



ROLE OF MINISTRIES IN SKILL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

The paper attempts to explain how skill development and knowledge help in economic growth and development followed by the initiatives of various ministries at the central level. A detailed account of various schemes are presented followed by achievements of the ministries till 2014-15. The paper is intended to understand the efforts and achievements of Indian Government.

Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development of any country. Countries with higher and better levels of skills adjust more effectively to the challenges and opportunities of world of work. Presently, the skill base of the Indian economy is quite low as compared to other developed economies of the world. In fact, low skill base of Indian workforce is often referred to as one of the major factors which could act as deterrents for sustaining high economic growth that India has achieved during the last one decade or so (Planning Commission, 2008). The issue has gained further attention in the post-financial crisis period as unskilled and less educated workers were among the worst sufferers of the economic slowdown (Sasikumar and Anup Karan, 2009). This calls for evolving and implementing a suitable and workable framework to enhance the employability of workers. Against the various challenges, National Skill Development Policy has been formulated in India in 2009 which, in the first instance, targets creating 500 million skilled people by 2022. Further, continuous skill up gradation is also considered important, inter alia, for raising productivity, gender equality and social cohesion (Ministry of Labour & Employment, 2009).

KEYWORDS: *Skills, Knowledge, Economic Growth, Indian Economy, Globalization.*