The State Of Technical Education And Dream Of ‘Make In India’

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Abstract: The aim of the study is to analyze the situation of Higher Education and moreover technical education in the country which is focused to increase human capital for the economy. The education, which is one of the basic inputs, reflects the qualitative aspects of the working population and should be under the constant watch of the governance. The negligence in the policy making of education at any level primary, secondary as well as higher can demolish the economies any day. The human capital, if well trained and well educated, can lead to economic development and growth. With all the accessories of natural wealth and assets, the economies stand nowhere without human capital. Being one of the youngest countries of the world, India need to concentrate on the human capital. Keeping in mind, the long run vision and tasks, the focus on skill-oriented education is a must. The country is leading to vocational education system further concentrating on specialization in various segments so as to improve upon the work force. This kind of skill-oriented education in all the states will encourage employment and entrepreneurship as per their local market and industrial requirements. The education pattern of the country needs a serious study to improve the working population so as to make India one of fast-moving industrial countries of the world.

Index Terms: Economic Development, Technical Education, Entrepreneurship, Employment, Education Policy, Skill oriented

1 INTRODUCTION

India is also moving through a phase of demographic transition with young population outnumbering the children and the senior population. This cohort of the young working population is opening prospects for the development of education, health, banking and many other service sectors in the country giving a challenge to the economy to change its occupational structure. India is amongst the young countries of the world with an average age of 29 years, leaving China behind after 2030 in its demographic composition. Even though India is having the bubbling youth, the country is still in the developing phase lagging behind the other Asian countries also like China, Japan and Korea as these countries have the strategy of focus on the technical education, research and development.

1.1 Objectives

Keeping in view the government efforts to fulfill the dream of ‘Make in India’ and the need of spreading technical education, the study has set the following objectives

1) To analyze the age structure of the population in India.
2) To examine the situation of youth opting for the technical education in India.
3) To recommend the need of prompt action of the policy makers.

1.2 Review of Literature

The higher education especially the skill based higher education holds the key to fulfill the dream of ‘Make in India’. The literature supports the program of the government along with the need to establish an effective higher education system in the country. The observation of the knowledge that has undergone changes from basic traditional mode need to be evaluation [1]. In a report published focusing Transforming India by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the skill upgradation of workforce was one of the major suggestions where the report ended up with the effective education and skill development as key holders to demographic dividend [2]. Bishnoi analyzed that the Make in India policy is designed to transform India into new global manufacturing hub. To make India a manufacturing powerhouse, the major focus is on job creation and enhancement of skill in major sectors in India. While analyzing the exploratory research, Bishnoi had talked about six major hurdles in the path of the implementation of this program. The major hurdles are land acquisitions, labour laws, multiple taxation, Companies Act,2013, poor governance and police raj. The lack of upcoming entrepreneurs in India is another hurdle which is required to be concentrated upon with shutting out the industrial rigidities [3]. The reports released by the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) reveals that the gross enrollment ratio is increasing every year with equal participation and access of all categories in the sector. But the gender biasedness is still observed but the participation in technical education as the reports from the Statistics of Higher and Technical Education publication 2011 mentioned 0.88 of gender parity index in higher education [4]. Barbara J. Bank (2007) criticized the sex-based module in education sector and is of the opinion that it is an obstacle in the field of development and thus the technical education should be neutral and updated. The female participation in both education and work can make an environment for the entrepreneurship in the country which can further lead to the ‘Make in India’ dream come true [5].

1.3 Data sources and Methodology

The data has been taken from the official website of Office of the Registrar General of India, Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Centre of Statistical Office (GSO) and Directorate of Economic and Statistics of States. The official government reports of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, AISHE Reports, Statistics of Higher and Technical Education are also the basis of this secondary data. The input to the dream of making India a manufacturing hub in the world is the proportion of the young population opting for the technical education which is very low. The effort has been made through the analysis of the secondary data from the above said official sources applying statistical methods to analyze the ground reality on the one end and the dream and agenda of the Government on the other end.
1.4 Composition of Age structure and demand of technical education in India

India is one of the oldest civilizations with a demographic diversity. This diversity has led India to grow at its own pace, creating differentials amongst the states. India is having young population more than the dependent population segments in almost all the states. This favourable composition of age structure has beautifully carved the Indian market to consumerism. The increasing demand of service sector especially the fields of education, health, banking, transportation and communication has turned the occupation pattern of the country. The composition of age structure varies in all the states, but the North-South divide is quite prominent in the country as far as the demographic diversity is concerned [6].

The figure-1 depicts the composition of age structure of population in India. The young population has started increasing with falling birthrate where (0-4) years of children both males and females are less in number than the succeeding age group of (5-9) years of children. The proportion of population in the age segment of (10-14) years stands maximum with 11.14% of the males and 10.77% of the females. This phase of demographic change is leading India to be one of the youngest countries in the world in near future with 42% of the population less than 19 years of age.

The figure-2 depicts the literates among the working age population in India. Amongst the total population, the proportion of literates in the age group of (15-64) years is the working age population [7], 61% of total working age population was literate in 2001 and 71.7 % of the total working population was literate in 2011[8]. This situation demands a need of qualitative change strategically. “With 356 million (10-24) year old, India has the world's largest youth population,” marks the United Nations Population Fund’s (UNFPA) in the State of the World’s Population report 2014 [9]. Despite of the bubbling youth in India, the demand for higher education is very less. Out of the said segment the approach to the technical education is even poorer. Jayant Krishna, CEO, the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) remarked on the challenge that exists in the skill sector in India that only 30 percent of the professional elite, which largely includes engineers, MBAs and so on are employable and thus skillling is a challenge whose time has come [10]. The technocrats are required to be retained in India not only in the manufacturing industry but also in academic arena. On the average, the proportion of India’s working age population is quantitatively increasing but qualitatively poor in moving the country in the direction of ‘Make in India’. Among the total working age population, less than 1% of the youngsters are technical diploma knowledge holders and less than 2% are technical degree holders as per the census 2011. This is a crisis like situation where the young technocrats who are the drivers of growth of the nation to be a manufacturing hub are lacking.

The figure 3 depicts the number of technical diploma holders in India in different literate working age groups. This proportion of the total diploma holders among literates was 0.95% in 2011. Among them participation of males is more than 70%. The unexplored female participation in the technical field requires high incentives by the government. The human resource is the major factor which should not be left underutilized [11].
The figure 4 depicts the technical degree or equivalent to degree holders in India is 0.87% which is again very low. The pathetic part of the scenario is that the rural participation is just 0.27% whereas the technical degree holders in all age groups from urban areas are 2.07%. The technical degree holders amongst the literate working age population is very low in India. The three tier system of administering the higher education needs efficient working on strategic policies in skill oriented education. Though UGC has geared up on working in the direction with community colleges and Deen Dyal Upadhaye skill kaushal scheme, still many more efforts are required through a proper channel of technical segment not merging the traditional branches of higher education to the technical ones[12].

1.5 CONCLUSION
The government should focus on drafting the higher education policy and put efforts to give the opportunity to youngsters to achieve skill-based education with modern updates from all around the world economies. The easy loans to the youngsters who have an inclination for entrepreneurship should be encouraged. The young segment of the country should be sensitized towards the entrepreneurial skills along with their skill-oriented education. The higher education system should be given more autonomy so that the universities and colleges could work according to the needs of local industrial and market segmentation making the educational pattern more productive employment-oriented. This opportunity needs to be utilized to make the country a leading advanced economy of 21st century. The country holds a position to carry forward in the arena of manufacturing sector. The major supporting reforms are required in education, health and employment. These schemes, if successfully work along with the efforts of academic bodies to enhance skill-oriented education, will work wonders in the fulfillment of the dream of ‘Make in India’.

REFERENCES