
UNDERSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE'S AWARENESS AND INTEREST IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: A UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI PERSPECTIVE

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vikasg123n@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

Vocational Education is the demand of 21st century, which cannot be fulfill by just textual knowledge. The demand of vocational education is tremendously increasing after Covid-19. The main motive of vocational education is to make students more competent & employable. The sample of the study is from undergraduate students from different colleges, which are affiliated to University of Mumbai.

NEP-2020 is also playing a crucial role in vocational education. Vocational Education means an educational approach that are designed for students to give specific skills or career. This research is conducted with the view to understand undergraduate's interest and awareness towards vocational education. Vocational field is still an unexplored territory in Indian market, there is insufficient supply to match the rising demand. One of the reasons for this is lack of awareness amongst students about courses, opportunities etc. This study therefore aims to identify, understand student's mindset and create the awareness amongst the students regarding vocational education.

Keywords: Vocational Education, Awareness and Interest, Undergraduate students, University of Mumbai

INTRODUCTION

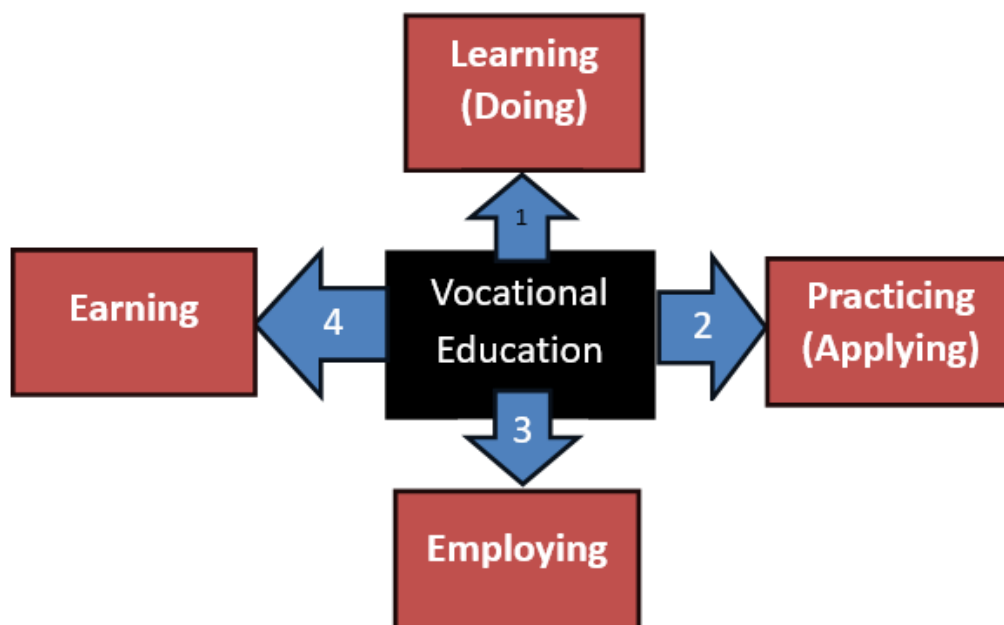
We are living in 21st century, which is full of competition and it is very difficult to get a job with a mere degree. Now Degree is just a piece of paper, which is not enough to get an employment. Degree may become valuable when students hold some skills. Vocational education is also called a special type of training for a particular thing and where students do it according to their interest to get a job in a particular field. And it helps to improve their talent. In the ever- evolving landscape of education, vocational education stands as a cornerstone in shaping the future workforce.

It is a need of time to make some changes in education fields. Our society has narrow mind towards vocational education. They think vocational courses are profession of other religion, low-level or other caste. It is shameful profession. Such courses are for failed, weak or dropout students.

Vocational education is still an 'Alien' term for many of the students. Indian students deal with scarce of awareness when it comes to the vocational education and this issue was correctly identified by the education board which was addressed in NEP-2020 under 'reimagining Vocational Education'. Therefore NEP-2020 give more emphasis on vocational education. Vocational courses help to make education more meaningful and gainful for employment.

Vocational Education is a skilled based education, which helps students to develop their skills, talent and expertise. It plays a crucial role in equipping individual with the skill, knowledge and experience needed to succeed in various industries. It is an educational approach that are designed for students to make them more competent, knowledgeable and expert of particular skills. It is like a personalized education, where customized programmed and individualized learning are offered to students to develop skills. It helps to priorities students career goals and learning styles.

It is a program, where students learn it according to their interest to get an employment.



Vocational education works on 4 pillars which are, Learning, Practicing, Employing and Earning. Following diagram shows the deep meaning of vocational education. Here vocational education has four steps, which is very simple to understand.

1. First step is learning, it means learning by doing. It develops skills.
2. Second step is practicing. Whenever students or anyone learn anything, immediately apply it or keep practicing. Practicing gives perfect furnishing to skills.
3. Third step is employing. It means exploring opportunities and applying the skill set which they have learnt. It helps to convert skills into job or business.
4. Fourth and last step is earning. Ultimately vocational education should be job or business oriented.

पढ़ोगे लिखोगे ढूंढोगे रोजगार !!
बोलोगे सीखोगे करोगे स्वयंरोजगार !!

LITERATURE REVIEW

Review of literature plays a key role in research. It helps to compare the findings of research with other studies. It helps to find out gap in research and give scope to further studies. Therefore, such articles are given on vocational education.

- D. Rathidevi & Dr. Sudhakaran (2019) has published research on “Attitudes of students towards vocational education in Chennai city.” It was concluded from study that majority of the students weren’t aware about vocational courses. And it was suggested that career guidance to be given.
- Kukila Goswami, Pinki Khanna (2023) has presented a research on “Study of Awareness and Interests of Students towards Vocational Education at School Level in Scheduled Tribe Populated Districts of Madhya Pradesh”. It has been described that students are interested towards vocational education. And mentioned the benefits of vocational education to students.
- Dr. Girish Kumar P. Raval (2014) has pointed on “Vocational Awareness of Students and Parents of Higher Secondary.” It was revealed in the study that the college should provide training to the students according to their interest and in which field they want to go. It has been also told in his report that the education system will be act as guidance and counseling center.
- Dr. R.K. Pathak, conducted study on “Reimaging Vocational Education and Skill-building, PSSCIVE, NCERT”. It was found that NEP-2020 has emphasis on vocational education in learner life. It also said that teachers and institutions play a keyrole in vocational education.

- A study conducted by Kanti Yadav (2023) on, “Curriculum Evaluation of Vocational Education for B.Com Students under the University of Mumbai”. It has been reviewed that there is the need of curriculum evaluation of vocational education at university level.

Statement of the Problem

This research was selected to present study:

Objective of the Study

The present study is conducted with the following objectives:

1. To study the awareness of students towards vocational education at the senior college level.
2. To identify the interest of students in vocational education along with regular course.
3. To study the readiness of students to get guidance of vocational education.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

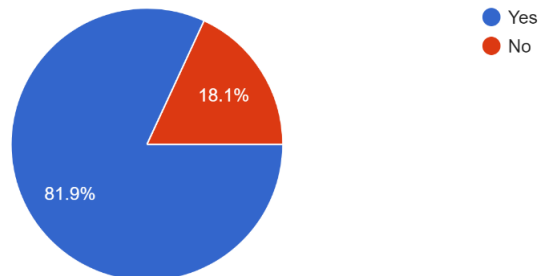
This research was conducted mainly using primary data. Data was collected through google forms in the form of questionnaires from 105 students. Secondary data was also collected from various research papers. Interview was also used to collect information. Undergraduate students were selected randomly from various college which are affiliated to University of Mumbai. Descriptive survey method and student’s perception were used to analysis the data. Excel and Statistical analytics were used to analysis the data. This research is quantitative nature of the data.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Following are the responses of undergraduate students on online education & E-Learning platforms:

1.

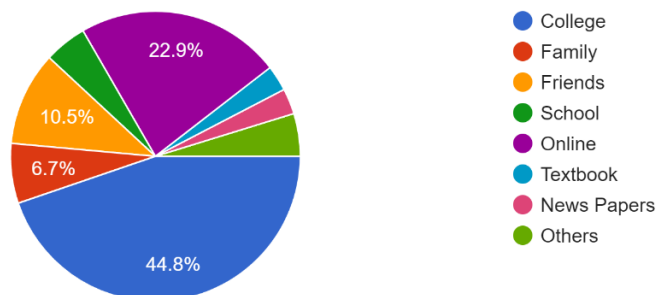
Are you aware with the term of "Vocational Education" ?
105 responses



The above chart shows the level of awareness among the respondents about vocational education. Most of the respondents are aware of the concept of vocational education. It means vocational education is not new concept for students.

2.

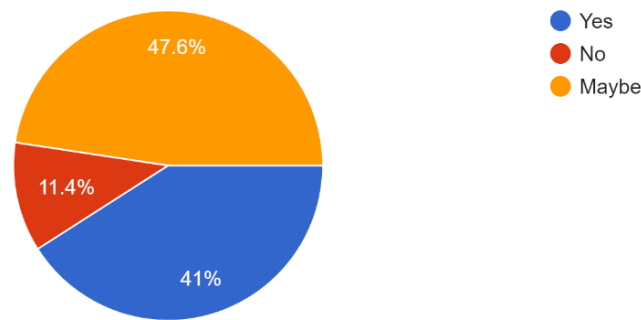
Where have you heard about vocational Education for first time?
105 responses



The above chart shows that the respondent’s source of awareness on vocational education as the majority is from the college which is 44.8%, 22.9% from Online and 10.5% from friends.

3.

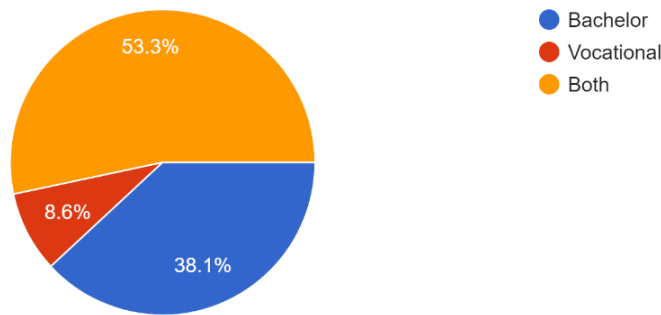
Are you willing to do Vocational courses along with regular course?
105 responses



This chart shows willingness of respondents to join vocational courses along with regular course. 47.6% respondents are showing possibilities to do vocational courses along with regular course. 41% respondents are ready to do vocational courses. It means such undergraduates students can manage vocational and regular courses together. Only 11.4% students are not interested to enroll both vocational and regular courses.

4.

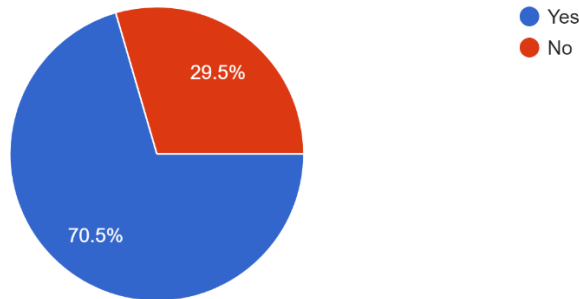
According to you, which education will be better for the future?
105 responses



This chart shows respondents view on future of vocational education. As per students' response, both education will be considered in future. 53.3% students agreed that both education is necessary to grow and run simultaneously. But still 38.1% students are there who think that only bachelor education will be better for future.

5.

Are you aware of the emphasis of Vocational Education in your career?
105 responses



The above chart shows level of awareness of the emphasis of vocational education in student's career. 70.5% respondents are aware of the emphasis of vocational education. It means vocational education is very much important for growth and career for students.

FINDINGS AND RESULT

- Arts, Commerce and Science, these are 3 different streams of undergraduate students. Majority of first year's students are in this research. 51.4% respondents belong to first year, 27.6% respondents are from second year and third years are only 21%.
- As per research female respondents are more aware than male. And even female students are more interested in vocational education.
- 52.4% respondent knows that vocational education in their stream. 42.9% respondents are ready to prefer vocational education in first year. It means first year students are more excited to prefer courses.
- Tourism and Travel management, Digital Marketing, Tailoring, Fashion design, Communication skills, Beautician and Salon courses, Pottery, cooking, Garage, data analytics, Photography and Jewellery Designing courses, Human Resource Management etc. these are examples of vocational courses, which students prefer along with their regular courses.

CONCLUSION

This education aims to bridge the gap between academic learning & the practical skills required in the workforce.

- The research exposed that majority of the students are aware of vocational education. Even college is the main source, from where they heard the concepts of vocational education. So, this is not a new terminology to students.
- It has been found that students become more active to learn a vocational education rather than traditional education. Female students are more interested to get enroll than Males in the vocational education.
- Students think vocational education is beneficial in their future. It does not only help in generating income but also help in securing employment.
- Parents are not ready to bear extra expenses other than regular course. They think traditional education is far better option than vocational courses to get employment.
- It is difficult to find out real skill and talent of students from formal education. This education is more student centric.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Now NEP-2020 gives more emphasis on vocational Education. And there is also a need of time to make some changes in curriculum at university level. University should evaluate curriculum and add more practical concepts, which will be useful in real life. Right now, only autonomous colleges are doing it. But it's difficult in many colleges and institutions which are affiliated to university.
- Government should take initiative to create awareness among the parents about vocational education. Parent thinks such courses are made for weak, average and failed students. Even many parents believe that some course does not belong to their caste and religion, therefore they do not motivate their children. Parent feels that these courses bring additional financial burden on them.
- College should set up career guidance cell for the students, from where they can get idea about right courses for them and explore future opportunities. Most of colleges has placement cell, which help in providing job to graduate students. Through career and guidance cells students can develop their personality and any skills as per need of the market.
- Institutes should focus more on job oriented and skill development courses. Apart from university level, Institutes can also take initiative to add some vocational course along with regular courses. After all this surely, they will be ready to face a real challenge in competitive world.
- Teachers are active participant in education sector. They play key role to develop and shape the future of students. So, teachers should also upscale their knowledge to guide the students about vocational education. Government, university or any educational institutions must conduct training or short-term courses for teachers about exact goal of vocational education.
- Holistic approach is required to create awareness about vocational education among various stakeholders.

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