

‘ROLE OF ARTS AND COMMERCE COLLEGES IN SKILL DEVELOPMENT: SHOULD THEY BECOME PROVIDERS OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE?’

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Abstract :Skill development is important aspect of socio-economic aspirations of a nation that needs to compete in global economic order. India is one of the largest and youngest economies in the world and therefore it needs to train its young generations to compete with global workforce. Skill development is need of the time, as the economic growth requires a productive workforce that will raise competency of the employing institution and help it sail through the turbulent economic conditions of the day.

Key words:Skill Development , socio-economic , economic liberalization.

I.INTRODUCTION

Skill development is also essential to grab several business and employment opportunities in the form of growth of service sector, urbanization and customization encouraged by the process of economic liberalization. Most importantly, skill development is required to remove supply side constraints that we are experiencing in recent years of economic growth and to enhance standards of our social and economic life. This research paper is an attempt to suggest the manner in which the Arts and Commerce colleges can become proactive in skill development in addition to the regular academic teaching.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.To evaluate efficacy of the present system of imparting knowledge in skill development.
- 2.To suggest changes in the same to make it skill based than knowledge based.

LIMITATIONS

- 1.The focus of the paper is on the skill development initiatives, which may be undertaken by faculties of Arts and Commerce of the senior colleges.
- 2.The suggestions aim at future employment and self-employment opportunities that may be available to graduates from Arts and Commerce stream.
- 3.Socio-economic environment in which institutions work may change from place to place and therefore adaptability with immediate or microenvironment will be required. Hence, suggestions cannot be standardized to apply uniformly to all institutions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology used is analysis of secondary data collected by the Government Agencies and other appropriate organizations affiliated to the industries and employment generation. Initiatives suggested are based on the deliberations with the academic and industry experts.

Present scenario

Number of Educated Job Seekers (10th Standard and above) by educational level

(As on 31 December 2012)

SL. NO.	EDUCATIONAL LEVEL	NUMBER ON LIVE REGISTER (IN THOUSAND)			% OF EACH STREAM TO TOTAL GRADUATE & ABOVE	% OF EACH LEVEL TO TOTAL
		DISCIPLINE	MEN	WOMEN		
1	10TH CLASS PASSED		1125.2	5584.0	16835.7	44.9
2	10TH + 2 PASSED		8125.6	3618.3	11743.9	31.3
3	GRADUATES AND POST-GRADUATES					23.8
	I ARTS		2320.0	1291.8	3611.8	40.5
	II SCIENCE		1071.1	596.4	1667.5	18.7
	III COMMERCE		842.0	468.9	1310.9	14.7
	IV ENGINEERING		234.9	130.8	365.7	4.1
	V MEDICINE		51.5	28.7	80.2	0.9
	VI VETERINARY		5.7	3.2	8.9	0.1
	VII AGRICULTURE		40.1	22.3	62.4	0.7
	VIII LAW		22.9	12.8	35.7	0.4
	IX EDUCATION		865.0	481.7	1346.7	15.1
	X OTHERS		275.0	153.1	428.1	4.8
	TOTAL		5728.2	3189.6	8917.8	
	GRAND TOTAL		25105.6	12391.8	37497.4	100.0

Above table shows, the number of the graduates registered with the employment exchanges in India on 31 December 2012. It appears from the table that the percentage of the Arts faculty graduates remained unemployed to total graduates remained unemployed as registered with the employment exchanges in India is 40.5% whereas the percentage for the commerce faculty is 14.7%. Share of other streams or faculties in the registered unemployed graduates is lower except for science and education. This speaks loud and clear about the fact that absorption of the graduates from arts and commerce faculty in employment is dismal and to make them employable their knowledge base must be supported by skill development.

Future Scenario of skills Requirement of Industry

The economic survey of 2007-08 states that by 2026 64.8% of the Indian population will be in the working age of 15-59. A study conducted by Confederation of Indian Industries and Boston Consulting Group estimates that world will have shortage of 47 million working people whereas India will have surplus of 56 million working people. Projected incremental human resource requirement by the year 2022 of sectors surveyed by the Confederation of Indian Industries is as follows.

1. Banking and Insurance	39,47,139
2. IT and ITeS	1,48,06,299
3. Tourism	1,24,78,386
4. Construction	5,51,99,568

These illustrations paint a very positive picture of the opportunities available for employment and self –employment for the young generation of Indians who would get an opportunity to work in above-mentioned industries provided they acquire skills required for the respective industries.

Role of Arts and Commerce Colleges in skill Development

Traditional higher educational system, particularly in arts and commerce streams, is confined to imparting knowledge and not the skills. The examination-oriented approach of the system does not provide opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired by the students, as they are not put to the test of the actual working conditions. The potential of the traditional system of imparting knowledge does have some pros and cons.

SUGGESTIONS

The arts and commerce education in India needs to undergo substantial changes to become skill provider than only a knowledge provider. To make aspiring graduates more competitive in the global world of employment and business following measures may serve the purpose.

- 1.The colleges should tie-up with local technical educational institutions like ITI and make the short-term technical courses available to the students as part of curriculum in addition to academic education.
- 2.Colleges can start the skill based technical programs to provide basic training in the occupations like Electrical or Auto Repairing, Systems Maintenance and Repairing.
- 3.The colleges can tie up with local organizations like Banks, Brokers, and hospitals to provide employment to the students during vacations.
- 4.The colleges can tie-up with self-employed people like Chartered Accountants. Advocates and Libraries to provide learning opportunities to the students.
- 5.Demonstrations and presentations with the help of Information and Communication Technology may be made a compulsory part of Teaching and learning process.
- 6.Workshops on drafting skills, Accounting systems, Translation Skills may also be organized in the colleges for the students of the languages.

CONCLUSION

Above-mentioned list of suggestions is not exhaustive. The blending of the core activity of imparting knowledge with skill development will require shuffling of the present activities and allocation of resources, which may require change in the present administrative framework of academic institutions. The institutions like Arts and Commerce colleges require shifting of their focus from multiple areas of learning process to selective opportunities of the skill development. However, change of the guard will lead to better outcomes for the young generations who will come as students in the higher education system.

REFERENCES:

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