

Importance of Skill Based Education

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Introduction :

Skill education or vocational education is called career education or Technical Education. This type of education prepares learners for jobs, practical activities & totally related to specific trade. The aspect of learning helps the students in having better dealing with the scenario of learning method. A set of basic rules that are gained through learning or with direct experiences in life are termed as 'Life skills'. These skills enable individuals to tackle various sorts of issues & problems effectively which are commonly faced in daily life. They are the abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable human beings to deal with every life challenges and situations effectively. Life skills are important as these bring positive effects in the life of an individual. All these skills are essential in 21st century to gain success not only for a healthy society but also for successful individuals. So, from early age of the children, it is important to evolve skill training. Children can struggle when it comes about real-world responsibilities. Giving them some options at the onset of teenage gives them the chance to explore and learn more things beyond their text books and whatever is taught in classrooms. Skills like team spirit, inquisitiveness, creativity, trustworthiness, sympathy, co-ordination and much more comes with the life skill activities. This process of learning may help the children to build a stronger foundation for a thriving future on the academic as well as at the professional front.

Learning skills are habits that can be used throughout the life to communicate effectively. They can continuously be developed and improved to accomplish daily tasks or achieve career milestones. Following skills are divided into five distinct categories. They are organizational skills, communication skills, collaboration skills, critical-thinking skills, creative skills.

Importance of skill Education :

When the Indian economy opened to the outside world through liberalization and globalization, it created a great demand for graduates with skill across vital industries, which led to secure more marks and degrees. The current pandemic has advanced the use of local products and has helped people recognize the importance of a skill-driven society. Students are the human capital of the country and it is essential to empower them for the development of the economy. There is flexibility in skill based education. The assessment of the students demonstrates their competency rather than grades and the education process is a great boon for drop-outs, as they can easily move ahead without a gap. Students are groomed to become successful in their chosen field. It also help students to receive a clear objective alongwith a vibrant culture. It promotes and develops the art of learning and overall development.

"Globalization and advancements in technology are driving changes in the social, technological, economical, environmental & political landscapes at a rate and magnitude that is too great and too multiple to ignore" (<http://www.Winona-edu/21st c./success.html>). As society changes, the skills that students need to be successful in life also change. Basic literacy skills of reading, writing and mathematics are no longer sufficient. Our students need to master those basic skills as well as read critically, write persuasively, think and reason logically and solve complex problems. A successful student must also be adept at managing information - finding, evaluating and applying new content understanding with great flexibility. They must be equipped with skills and perspectives designed to help them anticipate change and plan accordingly. This will help them to face any challenges in their way. Students who learn through skills based instruction are more likely to think at a higher level & solve problems on their own. They learn much faster when there are multiple

ways for them to absorb information. In 21st c the role of the teacher & student have changed dramatically. In the traditional model of education, the teacher was responsible for disseminating information to students. The student's primary responsibility was to consume & retain as many of the facts and figures as they could. In student centric class rooms, the role of the teacher changes to that of a facilitator and resource person. Often acting as a catalyst, the teacher helps the student to promote his/her individual learning.

Technology provides students with the opportunity via e-mails or discussion forums to ask questions & collaborate with other students in the understanding of the course content. This use of technology virtually gives the student access to the teacher at all times where they can ask & receive answers to their questions without having to speak in front of a large group. There are numerous multimedia programs designed to meet the special needs of diverse learners. For example a student learning English as a second language would benefit from a computer program where they could learn the language at their own pace. Another type of learner may memorize facts and details better if the information is presented in musical form. One cannot expect all teachers to teach in this way, but a computer program or multimedia application may have the capabilities of doing so without taking additional time away from other students. By utilizing such programs, a single teacher can employ many more resources and methods within one class room, rather than teaching the information in one manner to all students. Technology gives us the potential to embrace a student-centered model of education which clearly focuses on the student, but which would not limit, a student's access to the didactic process. Since learning is both a personal & active process, the individual student must become the primary agent responsible for implementing this process.

"The richness of the technology permits us to provide a richer & more exciting learning environment --- our concern is the new understandings and new capabilities that are possible through the use of technology" (Duffy & Cunningham 1996, p. 187). But integrating technology with constructivist methods, such as

problem-based learning & project based learning, learners are more responsible for & active in the learning process.

Acquiring Experience :

When the Indian economy opened to the outside world through liberalization and globalization, it created a great demand for graduates with skill across vital industries. The current pandemic has advanced the use of local products and has helped people recognize the importance of a skill driven society. In India 75% of the population is in working age. So employment becomes a major concerns. Students are the human capital of the country and it is essential to empower them for the development of the economy.

In skill based education, students are groomed to become successful leaders in their chosen field. To facilitate this process, it is paramount for students to think beyond marks and acquire real life skills. These tangible experiences are often overlooked in the traditional form of education. Education is important, but skill is necessary. We need hands- on skills for the simple reason that bookish knowledge can help us taste only limited success. Today, acquiring skill isn't just a technique, it is the very basic art of survival. Skills signify the dire need of the hour as it is the backbone of the country. People with skill-based education are better learners as they have learned from experience & continually keep adding inputs to their knowledge bank. Currently, the students going for higher education need to attend classroom sessions followed by hands on practice at designated labs & few visits to workshops. This needs to change. A beginning can be made by focusing more on hands-on-training rather than educating the students in classrooms and labs. By hands- on training means - giving them real life experience. For example - students of hotel management can complete their diploma by working at the hotel attached to the institution. In short a student will spend a major part of his study tenure with real-world experience. To implement this pedagogical model, we require sustained efforts from academia, industry and the Government. Industry has to come forward and convert college lab to production floors. So that the students learn about the value chain on an end - to - end basis. Academia has to be open to adopting a

curriculum with lots of hands-on practice and a model where the students can have real world practice. To ensure the implementation of the above mentioned points, policy intervention by the govt. will enable the academia & industry to set up the infrastructure and curriculum. For this, the new education policy should come up with attractive incentives and internship policies for the industry, academia as well as students.

Conclusion :

Skill & knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development of any country. The economy becomes more productive, innovative and competitive through the existence of more skilled human potential. Increase in quality of work has direct relation with productivity, which in turn is connected with skill availability of the workforce. In this context, it is necessary not only to create quality employment with sufficient skills. Increasing enrollment of the students in vocational courses by using digital market like social media, mobile technologies, or providing information via e-mail. Even Government should provide required materials for Vocational Courses or training and also should take interest on making industries, colleges, institutions etc. Where vocational training should be provided. It is also important to include vocational or skill-based education as a regular curriculum courses for students.

References :

- 1) National Skill Development Policy - 2009
- 2) <http://www.majuli.info/>