

:: S Y N O P S I S ::

I) The Problem :

Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education has been attempted in our country as a part of Government efforts to provide meaningful education leading to profitable employment opportunities at appropriate levels. Incidentally, vocationalisation of education also helps in relieving pressure on Higher Education system.

This is a bold change in the educational policy of the government. With these objectives in view, the National Review Committee had recommended the establishment of two separate spectre at the higher stage, one should comprise the general education spectrum and the other vocationalised spectrum.

Accordingly, the year 1978 witnessed a major thrust in the reconstruction of the educational system in the country, with the adoption of the new pattern of 10+2+3 for school and college classes. General Education and Vocationalised Education were introduced as the two streams at the 10+2 stage. The vocationalised courses fall into six major categories viz. Agriculture, Home Science, Health, Commerce and Business, Engineering and Technology and Miscellaneous.

Initially only 10 states, including the State of Maharashtra, introduced the New +2 pattern either at

school level or college level or junior college level.

Accordingly, in various districts of Maharashtra State, at Junior College level or at Higher Secondary Level, vocational courses are conducted. Kolhapur district is not an exception to that.

The researcher has tried his best to study the various aspects of vocational courses in commerce along with their problems and difficulties, and made few suggestions and recommendations.

II) Title :

The Dissertation is titled as "Impact of Vocational Courses in Commerce - A Critical Study of the Working of the Scheme in Selected Colleges in Kolhapur District" also as to cover all the aspects of Vocational Courses and their implementation in Kolhapur district.

III) The Aims and Objectives :

The aims and objectives of the study of "Impact of Vocational Courses in selected colleges of Kolhapur district are as follows :

1. To study the objectives and operational framework of the scheme of Vocational Education of Higher Secondary students.
2. To examine the administrative infrastructure of implementing agency i.e.

Department of Education, Government of Maharashtra for operation of the Scheme.

3. To conduct a survey of Junior Colleges providing Vocational Education for XIth and XIIth class students, in Kolhapur District, under the provisions of the scheme. To obtain first hand information on various aspects relating to the implementation of the scheme by interviewing the Teachers and Heads of Department of Vocational Courses.
4. To study socio-economic characteristics of the beneficiaries of the scheme to examine problems faced by the students in deriving benefits of the scheme and to study the impact of Vocational Education in Commerce on the XIIth passed students.
5. To examine the role of agencies in Kolhapur district working in the field of Vocational Education i.e. Survey of different colleges.
6. To study the role of District Vocational Education Office, Kolhapur and

other colleges running the scheme in formulation, publicity and implementation of the scheme.

IV) The Scope of the Study :

The scope of the study has covered the following components in accordance with the above aims and objectives.

- a) Study of the Scheme of Vocational Education in Commerce stream.
- b) Organisational study of the Department of Education, Government of Maharashtra.
- c) Survey of Junior Colleges covered under the scheme.
- d) Survey of Teachers.
- e) Survey of the students, who have passed vocational courses, under the provision of the scheme.
- f) Survey of the Heads of Vocational Courses in different colleges.
- g) Study of problems and difficulties in the implementation of the scheme.
- h) Survey of Experts, working in this scheme.

V) Limitations :

1. The study involved extensive field work covering four colleges from Kolhapur District, Colleges covered were :

- a) The Wama Mahavidyalaya, Wamanagar
- b) College of Commerce, Kolhapur
- c) S.M. Lohia Junior College, Kolhapur and
- d) Devchand College, Arjunagar.

In Kolhapur district, there are in all eight colleges conducting vocational courses but out of them, four junior colleges have recently started these courses.

This study strictly confines to the survey of vocational courses in Kolhapur district only.

2. The vocational courses fall into six major categories viz. Agriculture, Home Science, Health Commerce, and Business Engineering and Technology and Miscellaneous.

This study covers only the courses in commerce group.

3. The vocational education scheme is still on the pilot basis. It has been introduced since 1978-79, and the period covered was from 1978-79 to 1982-83. It would be rather too early to draw certain conclusions from its working, on the basis of such short period i.e. four years.

VI) Methodology Applied :

In this dissertation report the coverage was related to the critical study of vocational courses in commerce stream only. Factual material or data unknown or untapped so far is essential in every study. It has been obtained from many sources, direct and indirect. A systematic procedure is adopted to collect primary data. For collecting the secondary data required for the study of the problem the researcher has used the following methods and tools for the dissertation work.

1. Historical Method
2. Sample Survey
3. Interviews
4. Questionnaire
5. Observations

1. Historical Method :

Necessary primary data was obtained from the students, teachers and college offices and from the District Vocational Education Office, Kolhapur. For secondary data, books, journals, articles in newspapers, reports on education and vocational courses by various committees and commissions and Government publications were referred.

2. Sample Survey :

For the detailed investigation and collection of data four premier and prominent colleges, from total

number of eight colleges, were selected. Fifty students offering vocational courses on random basis from different colleges were selected to elicit the information and reaction of the students about the courses.

3. Interviews :

Before starting the interviews, the author identified the objectives of personal interview programmes and the principal questions for the survey were prepared and the interviews were completed within the span of six months. The interview reports were prepared in detail with quotations of respondents. This helped the author in the preparation and completion of the final report of the survey.

4. Questionnaire :

Three important components in the scheme viz., students, heads of institutions and teachers were consulted and their opinions were sought. Three separate structured questionnaires were prepared systematically, carefully to gather the data and opinions.

5. Observations :

While studying these colleges, students and teachers, their view points were ascertained by involving the author himself as one of the group under observation and shared experiences.

VII) Chapter Scheme :

A critical study of "Impact of Vocational Courses in selected colleges of Koyhapur district is divided into six chapters. The different aspects of the scheme of Vocational Education and its implementation at Junior College level, form the framework of this dissertation.

Chapter - 1 :

This chapter deals with the historical background of the scheme. Before introducing of the scheme, of Vocationalisation, Central Government and the State Government appointed number of committees and commissions. Efforts have been made to put forth important recommendations on different aspects and the need of the scheme.

Chapter - 2 :

This chapter deals with the various silent features of the scheme like 1) Permission from the State Government to start this scheme, 2) Financial assistance by the government, 3) Different aspects of the scheme like field work, visits, guest lectures, practicals etc.

This chapter also deals with administration of the scheme by the government, with the help of its Administrative machinery.

Chapter - 3 :

This chapter deals with the data collected by

the author on various aspects of the scheme like

- 1) Data about number of colleges covered
- 2) Data about the number of students passed vocational courses,
- 3) Data about the students, who have passed, employed or self-employed,
- 4) Information about the teachers, instructors and financial assistance.

This chapter also analyses and interprets the data in detail regarding the above mentioned matters.

Chapter - 4 :

This chapter deals with the opinions of the students, teachers and heads of vocational institutions, in respect of different aspects of vocational^{al} scheme and its implementation. It also deals with the experts opinions and views on various aspects of the scheme.

Chapter - 5 :

This chapter analyses different difficulties and problems faced by the teachers, students and institutions. Almost all problems are studied in this chapter. The effects of these problems on the growth, development and implementation of the scheme are also elucidated.

Chapter - 6 :

This is the final chapter which deals specifically with conclusions suggestions and recommendations made by the researcher. This would help

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in the solution of the various problems related to all aspects of vocational scheme and its implementation and will enhance the effectiveness of the scheme, which is vital for the development of specific professional skills, among the students either for employment or self-employment.

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