

CHAPTER TEN

POLICIES FOR GUIDING IMPLEMENTATION AND PROMOTION OF VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Developing countries are increasingly getting awareness of the need to formulate policy in order to guide the implementation and promotion of vocational and technology education programmes. The extent to which such policies and policy measures have influenced the rate, pattern and quality of vocational and technology education in developing countries has been investigated so far. Nevertheless, there are enough vocational and technology education policies and policy measures that can help government to achieve the objectives of the programme.

10.1: A criterion for judging the quality and effectiveness of the Vocational and Industrial and Technology education policy

A criterion for judging the quality and effectiveness of the policies and policy measures chosen to implement the vocational and industrial technology education programmes is consistency. In other words, conflicts between different policy measures must be avoided and the various types of policy instrument used must be related. This criterion is most likely to satisfy if clear objectives have been established.

The establishment of clearly defined objectives is important for the achievement of continuity in the policies formulated. For instance, in marketing vocational and industrial technology education investment, the organizer of an industrial project has to forecast about sales prospects, the conditions and circumstances under which the enterprise will operate. Frequent changes in government policy will reduce confidence in the stability and continuity of these conditions and circumstances.

It has been noted that vocational and technology education policy of many developing countries is becoming increasingly selective as regards the type of enterprise which the government is prepared to establish. Developing countries at an early stage of industrialization have to ensure that scarce resources invested in vocational and technology education development are used to maximum advantage; other developing countries which have reached a more advanced stage of industrialization, have recognized the need to introduce a degree of selectivity into policy measures used to promote the establishment of new projects or the expansion of existing projects (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), 1969).

10.2 - Objectives of Vocational and Technology Education Programme in Developing Countries

There are over 100 developing countries at different stages of economic development and with different social, political and cultural background. It is, therefore, difficult to define a list of objectives for the vocational, industrial and technology education programme which all developing countries might consider. Nevertheless, it is vital to make sure that all objectives are explicitly stated.

The objectives according to UNIDO (1969) are:

- i. To raise living standards;
- ii. To accelerate the rate of development of industrial sector and broaden the range of manufactured goods produced;
- iii. To develop greater economic independence;
- iv. To ensure that new investment in each branch of industry makes appropriate use of the economies of large-scale production and modern technology;
- v. To make maximum use of the opportunities for regional co-operation in the field of industrial development;
- vi. To direct new investment into those branches of industry or projects that have government priority;
- vii. To develop and maintain the desired balance between public and private ownership of industrial projects;
- viii. To achieve certain balance of payments objectives;
- ix. To promote a more equitable distribution of income and wealth and a wider spread of ownership of vocational, industrial and technology education projects;
- x. To ensure the development of a growing and adequate body of experienced entrepreneurs and trained vocational, industrial and technology education managers;
- xi. To ensure that sufficient fund is available on appropriate terms and conditions for the vocational, industrial and technology education sector;
- xii. To ensure the development of an adequate supply of engineers, technologists and technicians;
- xiii. To promote the development of natural technology and research suited to the conditions and resource endowments' of the country.