

How Does the National Skill Qualification Framework Help Prevent Dropouts and Improve Students' Employability

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ABSTRACT

The National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) serves as a critical initiative aimed at tackling student dropout rates while enhancing employability skills. This study investigates the role of N.S.Q.F in creating an educational ecosystem that integrates skill-based learning with traditional academics. By doing so, it provides a flexible and inclusive system that addresses diverse learner requirements while aligning education with the needs of the job market.

NSQF's competency-based model introduces multiple entry and exit points within the educational framework, enabling students to acquire practical skills without having to discontinue formal education. This approach significantly contributes to reducing dropout rates. Furthermore, the framework's standardized levels are designed to equip students with industry-relevant skills, effectively closing the gap between theoretical education and real-world job demands.

The research focuses on evaluating the influence of NSQF on key areas such as dropout prevention, skill acquisition, and job preparedness. By analyzing data from educational institutions and training centres implementing NSQF programs, the study highlights how the framework empowers students with practical experience, certified qualifications, and enhanced career opportunities. The findings emphasize that NSQF plays a vital role in preparing a skilled and adaptable workforce, capable of thriving in dynamic industry environments.

INTRODUCTION

In the evolving job market, the demand for skill-oriented education is paramount in preparing students for both employment and lifelong learning. Traditional academic systems often prioritize theoretical knowledge, which may not fully address the practical skills required in the workplace. This gap can lead to higher dropout rates and inadequate job readiness among students. To counter these issues, the Government of India introduced the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF), designed to integrate vocational training with academic education, ensuring relevance, flexibility, and alignment with industry demands.

This study highlights the implementation of the NSQF at **Searsole Raj High School**, a Bengali-medium institution in West Bengal, focusing on its role in reducing dropouts and enhancing employability. The NSQF incorporates a tiered structure that enables students to pursue vocational training alongside their academic curriculum. With its multi-level design, the framework offers multiple entry and exit points, allowing learners to progressively earn qualifications. This flexibility makes education more accessible and meaningful, especially for students at risk of leaving school prematurely.

At Searsole Raj High School, NSQF-aligned programs have been tailored to introduce students to vocational skills relevant to the local job market. These programs emphasize practical, industry-focused training, equipping students with competencies that increase their employability after graduation. The hands-on approach, combined with certifications and alignment with industry standards, bridges the gap between school education and workforce requirements. By providing students with skills valued by employers, the NSQF not only creates viable career options but also serves as an alternative to conventional academic pathways, thereby reducing dropout rates.

This research examines the impact of NSQF implementation in a Bengali-medium school setting, particularly at Searsole Raj High School. Through interviews with educators and students and analysis of academic and vocational performance data, the study evaluates how NSQF influences student engagement, retention, and employability. The findings aim to provide valuable insights into how skill-based educational frameworks can transform regional-language schools, fostering continuity in education and better preparing students for the workforce.

METHODOLOGY

The National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) aims to bridge the divide between theoretical education and its practical applications. Through initiatives such as industry visits, guest lectures, and hands-on activities, students receive holistic development opportunities that enhance their learning experience and prepare them for future challenges. Here's a breakdown of how these activities contribute to student growth:

Industry Visits

Industry visits provide a platform for students to connect classroom learning with real-world applications, shaping a comprehensive understanding of their studies.

Practical Exposure

- Students witness first-hand how theoretical concepts are applied in real-world settings.
- They gain insight into the working environment of industries, including tools, technologies, and processes in use.

Career Insights

- Exposure to different roles within industries helps students explore potential career paths.
- Interacting with professionals gives clarity on the skills and knowledge needed for specific jobs.

Reinforcing Classroom Learning

- Seeing concepts in action strengthens understanding and retention.
- Students build a tangible connection between academic learning and practical application.

Skill Enhancement

- Observing professionals in action hones problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication skills.
- Teamwork and organizational behaviour exposure boost professional competence.

Networking Opportunities

- Students interact with industry experts, opening doors to mentorship or internship possibilities.
- These interactions offer valuable guidance and career advice.

Motivation and Inspiration

- Real-world success stories inspire students to set ambitious goals and work diligently toward achieving them.

- This experience cultivates curiosity and a desire for deeper learning.

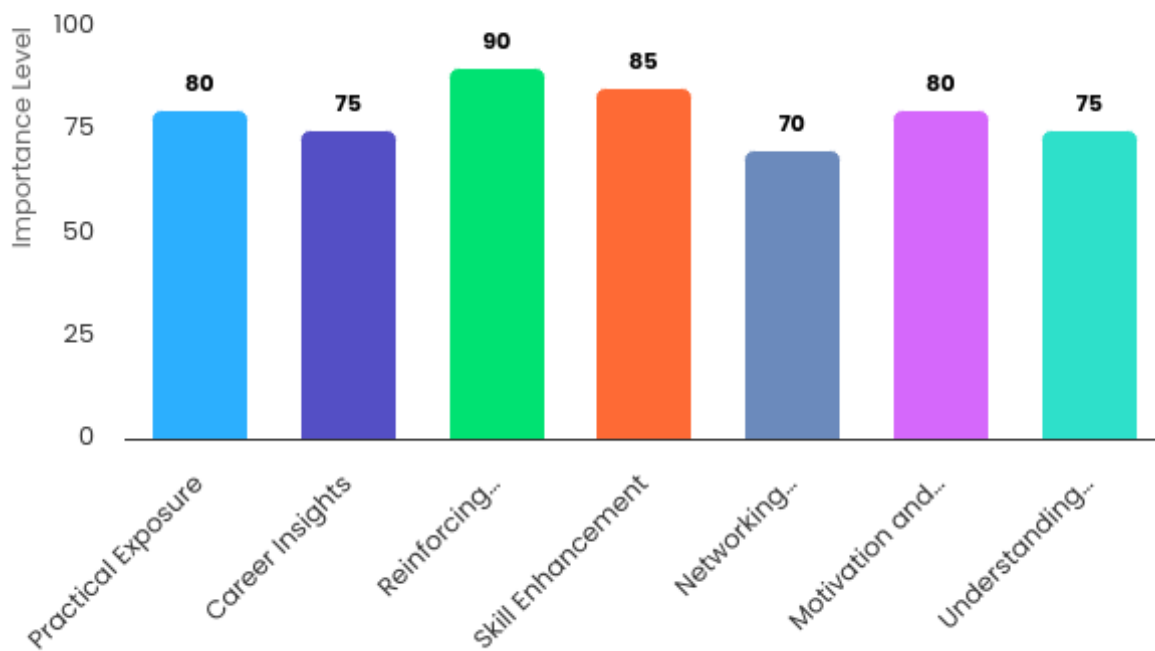
Understanding Industry Expectations

- Students learn about industry standards and trends, aligning their skills with current market demands.
- This preparedness enhances their job readiness and employability.

At **Searsole Raj High School**, students visit local industries related to Information Technology, such as banks, post offices, and IT companies. These visits provide practical exposure and align their education with regional economic needs.

Impact of Industry Visits on Student Development

Assessing the benefits of industry visits



Guest Lectures

Guest lectures bring the industry to the classroom, offering students access to real-world knowledge and diverse perspectives that enrich their education.

Real-World Insights

- Professionals and experts share first-hand experiences, demonstrating the practical applications of theoretical knowledge.
- Students gain a deeper understanding of industry practices and challenges.

Diverse Perspectives

- Exposure to varied viewpoints broadens students' problem-solving approaches.
- This diversity of thought fosters creativity and adaptability.

Inspiration and Motivation

- Success stories and expert journeys inspire students to aim higher and remain persistent in their goals.
- Such stories instill confidence and a proactive mind-set.

Bridging Academia and Industry

- Guest lectures introduce students to the latest industry trends, tools, and technologies.
- This helps align their learning with market expectations, making them future-ready.

Skill Development

- Interacting with speakers sharpens communication and analytical skills.
- Students learn to engage meaningfully, ask thoughtful questions, and think critically.

Networking Opportunities

- These sessions enable students to connect with industry leaders who can offer mentorship or internship opportunities.
- Such connections are invaluable for future career growth.

Career Guidance

- Experts provide insights into various career options, helping students identify their strengths and interests.
- Practical advice on succeeding in specific fields ensures better career preparedness.

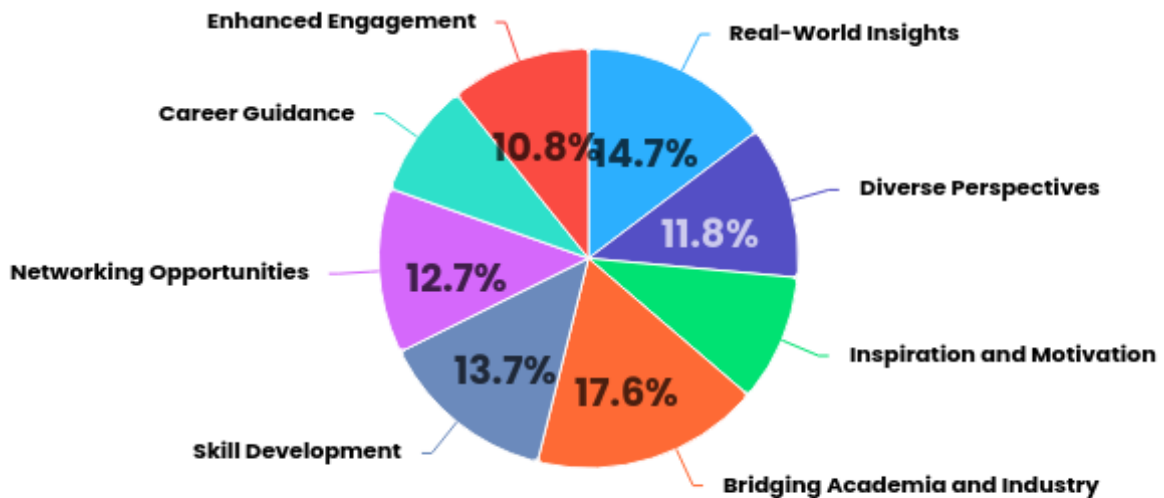
Enhanced Engagement

- Guest lectures break the monotony of routine classes, making learning dynamic and interactive.
- This encourages deeper exploration of subjects and fosters greater curiosity.

In summary, **guest lectures and industry visits** not only enhance academic knowledge but also equip students with practical skills, industry insights, and valuable connections. These initiatives play a pivotal role in preparing students for successful careers and lifelong learning.

Benefits of Guest Lectures

How guest lectures impact student learning and engagement



The NSQF (National Skills Qualifications Framework) Information Technology syllabus bridges the gap between education and the current job market by aligning student learning with industry requirements:

The NSQF (National Skills Qualifications Framework) Information Technology syllabus is structured to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in today's competitive job market. It ensures that their education is directly aligned with industry requirements, enhancing their readiness for employment. Here's how the syllabus achieves this alignment:

1. Industry-Relevant Skills

- The curriculum emphasizes practical IT competencies such as word processing, data management, programming, and digital communication.
- These foundational skills are essential for roles in sectors like IT services, banking, retail, and administrative operations.

2. Meeting Market Demands

- The syllabus incorporates emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and cybersecurity, which are highly sought after in the job market.
- Students gain training in industry-standard tools and platforms, keeping them current with technological trends.

3. Practical Learning Opportunities

- Hands-on modules, internships, and project-based assignments replicate real-world work environments.
- Students develop proficiency in using IT software and tools commonly employed in professional settings.

4. Career-Oriented Curriculum

- The syllabus is aligned with specific job roles, such as data entry operator, IT support assistant, and software tester.
- This clear mapping helps students transition smoothly into the workforce with a well-defined career path.

5. Enhancing Employability

- Soft skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving are integrated alongside technical training.
- This holistic approach ensures students are well-rounded and ready to meet employer expectations.

6. Certification and Recognition

- Students receive nationally recognized NSQF certifications at various qualification levels.
- These certifications validate their skills and enhance their credibility in the job market.

7. Promoting Entrepreneurship

- The syllabus fosters innovation and entrepreneurial thinking, encouraging students to explore opportunities to establish their own IT ventures.

8. Flexible Learning Pathways

- The modular design of the NSQF allows students to pursue further education or upgrade their skills as needed.
- This flexibility ensures they can adapt to changes in the industry and remain competitive.

Conclusion

The NSQF Information Technology syllabus bridges the gap between theoretical learning and industry

requirements by blending technical knowledge, practical training, and industry-relevant skills. By preparing students for current job roles and future advancements, it empowers them to confidently enter the workforce and adapt to evolving technological landscapes.

SEARSOLE RAJ HIGH SCHOOL STATISTICS

