

Education and Sustainable Development Goals

Editors

Ch. Beda Devi

Ch. Sonia Devi



Foreword

Jarnail Singh

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i. *Sonia Devi* in this much awaited area is

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General Assembly formally adopted the
"Universal, Integrated and Transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," a
set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs cover social and Economic
development issues including poverty, hunger, education, global warming, gender equality,
youth empowerment, water, sanitation, energy, urbanization, environment, social justice,
etc.

This book "*Education and Sustainable Development Goals*" incorporates many of issues
and challenges of SDGs. I am sure the readers especially researchers, educationist and policy
makers will find this book quite interesting and useful.

I congratulate the Editors *Dr. Ch. Beda Devi* and *Dr. Ch. Sonia Devi* for bringing out
this wonderful compilation on "*Education and Sustainable Development Goals*" and wish
them success in their future endeavours.

Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh
Dean, School of Mathematical and Physical Science
& Member, ERS of NCTE

Skill Entrepreneurship and Job Creation

- Anita Deka Bora

Introduction

Since the time of industrial revolution in Europe few hundred years ago, the term entrepreneurship and skill development have become synonymous. Industrial revolution introduced an area where cheap and superior quality products could find new and new markets all over the world. Over the years, nature of entrepreneurship has remained same. But with advent of latest technology and opportunities, skills have become now a days both soft skills and hard skills. A person with perfect set of both soft and hard skills is an asset not only to the society but also to the economy. These entrepreneurs can create jobs for themselves and also for others. They are essentially job givers in today's context. They do not grab jobs. As the economy of a country develops, it is an accepted fact that more and more people move away from agriculture to manufacturing sector and then to service sectors. This migration along with economic advancement requires active participation from entrepreneurs. Government alone cannot accomplish this job. Governments across the world can play only an enabling role with active participation of successful entrepreneurs. But as the migration of employment happens from agriculture to manufacturing and then to service sectors, skills sets required also change from only pure hard skills to a mixture of both soft and hard skills. In layman's language, hard skills mean hard work, knowledge to understand etc. On the other hand, soft skills mean presentation skills, communication skills, appearance etc. Growth of service sectors like banking, KPO (knowledge process outsourcing), BPO (business process outsourcing), media under the leadership of numerous successful entrepreneurs has created millions of jobs in India in last 25 years. Governments at the state and central levels have given top priority to entrepreneurship creation, skill development

and then job creation. Otherwise economic growth of the country will be a jobless growth which cannot sustain for long. A country with jobless growth stare at a dark future and huge social and economical problems. It is also accepted facts that with growth of economy, role of governments gradually reduce from job provider to millions of people to entrepreneurship and skills development. Advanced western countries have already taken this path and India too cannot be an exception.

Objective

To attain this objective, government of India has started few public private initiatives. The prime example is National Skill Development Corporation. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is an Indian not-for-profit company set up to address the need for providing skilled manpower across various industry sectors. It was founded in 2009 by the Ministry of Finance and is currently under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India. One recent example of NSDC helping entrepreneurship and skill development is training several thousand people in collaboration with few other agencies how to enhance skills regarding GST (goods and service taxes). This was not an easy task considering the complexity of nature of GST. Had NSDC not stepped into, it would have been extremely difficult for the government alone to train and educate such a large number of people in such a short time.

It is estimated that by 2022 India will need an additional 104 million people in the workforce with a further 298 million requiring upgrade in training. To address this NSDC has started skill development initiatives in North East India, with a target of training 240,000 people in 2017-18.

The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (Skill India Mission) is MSDE's flagship scheme to enable young Indians to take up industry-relevant skills training and improve their employability. The government's commitment to ensuring that young Indians are ready to compete in the labour market is demonstrated by the breadth of skilling programmes it has made available: National Apprenticeship Training Scheme, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana, National Urban Livelihoods Mission, and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission. The National Career Service, launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, aims to provide job matching services in a transparent and user friendly manner.

Several national flagship schemes such as Make in India, Start-up India, Stand-up India (a bank loan programme to assist Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers to set up a greenfield enterprise), and Digital India, have been launched to spur the creation of more productive and higher skilled micro, small and medium enterprises, which would accelerate labour demand and job creation. The Atal Innovation Mission endeavours to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship by providing a platform for the generation and sharing of innovative ideas, alongside an incubator to mentor and support innovators.

NSDC has also partnered with Amazon's "meri saheli" initiative to improve the digital literacy of women. Together with Google India, it has launched a program to train people on mobile development, via a 100-hour course to be delivered through partner agencies.

NSDC also signed collaboration with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs to train people within CSR, corporate governance, business innovation, e-governance and other skills. Other partners include the Adani Foundation, Uber and Maruti.

From the above examples, it is clear that skill entrepreneurship and job creation is a good example of public - private initiative. Private sector needs to have a constant supply of ready to perform employee's pool. It means skills set acquired beyond academic class rooms. So if an employee can acquire these skills even before entering service, it is a win situation for both of them. Various govt schemes listed above are trying to achieve exactly that.

Analysis

The analysis of skill entrepreneurship and job creation throws some interesting facts. Though skill entrepreneurship programmes are generally launched at all India levels, local socio economic and cultural factors do play a significant role. Not all skill entrepreneurship programmes can work equally in a vast and diverse country like India with equal success. For example, Assam and rest of north east India has good potential for tourism sector due to natural beauty and diverse flora and fauna. Also Assam for example is endowed with world famous tea gardens and also several oil related industries. The challenge is to use locally available resources to generate further employments. Assam has got good scope in promoting tea tourism. This requires a different skill set than traditional tea garden industry. But tea tourism industry with help from govt can generate new employment opportunities in the same sector. Same is the case with promoting religious places of Assam like famous sakti pith Kamakhya and Ombubashi mela beyond existing tourism ventures. Not many small and medium scale industries exist in Assam in the petrochemical sector though Assam has 4 refineries, several oil fields, one gas cracker unit, one petrochemical unit. No downstream small or medium scale industry in petrochemical sector in Assam has grown to generate employment in private sector. Hence central and state govt have to provide region specific schemes also to boost entrepreneurship and skill development for more job creation. Road connectivity and other transport network of Assam and north east India with rest of India is not satisfactory. Additionally Assam is more vulnerable to bandh culture. Frequent bandh and hurtles hampers skill development and job creation under entrepreneurship schemes. Central and state governments must thus be aware of local opportunities and issues while developing schemes. Govt should provide subsidy in terms of production and marketing cost so that entrepreneurs can capture market at local and international level. For example, Assam is an ideal place for bamboo industry products. With government initiatives and subsidies, bamboo industry can capture national and international markets. For example, Chinese government provide huge direct and indirect subsidy to their small and medium scale entrepreneurs so that they can capture international markets with cheap but efficient products. Indian govt subsidy to small and medium scale entrepreneurs is quite low compared to Chinese government. Another big issue in India is corruption. Due to rampant corruption, many times schemes do not reach intended entrepreneurs. If schemes and funds do not reach genuine entrepreneurs, then they cannot help in skill development and job creation. Hence mere announcing of different schemes at the central and state government levels is not sufficient. Surveillance and prevention of corruption is equally

important if skills have to be developed for millions of jobless youth in India and help them gain employment.

Suggestions

To enhance skill entrepreneurship and job creation, the followings suggestions can be offered:

- *Better regional and national connectivity:* Entrepreneurs will survive in business only when their products reach end customers swiftly without delay and much transportation cost. This is a big issue with Assam or north east India. Government must tremendously improve connectivity to bring buyers and sellers together. Otherwise all schemes related to skill development and entrepreneurship will remain a pipe dream. Assam and north east India can immensely benefit from Act East policy of Govt of India. ASEAN countries have historical and cultural similarities with Assam and north east India. Hence once Indian and Asian trade picks up in coming days, more and more entrepreneurs can come up here. Many ASEAN countries are geographically much closer to north east India than say Mumbai or Bangalore.
- *New technologies:* Now day's technologies develop very rapidly. Any entrepreneur who is out of touch with latest technology can rapidly become irreverent. This will result in him loosing market for his products and job loss. Government must continuously monitor what are the best technologies devolving in western countries and make every effort to bring them to India. Now a day, global e-commerce portals like Amazon or Flip cart can make any product available to any consumer. If the entrepreneur's do not have access to latest technologies, this will result all government schemes irreverent. Many industries in textile and automobile sector in India have seen huge job loss in last 30 years when industries and entrepreneurs failed to utilize latest technology.
- *Addressing environmental challenges:* No industry or no entrepreneur can survive long term if he or his industry causes damage to the environment. Only environmentally friendly industries will survive in the long run. The entrepreneurs must take care that their small or medium scale industries don't cause damage to the nearby environment. Otherwise serious problems will force the entrepreneurs out of business. Thus government too must be very careful in giving permission to only those industries which are environment friendly.
- *Innovations happen when there is fair competition:* No entrepreneur can remain static in terms of his knowledge skills. Otherwise soon completion and innovation may force him out of the business. But innovation happens only when there is fair competition. Government regulatory agencies must ensure that no unfair entrepreneurs or mal practice exists. Otherwise no matter how much skilful the Syndicates and cartelisation are serious issues in a country like India. The entrepreneurs in small and medium scale industries are more vulnerable to cartelisation and syndicate system.

- *Rapid resolution of any trade or industry dispute:* In India, getting justice through legal system is not only costly but also time consuming. Any trade or commerce related dispute must be resolved quickly in a fair manner. Unnecessary delays in resolving trade and commerce disputes will discourage entrepreneurs from expanding business. Then no amount of skill development or govt schemes will be able to generate employment. Entrepreneurs investing time and money must have adequate faith in legal system for quick and fair resolution of any dispute.

Conclusion

As outlined above, government of India has constituted several schemes under The Skill India mission. The Skill India mission also reflects a policy thrust towards organised manufacturing. The unorganised sector is not only too large (more than 90 per cent of the total), but an equally large share of its constituents is untrained. The intention of Skill India aiming to train 400 million people is perfectly laudable. "We need to train at least 2 crore people every year, but right now we're training only 1.05 crore. We need to double our capacity and for that cooperation from all the stakeholders is needed," said Manish Kumar, NSDC Managing Director and CEO. He added that there are around 15,000 skill training centres in the country right now, which are inadequate for India's size. Currently, there are 15,079 NSDC training centres, out of which 7,655 are running grant-based programmes under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and 6,918 are running fee-based Kaushal Kendras. Even when skilled, the unwillingness of people to move out of their area of residence for jobs is another challenge, said Kumar. Thus it is clear that India's thrust towards skill entrepreneurship and job creation has a very long way to go. This must at least keep pace with the growth of population. Otherwise every year, several lakh educated youths would not only remain unskilled but also unemployed. This may cause serious socio-economic and law and order issues for the country. Economic growth of metro cities must reach out to millions of educated and unemployed youths of India.

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