GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2666
ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024

INTEGRATION OF SKILL BASED COURSES IN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

#2666   SMT. DARSHANA SINGH: SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:
DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a)   the specific strategies implemented by Government to ensure effective integration of skill-based courses in undergraduate programmes through partnership with University Grants Commission; and

(b)   the steps taken to make emerging technologies courses, such as AI and data analytics accessible to students of diverse fields and institutions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a):   In tune with National Education Policy 2020, the UGC has developed Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes". Artificial intelligence, 3-D machining, Bigdata analysis, Machine learning, Drone technologies, and Deep learning with important applications to health, environment, and sustainable living are part of digital and technological solutions under the value-added courses of undergraduate programmes. UGC has also developed Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs) named "Cyber Security" which is available on SWAYAM Platform. Further UGC, on the occasion of Cyber Jaagrookta Diwas, launched a syllabus on Cybersecurity Course for Undergraduate and Post Graduate.

UGC has facilitated Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country to offer skill-based programmes under National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF). The main objective of the skill programmes under NSQF is to integrate relevant skills into the higher education system in order to make higher education relevant to the learner and the community. The HEIs can offer skill programmes at the Certificate, Diploma, B.Voc (UG) and M.Voc (PG) levels. UGC NSQF Guidelines provide for multiple entry and exit options which enable the working population to join the formal education system at any point of time. The skill programmes promote active linkages between the academia and the industry as the relevant industry partners help the institutions in framing the course curriculum, evaluating the skill component of the syllabus and offering internships to students. UGC's skill development programme has attempted to benefit all sections of the society across the country.

(b):   Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has taken the following steps to make the courses in emerging technologies available and accessible to the candidates:

(i)   Under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), approx 200 new age/future skills job-roles have been specially aligned with Industry 4.0 requirements in areas like AI/ML, Robotics, Mechatronics, Drone Technology, etc. for upcoming market demand and industry requirements.

(ii)   General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of MSDE has introduced 29 new age /future skills courses in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) under CTS to provide training in emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Mechatronics, Internet of Things, Cybersecurity, Semiconductor, etc.

(iii)   DGT has signed MoU with IT Tech companies like IBM, CISCO, Future Skill Rights Network, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft to ensure industry linkages for the institutes at the state and regional levels under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. These partnerships facilitate the provision of technical and professional skills training in modern technologies.

(iv)   Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) established at Ahmedabad and Mumbai, in Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode, aims to cultivate an industry-ready workforce for Industry 4.0, equipped with cutting-edge technology and hands-on training.

(v)   National Skill Development Corporation under the aegis of MSDE has partnered with a number of international organizations such as AWS, Microsoft, Intel, Redhat, Pearson VUE, Boston Consulting Group (BCG), Cisco Networking Academy for providing digital courses.

(vi)   MSDE has launched Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) in September, 2023 to synergize India's skill development, employment, and entrepreneurship landscape. Its primary objective is to provide a comprehensive and accessible platform for skill enhancement, offering industry-relevant skill courses, job opportunities, and entrepreneurship support.

(vii)   Further, Bharat Skills portal supports digital skill development, provides access to a range of educational materials, including e-books, question banks, and eLearning videos, available in 12 regional languages.

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