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INTEGRATING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS

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ABSTRACT

Integrating vocational education with academic education at all levels not only provides learners with necessary skills that employers want, it also gives a medium or platform to choose career options. Our curriculum for mainstream education is dated and is mostly focused on theoretical knowledge with very little focus on real world problem solving and directly applicable technical skills. One of the goals of an educational system should be to increase the Employability Quotient and produce a skilled working population. The new education policy released by the government this year has rightly laid emphasis on vocational training and skilling to start early at the school level as it is essential to increasing efficiency and economic growth. Additionally, having acquired technical/vocational skills early on builds a more confident and competent set of youngsters ready to step out into a demanding market. This paper gives emphasis on mixing vocational education with mainstream education; so more emphasis on skill labs, local industry, polytechnic, and on the integration of new technologies into the classroom.

Keywords: Vocational education, entrepreneurial, employment quotient, academic curriculum

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INTRODUCTION

India has a long history of vocationalisation of education. Woods dispatch of 1854 was crucial to changes in the Indian education system and suggested amongst several things, a stronger focus on pre vocational education. The Indian education commission (1882)- also known as the hunter commission - suggested introducing practical subjects in secondary schools. In 1937, at the invitation of the Indian government an abbot and S.H. wood submitted a report on general and vocational education. Their report, The Abbot report, contained a recommendation that practical subjects be integrated into the curriculum. mahatma Gandhi insisted that education center around practical and vocational learning.