

Language Skills among Collegiate Youth and Employability Scope in India

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Youth in India is not much skilled according to the competence at global or even regional levels. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (2017-18) in Higher Education in India is estimated to 25.8% only, showing majority youth is away from higher education. The scenario of female, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is further bitterer leading to mass unemployment here in country. The unemployment rate in India is 3.5 % (as percentage of total labour force; 2017) whereas the youth unemployment % is 10.5 which is lesser than Sri Lanka (20.7), Afghanistan (17.7), Maldives (13.8) and Bangladesh (11.4). Except Afghanistan, the rest three are developing economies and have been and accommodating majority of their youth within territories.

On identifying the reasons of unemployment, it is found that majority of youth has compulsion to work locally or nearby, not due to distance factor, but more due to lack of skills, especially the language skills. Majority of youth prefer to study in their mother tongue language, they do not opt even a standard language of the country. It limits their employability scope up to local territories due to poor communication skills and lack of speaking standard languages. English as internationally required language helps to get employment within and outside country, but this language requires proficiency in understanding, writing and speaking, and it helps to get high perk jobs. Contrarily, the educated youth with local language is turning into like semiskilled human resource to which wages are not much attractive except the govt. jobs, which are very limited. Finally this mismatch leads to push the educated semiskilled human resource to work as low paid labour elsewhere.

Therefore, initiatives to impart language as skills among youth are required at both Govt. and institutional levels so that an educated skilled youth may come out with confidence and capabilities. It is more a duty of universities to start some add-on programmes in language proficiency, especially in English and other globally spoken languages to create more space for MNCs to work in South Asian countries on one hand, and getting high paid jobs to our youth inside the country on the other hand. This is to acknowledge that such an initiative has been started in the state of Rajasthan by the Department of College Education to make some English language proficiency programmes along with regular studies, and on choice basis. Introducing such programmes during free time (summer vacations here in India) may help better to learn and practice, what has done by the department in form of '*Summer Skill Programs*'. There is more need to start such initiatives across the country to inculcate quality and enhance capacity among collegiate youth.