



Training needs of the rural students in India – challenges in creation of rural employability

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Abstract: Indian rural youth are suffering from severe unemployment & redundancy. Even though globalization has opened innumerable probabilities of career advancements, rural youth are sidelined because they lack basic skills & vocational skills. Rural youth need to be trained in vocational skills as there is a need to empower rural youth towards sustainability. Education & training has become a critical issue for rural youth. Lack of skills & the opportunity for skill training are a major reason for increasing unemployment among rural youth. As education level of the rural youth is very low, the opportunities towards great career are also very meager. Most of the training providers concentrate on urban youth while rural youth are not at all brought under the purview of skill training. Vocational training for rural youth can be extended through governmental interventions in educational policy making. Training for self-employment has also been receiving increased attention. This paper examines the need for training rural youth in creating employability & the need for integrated educational policy involving employability skills.

Keywords: Rural youth, vocational skills, sustainability, skill training, integrated educational policy

Introduction- in India rural youth can become powerhouse if they are utilized properly. Government interventions in providing vocational training are required. Farm sector has to be made attractive through employment generation networking. Skill providers – both governmental & non-governmental have to make the rural youth find good careers in rural regions. This can stop them from migrating to urban areas. Creation of alternate livelihoods can make rural youth stay back in villages. Rural youth are assets of rural communities. They are the potential to make agriculture sustainable. With proper & timely guidance they can lead rural communities towards achieving sustainability (Hegde N. G. –India's rural development challenges December 2010).

Key indicators

Rural migration - Census data 2011 shows that over a 22 million youth move out of rural to urban areas in search of employment. The pressure of demography has led to rural migration to urban centers as nearly 15 million farmers left agriculture between 1991-2011, though India is the second largest share of farm production. Agriculture has lost its place as a livelihood resource. In the absence of alternate employment opportunities, rural people are fleeing away from agriculture. Besides farmers get only 10-30% of the value of their produce. Lack of irrigational support, electricity, health care infrastructure, farmers feels rural living as oppressive & burdensome. Census data 2011 shows that over a 22 million youth move out of rural to urban areas in search of



employment. This depletion poses a severe threat to nation's progress. (Desai & others -India Human Development in India challenges for a society in transition 2010).

Farm sector -India has 600 million farmers making it as 1/3 rd of the world population & most of them are losing interest in agriculture as farm sector is undergoing heavy changes due to globalization. food crop production has taken over by commercial crop cultivation .Agriculture and allied sectors contributed 51.9 per cent growth in 1950-51, which has come down to 13.7 per cent in 2012-13. (Report on World Development Indicators Participation In Education World Bank Report 2014.).

Unemployment -According to the world youth report of 2011 at least 20% of the unemployed youth worldwide have the potential to become entrepreneurs but less than 5% take the risk. Access to capital, internet bases technology, effective management and supporting services such as credit, marketing, research and extension can create rural employment. (John M Riley- Stake Holders In Rural Development).

Rural literacy – Rural literacy rate is 71% in rural India as compared to 86 % is urban India (2014) (The Report of the NSSO 2014). In rural India 4.5% of the males & 2.2 % of the females completed graduation while in urban areas this was 17 % & 13 % respectively. As regards computer literacy, only 6% of the rural households had computers. 16% of the rural households had internet access. Unemployment in rural India experienced increasing trend as the following table shows rural urban differences for 2014.

Government policy towards rural Youth :

Government has framed several programs for skill training through the ministry of rural development .

1. Integrated rural Development Program -IRDP 1980
2. Swarna Jayanthi Grameen Swarozgar Yojana 2004
3. National rural employment guarantee scheme 2005
4. Ajeevika skills guidelines 2013

Government has formulated these policies towards vocational training of rural youth which are aimed at

1. Capacity building programs for rural youth
2. Demand driven training programs
3. Employment oriented computer skills programs
4. Growth sector oriented skill training programs
5. Placement driven skill training programs
6. Rural women skill training programs

Recommendations towards rural youth

preparedness- rural youth need to be prepared in employability skills besides government has to think of alternate support through support to farm sector, Support to Creation of alternate livelihoods, Support to Expanding literacy

Support to improving their skills, Support to Developing leadership Support to Rural entrepreneurship promotion programs.

Improving their capabilities - Improving their capabilities to produce food and to conserve productive resources in the rural environment. Small rural non - farm business establishments have to be added to sustainable community which



can support rural youth. Through NGO involvement in trainings at local levels leadership development organizational support with various kinds of networking. This will help them to occupy themselves in good jobs. (Report of the Department of Agriculture 2012-2013-2014).

Improving their skills -Improving their skills and abilities in carrying out income generating activities in rural areas can boost rural economy & expand rural markets. Rural youth need training in technical & vocational skills direct employment generation programs, integration of urban youth in agricultural sector , community development character building through work ethics civic education. But a legal frame has to be added to all rural youth programs.

Support to farm sector- Relieving population pressure from farm and improving nutrition and the wellbeing of farming families , providing subsidies , providing incentives , strengthening health care infrastructure , Farm sector has to be made attractive through employment generation networking .Skill providers – both governmental & non-governmental have to make the rural youth find good careers in rural regions. (Report of the Department of Agriculture 2012-2013-2014). Government should stop marginalizing or ignoring the contribution of the agricultural and agro-industrial sectors when formulating national policies and programmes (Ramakrishna. H .The Emerging Role of NGOs in Rural Development of India -International Journal of Social Science & Interdisciplinary Research IJSSIR, Vol. 2 (4), APRIL (2013).

Expanding literacy-Informal educational activities in areas such as agriculture

health nutrition literacy population environment are needed. Informal education can be made to help larger number of youth at a given time with adaptability flexibility & local support. As education level of the rural youth is very low, the opportunities towards great career are also very meager. Most of the training providers concentrate on urban youth while rural youth are not at all brought under the purview of skill training. Vocational training for rural youth can be extended through governmental interventions in educational policy making

Developing leadership -Developing leadership and the ability to work well with others in group and community situations for rural youth can be a supportive strategy . Their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behavior are of vital importance in the implementation of sustainable agricultural and rural development programmes.

Creation of alternate livelihoods - Creation of alternate livelihoods can make rural youth stay back in villages. Rural youth can be engaged in agro marketing , agro research . farm research . A National policy has to be outlined within a framework for the structural transformation of primary production and the establishment of linkages for the development of a vibrant and profitable agro-industrial sector. (Report of the Department of Agriculture 2012-2013-2014). This can involve youth towards alternate employment.

Rural entrepreneurship promotion - Through promotion of rural entrepreneurship rural youth can be made to find good career . Rural youth needs capacity building in market research , consumer behavior research , Agro processing research , farm price



trend research , food science research , export market research , etc ,

Conclusion – Thus there is a need for training rural youth in creating employability & the need for integrated educational policy involving employability skills. In India rural youth can become powerhouse if they are utilized properly. Government interventions in providing vocational training are required.. This can stop them from migrating to urban areas. Rural youth are assets of rural communities. They are the potential to make agriculture sustainable. With proper & timely guidance they can lead rural communities towards achieving sustainability. A supportive environment that creates conditions for entrepreneurship need to be developed. The notion of disillusionment about farming has to be eradicated. Youth are the present & future of country. A well education & trained youth population gives a country enormous potential for economic & social development This is the time where youth should be viewed as an investment opportunity & are treated as partners in the development process

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