Skill development for youth: Need and Modalities

Dr.Satish Shirsath Professor

Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension, University of Pune, Pune.

The United Nations has defined youth as 'persons between the ages of 15-24'. About 84% of world's youth 's live in developing countries(UN .,2007). It is shocking truith observed by ILO (2005b) that, in 2000 about 25% of world's population (which is 238 million)was reported to be living in extreme poverty (http://www.igidr.ac.in/pdf/publication/WP-2011-009.pdf)

Key words - youth, employment, unemployment, Continuing Education, lifelong Learning.

* Who are youth?

The United Nations has defined youth as 'persons between the ages of 15-24'. About 84% of world's youth 's live in developing countries(UN .,2007). It is shocking truith observed by ILO (2005b) that, in 2000 about 25% of world's population (which is 238 million) was reported to be living in extreme poverty (http://www.igidr.ac.in/pdf/publication/WP- 2011- 009.pdf)

* Problem of unemployment among youth-

The dissussion regarding employment of youth which took place in the International Labour Conference (ILO) 2005 utters that, there were many young workers who didn't have access to decent work. Many youth are either underemployed or between jobs ,or working unacceptably long hours under informal ,intermittent and insecure work arrangements. While

doing it, they don't have possiblity of personal and professional development. They get meagre salary In both rural and urban areas they have to work in very pathetic condition. Their nature of work is also very uncertain; such as temporary, part-time. They have to work in seasonal employment too(http://www.igir.ac.in/pdf/publication/ WP-2011-009, pdf)

So far Indian situation is concerned, (especially after Independence) there is an increase in educational infrastructure which include schools and colleges. Obviously there was an increase in enlorement too. However the proportion of youth in the labour force has been declining. Some facts regarding employment & unemployment situation will make this picture clear (Planning commission.nic.in-repots/genrep/.../32,bg2020.pdf)

- In the year1999-2000, 7.32% of the labour force, was employed. Since this statistics, is on Daily status basis, the number of unemployment also includes the number of those who are unemployed in terms of underutilization of the labour time. But it excludes such underemployed who are working at very low levels of income and productivity.
- -In the category of employed persons, the extent of poor is high. Many of such (employed workers) are engaged in subsistance employment.
- Among the total employment, merely 8% are in organized sector. Others who are from unorganized ,informal sectors, are deprived from several healthy working conditions, safety measures and social benefits and measures.
- So far the Educational status and skill profile of existing workforce is concerned, isn't sound.
- The distribution of workers by the status of employment shows the fact that there is increse in the percentage of employees who are on regular wages/ salaried(in all areas). However, the increase in the casual labour cannot be neglected.
- The employment rates in India by age group reveal the employment rate in India in following years,

1983,1993-94,2004-05,2007-08. The unemployment rate is considerably high in youth population (15 to 19,20 to 24 & 25 to 29). There is a sad assumption that, the persons who desire and employment are pushed in unemployment.

- It is apt to know the vulnerable population among youth. The figure makes clear that, the Indian youth consists of 40% vulnerable population (i.e. 25% non-actively seeking jobs ,4% unemployed & 11% working poor). While framing the policy for youth employment, it is very much necessary to think of the 40% vulnerable population as well as 28% students too. There are following reasons to chalk out skill development activities for students.
- As the golden gavgada system is almost dilapidated, the students don't have an access to learn traditional professions. This dilapudation of gavgada has no doubt helped in wiping out the caste system, the chances of informal Education mode in imparting traditional professions have been disappeared.
- -The students need to learn skills for employment independently. Such chances are not included in formal education on large extent.
- -In present scenario, some skills are not so far acquiring employment is concerned. Such skills get changed fast.

Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning Approach –

So far imparting skill development for youth, following aspects need to be considered.

9 - Psycho-social status and educational condition of target population, - nature of them, - market situation, - future sustainability of job, - nadministrative and other requirements etc. While thinking such aspects, the availability of time to target population ,place of training, syllabus, methodological aspects need to be considered. These are the features of Continuing Education.

As the need for continuing the knowledge throughout the life has been recognized, every where the scope of education has been spread. The explosion of knowledge, availability of knowledge through internet, availability of print and other material has throughout change in the role of teachers(from mere teacher to facilitator). The globalization has brought out the change in teaching methods too. Individuality has replaced collectivity. Hence the Lifelong Learning Approach obtained immense importance, where the target population has to assist for learning as per his/her requirements. In such cases the modalities can be modified.

References-

1.http:// WWW.igidr,<u>ac.in</u> / pdf/publication/ WP - 2011,099 .pdf(accessed on September. 30,2012).

2.<u>http://www.igidr.ac.in</u>/pdf/ publication/WP ,2011- 099.pdf(accessed on September, 30,2012) 3.Planning Communication .<u>nic.in/</u> reports/ genrep/.../32_ bg2020.pdf(accessed on September. 30,2012).