



Role of ICT in imparting the Youth with Skills, Training and Employment Opportunities

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Abstract:-

Information and communication technologies (ICT) offer innovative and new solutions that could empower the youth. Innovative ICT programmes can be used a catalyst to improve the quality of education system and provide greater access to vocational training. Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development in a country. Employment creation is one of the most significant channels through which growth translates into sustainable poverty reduction.

Keywords: - Information, Skill development, Education

Introduction:

Information and communication technologies (ICT) offer innovative and new solutions that could empower the youth. Although, these advances have emerged in India over the past decade, various challenges remain that prevent these technologies from being fully used. Unemployment in the country continues to deny digital inclusion to the masses of the Indian youth population. Innovative ICT programmes can be used a catalyst to improve the quality of education system and provide greater access to vocational training. Such programmes are applicable to a wide range of social services and can also introduce greater numbers to formalized banking and the formal economy. The primary obstruction to the success of these services is the relative high cost of internet connectivity for the youth. One finds that the youth is often uninformed of these benefits or see little value in using it. The possibilities in efficient deployment of ICT to modernise Technical and Vocational Skills Development curriculum, increase significance of skills provision and expand enrolment capacity of institutions.

India is among the “young” countries in the world, with the proportion of the work force in the age group of 15-59 years, growing steadily. However, present status shows only 2% of the total employees in India have undergone skills development training; India can become the worldwide sourcing hub for the skilled employees. Skills and knowledge are the motivating force of the financial growth and community development of any country.

Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development in a country. As opposed to developed countries, where the percentage of skilled workforce is between 60% and 90% of the total workforce, India records a low 5% of workforce (20-24 years) with formal vocational skills.

Unemployment is a driver of poverty: Unemployment is a major factor in India which traps the population in a state of poverty. Unemployment is fuelled by the country’s poor performing education sector which is plagued by a large number of school system dropouts. Thus the formal skills base in the country is very low. Employment creation is one of the most significant channels through which growth translates into sustainable poverty reduction.

Measures to improve the role of ICT in imparting the youth with skills, Training and employment opportunities:

- Promoting Digital Inclusion
- ICT based employment opportunities for the low skilled unemployed
- Providing public ICT access at libraries and communities centres
- Offer ICT skills training programmes at such facilities
- Offer vocational training programmes via ICT
- Promote ICT based employment opportunities targeted to disadvantaged youth
- Promote public-private partnerships that provide companies incentives to source employees from publicly-funded training schemes.
- Promoting Financial Inclusion

Measures taken by the government of India for the development of skills among the youth:

- **National Skill Development Mission**

The National Skill Development Mission launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on July 15, 2015, aims to create convergence across sectors and States in terms of skill training activities. Besides consolidating and coordinating skilling efforts, it also aims to

expedite decision making across sectors to achieve skilling at scale with speed and standards. To rapidly scale up skill development efforts in India, by creating an end-to-end, outcome-focused implementation framework, this aligns demands of the employers for a well-trained skilled workforce with aspirations of Indian citizens for sustainable livelihoods.

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana**

According to Census 2011, India has 55 million potential workers between the ages of 15 and 35 years in rural areas. At the same time, the world is expected to face a shortage of 57 million workers by 2020. This presents a historic opportunity for India to transform its demographic surplus into a demographic dividend. The Ministry of Rural Development implements DDU-GKY to drive this national agenda for inclusive growth, by developing skills and productive capacity of the rural youth from poor families.

There are several challenges preventing India's rural poor from competing in the modern market, such as the lack of formal education and marketable skills. DDU-GKY bridges this gap by funding training projects benchmarked to global standards, with an emphasis on placement, retention, career progression and foreign placement.

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana**

This is the flagship scheme for skill training of youth to be implemented by the new Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). The scheme will cover 10 million youth during the period 2016 -2020. Under this Scheme, Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government. Skill training would be done based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards.

- **Financial Assistance for Skill Training of Persons with Disabilities**

The Scheme aims at providing financial assistance for skill training for persons with disabilities. The scheme will cover Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) with not less than 40% disability and having a disability certificate to this effect issued by a competent medical authority. 30% reservation for women candidates: As an endeavour to encourage women, 30% of the total intake of each training program shall be earmarked for women candidates.

The scheme will operate through training institutions recognised by this Department as per the eligibility conditions contained in this scheme.

Conclusion:

The key issues that must be addressed are:

- Reduction of Poverty and Inequality in the Country
- Improved levels of education completion with greater emphasis on the quality of the education output.
- Promotion of employment especially in the Industrial and Services sectors.
- Absorption of the unemployed in the short and medium term whilst paying attention to the longer term requirements
- Introduction of ICT based vocational training
- Reduction of Internet Services Costs in the mobile and fixed line spaces.

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