

CLUSTER SCHOOLS FOR NSQF SECTOR COURSES: A SKILL INITIATIVE

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ABSTRACT

National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF), a flagship scheme of Goa Samagra Shiksha which is implemented in Goa in the year 2014. The main objective of the scheme is to develop skills in the students at school level. National Skill Qualification Framework is the best platform to promote vocational education along with general education at school level and it will also help to improve the present state of vocational education.

Currently, Goa Samagra Shiksha is offering courses more than 12 Sectors, to the students of 9th to 12th Standard in the select Government and Government Aided High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools in the state of Goa. At Present there are 02 sector instructors appointed on contract basis at each school and the students are supposed to opt for any one course between the two sectors. The option to opt for other courses which are offered by some other High School in the locality is not available.

Setting up of cluster schools for NSQF Sector Courses will provide a wide range of options to the students. This step will enhance skill development among the students and also encourage the student to choose from a wider range of sector courses. In this regard the paper tries to propose a roadmap to establish the cluster which can be a successful step towards the improvement in Skill Education in the State of Goa.

The paper proposes the setting up of cluster for NSQF Sector Courses and concludes that the establishment of the cluster can be effective step for empowering the skill education.

KEYWORDS: National Skill Qualification Framework, Goa Samagra Shiksha, Skill development, Vocational education.

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INTRODUCTION

The term vocationalization refers to efforts by schools to include in their curriculum those practical subjects which are likely to generate among students some basic knowledge, skills and dispositions that might prepare them to think of becoming skilled workers or to enter manual operations. (World Bank,2002, Africa).

Vocationalization of Education, which was first proposed by Kothari commission in the year 1966.Kothari commission focused on vocationalization of higher secondary education and especially for school dropouts through vocational training centres and institutions like ITI. Mahatma Gandhi favoured craft centric education at schools to inculcate skills in learners. National Education Policy 1986 also suggested introduction of vocational education at school level through generic vocational courses. Most of the developed countries have been practicing combination of vocational education and general education. Balanced between formal education and skill based education is required to maintain industry's need.

National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF), a flagship scheme of Goa Samagra Shiksha which is implemented in Goa in the year 2014.The main objective the scheme is to develop skills in the students at school level. National Skill Qualification Framework is the best platform to promote vocational education along with general education at school level and it will also help to improve the present state of vocational education. Scheme helps to improve infrastructure of the school required for smooth conduct of courses. Students are also awarded with certificates on successful completion

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National Education Policy 2020 aims to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with vocational education and focuses on integration of vocational education programmes into mainstream education throughout the country in a phased manner. Commencing vocational exposure in middle and secondary school, quality vocational education will be integrated smoothly into higher education. It will ensure that every child learns at least one vocation and is exposed to several more. This would lead to emphasizing the dignity of labour and importance of various vocations involving /Indian arts and artisanship.

Currently, Goa Samagra Shiksha is offering 15 Sector courses, to the students of 09th to 12th Standard in the select Government and Government Aided High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools in the state of Goa.

CLUSTER SCHOOL CONCEPT

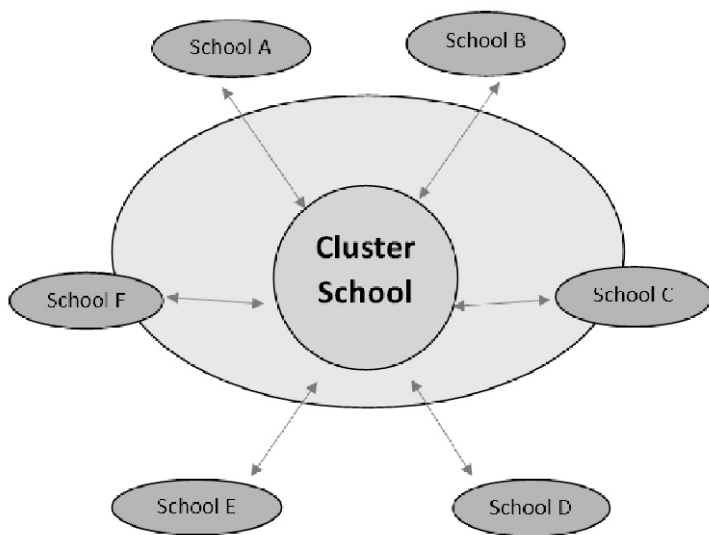
One reason vocational education could not flourish in our country was due to lack of funds and required infrastructure. For effective teaching-learning of vocational education requirement of adequate infrastructure is necessary. Catering required infrastructure to implement vocational education at large scale will require heavy investment into it.

Under current system of NSQF, schools are restricted to offer maximum two courses according to the enrolment for vocational education and the major drawback of this system is that student is not able to enrol for course of his/her interest. Student can perform skill only when the area is of his/her interest. Due to this current system majority students even after completing level 4 in particular NSQF sector choose to opt for general education over vocational education.

At the beginning stage, cluster school could be a good alternative to implement vocational education at large scale. This will help to curtail the cost of implementation and will also provide wide choice to students to select area of their interest in vocational education.

Cluster school will be a centre school for vocational education courses in the particular locality wherein students from 8 km radius area will be enrolled for studies. Each cluster school will have maximum six sub-school which

will act as feeder school for a cluster. Vocational courses at the cluster school will be implemented based on socio-economic factor of the area. Minimum six courses will be offered in the cluster school depending on the infrastructure and enrolment of the students.



INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CLUSTER SCHOOLS

In the state of Goa, there are many public sector infrastructures which are underutilised. Govt. can take hold of these underutilised infrastructure and develop them as a cluster school as per the standards.

SWOC Analysis about implementation of Cluster School in the State of Goa

STRENGTH

- Strengthening the Foundation of Vocational Education in the State of Goa
- Speedy Implementation of the NSQF in the State of Goa
- Linkage of the Vocational Education with the Schemes of the Central Government.

- Promotion of Skill Development in a comprehensive and holistic approach.
- Dedicated institution to promote Vocational Education
- Reduce in infrastructural cost.
- Wide option for students to choose subject of their interest.
- Appropriate environment to promote Vocational Education

WEAKNESS

- Lack of will and support towards the implementation of the Policy Decision
- Neglect from the Stakeholders, in spite of being aware of the real benefits
- Lot of administrative revolving is required
- Lot of initial investments for setup cost is required
- Approach and mindset towards vocational education.
- Perception towards the vocational education.

OPPORTUNITY

- Enhanced employment and skill upgradation through Vocational Education.
- Centralised system to provide vocational education
- Scope for introduction of wide range of subjects
- Ample area of improvement to provide internships to students
- Good industry-academia approach can be adopted

CHALLENGES

- Academic approval for the cluster school in Goa
- Constitution of Board of Studies for Cluster Schools

- Taking industry on board with regard to the concept of Cluster School
- Development of Positive Perception towards Vocational Education
- Taking all the stakeholders on Board
- Implementation of NEP-2020 and also other aspects of Vocational Education.

CONCLUSION

The above SWOC analysis brings out the clear picture of pros and cons about implementation of Cluster School in the State of Goa. Though the implementation of the idea is a challenge, its benefits are many. If the challenges are worked out effectively and the system is in favour of the Vocational Education, the cluster schools will be reality.

The roadmap will lead to development of an effective base for skill education in the State of Goa and also be a problem solver to the problem of unemployment in the State of Goa. Many other initiatives can be linked to the cluster school in future which includes

- Central Government Schemes of skilling and entrepreneurship development
- National Skill Qualification Framework
- Swayampurna Goa
- Internship based education
- Skill oriented education for all
- Skill upgradation and enhancement courses

After taking into consideration all the positive points about the cluster school, it's very important to start the cluster schools for NSQF courses in the State of Goa.

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