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Technical Training

Technical training is offered to young people in our country at different levels. The facilities for such training have always been inadequate and there is, as yet, inadequacies in them when considered in relation to specific lines of training and specialisation. The linkage of manpower planning with the market for manpower is still nearly absent. Moreover, the Third Five-Year Plan (TFYP) does not envisage any substantial expansion of facilities for technical education at the formal degree and the diploma levels.

At the lower levels—the vocational training institutes and similar other institutions for technical training for lower-level technical manpower—not much attention is given in the TFYP, although a shortage in the supply of technical manpower in the country is recognised in the Plan document. Further, the informal technical training institutes that have blossomed all over the metropolis seem really to have received practically no attention from our planners who have generally shown inadequate attention to technical training in general. As we look at it, there is ample scope for the improvement of training facilities in these institutions that attract a huge number of young people who are in need of jobs for which such a training is considered necessary. In some cases they get the training, in others what they get is just an apology for proper training. It is impossible to ensure proper training without some formal supervision by proper authorities who should take responsibility in the matter.

Moreover, this is a field in which we can very fruitfully utilise foreign aid from industrially developed nations and international organisations. Of course, we are already receiving such aid. But it is possible to increase the flow of such aid if we pay due attention to preparing good projects that would satisfy aid givers that we are in a position to remove a genuine scarcity of technical hands by implementing those. Such success on our part would benefit us as well as those nations that benefit by utilising our manpower. In fact, it would also benefit developed countries that export such machinery as are used by technicians. For countries that are even less developed than ours, or are at our level of development, we can also offer some facilities for using our trained manpower and for training their manpower in our institutions for technical training. In this way, our success in this field would benefit not only ourselves but also many others in the international community. Adequate attention to technical training at all levels is, therefore, a crying need and our planners have to be alert on this issue. Our scant attention to the informal technical training institutes can only cause a deterioration of their standard of training and help some unscrupulous people involved in it make easy money without a quid pro quo to the society.

Our youth development programme is, as yet, just about to take off. The streamlining of the training facilities envisaged in it and an expansion of its facet of training activity are also urgently needed. Self-employment facilities for the trained require some guidance and publicity too. In addition, our centres for higher education could also be improved for some technical training activities. For example, our college curricula could possibly be recast for accommodating management training, agricultural extension activities and activities involving cooperation in credit and marketing. Moreover, programmes similar to the one that is being successfully operated by the Bangladesh Institute for Distant Education (BIDE) may also be prepared and organised with the help of appropriate institutions which may also be encouraged to utilise the mass media for the purpose of technical education. These are just a few of the many possibilities that appear to offer themselves to us for promoting it. The basic requirement, to start with, is, of course, our readiness to stand up to the need of the hour by adjusting our plans to what is required for society and by adjusting the dreams of our youth to the reality that surrounds him.