

## NEW EDUCATION POLICY, 2020 : A STEP TO ACHIEVE SKILL BASED EDUCATION

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### Abstract:

*The Make in India campaign of our country aims to achieve higher economic growth for India. The Make in India campaign and Skill India Mission will succeed only when we have a larger skilled manpower in our country. The objective of this article is to understand the concept and importance of Skill based education. This paper focuses on the measures undertaken by New Education Policy 2020 with respect to promoting Skill based learning in higher education. It also brings out the challenges in implementing Skill based education.*

**Keywords:** *India, Challenges, New Education Policy, Skill Based Education, Vocational education, Skill India, Make in India.*

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### Introduction:

The talent skill gap is affecting the employability scenario significantly in all sectors of the economy. According to the International Labour Organization, by 2030 the world will witness skill deficit of 29 million. The main reason for this is the lacuna in the education system that does not consider the market requirements. In this scenario NEP 2020 is considered to be a blessing since it aims to promote skill based education that would help students to acquire industry relevant skills.

**Skill based Education a boost to Skill India Mission:** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) focuses on providing skills to the youth of our population so that they can contribute in development of our country. The objective is to provide India with a large skilled force. Some of the schemes undertaken to promote skills are

- 1.) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 2.0 :** It was launched in 2015 to promote skill development in our country by providing free short duration skill training. Monetary rewards are also given to the youth for skill certification.
- 2.) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0:** It was launched on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. The focus of this scheme was demand based approach. Due to the impact of COVID-19, this scheme emphasizes on upskilling with focus on future skills(industry 4.0). It also aims to provide online mode of training for broader coverage.
- 3.) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK):** In order to convert India into skill capital of the world, The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has set up Model Training Centres (MTCs) in every district of the country.

**4.) India International Skill Centres (IISC):** The government of India has taken the initiative to reduce the global shortage of skilled labour. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has set up the IISC to provide skill training and certification as per at par with international standards.

**5.) TEJAS-**( Training for Emirates Jobs and Skills) a skill India International Project was launched in 2022.

**NEP 2020**, through its Skill Based Education will help India to attain the Skill India Mission.

#### **Aims of New Education Policy wrt Skill based learning:**

The New Education Policy 2020 aims to change the Indian Education system. It focuses on Skill based education for the students. Apart from the theoretical knowledge, the students must also have the opportunity to acquire various skills such as communication, critical thinking, problem solving approach, creativity etc. The traditional subjects must be taught in such a way that it also promotes the various skills required for the holistic development of the students. In this way the entire youth of our country would be called as educated and skilled future of our country.

#### **Concept of Skill based Education:**

It is an education that aims to develop specific skills and competencies. It focuses on experiential learning and hands on training. It emphasizes on practical application of what the students have learnt. It aims to develop hard skills or soft skills. The students ability to perform a particular task helps to measure the success of skill based education. It includes problem solving approach and critical thinking. Hands on experience develops greater understanding of the theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom. It helps the students to upgrade those skills which are more relevant to their future goals and career. It emphasizes on life long learning since skills can be acquired throughout your lives. It is more career focused in comparison to traditional academic learning.

#### **Importance of Skill based education:**

This has given students an opportunity to embrace their hobbies. The students become active learners in Skill based learning. They have practical involvement in their studies. This education also improves their chances to get more job opportunities in life. Skill based education is market oriented and job oriented. The students gain enriching experience while they are learning by doing. It also improves the creativity of the students. Students learn about their likes and dislikes quite early in their life. It prepares the students to face the real world.

#### **Measures to promote Skill based Education:**

NEP 2020 has put forth following measures to promote skill based learning in high schools.

- 1) Vocational Education:** The policy focuses on vocational education. It advocates integration of vocational education in the traditional curriculum. This will help the students to acquire job oriented skills.
- 2) Internships and Apprenticeships:** It encourages the high schools to have partnership with local industries. The students have access to hands on training through internships and apprenticeships.
- 3) Project based learning:** It motivates students to get involved in real world projects. This develops various skills such as communication, collaboration, problem solving approach, creativity etc. In depth understanding of the subject matter is acquired.

4) **Technology integration:** The policy emphasizes including technology in the curriculum in order to develop the skills.

5) **Entrepreneurship Education:** The policy introduces Entrepreneurship education to encourage innovative thinking among students. This will help the students to become future entrepreneurs.

The NEP 2020, aims to introduce vocational education from sixth grade onwards. It also advocates for creation of a National Committee for the Integration of Vocational Education. It focuses on employability and emphasizes on developing technical and soft skills amongst graduate and post graduate students. Through the Skill based education initiative the government aims to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development to ensure inclusive and equitable education. It also aims to promote life long learning opportunities for all.

#### **Challenges in implementation of Skill based education in India:**

There are various challenges faced by our country.

- 1) **Inadequate infrastructure:** The existing infrastructure in the educational institutions is insufficient compared to the rising demand for labour. There is scarcity of highly trained trainers. There also has to be a judicious mix of theoretical and practical learning experience. Training the trainer is a greater challenge.
- 2) **Low mobility of students towards skill based programmes:** The approach of the parents and students towards skill development is still traditional. There is lack of awareness about the skill based learning. Students are also not able to pay their fees. Skilling have been associated with blue collar job which further implies low pay scales. Hence the government has to focus more on creating strong branding strategies for such schemes.
- 3) **Mismatch of the Skills:** There is a mismatch of skills required by the industry and skills imparted to the learner through educational institutions. This is because of very less interaction between the industry and the educational institutions. Hence there is an urgent need for including professionals from industries during the design of the curriculum.
- 4) **No focus on Non-technical skills:** There is only focus on technical skills. Whereas there is also need for other behavioral skills such as honesty, integrity, Communication, adaptability etc. This is also a greater challenge.
- 5) **Scalability:** There is insufficient involvement of private corporate sector. In rural areas it become a bigger challenge since people lack awareness about the credit facilities and schemes provided by the government.
- 6) **Employer's buy-in:** Many industries make their own skill training centres. There is lack of effort from both public and private sector.

#### **Conclusion:**

Skill development is most significant for development of every country in the world. Hence Skill based Education is the need of the hour. How-ever to achieve successful implementation of Skill Based Education a continuous and coordinated effort of all stakeholders, industries, all agencies, government, and students is needed. It is only when Skill based education is acquired by majority of our youth, it will support the Make in India Campaign and will add value to our economic growth and development.

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