

# Skill Development through Adult Education

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## Abstract

Adult education and skill development schemes launched by Government of India with the support of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Department of Social Education and Literacy are aimed at providing the necessary financial aid for adults aged between 15-35 years and above, so that they can improve their literacy levels or get themselves certified in certain courses or vocational degree with makes them more employable in the job market. Apart from these, skill development and vocational training program were also taken up for adult learners.

**Key words:** Employability, skill development, adult education

## Introduction:

Adult education is a package educational program for adults outside the formal educational system aiming at providing more information and better knowledge and skills for improving their life style and also their earning capacity. The basic aims of adult education is to enable the people to become confident and self reliant by understanding the situation in which they live and in solving their problems. It was one of the most important and formidable issues of Indian education.

It has become an essential aspect of the strategy of human resource development and of the goal of creation of a developing society. Even those who have had the most sophisticated education must continue to learn. One of the major plans in the strategy of a society which is determined to achieves economic development, social transformation and effective social security should educate its citizens to participate in its developmental programs willingly, intelligently and efficiently. This is particularly urgent in a society in which masses of people have missed schooling and in which the education given has been irrelevant to the developmental needs. The farmers who till the soil or the worker who turns the machine must understand the nature of the soil and the machine and acquire some acquaintance with the scientific processes involved in production in order to be able to adopt new practices and improve upon them. Mere persuasism or coercion cannot assist population growth; people must understand the implications of unchecked increase in population acquire some knowledge of the laws of life and appreciate individuals responsibility in programs of family planning.

## Adult Education in India:

The concepts and scopes of adult education have been changing with the change in political and socio-economic situation in the country. The efforts made during the colonial rule in the name of adult

education were confined to certain pocket of the country and broadly linked with the freedom movement. The early effort took the form of night school and jail school accent on the adult literacy. Now, it has changed from mere ability to read and write to a third dimension. it included extension, teaching training research and field outreaches form 3r's to life long process.

Adult education as a qualitative attribute of the population is one of the most important indicators of socio-economic and political development of a society. It is a major component of Human Resource Development and is thus basic to any program of social and economic development. It is almost universally accepted that adult education plays an important role in national development.

The development of adult education is a movement and disciplines in post-independence phenomenon. Although the roots of its comprehensive concepts could be traced in the pre-independence period, it took a definite shape through various programmes and activities only after independence when the socio-economic development through planned efforts becomes the order of the day. It had not only been recognized gradually as an important educational input in the overall process of national development but its concept had also been broadened from teaching of 3'Rs to non-formal life long process.

In this way, adult education aims at promoting all-round betterment of the people. This included individual, social, economic and cultural development. The concept of "Adult Education" has undergone changes through the ages. The literary meaning of adult education implies educational facilities to the adult who could not undergo a regular course of formal education during their school age. In addition what was led on adult education by the National Policy on Education 1986 was "Adult education is both a process through which effective delivery mechanism are created for the deprived sections of society, and a forum through which such sections secure information and understanding regarding the process of development. Hence, it is of importance that effective linkage is established between adult education and development programmes".

It envisages that it would be means "is to provide education including literacy, to the population in 15-35 age-groups, which numbers about 100 million. Previous experience has brought out that programme of literacy can become meaningful only when they come along with a package comprising practical information and skills relevant to day-to-day needs of learners. National Adult Education Programme (NAEP) would, therefore lay emphasis on skill developments and creation of awareness among the learners of the national goals of development programmes, and for liberation from oppression.

### **Need for Adult Education:**

The basic aim of adult education is to enable the people to become confident and self-retain by understanding the situation in which they live and in solving their problems. It purposes is to educate adult for life and make him conscious so that he can effectively play his diverse roles as a citizen of the country. Adult education, therefore, is considered not only as the instrument of development on progress, but also of reconstruction and changes. It is not only the means to convert an illiterate into a literate, but also to help human beings to lead a meaningful life and contribute to the promotion and well-being of society.

The primary aim of adult education is to help each individual man, women and youth make the best of life. Neither, nor every want can be met and as such priorities will have to be established. Nevertheless, the aim should not be obscured or seeking to help each individual to develop their potentiality to the fullest extent possible. According to president Nyerere of Tanzania (1973), “education provided, must therefore, encourage the development in each citizen of three things; an enquiring mind, an ability to learn from what others do and reject or adapt it to his own needs; and a basic confidence in this own position as a free and equal member of the society, who values others and is valued by them for what he does and not for what he obtains”.

The importance of adult education for human resource development is being seriously recognized which is imperative for the economic development as well as for strengthening the bases of democracy. The significance of universal literacy as an instrument of galvanizing and mobilizing the people, arousing community consciousness and community participation for bringing about social change was highlighted very early by our great national leaders. Mahatma Gandhi described mass illiteracy as India's ‘Sin’ and ‘Shame’ and wanted it to be eradicated. He emphasized the need of universal basic education for children and advocated adult education with a moral component for social and cultural regeneration and a political component for strengthening the national struggle for freedom. In the very inspiring words of Julius Nyerere, “What is important is, first we must educate our adults. Our children will not have an impact on our economic development for five, ten or even twenty years, the attitudes of adults, on the other hand, have an impact now.” Hence adult education is nothing, but it helps people to do the things in a better way, what they do any way.

The adult education relates learning to living, to the environment the work, the family, the community. It enables the participants to do more effectively things which they have to do normally in their day to day life task relating to their occupation, home and family life, civic and social responsibilities. The educational process is meant to foster in them confidence and competence to acquire and deploy new knowledge and skills for their development.

### **Skill Development and Employability:**

Skill development is one of the essential ingredients for India's future economic growth as the country transforms into a diversified and internationally-competitive economy. The effectiveness of imparting skill training in employment-oriented courses to the target population segment on a nation-wide scale hinges on a multi-pronged participatory approach by the Government, Non-Government agencies and institutions of higher education to support the efforts of adult educational. Through the schemes of adult education programmes, it has to ensured that all the people educated and do not lapse into illiteracy. It also targeted to give equal opportunities to both educated and neo-literate people in their respective vocational and skill development training.

Adult education and skill development schemes launched by Government of India with the support of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Department of Social Education and Literacy are

aimed at providing the necessary financial aid for adults aged between 15-35 years and above, so that they can improve their literacy levels or get themselves certified in certain courses or vocational degree with makes them more employable in the job market. In this regards, Government of India adopted various policies and programme for the development of adult education in the country and in all states through different agencies namely Government, Voluntary Agencies and University.

It is also clear that there are many factors that influence enrolment of adult learners in adult education programme. Through the schemes of Saakshar Bharat Mission, it has to ensured that all the people educated and do not lapse into illiteracy. It also targeted to give equal opportunities to both educated and neo-literate people in their respective vocational and skill development training.

The Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) or Institute of People's Education is a polyvalent or multifaceted adult education programme aimed at improving the vocational skill and quality of life of its beneficiaries. The JSS scheme replaces the schemes of Shramik Vidyapeeths. JSS run a number of vocational programmes with varying duration of different skills. Jan Shikshan Sansthan, set up under the scheme of assistance to voluntary agencies for Adult Education and Skill Development has been institutionally networked with adult education centres and other district implementation agencies for furtherance of its objective to equip neo-literates with vocational skills to improve their living and earning conditions.

### **Conclusion:**

Education is an instrument of social change and development in a society is based on technology and science. It is the education that determines the means of prosperity and level to which it can be achieved. It also helps the adult learner to improve his standard of living through participation in various development programmes. Many such programmes have been specially designed to improve the lot of poor and the deprived sections of the society. Due to illiteracy and lack of appropriate skills, they cannot take benefit of these programmes. Education enables individuals to actively participate in the developmental programmes, so that not only their socio-economic and political conditions are improved but also the national progress and prosperity are enhanced as a whole.

Without adult education, it is not possible to have that range and speed of economic and social development which we require nor is it possible to have that quality or tone to our economic and social development that makes it worthwhile in terms of values and welfare. A program of adult education should, therefore, take a front place in any program for social, economic and political development in today's world.

Adult education has, therefore playing a significant role in social, economic and political development of a country and a tool for developing critical social consciousness. It is more functional and closely related to economic and social development then the education given in our schools and colleges.

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