

Pakistan's Workforce: Skill Development Can Drive Economic Growth

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Pakistan is a country with a growing population and a significant portion of its workforce employed in various sectors. In recent years, there has been a recognition of the importance of skill development in driving economic growth. Developing a skilled workforce is vital for Pakistan to compete in the global economy, attract investments, and create opportunities for its citizens. The relationship between Pakistan's workforce, skill development, and economic growth, highlighting the importance of investing in education and training to boost the country's economic potential.

Investing in skill development in Pakistan's workforce is crucial for driving economic growth. A skilled workforce can drive innovation, enhance productivity, and improve competitiveness in the global market. A report by the World Bank, investing in human capital, including education and skill development, can lead to significant economic returns for a country (World Bank, 2019). In Pakistan, there is a need to focus on enhancing the quality of education and training programs to equip individuals with the skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly evolving job market.

Pakistan faces the challenge of providing skill development initiatives that cater to the varying needs of its workforce. To address this issue, the country has implemented various programs and initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills of its workforce to meet the demands of a rapidly changing labor market. The skill development initiatives in Pakistan that seek to address the diverse needs of its workforce, discussing the impact of these programs on employment, economic growth, and social development. Skill development plays a key role

in addressing unemployment and underemployment in Pakistan. Providing individuals with the necessary skills and training, the country can bridge the gap between the demand for skilled labor and the available supply. The Pakistan Economic Survey 2020-21, the country's labor-force participation rate is around 53%, with a significant portion of the workforce engaged in low-skilled or informal jobs (Government of Pakistan, 2021). Investing in skill development programs, Pakistan can improve the employability of its workforce and create opportunities for economic growth. One of the key skill development initiatives in Pakistan is the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), established to provide vocational training programs to equip individuals with technical skills suitable for various industries. The NAVTTTC collaborates with public and private sector entities to offer training in a wide range of fields such as agriculture, information technology, construction, and hospitality. Tailoring their programs to the needs of specific industries, the NAVTTTC ensures that individuals receive training that is relevant and in demand in the job market. Important initiative is the Prime Minister's Hunarmand Pakistan Program, which aims to train youth in high-demand sectors such as artificial intelligence, block chain technology, and e-commerce.

Focusing on emerging technologies, this program helps individuals acquire skills that are essential for the digital economy, thereby increasing their employability and earning potential. Recognizing the importance of digital skills in the modern workforce, the Hunarmand Pakistan Program equips participants with the knowledge and expertise needed to succeed in a technology-driven world.