - Vocational education focuses on hands-on learning and prepares individuals for specific careers, catering to the diverse needs of the workforce. The importance of vocational education in the context of NEP 2020, examining its role in fostering skill development, enhancing employability, and contributing to the overall growth of the nation (Arshid Qalmi).

Conclusion:

Vocational Education strengthens any country's employment and the same way its economy. India being a developing world has come a long way to enhance and implement Vocational Education.

The National Education Policy 2020 has given due importance to vocational education and capacity development of teachers to boost the employability skills and vocational skills of the learners at all levels. Quality of vocational education is to be enhanced by identifying, designing and development of vocational courses that meet the common norms and skills standards identified at the national level.

NEP 2020 envisions an education system that not only imparts knowledge but also in stills critical thinking, creativity, and practical skills. Vocational education perfectly aligns with these goals by providing a platform for students to acquire hands-on experience, encouraging innovation, and fostering problem-solving abilities. The policy recognizes the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, wherein vocational courses complement academic learning.

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