

STUDENTS AS CATALYSTS IN REALIZING THE VISION OF VIKSIT BHARAT

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Abstract: The vision of 'Viksit Bharat' or 'Developed India' @2047 stands witness to the progress made to achieve an inclusive, sustainable and prosperous society through investment in economy, community, education, environment and technology. Students are vital in creating this vision as they represent the force behind that future workforce; researchers, innovators, and leaders. This paper explores the wide range of ways in which students can contribute towards India's development and help in realizing the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat, Education, Entrepreneurship, Social Responsibility, Environmental Sustainability

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Introduction:

India is in the golden period of becoming a world leader. As with the other countries of the globe, the problems are with not just creating an environment for economic growth, but to make it inclusive, sustainable, and affordable as well. The concept of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) emphasizes the aspirational vision of India, not only economically but socially, technologically as well as environmentally. We have succeeded already in quite a number of capacities but in order to transform the country into a developed country, there is the need for all levels of society to have their hands together, and above all the students.

Students are our future workforce, leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators of the nation. This paper aims to analyse the impact of students' energy, creativity, and ambition on India's development. It studies the position of students in diverse fields and highlights how they affect education, innovation, social responsibility, entrepreneurship and environmental sustainability.

Conceptualization 'Viksit Bharat'

The concept of "Viksit Bharat" @2047 is the Government of India's long-term view to make the entire country a fully developed nation by the centenary of its independence in 2047. This path goes far beyond the purely economic goal of growth and focuses instead on a holistic, inclusive and sustainable development paradigm to improve the quality of life and ensure equitable mobility across the social fabric. The heart of the concept of 'Viksit Bharat' is to make India an organised and self-sufficient economy while also aiming for a

"zero-poverty" society with universal quality healthcare, education, and social security.

The vision emphasizes empowerment of various key segments of society including youth, women, farmers, and the economically disadvantaged as fundamental to nation-building. It also envisions making India a global leader in science, technology and innovation and, with special focus on applying Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), to promote inclusive development and governance efficiency. 'Viksit Bharat' really reflects a paradigm shift, one from incrementalism to development imperatives that aims to deliver the high prosperity, social justice and global leadership that this world needs.

Economic Growth and Prosperity

A developed India is associated with a dynamic and vibrant economy. This covers not only progress in traditional sectors like agriculture, industry, and services but also diversification to high tech industries, research & envelopment, and to global market integration. Without a prepared and competent workforce there can be no economic prosperity. In this regard, students have a pivotal role to play. Let us look into them in details:

1. Skills Development and Workforce

Transformation: India's ambition of development into a high-paying industrial state demands that we train professionals in a variety of areas like technology, healthcare, manufacturing, and finance. As the world is changing dramatically, learning domain-specific skills and

specialized knowledge is the way to meet the economic needs of the time. Students are one of the few agents who will create the highly skilled future leaders of our society. In India universities and technical institutes are changing their curriculum to cater for industries, and students who are involved in them are now best equipped to contribute much more to India's economy.

2. **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Entrepreneurship leads to innovation, job creation and commercialisation. From a few years, India has witnessed an explosion of start-ups in technology and e-commerce especially after the inception of a technology and e-commerce site. At the heart of these start-ups are students, who are often equipped with fresh and disruptive ideas, technological competence, and entrepreneurial potential. In addition, projects such as the 'Start-up India' movement wishes to develop entrepreneurship for student-led initiatives by providing funding, mentorship, infrastructural support, financial advice etc. to help them in making their ideas a successful business venture to become real business. Students can actively participate in projects that encourage inclusive growth so as also to narrow the economic gap. They can use that knowledge to support projects for sustainable growth, for example by working more in collaboration with organizations contributing to rural development.
3. **Inclusive Economic Development:** Developing a developed India means that economic growth is not for a few at the expense of the many. Students can play an important role in addressing the economic divide by engaging in programmes that promote inclusive growth. For example, students could work alongside organizations that promote rural development, collaborate on financial literacy initiatives to support underprivileged communities, or take part in microfinance partnerships as a means of helping marginalized communities set up their own businesses.

Education and Skill Development

Education is the foundation of progress in society and nation-building. A developed India needs an educated and skilled labour force who can cope with the changing global economy. The students' role in building the education sector and skill development set is vital.

1. **Academic Excellence and Higher Education:** Education is an essential element in building the professional global workforce. Students can raise the standard of education in the country by studying effectively. They are capable of contributing the most towards thinking and research that fuels the advancement of industry. Moreover, students strong in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) can serve as a pillar to push India over the horizon in global innovation technologies.
2. **Skill Development for the Future:** Vocational training or skill-competency based education in addition to traditional academic learning is very important. There is an increasing demand for workers in various industries, from artificial intelligence and digital marketing to data science, robotics, and healthcare etc. It is an opportunity to engage in professional education programmes that go hand-in-hand with the studies they are pursuing, so that they are ready for positions that demand specific knowledge. Initiatives like the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) give students a path to employment-related training and certifications through specialized training in other areas.
3. **Bridging the Educational Gap:** A significant challenge in India is the difference in education standards between urban and rural districts as well as varying social strata. Usually, students from the cities with well-endowed access to education can take part in bridging this gap by volunteering as teachers for disadvantaged children, or supporting schools in rural areas, or in some cases by organizing educational outreach projects. Young people who support the cause of ensuring access to quality education are helping to advance India's development vision.

Research, Innovation and Technology

Innovation and technology lead the way for national development. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) students in particular are at the forefront in driving technology growth in India.

1. **New Technologies and National Development:**

Technological advancement to India is the main goal of a developed nation. Students can address the national issues, from the healthcare system to the method that underlines sustainability. Such as the students entering disciplines like biotechnology, AI, clean energy etc. can contribute towards attaining solutions for the unique challenges in India. Student-incubated innovation centres such as IITs, NITs, and institutions as well as other research institutions give students a platform to generate and patent inventions that can disrupt industries and drive economic growth.

2. **Harnessing Digital Transformation:**

Digital transformation is an integral component of India's development strategy. Students and especially those with specialization in IT and digital technologies could play a crucial role in India's digital economy transformation. Initiatives such as Digital India, among others, allow students to narrow the digital divide, enhance digital literacy, and develop solutions to offer government services, healthcare, and education in these remote areas.

Social Responsibility and Community Service

This vision to 'Viksit Bharat' can only be realised if the inequalities which are embedded in society within India are being confronted. Students have a powerful involvement in social justice and enhancing the quality of life of minorities.

1. **Involvement in Community Service and Volunteer Initiatives:**

Students can take part in community service projects such as poverty alleviation, equity through education and women's empowerment, serving education for all and education programmes can also have a substantial impact on such things. Students can contribute to grassroots development initiatives that improve society at large through its grassroots development by working together with local communities. These are all areas where students can make the real change and leave their mark

on the life course, by engaging in volunteerism working with NGOs, mobilizing on social campaigns, leading campaigns for social awareness, and assisting the needy in their own right.

2. **Promoting Gender Equality, and Ensure Inclusive Society:**

Gender equality is a core component when it comes time for the society to advance. Students can campaign for women's rights, and promote gender-based biases awareness in schools, trade and politics and education and the community. They may contribute to women's rights movements. Students from their own communities can advocate for the same through student institutions and advocacy campaigns. This can help to ensure that inclusiveness and equity are built up in the learning and development process, and all citizens no longer are to be left behind in education, irrespective of sex, tribe or race.

Conservation and Sustainability

'Viksit Bharat' vision is strongly informed by sustainability. India should strive for economic growth with environmental responsibility as the country grows. Sustainable practices and environmental conservation need students to drive in line with it. Environmental policies and research are increasingly important to sustainability.

1. **Facilitate Sustainable Practices:**

Students can drive movements for waste reduction, waste preservation, recycling and natural resource conservation. By adopting sustainable practices in their own lives, such as reducing plastic use, promoting water conservation, and supporting sustainable food practices, students can set an example for others to follow. The young professionals of environmental sciences and engineering can also innovate in renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable agriculture to develop energy systems that reduce the country's ecological impact.

2. **Climate Action and Advocacy:**

Students can take part in climate action initiatives to advocate for a more sustainable climate policy. They can also take responsibility for monitoring their own progress towards sustainable development. Their voices will shape public opinion and policies to build more environmentally friendly India.

Conclusion

‘Viksit India’ is a bold and achievable goal that relies on the combined effort of all social strata and their participation. Students are particularly important in this category, as young people will play the most instrumental role, representing the development of India in the future. Their energy, creativity, and adaptability enable them to play a major role in shaping the country’s development trajectory.

At the heart of this transformation is education. By acquiring learning, students not only possess cognitive and moral skills and ethical principles, but also the ability to make decisions in political, cultural, and economic issues. It is through participation in innovation and their role in research that they can drive technological advances, become inventors, and find solutions in fields such as healthcare, agriculture, climate change, and digital governance. In addition, students who become entrepreneurs can offer themselves as future job creators, promote economic development, and induce self-reliance thereby building the economic foundation of the country.

There is also an important role for students in the field of social progress. Their community service and community projects help them address issues like poverty, inequality, and lack of basic services. Through volunteering and civic engagement, they can be part of shaping a more inclusive and just society. Furthermore, environmental stewardship provides students with opportunities to make a positive contribution by promoting sustainable practices, educating about the environment, and safeguarding resources for future generations.

Moreover, students may act as changemakers by embracing values like empathy, integrity, gender equity, and social responsibility. For example, in the context of a more interconnected global society, these digital natives are also able to connect with international views that can make India a pioneer in innovation and knowledge transfer.

The quest for ‘Viksit India’ or ‘Developed India’ is not just the work of government or institutions, but part of our people’s efforts and must involve broad-based participation of all citizens. Development will depend significantly on student’s or youth’s involvement as India continues to build its development plans and translates the vision into reality. However, as they learn about and take part in nation-building exercises, students can have a sense of self that aligns with the agenda of the nation and in doing so, they will contribute to a prosperous, vibrant India. In this way, the dream of ‘Viksit Bharat’ @2047 can be transformed from a vision into a lived reality.

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