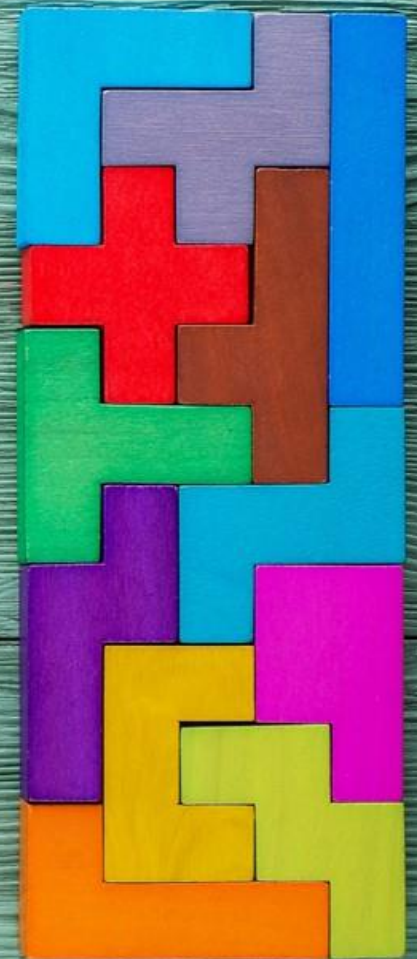


Concept Note on Education and Skilling



Concept Note: Skills of the Future

Objective:

- Continuous avenues for skilling
- Creating future-ready workforce

Context:

The closure of schools due to the pandemic has impacted almost two years of formal education for children. World Bank report on Covid -19 has estimated that “a loss of 10 trillion dollars in earnings overtime for this generation of students, and countries will be driven off-track to achieving their Learning Poverty goals.”. Therefore, necessitating supplementary teaching and building a resilient mechanism for education delivery is of utmost importance.

In addition, training centers were closed due to COVID-19 lockdown-imposed restrictions, severely impacting the skilling of the candidates enrolled. To overcome the difficulty in imparting education, the countries transitioned to an online mode of delivery, which has resulted in a lack of hands-on training for students.

Another challenge is to break the vicious cycle of low-quality education resulting in low productivity and persistent poverty. Lifelong learning is indispensable to keep up with the changing skills needed for the global market. Therefore, skill development becomes an essential prerequisite for sustainable development.

Reskilling Revolution Platform, launched in January 2020 in partnership with global governments and businesses, aims to provide better jobs, education, and skills to 1 billion people in the next decade to access the jobs of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This intervention opens the possibility of providing decent jobs and income which can foster a more cohesive and inclusive society.

Strategies to bridge the gaps – India

The Government of India is trying to bridge the learning gap created during the COVID-19 pandemic. These initiatives required collaboration with experts, States/UTs to impart necessary education and skill training to the youth in India.

These include:

- PM e-VIDYA is a comprehensive initiative to enable multi-mode access to education unifying digital, online, and on-air education.



- eSkill India portal and Bharat Skill portal with a focus on delivering short-term and long-term skill training online and many more.

Parallely, the role of Industry 4.0 and its immense potential are reshaping the present and future of the workforce. Leveraging the Fourth Industrial Revolution for efficiency and productivity will bring a positive change in the lives of millions of people.

India is committed to skill and upskilling the youth in relevant new-age courses taught across training centers. For significant progress and an increase in the number of Indian workers in the national and international market, India has collaborated with key industry players such as IBM India Pvt. Ltd., SAP India, Microsoft Corp. (India) Ltd., and many more to boost 21st century digital skill training programs, as per Industry 4.0. India is exploring the viability of introducing courses for students across all disciplines to keep them abreast of the latest technological developments.

Andhra Pradesh

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is promoting schools as an indispensable learning centres for children to improve learning outcomes. To strengthen and transform the foundational learning and provide training & skill development to teachers, Andhra Pradesh has started the 'Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) program in government schools. Andhra Pradesh e-knowledge portal is another step toward quality education.

In skilling, Andhra Pradesh is transitioning from implementing bulk training programs to industry-specific and customized training and has established nearly 25 high-end laboratories in collaboration with MNCs such as Schneider Electric, Hitachi, and Samsung for providing continuous training. The State has also adopted a cluster-based approach to deliver Industry Customized Skill Training Programs through in-house facilities of industries and offering skill training customized as per the industry needs.

Way forward

In the 21st century, education should focus on building skills necessary for future-ready jobs in the fast-changing world. Building a resilient infrastructure for education and skill development is fundamental to any sectoral development. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has envisioned establishing skill hubs at each Assembly Constituency to align the learning outcomes of the youth with the industrial needs for gainful employment.



Further, to keep pace with the constantly evolving industrial needs, Skill Colleges and Skills Universities will be set up to drive the vision, knowledge, technology, and partnership across the State. Skill Colleges will also create a future-ready workforce with courses customized to industry needs. These colleges will also skill and upskill the youth in Andhra Pradesh on new-age skills.

Lastly, as rightly pointed out by the United Nations General Assembly, close collaboration is a must across Government ministries, including policymakers, investors, and business leaders, to formulate an integrated strategy, including public policies related to education, youth, industrialization, and rural development.