

Vocational Education For Economic Advance

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The value of vocational education and technical training in areas pertaining to social, economic and industrial development is being gradually recognised in most of the third world countries. Liveing aside the usual reluctance shown by young people to go for vocational training, a distinct change is now discernible in this direction. More and more people in developing countries are opting for vocational training and new institutes are being set up all over the third world to meet the growing demand of expertise in this field.

'Education for work' is the slogan of the present epoch and necessary changes in the educational structure to cater to the varying requirements of industry and commerce are essential. In order to attain satisfying standards of civilised living the aptitudinal potential of the young people and the working population will have to be adapted increasingly to the changing needs of society, industry and economy of developing countries.

In order to emphasise the role of vocational education in

modern industrial society, an international seminar was recently held in Frankfurt, West Germany. The participants discussed the problem of vocational training in context of the changing needs of the developing economies and exchanged ideas and experiences with a view to broadening the horizon of international understanding and cooperation.

Elaborating the concept of international cooperation in this field, the German delegate pointed out the benefits which accrue out of such partnership. The cooperation is based on providing financial and technical assistance to help the developing countries establish vocational training institutes. These institutes are essential for the crystallization of industrial development schemes and implementation of development projects. Vocational education is imperative for working out correct and constructive guide lines to impart career advice and devise labour training services. Without introducing technical innovations and equipping the young people with re-

quisite expertise it is not possible to attain higher levels of social, economic advance. The higher standards of industrial and economic advance achieved by West Germany and other industrialised countries are largely attributable to the extensive application of technical education in these countries.

The main idea behind cooperation between West Germany and the third world countries is to overcome the structural problems and eliminate bottlenecks hindering the process of industrialisation in developing countries.

The main objectives believed to be achieved through international cooperation are as follows:

1. Improving the low standard of living.
2. Improving the distribution of goods and services.
3. Reducing high unemployment.
4. Contributing towards raising the levels of health and nutrition.
5. Improving the opportunities of vocational education.
6. Raising the levels of productivity by removing imbalance between agriculture and industry.