

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: A LEADING STEP TOWARDS TO BUILD ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

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ABSTRACT

Vocational education is the main pillar to develop practical and innovative skills among students that helps them to choose relevant career paths. It is the essential need of the hour for every nation to have a powerful vocational education system. Vocational education basically focuses on application based training instead of theoretical knowledge. The major goals of vocational education is to educate youth as expert technicians; create passion for work with innovative skills; enhance scientific knowledge to develop the economy; eliminate unemployment; provide self-employment opportunities; boost the productive potential of the economy and improve the economic standard of living of the country to make Atma Nirbhar Bharat. Vocational education helps the students to get highly rewarding jobs and makes them independent at a younger age. The Government of India takes various initiatives to promote vocational education such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), Green Skill Development Programme, etc. Vocational education creates a sense of responsibility among youth that helps to shape a brighter future for the nation.

Keywords: Atmanirbhar Bharat, Employment, Entrepreneurship, Skill-based Training, Vocational Education.

Vocational education provides skill-based training to students through diverse courses related to various career fields such as banking, health care, fashion designing, computer technology, trade, tourism etc. These skills help the individuals to start their own businesses and generate self-employment. The Department of School Education and Literacy implements the scheme of Vocationalisation of School Education under the umbrella of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Samagra Shiksha'. This scheme aims to integrate Vocational Education with general academic education to enhance the entrepreneurial and employability abilities of the students. This scheme covers Government schools as well as Government-aided schools. Under this scheme, National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) compliant vocational courses

are taught to the students from 9th to 12th class in the schools. At the Secondary level i.e. 9th and 10th class, vocational modules are offered to the students as an additional subject. At Sr. Secondary level, i.e. 11th and 12th class, vocational courses are offered as a compulsory (elective) subject. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a transformative framework that aims to make vocational education more accessible and inclusive by integrating it into mainstream education. Its main objective is to provide vocational education to at least 50% of learners in the school and higher education system by 2025. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken steps to facilitate higher education institutions across the country to provide skill-based education under the National Skill Qualification Framework

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(NSQF). The institutions have been allowed to offer full-time and credit-based programmes at the level of Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, B. Voc, P.G. Diploma, M. Voc. and Research with multiple entry & exit options. University Grants Commission (UGC) is also issued the guidelines for Higher Education Institutions to offer Internship / Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes in the year 2020. It develops practical and expertise skills among students that are necessary for success in a particular industry.

Yadav (2022) made a study and described the importance of vocational education with relevant examples. Skill development of the youth generation is an essential need to build self-reliant India. India is on its way to implement the key reforms for integrating and mainstreaming vocational education with general education.

Jain (2023) concluded that NEP 2020 is a remarkable step towards fulfilling the vision to make Atma Nirbhar through vocational education because vocational exposure increases their learning experience and provides holistic development at a professional as well as individual level.

Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the status of vocational education in India.
2. To know the need of vocational education to build Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
3. To study the various vocational courses that help the youth to get employment.
4. To evaluate the various government schemes to uplift the status of the Indian economy.
5. To make society aware of the importance of vocational education.

Research Methodology

This research study is based on secondary data that have been collected from various secondary sources such as journals, magazines, websites etc. It is the extensive review of several reports, research papers etc. to bring out the understanding of the present scenario of vocational education in India.

Discussion and Results

Vocational Education Courses

Vocational education courses play a prominent role to spread innovative skills among students that help them to work and choose the profession in their field of interest. Vocational education transforms the lives of students with practical skills that are required for changing demands of industries as well as the labour market.

Table 1- Courses by CBSE

Stream	Courses
Commerce based	Accountancy and Auditing; Banking; Business Administration; Financial Market Management; Marketing and Salesmanship; Office Secretaryship; Retail; Stenography and Computer Applications.
Engineering based	Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology; Automobile Technology; Civil Engineering; Electrical Technology; Electronics Technology; Foundry; Geospatial Technology; IT Application.

Health and Para Medical based	Auxiliary Nursing & Midwifery; Health and Beauty Studies; Healthcare Sciences; Medical Diagnostics; Medical Laboratory Techniques; Ophthalmic Techniques; X-Ray Technician.
Home Science based	Beauty Services; Design Fundamental; Fashion Design & Clothing Construction; Music Technical Production; Textile Design.
Agriculture based	Dairying Science and Technology; Horticulture; Poultry Farming.
Hospitality and Tourism based	Bakery and Confectionery; Food and Beverage Services; Food Production; Front office; Mass Media Studies and Media Production; Travel and Tourism.
Others	Library and Information Sciences; Life Insurance; Transportation System & Logistic Management.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vocational_education_in_India

Table 1 represents that CBSE provides various vocational courses that empower school students with necessary life and employability skills. The curriculum provided by the CBSE for skill education helps the young generation to upgrade their proficiency and prepare them how to excel in a competitive global environment.

Industrial Training Institutes

In 1950, Industrial Training Institutes

(ITIs) were established for imparting technical education and skills among students in a variety of vocational trades to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the country. The Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implements the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) through a network of ITIs across the country. The number of States/UTs wise Government ITIs and Private ITIs are as:

Table 2-Industrial Training Institutes

Sr. No.	States/UTs	Government ITIs	Private ITIs	Total ITIs
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	1	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	85	436	521
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	0	7
4.	Assam	31	15	46
5.	Bihar	150	1227	1377
6.	Chandigarh	2	0	2
7.	Chhattisgarh	120	112	232
8.	Delhi	17	36	53
9.	Goa	11	2	13
10.	Gujarat	274	229	503
11.	Haryana	160	229	389
12.	Himachal Pradesh	128	142	270
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	49	1	50

14.	Jharkhand	77	271	348
15.	Karnataka	275	1229	1504
16.	Kerala	149	315	464
17.	Ladakh	3	0	3
18.	Lakshadweep	1	0	1
19.	Madhya Pradesh	195	882	1077
20.	Maharashtra	422	620	1042
21.	Manipur	10	0	10
22.	Meghalaya	7	1	8
23.	Mizoram	3	0	3
24.	Nagaland	9	0	9
25.	Odisha	75	450	525
26.	Puducherry	8	7	15
27.	Punjab	116	235	351
28.	Rajasthan	165	1455	1620
29.	Sikkim	4	0	4
30.	Tamil Nadu	92	411	503
31.	Telangana	66	236	302
32.	The Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	4	0	4
33.	Tripura	20	2	22
34.	Uttar Pradesh	292	2971	3263
35.	Uttarakhand	105	82	187
36.	West Bengal	163	139	302
	Total	3,298	11,736	15,034

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2041507> (PIB Delhi, 05 Aug 2024)

The table 2 shows that at present there are 15,034 ITIs functioning in India out of which 3,298 ITIs are Government ITIs and 11,736 ITIs are private ITIs as on August 05, 2024. The maximum numbers of ITIs are in Uttar Pradesh. It enhances entrepreneurial skills among students that encourage them to commence their own businesses and contribute to economic growth of the nation.

World Youth Skills Day: To Recognize the Importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Vocational education develops various practical and innovative skills among youth. In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day to promote the development of skills among young people so that they can find employment, decent work and start businesses. So World Youth

Skills Day is celebrated every year on July 15 to recognize the importance of technical and vocational education and training.

Table 3- World Youth Skills Day: Themes from 2015 to 2024

Year	Theme
2015	Youth skills for work and life as per post 2015 agenda
2016	Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment
2017	Skills for the Future of Work
2018	Improving the Image of TVET (Technical & Vocational Education and Training)
2019	Learning to learn for life and work
2020	Skills for a Resilient Youth
2021	Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic
2022	Transforming Youth Skills for the Future
2023	Empowering teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future
2024	Youth Skills for Peace and Development

World Youth Skills Day gives the crucial priority to invest in youth skills development that foster innovation, drive economic progress and ensure a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

Role of Vocational Education to Build Atma Nirbhar Bharat

Vocational education helps the youth to better performance in the workplace because they acquire hands-on training and learning experience. There are numerous roles of vocational education to build Atma Nirbhar Bharat. These are as follows:

- **Economic Development:** The demand of skilled laborers in the various sectors grows day by day in the world. Skilled manpower is beneficial for the development of the economy because they engage in various

skilled based occupations to uplift the status of economy to achieve the target of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

- **Create more Employment Opportunities:** Vocational education equips students with specialized, innovative and practical skills that are in high demand in the job market. It helps the students to secure employment in a particular enterprise and often leads to higher-paying jobs.
- **Reduce Imports of Products:** Acquiring vocational skills by youth builds Atma Nirbhar nation by increasing the production of goods in the domestic country. It reduces imports of products and also increases exports that lead to an inflow of capital funds.
- **Helps in Career Decisions:** CBSE offers a wide variety of vocational courses that helps students in choosing a career according to their skills and interests. The students specialize more in their diverse professions that leads to move the economy towards Atma Nirbhar path.
- **Entrepreneurial Skills:** Vocational education provides those skills and knowledge to the students that require starting their own business or pursuing self-employment. It transforms their innovative ideas into reality to reach new heights of success.

Government Initiatives to Promote Vocational Education in India

National Council for Vocational Education and Training is a regulatory body formed in 2018 by clubbing National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and National Skills Development Agency (NSDA) to monitor the institutions engaged in providing short term and long term educational training in vocational

education and also to design the basic standards as well as guidelines required for operations of such institutions. The institutions under the control of National Council for Vocational Education and Training impart vocational education to 15 million students every year.

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) with purpose to skill Indian youth for secure a better livelihood. It includes Short Term Training, Recognition of Prior Learning, and Special Projects having focus on industry-relevant skills.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK):** PMKK under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

(MSDE) is a benchmark institution that aims to run industry-driven courses of high quality with focus on employability and create aspirational value skill development training. PMKK envisions transforming the short-term training ecosystem from a mandate-driven delivery model to a sustainable institutional framework.

- **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS):** Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) aims to provide technical training to the non-literates, neo-literates as well as school drop-outs in rural regions by identifying skills that have a relevant market in that region to raise their efficiency and enhance their livelihood opportunities. The courses offered by the Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) are a blend of technical and employability skills. JSSs offers 28 courses in 19 sectors. The sector-wise details of courses are as below:

Table 4-Jan Shikshan Sansthan: Sector-Wise Details of Courses

S.No.	Sector Name	Job Role	Duration (in days)
1.	Apparel, Made-Ups & Home Furnishing	Assistant Dressmaker	105
		Layerman	55
2.	Automotive	Automotive Assembly Assistant	110
		Automotive Washer	115
		Driving Assistant	85
		Helper-Two/three Wheeler Mechanic	105
3.	Beauty & Wellness	Beauty Care Assistant	105
4.	Capital Goods & Manufacturing	Assistant Welder & Technician	105
5.	Domestic Worker	Domestic Care Attendant	75
6.	Electronics & Hardware	Helper-Electrical Technician	105
		Helper-Wireman	105
7.	Environmental Science	Solar PV Project Helper	115
8.	Food Processing	Assistant-Fruits and Vegetable Processing and Preservation	75
9.	Gem & Jewellery	Packager, Labeller & Dispatcher-Diamond Processing	110

10.	Handicrafts & Carpets	Assistant Artisan-Bamboo Craft	105
		Assistant Carpet Weaver-Knotted	105
		Assistant Hand Embroider-(Phulkari/Chickankari/Kashmiri/Zari Zardori/Kantha)	105
		Assistant Jute Craft Product Maker	105
		Stringing/Beading Artisan (Fashion Jewellery)	115
11.	IT-ITES	Assistant Computer Operator	150
12.	Leather	Helper-Footwear Upper Making	115
13.	Mining	Assistant-Underground Mines	105
14.	Organised Retail	Retail Cashier	115
15.	Paints & Coatings	Painting Helper	125
16.	Plumbing	Assistant-Plumbing and Sanitary Work	105
17.	Rubber Industry	Plastic Waste Segregator	115
18.	Textiles & Handlooms	Assistant Textile Printer	105
19.	Wood & Carpentry	General Assistant-Furniture and Fittings Installation	105

Source: <https://jss.gov.in/>

- National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS):** National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) is launched in August 2016 aims to promote apprenticeship training in the country especially in MSMEs by reimbursing 25% of stipends up to Rs. 1500/month per apprentice. NAPS creates an industry-ready workforce through practical and on-the-job training for the Indian youth.
- Green Skill Development Programme:** Most of the vocational training programmes relate to mechanical/technical skills rather than 'soft' or 'green' skills. Green skills contribute to preserving or restoring environmental quality for a sustainable future and include those jobs which protect ecosystems and biodiversity, reduce energy and minimize waste and pollution. The Green Skill Development Programme

(GSDP), led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), is a key initiative aimed at developing skills in the environment and forest sector, helping India's youth secure meaningful employment or self-employment opportunities.

Under the Union Budget 2024-2025, the Finance Minister of India Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a new centrally sponsored scheme which is the 4th scheme of the Prime Minister's package for skilling in collaboration with State governments and industry. This scheme aims to skill 20 lakh youth over a 5-year period and upgrade 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

Conclusion

No doubt, vocational education led to Atmanirbhar Bharat because this type of education creates a skilled workforce that

promotes entrepreneurship and contributes to a knowledge-based economy. Vocational education is beneficial for students, society, economy etc. Vocational training helps the people to move forward to fulfill relevant targets. Vocational education training is based on LEARNING BY DOING that concentrates on learning through practice instead of theory that encourages the students to choose a competent profession according to their skills.

Implications

Vocational education sparks the passion of entrepreneurship and fosters a culture of innovation among the young generation. With the help of specialized vocational courses, school and college students can develop the crucial skills to turn their ideas into viable businesses and contribute to a flourishing entrepreneurial landscape. Vocational education becomes a prominent tool for economic and social upliftment that helps to move toward a brighter, more prosperous Atmanirbhar Bharat.

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