

FORMAT FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL (INTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING) 2023-24.

Theme/Area of the Proposal: Vocationalisation of Higher Education**Title of proposal: A Study on Integrating Vocational Education into Higher Education: Strategies and Policies for Developing Skilled Workforce.**

Abstract: The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 heralds the country's potentially explosive growth of vocational education (VE) since it requires all educational institutions to integrate vocational education into their offerings. Further, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for India is 26.3, which is lower than the world, the NEP 2020 has fixed a target of 50% by 2030. Realizing this will necessitate a very large number of schools, colleges, and universities — a little over 280,000 secondary and higher secondary schools and more than 40,000 higher education institutions — into the fold of potential TVET providers during the coming decade, making TVET available to millions of students. The project aims to cultivate a well-prepared, young, and skilled workforce through higher education by exploring new perspectives, innovative interventions, and effective implementation methods. This research project aims to study existing practices, identify opportunities, and develop strategies and policies to promote vocational education within higher education.

Research Methodology: The research methodology for this project involves a comprehensive approach to investigate the integration of vocational education into higher education in India. First, a literature review will be conducted to understand existing practices and theoretical frameworks. Data will be collected through survey questionnaires, interviews, and document analysis to assess vocational education's current status, gather stakeholders' perspectives, examine relevant policies and curricula, etc. Statistical analysis, including descriptive and inferential techniques using statistical software, such as SPSS or R, will be employed to analyze the data and identify relationships between variables. Based on the data analysis and findings sample curricula will be developed, and recommendations including the strategies and guidelines will be formulated. Validation and feedback sessions with stakeholders will ensure the robustness of the proposed approaches. The research outcomes will be presented in a comprehensive report, contributing valuable insights to policymakers, educators, and stakeholders involved in integrating vocational education into higher education.

Objective - Project Significance / Relevance:

The significance of this project lies in addressing the pressing need to develop and maintain a well-prepared young skilled workforce through higher education. By integrating vocational education into higher education, this project aims to identify new perspectives and opportunities to prepare youth for the future of work.

- Evaluate the present status of vocational education in higher education institutions.
- Identify vocational courses suitable for higher education programmes considering industry demand, skill gaps, and emerging trends and facilitate multiple entry/exit at different levels loaded with compatible skills for industry acceptance.
- Develop sample curriculum for a few identified vocational courses in higher education ensuring alignment with NIOS standards and NSQF, industry requirements.
- Formulate strategies and guidelines for advancing vocational education into higher education encompassing aspects of curriculum development, institution building, faculty training, industry partnerships, and student support activities.

Sampling and Statistics

- Purposive sampling will be done. The research sample includes Higher Education institutions (25-30) comprising of government, govt.-aided and private) from the western region.
- Data will be collected through (online and offline) survey questionnaires, interviews, and document analysis to assess vocational education's current status, gather stakeholders' perspectives, and examine relevant policies and curricula, etc.
- Statistical analysis, including descriptive and inferential techniques using statistical software (Excel, SPSS), will be employed to analyse the data.
- The strategies and guidelines for introducing vocational courses will be broad based for higher education institutions of the western region.

Project Limitation

The proposed study on Integrating Vocational Education into Higher Education is limited to Higher education institutions located in the Western region.

The sample curricula for introducing vocational courses in higher education will be limited to five job sectors only. Relevant experts from industry and academia will be involved in preparing the curricula for the vocational courses.

Project Impact -Expected outcome:

- A comprehensive assessment of the present status of vocational education in higher education institutions, highlighting strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges.
- Identification of vocational courses that can be effectively integrated into higher education programmes, based on industry relevance, market demand, and future employment prospects for all UG programmes of science, engg., agriculture, commerce, and arts, etc.
- Sample curricula for a few identified vocational courses, incorporating competency-based learning outcomes, practical training components, and interdisciplinary approaches.
- Strategies and suggested guidelines for advancing vocational education in higher education, institutional collaborations, funding, quality assurance, etc.
- Increased awareness and understanding among policymakers, educational institutions, and stakeholders regarding the importance of integrating vocational education into higher education for the development of a skilled workforce.

Literature survey on National and International scenario

According to the National Policy on Education (2020), vocational education plays a vital role in India's education system. The model of imparting vocational education in India operates at two levels: vocational education (theory) and training (practical). However, the current system does not allow vertical mobility, and skills obtained are lost ³. Enrollment in 11th and 12th grade of vocational education is only 3% of students at the upper secondary level ³. The emphasis in India has been on general education, with vocational education at the receiving end. This has resulted in a large number of educated people remaining unemployed ². For vocational education to play its role effectively in the changing national context and for India to enjoy the fruits of the demographic dividend, there is a greater thrust on vocationalization of education.

Techno-Commercial status / Outcome / IPR / Social benefit /other: Yes, it will help higher education institutions to offer demand-driven vocational education courses.

Time and activity chart

Activity	Months												
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Review of Literature	■	■	■										
Preparation of Research Tools			■	■									
Review W/s for Finalization of Research tools				■									
Collection of Data and Analysis					■	■	■	■					
Identification of Vocational Courses									■	■	■		
Formulation of strategies and guidelines for Vocational Education in Higher Education											■	■	■
Develop draft curriculum for identified few vocational courses												■	■
Review W/s for finalization of draft curriculum for identified few vocational courses and research report												■	
Finalization of the research report													■

Add rows as required

Budget Estimates –Recurring

	Estimate for Year 1	Estimate for Year 2
Salary to JPF (two)	8,40,000	-
Travel (TA & DA)	4,00,000	-
Review meeting for finalization of Research Tools, Curriculum, etc.	1,00,000	
Miscellaneous (Stationary, printing, photocopy, software, internet, honorarium, etc.)	50,000	-
Total	13,90,000/-	-

Add rows as required

Requirement of Research Fellow (JRF/ Project Associate-I or Project Assistant): YES (02)

If Yes

Essential Qualifications: First class in Master Degree in Science/Engg./Medical Science/Agriculture, etc. along with research undertaking in TVET.

Ps: To be hired for a maximum of 01 year as per SERB/AICTE/UGC norms (the required qualifications may be clearly specified for preparation of common advertisement for the recruitment on a purely contractual basis).

Based on the need, the duration of the project and JPF will be extended as per the requirement of the study.

Details of Principal Investigator

Name	Dr. Rajesh P. Khambayat		
Designation	Professor		
Department	DTVER		
Qualifications	UG:	PG:	PhD: Yes
Experience in years	Teaching: 36	Industry: 01	Research: 15
Publications	National: 28	International: 11	Books: 19
Relevant experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Challenges and Issues in TVET in the Asia-Pacific Region 2. National Tracer Study of Diploma Passouts 3. Tracer Study of Diploma Passouts in the Western Region 4. Snap Study on Employability of Diploma Graduates 5. National Study of Women's Education & Employment in Technical Fields Possibilities & Hurdles 		
Other information	Give any other information that will help in accepting /funding this project		
Email	rpkhambayat@nittrbpl.ac.in		

Details of Co-Principal Investigator (Optional)

Name	Dr Roli Pradhan		
Designation	Asst. Professor		
Department	Management Education		
Qualifications	PG:	PhD: Yes	

Experience in years	Teaching: 15	Industry: 02	Research: 05
Publications	National:	International:	Books:
Relevant experience	Attach separately as needed		
Other information	Give any other information that will help in accepting /funding this project		
Email	rprddhan@nitttrbpl.ac.in		
Details of earlier projects awarded from the Institute			
NIL			
Name of the Coordinator	Project Title	Project Status	Brief about work done / reason for non-completion
-	-	-	-
I/We undertake to			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abide by all the rules/regulations regarding the utilization of the amount that may be granted.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submit timely progress reports (quarterly).			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submit utilization/completion certificate when project period is over.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submit project report in 3 copies and PDF.			
Signature of Co-Principal Investigator (if any)		Signature of Principal Investigator	
Date: 18 Dec 23			