

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A ROAD MAP FOR
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

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ABSTRACT

Skill development concept is not very well developed and recognized properly in India. In urban and rural areas, various training centers have been established to impart skill development activities to the individuals such as literacy skills, computer skill, artisan skill, production skill, manufacturing skill and so forth. India has progressively advanced as an aware country because of the wealth of competent, intelligent and experienced human resources. Decent work deficits are severe and are exacerbated by the lack of access to social protection, low rural incomes, absence of labour law coverage and a high degree of informality in rural India. Agriculture is still the main economic activity in rural areas by nature. Rural skills are traditionally associated with workplace and occupational profiles in natural resource dependent sectors especially modern and traditional farming systems. In India around 75% of the populace lives in villages. Rural India, therefore, is not only rich in natural resources but also produces the bread butter for the whole nation. In spite of such an enormous potential in rural India, thousands and millions of people migrate every day to urban areas in search of employment and livelihood. This is only because of the lack of development in rural areas. Entrepreneurship plays an important role in the economic development of a nation. Skilled workers and entrepreneurs are the need of the hour to support the skill landscape in rural areas especially to youths. This paper attempts to know the relevance and scheme the of skill development which provided and supported by central and state governments for rural entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Skill Development, Employment, Rural India, Entrepreneurship, economic empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

In India around 75 % of people live in villages. Rural India, therefore, is not only rich in natural resources but also produces the bread butter for the whole nation. In spite of such an enormous potential

in rural India, thousands and millions of youth migrate every day to urban areas in search of employment and livelihood. This is only because of the lack of development in rural areas. For want of well established infrastructure in rural areas, lack of facilities for education and financial support, a huge portion of the rural human resources goes waste. Recently, government has launched “Make in India” program which is an initiative in this area. There is an urgent need for more focus on setting up new industries and manufacturing units in rural India so that the country can utilize the human resources in a more efficient manner. The rural areas will thus become the power house of holistic growth in India. There is, therefore, a need for enhancement of knowledge and development of skills in the rural population for youths.

Objectives of the Study

The followings are the objective of the study. 1. To study the present skill capacity of India. 2. To study the challenges faced by skill development system in India. 3. To suggest possible solutions or ways forward.

Research Methodology

The present study mainly is based on secondary data and information is collected from the concerned sources. The books, documents of ministries, articles, newspaper and websites are used for the topic concerned.

Background of Study

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation has said that the strength of India lies in its villages. Rural areas contribute significantly to the overall growth and economic development of a country. However, many issues still plague the villages of India such as poverty, water scarcity, malnourishment, lack of basic facilities, illiteracy, unemployment, anti-social elements, etc. While many of these exist from time immemorial, unemployment seems to be the major threat in today’s scenario with the ever growing population. Effective utilization of resources and availability of skilled individuals help in ensuring that developmental activities do not get compromised. Thus, skill development plays a major role. Skill is required: I. To improvement employment II. To reduce poverty III. To provide livelihood opportunities IV. To enhance productivity V. To promote environmentally sustainable development.

Concluding Remarks

In India, the concept of skill development has been largely recognized and many programs and policies are being formulated to initiate this concept not only amongst the individuals in urban areas but in rural areas as well. NSDCB and NSDC are the organizations that have formulated policies for skill development amongst the individuals and besides these there are vocational training centers. In India, rural masses are still in a backward condition, steps therefore have been implemented to develop skills amongst them for the purpose of obtaining self-sufficiency in resource utilization, governance and leadership. The different kinds of other skills which can open ways towards development of the individuals are literacy skills, computer skills, craftsmanship, manufacturing, trading skills and so forth. The majority of Indian rural youth enter the labor market without adequate vocational skills, leading to unstable, informal, low-wage employment, such as casual labor and various forms of selfemployment. In India, the bulk of employment is in rural areas and in the unorganized sector, and almost all manufacturing firms are in the informal sector. Obviously, this lack of skills creates serious constraints on the production and innovation capabilities of Indian industries, and based on the discussion above, some suggestions for policy may be offered here. First, for India to promote industrial development and achieve sustainable growth, it must increase its investment in education and training for rural youth. In particular, to move further into a knowledge-based economy and move up the value chain, it is indispensable for India to improve the quality of education at every level. Second, the focus of India's skills development system does not correspond to either the level of skills demanded by industry or the overall levels of education of most young people. Thus, the government must ensure that most rural young people at least finish lower secondary school Third, to open training opportunities for youths who have not completed secondary education; it would be helpful to create more courses at ITIs with lower levels of educational requirements. Fourth, training for the informal sector needs to be strengthened. For transforming its demographic dividend, an efficient skill development system is the need of the hour. Therefore to achieve its ambitious skilling target, it is imperative to have holistic solutions of the challenges instead of piecemeal interventions.

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