

THE CONTRIBUTION OF PRIVATE INFORMAL INSTITUTES IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS: A CASE STUDY OF ABASEEN INSTITUTE, ISLAMABAD

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Abstract:

This paper attempts to explore the marginalized social & economic conditions of overseas Pakistanis, espellially settled in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Analysis has been done to examine and evaluate the role of informal institutes like AIM& MS which has employed various modern methods and technologies to examine, certify and develop these overseas in terms of getting higher job positions. Data from the given institute and the current changed roles of the candidates have been represented in the form of available percentage change in the form of table, and how the government can also work on this issue.

Keywords: Professional Development, Capacity Building Certification, On job professionals

Introduction

The world can undergo a positive shift to prosperity and peace through the instrumental role of education, and the current history of the nations is witnessing to this fact. Education can lead a nation to the desired direction. Economy is intrinsically linked to the development of a nation, and education in broader sense is more than oxygen for the economic structure of any nation.

The modern history is replete with so many examples, that only professionally skilled persons/nations can make big strides on way to economic prosperity. Similarly, economy is the base for all other attributes of the societies like governance, peace, stability and even democracy.

In the modern world only professionally skilled persons can get jobs or in case of difficulty in finding the jobs, they easily recourse to adopt businesses. They in turn create big business enterprises, and become job providers. In this regard, an individual will not o be a burden to his country and family but also will play a significant role to his country (Meher, 2019).

Vocational professional education refers to the skill of an individual or persons through which he becomes adept in the delivery of a specifically tuned job/work. By means it the individual becomes fit for a specific job and profession. These skills may be in the following fields accounting, nursing, medicine, architecture, workmanship, technicians, psychology, engineering, and law (Smeby, 2012).

Thinking about why the importance of professional education seems to be on the rise in the contemporary context, if we look at our past from a practical perspective, we know that 80% of the jobs were employed by non-skilled people in the 1950s. On the contrary, today 85% of the jobs are with skilled people. Due to this great change, the importance of professional education in the contemporary world can be largely felt (Meher, 2019).

Like the rest of the world in Pakistan, a social and economic revolution is about to take place. The nature of work in the offices and factories is changing and thus it is imperative to be skilled for better quality. If Pakistan is viewed as a multi-population country and its major portion is comprised of youth. The country needs special attention in this area (Meher, 2019). Technical Vocational Education and Training can play a vital role in the enhancement of professional and technical education in Pakistan (Ahmed, 2018). Furthermore, a total of 3581 vocational education institutes in Pakistan are enrolling students in vocational education in the dimensions of Pakistan called TVET (Technical Vocational Education and Training). Of these technical education institutes, 1177 institutes are government and 2404 institutes are private enterprises. On the provincial level, total number of professional institutes are engaged in 1817, 585 in Sindh, 599 in KP, 125 in Balochistan, 175 in Gilgit-Baltistan, 114 in Azad Kashmir, 61 in FATA and 103 in the federal capital (Meher, 2019).

The role of TVET is no doubt enormous in the up skilling of the local Pakistanis, but ignores the big chunk of the overseas Pakistanis, who mainly work in the gulf region especially in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. Because such persons are mainly in these countries and cannot find time and resources to come to Pakistan and enroll in these institutes(Zahir,2020).

To bridge this lacunae various other modes of training and certification have been in vogue in various developed and developing countries like France, Germany and India.

For this, competency based education plays a vital role for the enhancement and recognition of skills of the already skilled persons. It is the education systems in which a student's is assessed by grading, academic reporting and skills. This mode of education is alternative to the old education system and is a turning point in the traditional education Scheme. This system provides diploma to those students who meet the learning and skills standards. It increases the learning, knowledge and skills of the prospects. Hence, it can increase and enhance the standards of the workers which will resultantly improve the salaries and will increase the chance of the promotion of the workers (Glossary, 2014).

In addition to this, recognition prior learning approach which is also known as, R.P.L System, provides the opportunities for the workers to increase their salaries and to get promotion in the relevant organizations. RPL recognizes that people have learnt in a variety of ways and that learning can be achieved through. In contrast formal learning that takes place in relation between a teacher and a student, such as in a school system, a university and is recognized officially with degrees, certificates or diplomas. However the certifications earned through non formal and non-structured channels, donot fall in the traditional formal qualification frame work. Non-formal learning is that takes place in a formal learning environment but is not accepted in a curriculum or syllabus system (workshops, group classes, interest-based courses, short courses or seminars in conference style). Informal learning is that takes place in a variety of places, such as at home, at work, and through daily interactions and connections with members of society, a combination of all the above (University, n.d.).

Experience based certification plays a significant role in the development of the workers. Certification is an accomplishment. It tells employers that you have developed skills by completing training in a specific area. This certificate can increase marketability for an entry-level job. It helps the individual to get a job. Moreover, it provides an opportunity to gain a competitive advantage in the market, efficiency of the individual will be increased, there will be greater chance for the increase of salaries, workers will be able get promotion in there and outside their organizations, the knowledge of the workers will be expanded and resultantly it will increase the life of the family of workers and will lead towards the enhancement of the remittances of that country (Partners, 2017).

Contemporary is a universal era that has set the world apart and in order to meet the needs of the current world, Pakistan needs to make our new generation skilled so that Pakistan can meet the low cost as well as quality goods in the world. In this modern age where a competition is taking place in every sector and market, Pakistan has to introduce quality and cheap goods into the world (Meher, 2019). Until the twentieth century, the scope of vocational education was very limited and very short, and only automobile, welders and electrician education were seen and considered as vocational education (Emily Hanford, 2014), but by the beginning of the 21st century, technology is the only vehicle in the world. In the world, the importance of professional education has increased. In view of this situation, professional and educational institutions are being built at the public and non-governmental level. It is increasing at all walks of life, including crafts and home-made industries (Meher, 2019).

The above discussion may give an idea of the importance of vocational professional education. All parents have very high wishes about their children and want their children to do white-collar jobs and blue-collar jobs are not seen as good and that thinking can be harmful to our nation. Through vocational education, individual can become proficient and create good jobs for ourselves and a good future for our children. Individual should focus on getting professional education instead of employment and employment through traditional education. In this way, the small industry or cottage industry in our country will flourish (Mustafa et al., 2005).

If we look at it from a global point of view, there are countries in the world that have adopted vocational education as a compulsion in their schooling schools. Why can't we develop our country and create our country's name in the international markets and global markets? (Islam, 2018) Some organizations have taken initiatives in this regard by providing technical education to children from the poorer sections of the society, which is good and welcome. Such measures should be appreciated by the people and the government also has the responsibility to take practical steps like this. If it is our mission that we should make them a strong socio-economic country and society, then it will be impossible without making our people skilled. At present, the importance of it is even more needed when foreign countries like Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and China are investing in foreign countries, it is required for Pakistan to make our people skilled. For example, if China is making CPEC and Saudi is investing in oil refinery, then it is best opportunity for Pakistan to prepare our people in terms of mechanical, electrical and other

related fields. Otherwise, these opportunities will be exploited by the foreign countries and we Pakistan will be left behind in the development and progress (Meher, 2019).

Finding better jobs compels many Pakistanis to move to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. There are still millions of Pakistanis living in Saudi Arabia for employment. The workers here are mostly Pakistanis. Bengalis are working in the cleaning sector and Indians are working in the sales, retail and accounts sectors (BBC, 2019). According to the Al Arabiya report, there are currently 11 million 50 thousand 192 foreigners working in Saudi Arabia, while the number of Saudis on the job is just 30 million 38 thousand 945. According to the report, foreign workers include 3 million Indians, 25 million Pakistanis, 22 million Egyptians, 14 million Yemenis and 12 million Bengali. According to these figures, a large number of Pakistanis are still employed there (TV, 2017). Furthermore, According to Arab News reports, 60% of foreigners working in the private sector in Saudi Arabia belong to 7 countries, with the highest number of people from Pakistan, India and Egypt. According to the Labor Ministry data, citizens from 25 countries are working in the country, which is about 22 million Indians and 18 million are Pakistanis. The population of Yemen is 7 million 20 thousand, Filipinos 5 million 40 thousand and Sudanese 4 million (Pakistan, 2016).

Status of Overseas Pakistanis in KSA before Professional Certificates

Education	Work Experiences	Problems Faced
Matriculate and Under matriculate	Most of them were experienced and their work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facing problem of jobs promotion

	experiences ranges from 4 to 15 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their salaries were not increasing and were stagnant.
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In contrast to Pakistani workers in Kingdom of Saudi Arabi, the workers of India and Sri Lanka enjoyed privileged position over the workers of Pakistanis in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabi because these workers possessed professional certificates and diplomas. Their qualification and work experience were same like the worker of Pakistani which is shown in the below table. However, they enjoyed the privileged position due the obtained professionals certificates and diplomas.

Education and Work Experience along with professional certificates of Indian and SriLanaka workers and its impacts

Education	Work Experiences	Professional Certificates and	impacts
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		Diplomas	
Matriculate and Under matriculate	Most of them were experienced and their work experiences ranges from 4 to 15 years	All those workers possessed professional and diplomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were promoted in the organizations to the next level • Their salaries were increased • It led to the improve their standard of life • It has increased the remittances of their respective countries

**ROLE OF ABSEEN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND MODERN SCIENCES,
ISLAMABAD**

About AIMMS

AIMMS (Abaseen Institute of Medical & Modern Sciences) is an Islamabad based & unique professional educational training institute. The basic idea of its establishment during 2004, under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Zahir Shah was to enhance, refine, polish and develop the professional and vocational capacity of the Pakistanis for the local market. It therefore concluded collaborative relationship with Skill Development Council, and Trade Testing Board. It provided basic awareness trainings in various areas like health care, management, vocational fields and entrepreneurships.

However sensing the problems of overseas Pakistanis in gulf region, the management decided to form its own private forum where the experiences and professional worth of the prospects to be grounded into an informal and non-academic certification. For this purpose the forum was named as Professional Skills Recognition Board, where the term board was used for the group of professionals of the AIM&MS.

In addition to it the institute has got a blessing in concluding training partnership with Canada based organization known as TRACCERT- which is short of the Training Accreditation & Certification Organization. This accredited body is working in an innovative manner to certify the trained persons, under a specific rigorous process. In addition to it keeping the interests of first tier managerial staff of overseas, the institute has done a memorandum of understanding with France Based well reputed university, called European International University, which works in an innovative vocational professional style.

AIMMS is engaged in providing professional competency education under unique style at your door step and shape your skills into productive excellence.

Motto of AIMMS

Progress



Development



Prosperity

Objectives

- To improve the standard of life of the workers
- To provide technical, professional and skill base Certification
- To enable the workers to get promotions
- To provide certificates and diplomas to the experience skilled labor
- To enhance and motivate the human development

CONTRIBUTION OF AIM&MS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS.

There is no denying the fact that skilled persons contribute to the development of the respective companies and job places. Likewise, AIMMS has contributed matchless services in this regard. The following graph in percentage is showing the trends in the given regard.

Pakistani Overseas in KSA during 2014 to 2016

10 percent of the skilled persons were getting 1200 to 1400 SAR as Monthly Salary Before 2016.

After Professional Certification awarded by AIMMS, the monthly salaries increased at average 2500 SARs to 3000 SARs

Out of 20 percent, 15 percent persons got job change with 30 percent increase in package.

30 percent of 40 percent got Profession Change that resulted into 12 percent increase in salary.

Similarly 27 percent workers, out of 40 got higher tier jobs, like sub engineer, Technician jobs, with visible increase in salary.

20 percent increase in the remittances was seen.

**AIMMS ROLE IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE WORKERS OF PAKISTANS IN
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

Education	Work Experiences	Provision of Professional	Impacts
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		Certificates and diploma by AIMMS to the Pakistani Workers in KSA	
Matriculate and Under matriculate	Most of them were experienced and their work experiences ranges from 4 to 15 years	After obtaining Certificates and Diplomas from AIMMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were promoted in the organizations to the next level • Their salaries were increased • It led to the improve their standard of life • It has increased the remittances of the Pakistan.

Source: AIMMS , Archives

The below table shows the details about status of workers of Pakistanis in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before and after obtaining of professional certificates and diplomas from the institute of AIMMS.

	Percentage %				
	Get more jobs	Jobs Change	Incensement in Salaries	Workers Promoted	Impacts on the Remittances of Pakistan
After obtaining the Professional certificates and diplomas from AIMMS (2016)	35 %	15% out of 20 %	10%	27 % out of 40%	Remittances increased 20%

Source: AIMMS , Archives

CONCLUSION

Skill development and professional enhancement initiatives is the exclusive responsibility of the government if she is serious in changing the fate of overseas Pakistanis. However, the management of AIMMS, who work with devotion and fervor, needs to be encouraged by the government of Pakistan. Unfortunately some regulatory bodies which are unaware of the international standards of up skilling initiatives of the overseas Pakistanis in the form of skills certification creates technical and bureaucratic hurdles in the way of AIMMS. Unfortunately, the legal and technical impediments are on the way for the smooth running of such institutes. Instead of providing facilities some government bodies erect hurdles and deny the attestation and authentication of such experience based up skilling and professional continuing ethereal certifications.

It is the need of the hour for the government sponsored bodies to stand up and encourage the creation of such institutes for the exclusive betterment of overseas Pakistanis who mainly hail from lower middle segments of the society. The policy makers should come up with concrete policies in favor of such initiatives.

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