

## Today's Paper » NATIONAL

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### CII urges Tamil Nadu to set up a Vocational University

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With a view to meeting the increasing demand-supply gap of skilled workers in the State, the Confederation of Indian Industry – Tamil Nadu State Council (CII-TNSC) has urged the State government to set up a Vocational University to facilitate vertical mobility of students opting for vocational education.

A CII-TNSC study on 'Human Resources Assessment of Tamil Nadu' said that in the current system, there was no provision for those opting to go into industrial training institutes, industrial schools or other vocational institutes to develop themselves and achieve a higher level of skill and wages. Hence, vocational courses and programs with limited options appeared less attractive and affected the enrolment ratio in vocational training.

According to the study, the current formal education system in the State provided fewer options for vocational training, while vocational training systems had limited options involving mathematics and language learning.

Hence, it was difficult for a candidate enrolled in the formal education system to get industry-relevant skills while his vocational stream counterpart was left with limited life skills.

In the next five years, the skilled workforce demand for industries in Tamil Nadu would be around 68 lakh workers, excluding replacement needs of another 20 lakh people.

However, in the same period, 65 lakh new people would be added to the working age population.

Though almost 35 lakh candidates would be available for employment at level 1, only about five to six lakh would be vocationally trained through short term courses and the rest would have to join the labour force unskilled or stay out of it altogether, the report said.

Therefore, the experts have suggested the Vocational University to be modelled along the lines of vocational/professional education and training colleges in Switzerland and other European countries.

A feasibility study should be undertaken to identify suitable courses, locations and international partners.

To inculcate dignity about vocational skills among youth, the study called for integrating vocational and formal education system and early introduction of hands on training in school.

It should be done on a pilot basis in a few schools across select taluks or Tier-III cities and the students should be encouraged to take on vocational courses through monetary/ non-monetary incentives, the experts said.

In order to ensure that all the skill programmes of the government provided quality marketable skills to candidates, the experts urged Tamil Nadu Skill Development Mission to take care of quality control and performance evaluation of all skill programs and institutes.

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***Current formal education in State provides fewer options for vocational training***

***Only five lakh to six lakh will be industry-ready being vocationally trained in near future***

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