

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 943
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

Need for Skill Development Strategies

943. SHRI ADITYA YADAV:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need for skill development strategies in educational institution; and
(b) if so, the details thereof and the initiative proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) & (b) The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was launched by the Government of India with an aim to transform and improve the quality of education in the country. NEP 2020 promotes holistic development of learners by identifying specific sets of skills and values across domains for integration and incorporation at each stage of learning from pre-school to higher education. NEP 2020 also envisages Curriculum Frameworks and Transaction Mechanisms to ensure that these skills and values are imbibed through an engaging process of teaching and learning.

NEP 2020 promotes a framework for integration of experiential learning through integration of important vocational crafts as mapped by local skilling needs, as early as Grade six.

In alignment with the objectives of NEP 2020, the National Credit Framework (NCrF) has been launched as a comprehensive credit framework encompassing elementary, school, higher and vocational education & training, integrating creditization of learning in various dimensions i.e. academics, vocational skills and experiential learning including relevant experience and proficiency/ professional levels acquired. The NCrF has been jointly developed by University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Vocational Education & Training (NCVET) among others and it provides for creditization of all learning and assignment, accumulation, storage, transfer & redemption of credits, subject to assessment; removes distinction and establishes academic equivalence between vocational & general education while enabling mobility within & between them.

For Skill Enhancement of learners in the field of Technical Education, AICTE has taken several steps including:

- AICTE has made Internship, an integrated part of technical education through the Internship Policy. Model Internship guidelines for technical courses have been launched. Internship is mandatory component of Model Curriculum issued by AICTE for different courses.

- To facilitate connect between theoretical knowledge and practical application, AICTE facilitates collaboration between academia and industry.
- AICTE has developed guidelines for implementation of Apprenticeship Embedded Degree/Diploma programmes in the AICTE approved institutions, wherein courses having apprenticeship component embedded are be encouraged to make the students industry ready and to enhance potential employment.
- Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with leading industries and organisations have been signed to facilitate internship, skilling and upskilling of students and faculty members.

In order to fulfill the objective of improving employability and forming robust industry-academia linkage, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed Guidelines for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to offer Apprenticeship / Internship Embedded Degree Programmes.

With focus on Digital Education, UGC has notified UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 on 4th September, 2020. Subsequently, amendments have been notified on 1st July, 2021, 18th July, 2022 and 2nd May, 2024. UGC has accorded recognition/entitlement to 108 Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to offer ODL programmes and 99 HEIs to offer online programmes.

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with IIT Madras and eminent Industry Partners have launched SWAYAM Plus platform on 27th February 2024, expanding its offerings to identify and include courses aligned with industry needs and to enhance learners' employability. The platform provides high-quality learning and certification programs from the leading industry and academia to the students/ learners which can help them in reskilling and upskilling and making them employment ready. Ministry of Education and IIT Madras has signed more than 55 MoUs with the leading industries partners. As on 22nd November, 2024, more than 320 Courses are available on the platform and more than 1.27 lakhs learners have enrolled on this platform for their Skill enhancement.

For on-the-job training and skilling of Indian youth, Ministry of Education is implementing National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS). The scheme is implemented through four regional Boards of Apprenticeship Training/Practical Training (BoATs/BoPT). NATS has engaged 8.72 lakh apprentices and Rs 1298 Cr has been released as stipendiary grant under this scheme in last five years.

Under the Government of India's Skill India Mission (SIM), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres/ institutes etc. under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society across the country. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready and equipped with industry relevant skills. The schemes of MSDE for skill development are demand driven and the training centres (TCs) are set up/engaged on need basis to impart the training across the country.
