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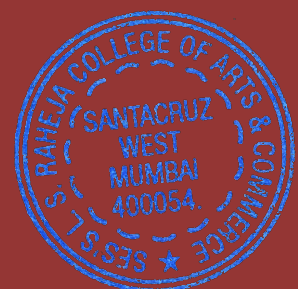
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

"RURAL INDIA IN 21ST CENTURY"

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S. Lawa



Sr No.	Researcher 1	Researcher 2	Title Of Research Paper
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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION AND SKILL TRAINING TO RURAL INDIA**

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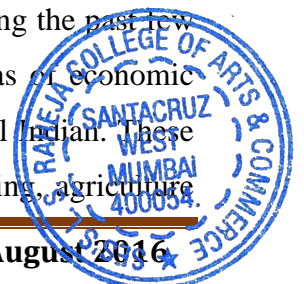
ABSTRACT

Rural India is very poor. The main reason behind this poverty is lack of gainful employment. People in rural India many times don't get employed because of lack of appropriate education. Only regular education will not help people of rural India because it is based on the principle 'one size fits all' and therefore it fails many times to provide suitable benefits to the people concern. What they need is vocational education and training which will help them to earn their bread and butter. Vocational education and skill training is very much different from general education. Vocational education prepares individual for particular vocation. Such type of education requires skill training for acquiring new skills and sharpening existing skills. Vocational education and skill training yields many benefits for people living in rural India. Basically there are two types of benefits i.e. economic benefits and social benefits. Current paper attempts to enumerate economic and social benefits of vocational education and skill training to rural India.

KEY WORDS: Vocational education, Skill training.

INTRODUCTION

India is an agrarian economy, as maximum of the rural population depends on agriculture as source of livelihood. We can consider Agriculture as a backbone of the Indian economy. The contribution of agricultural sector to the overall economic development is more as compared to other sectors of the country. For ages together, the rural India and Indian villages have been a self-reliant and independent economic units. During the past few years, rural restoration and advancement have been the principal thrust areas of economic planning, which has triggered a speedy and prompt transformation in the rural Indian. These changes have taken place in various domains, such as land reforms, marketing, agriculture



and allied activities like animal husbandry, development of village industries, rural leadership, village management, etc. Through rural development programmes, a farmers are able to take benefit of the modern technological amenities in their agricultural operations. Along with the advancement in agricultural sector several other welfare services and facilities were also introduced, such as starting up of schools, healthcare centres, improving transport and communication etc. These welfare services have significantly and positively affected the rural India.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest”¹.Contemplating and analysing this quote by Benjamin Franklin (1758) in its literal sense and not metaphorically we can aptly see that both Education and Economics growth go hand in hand. The domain of education cannot be studied by divorcing it from the realm of economics and economic growth. Therefore it is imperative to invest in human capital of rural India.

Human capital exerts a domino effect on knowledge, health, skills, values and habits of individual. It is crucial to note that economic growth relies strongly on the synergies between new Skills and human capital. Therefore it is very important to study economic and social relevance of vocational education and skill training to rural India because it is a need of an hour.

BENEFITS OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND SKILL TRAINING

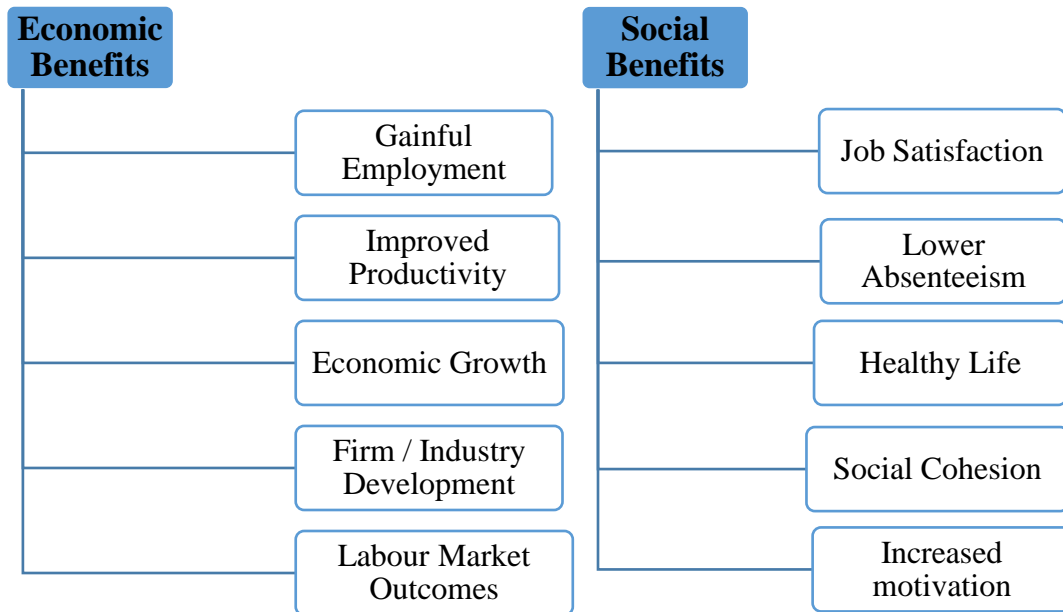
Education in general and Vocational education and skill training in particular is very essential and important from the point of view of advancement of rural India. Vocational education and skill training is very much different from general education. General education follows the policy of ‘one size fits all’ and on the other side Vocational education prepares individual for particular vocation.

This type of education requires skill training for acquiring new skills and sharpening existing skills. Such a training aids individual to become employable in the job market. Vocational education and skill training yields many benefits for people living in rural India. The benefits arising out of vocational education and skill training can be studies under two categories i.e. economic benefits and social benefits.

The benefits of Vocational education and skill training that can be easily quantifiable and related to economy as a whole are economic benefits of Vocational education and skill training. Whenever Vocational education and skill training in rural areas leads to increment in

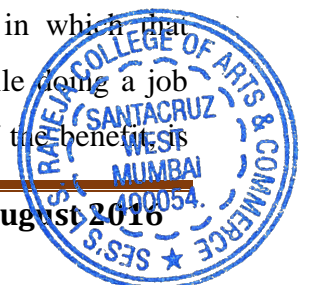


the social welfare of the society as a whole, we call them social benefits of Vocational education and skill training. Such benefits cannot be quantified easily.



First and most important benefit of vocational education is that it helps people of rural areas to get gainful employment. General education system is based on the principle of ‘one size fits all’. Because of this many times general education does not help rural people to get an appropriate job related to his skills. But on the other hand if that individual is fully trained and given vocational education and skill training then this problem will never come. Vocational education and skill training also help to improve overall productivity. Productivity is nothing but ratio of output and input. Proper Vocational education and skill training is given to rural people will help them to produce more i.e. it will help them to increase output and ultimately improve productivity. Increase in overall productivity over a period of time will contribute positively to higher rate of economic growth. Proper Vocational education and skill training helps to create trained personnel. More and more Vocational education and skill training will help rural areas to improve their labour market outcomes by creating additional trained personnel. Such trained personnel is indispensable part of any firm’s or an industry’s development.

Like economic benefits, Vocational education and skill training also leads to some social benefits which provides increment in social welfare. Most importantly it provides increased job satisfaction to an individual. The kind of job people get after taking vocational education and skill training is basically pertaining to one particular skill in which that individual is having mastery. Therefore people get more job satisfaction while doing a job which requires a skill that they have in abundance. Job satisfaction as one of the benefits



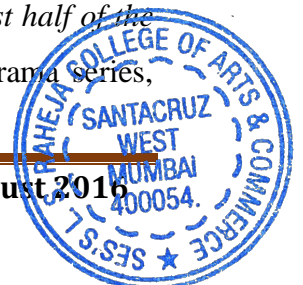
antecedent of next two benefits i.e. lower absenteeism and healthy life. This job satisfaction will reduce absenteeism of individual from workplace and it will definitely lead to healthy (physical and mental) life. It also helps to increase social cohesion at workplace and it also boosts the motivation level of individual.

CONCLUSION

It is clear from the above discussion that Vocational education and skill training is a need of an hour. It is having potential to provide economic as well as social benefits to people of rural India. It is the responsibility of policy makers and government to devise various policies for rural India keeping in mind the relevance of Vocational education and skill training.

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