

# Article on “Rural Development and Employment through Skill Development”

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## Abstract

*India has around 600,000 villages with around 64% of its 1.3 billion people living in them. It is absurd to imagine growth without the country-side growing as fast as India's towns and cities. This nation has one of the largest pools of unskilled labor waiting to be trained and utilized. In the absence of proper training, awareness and motivation, it is commonplace for the rural unemployed youth to adopt alternative means of livelihood, many of which are shunned by civil laws. Through this paper the author wishes to throw some light on the importance of Skill Development programs, their current status, the gap that exists between the demand and supply of skilled labor and how employability of rural youth is enhanced by imparting skill oriented training to them. Finally, the paper also emphasizes on how skilled and employable youth contribute to overall development of a rural economy in particular and the nation in general. Data has been gathered from reliable secondary sources. On assumed lines, it was also concluded that the need of the hour for India is to aggressively pursue innovative government programs like Skill India and Make in India so that by the turn of the decade, close to half of the projected eligible population could be employed in various state-run schemes, private organizations. Entrepreneurship is also an outcome of innovative skill development that has immense potential for employment and thus, development of the rural landscape. The paper limits itself to the schemes launched by the respective state governments and central governments thus leaving room for improvement as far as measures taken by privately owned organizations and NGOs are concerned.*

**Keywords :** Rural development, Entrepreneurship, skill development, Skill India, Make in India, Skill gaps, Demographic Dividend

## **1. Objectives of The Paper**

Through this paper we would try to address the following key areas:

1. The need of skill-based training in India
2. The present status of skill training and vocational education in India.
3. The Demand for Skilled persons
4. The Supply of Skilled persons
5. Existing gaps between the Supply and Demand of skilled persons

## **2. Limitations of the study**

The paper is limited to the Indian demography in

general and rural India in particular. This excludes the utilization of the paper as a reference article for cases outside India. Also, since the study was conducted using secondary data sources, it leaves sufficient scope for the research area to be explored using first hand data. There is also much literature available to be reviewed on highly specific areas of vocational training such as skill training for rural women, vocational educational needs for the physically disabled and so on. Besides having a very broad focus, this paper also takes just one sample of Uttar Pradesh which might not be an ideal representation of India as a whole due to the sheer variety in demographic segments of this multi-lingual, multi-cultured country. There is scope of improvement as far as depth of study is