

Vivekananda's Vision on Entrepreneurial Education

Abstract

In view of the situation of declining job opportunities, the challenge before the economy is to create conducive environment for fostering and promoting entrepreneurial talent among the youth to generate employment. Through this research paper an attempt has been made keeping in mind the Vivekananda's philosophy on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial education and how it can be incorporated in curriculum which will help to boost entrepreneurial talent among individuals to work in increasingly productive and remunerative sectors of the economy.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial Education, Entrepreneurship, Unemployment, Educated Youth, Vocationalisation, Vivekananda's Vision.

Introduction

In any economy education drives the competitiveness and employment generation. Education is the driving power of economic and social progress in any country. Bearing in mind this, it is necessary to find way to make education of good quality, accessible and affordable. Education must be value-oriented. Education is not only the pursuit or promotion of knowledge but also its utilization for good of the individual and the wealth of the society. The skill level and educational attainment of the work force determines not only the productivity but also the adaptability of the working class in changing environment.

The high rate of unemployment among educated youth is in many ways the core of problem because it creates a sense of despair across a wide section of the population including not only the educated youth but their parents and families. There are many causes of educated unemployment. Along with this a part of the problem is a strong preference among young for general education over vocational education and training. The reason underlying this is that general education has traditionally been seen as a route to acquiring government jobs which are highly valued. This has led to a low demand for vocational training courses. The Indian education system (general education which includes arts, commerce and science) is defective in the sense it does not ensure employment on account of its limited utility for productive purposes. Such type of education is not only inadequate but also wrongly educated.

The greatest challenge to India is, to convert large human resources base to knowledge workers, equipped with numerous skills that can harness and take advantage of this blooming knowledge economy. A link to the vital analysis of education and its various future links to the world of work are of immense importance.

In view of the situation of declining job opportunities, the challenge before the economy is to create conducive environment for fostering and promoting entrepreneurial talent among the youth to generate employment. An attempt has been made in this paper keeping in mind the Vivekananda's philosophy on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial education and how it can be incorporated in curriculum which will help to boost entrepreneurial talent among individuals to work in increasingly productive and remunerative sectors of the economy.

Problem of Unemployment

One of the major problems confronting Indian economy is existence of high level of unemployment. Over a period of time the issue pertaining to educated unemployment is becoming more and more sensitive. "The educated unemployment is rising alarmingly. Thus, the issue of educated unemployment needs consideration". (Naidu, 1996) "The high rate of unemployment among educated youth is in many ways the core problem because it creates a sense of despair across a wide section of population including not only the educated youth but their parents and families. It needs to be emphasized that the aspirations of this group cannot be met just by creating any employment opportunities.



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Indeed, the reason why this group has high unemployment is precisely because their aspirations are high and they do not just want to take up any employment that may be available". (GOI, 2006)

Educated Unemployment

"There are many causes of educated unemployment. The defective educational system, with its theoretical bias, lack of aptitude and technical qualifications for various types of work among job seekers and maladjustments between demand and supply of workers are few reasons. (GOI, 2005) "However, there is also a problem with supply side of vocational training. The physical capacity of the existing training institutes is limited and quality of training provided is also not up to the mark. Training courses in government run institutes are often not sufficiently reflective of market demand. There is also a perception among employers that skill levels acquired by graduates of these institutes are inadequate". (Agrawal & Achanta, 2010)

"Worsening unemployment now affecting young people in particular and deteriorating competitive position of our enterprises is forcing people to skeptical about the education system that produces so many unqualified youngsters" (Thatte, 1990) The vocationalization of education at the secondary stage of schooling and undergraduate level needs a loud thought.

Vivekananda's Vision and Entrepreneurial Education

"In view of the situation of declining job opportunities, the challenge before the economy is to create conducive environment for employment. Entrepreneurial talent among individuals to work in increasingly productive and remunerative sectors of the economy is imminent". (Agrawal & Patel, 2001)

According to Swami Vivekananda, "Education is the manifestation of perfection already in the man". As per him the current system and structure of education did not facilitate a person to stand on his own feet, nor did it teach him self-confidence and self-respect. For Vivekananda, education was not only collection of information, but something more meaningful and significant; he felt education should be man-making, life giving and character-building. To him education was an assimilation of noble ideas.

"Entrepreneurship development has been accepted as a tool in the development process for over two decades in India" (Mony, 1999). "In the formal education, entrepreneurship is relatively a new discipline. It has been found by various studies that till the beginning of 1990s entrepreneurship remained topic of academicians at undergraduate and post-graduate level" (Agrawal & Achanta, 2010).

Five key lessons of Vivekananda philosophy that can be related to: **Entrepreneur, Entrepreneurship, Enterprise** & finally to need for Entrepreneurial Education

"Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life – think of it, dream of it, and live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success". When swamiji spoke these words he wasn't thinking of startups or entrepreneurship. But they are unquestionably words

of wisdom for today's startups and entrepreneurs. The power of focus. The discipline to leave every other idea alone. And marching ahead paving way to success.

Secondly Vivekananda mentioned that "Each work has to pass through stages- ridicule, opposition and then acceptance: Those who think ahead of their time are sure to be misunderstood" This means that one should have entrepreneurial vision to foresee the future trends while taking decisions. Be enterprising and prepared to pass thru various stages.

Thirdly, "Are great things ever done smoothly? Time, Patience and indomitable will must show". His motivational words means to say that one has to be courageous and strong to face and overcome the barriers that are likely to come in due course.

His strong statement which can be directly related to the quality of entrepreneur & entrepreneurship is-"Do not look back upon what has been done. Go Ahead!!!!"

Finally, "Be a hero, always say, "I have no fear" Tell this to everyone- "Have no fear". This statement motivates that one should have risk facing and taking ability like an entrepreneur which make if different compared to others.

In the above statements/ Remarks, he didn't address any business topic directly. But his philosophy and thoughts are more useful, relevant and aspiring for startups giving a competitive.

This calls for innovation in our educational system and motivating the target groups concerned to incorporate entrepreneurship as subject at all levels of education.

Conclusions & Way Ahead!!!!

It is believed that education serve as a bridge that carts the traffic of social and economic development. One of the powerful and pervasive agents of change is education and it is locomotive of socio-economic progress of a nation. In the formal education, entrepreneurship is relatively a new discipline. Entrepreneurship development was started in our country during the sixties in the form of industrial campaign. During the seventies systematic efforts were made for developing entrepreneurship. Gujarat followed by states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu etc was the first state to start planned and systematic efforts on entrepreneurship development. "Establishment of positive linkage between entrepreneurship and economic prosperity and emergence of strong planned efforts were the two major contributions of the 60s (Akhouri, 1999)

1. Encouraging & motivating students to take entrepreneurship as subject and also opt for vocational education.
2. Spreading entrepreneurial education by incorporating entrepreneurship as subject at school level.
3. At school level there is need to combine entrepreneurial intensity and academic requirement.
4. Merging entrepreneurial education with vocational education and training. This will give face lift to the vocational education and training.

In the given economic conditions, when vocational education has not been able to solve many of the problems. Reforms in education have guided by a concern for improvement in the quality of education through the dual process of energizing functioning of the system and its linkage with the development process in its all dimensions. And this can be very well achieved by incorporating entrepreneurial education in the current education system following and believing in the words and vision of Swami Vivekananda.

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