How National Skill Qualification Framework Helps to Reduce Dropouts and Enhance Student Job Capability

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Abstract:

The National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) plays a pivotal role in addressing student dropout rates and enhancing employability skills. This research explores how the NSQF, by integrating skill-based education with academic learning, provides an inclusive educational structure that meets diverse learner needs and aligns with job market demands. Through a competency-based structure, NSQF offers multiple entry and exit points in educational pathways, **allowing students to pursue skill development without abandoning formal education**, thereby reducing dropout rates. Additionally, the NSQF's standardized levels encourage students to acquire industry-relevant skills, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and practical job capabilities. This study examines the framework's impact on dropout reduction, skill acquisition, and job readiness among students, using data from schools and training centers implementing NSQF-aligned programs. The findings suggest that NSQF contributes significantly to workforce preparedness, creating a pathway for students to gain hands-on experience, achieve recognized certifications, and improve employment outcomes, ultimately fostering a **more skilled and adaptable workforce.**

Introduction:

In today's dynamic job market, the need for skill-based education has become crucial in preparing students for employment and lifelong learning. Traditional education systems often emphasize academic content but may overlook practical skills needed in the workforce, contributing to dropout rates and limited job readiness among students. The **National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF**) was introduced by the Government of India to address these challenges by creating an educational system that integrates skills with academics, making learning more relevant, flexible, and aligned with industry needs.

This study focuses on **Searsole Raj High School**, a Bengali-medium institution in West Bengal, examining how the NSQF is helping to reduce student dropouts and enhance employability among students. The NSQF offers a structure where students can pursue vocational skills alongside academic subjects, with levels that correspond to their knowledge and competency. This multi-level structure provides multiple entry and exit points, allowing students to earn qualifications progressively and making education more accessible and meaningful for those who may otherwise leave school early.

At **Searsole Raj High School**, NSQF-aligned programs have been introduced to expose students to vocational skills in fields relevant to the local economy. This framework helps students develop industry-specific competencies, making them better prepared for jobs after completing school.

Moreover, the NSQF's focus on hands-on training, certification, and direct engagement with industry requirements bridges the gap between education and employment. By empowering students with skills valued by employers, the NSQF creates new career pathways and reduces dropout rates by providing an alternative to traditional academic routes.

This research aims to analyze how NSQF implementation in a Bengali-medium setting, specifically at Searsole Raj High School, is influencing student engagement, reducing dropouts, and improving job capability. Through interviews with educators and students, alongside data from academic and vocational performance, this study will explore the NSQF's impact on educational continuity and employability, offering insights into how skill-based frameworks can transform school education in regional languages.

METHODOLOGY:

The National Qualification Framework (N.S.Q.F) for student enhancement is designed to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-world applications. Here's how specific initiatives like industry guest lectures, industrial visits, and hands-on model creation contribute to a student's holistic development:

INDUSTRY VSIT

Industry visits play a significant role in bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world application. Here's how they help students connect with their studies and shape a bright future:

1. Practical Exposure
- Students gain firsthand experience of how theoretical concepts are applied in real-world scenarios.
- They understand the working environment of industries and learn about the latest tools, technologies, and processes.

2. Career Insights
- Industry visits expose students to various career opportunities and roles in a particular field.
- Interaction with professionals helps them understand the skills and knowledge required for specific jobs.

3. Reinforces Classroom Learning
- Concepts taught in the classroom become clearer when students see their applications in real life.
- It builds a connection between what they study and how it is used practically.

4. Skill Development
- Observing professionals helps students develop problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication skills.
- Exposure to teamwork and organizational behavior enhances their professional competence.

5. Networking Opportunities
- Students get the chance to interact with industry experts and professionals, which can lead to internships or mentorship opportunities.
- Networking can provide valuable insights and guidance for their career paths.

6. Motivation and Inspiration
- Seeing real-world success stories and innovations motivates students to set higher goals and work harder towards their dreams.

- It fosters a sense of curiosity and eagerness to learn more.

7. Understanding Industry Expectations

- Students learn about industry standards, expectations, and trends, which helps them align their skills with market demands.
- This preparation makes them job-ready and increases employability.

In conclusion, industry visits are invaluable in making education more engaging and relevant, while also preparing students for a successful career.

At **Searsole Raj High School**, we have the opportunity to visit various local industries related to Information Technology. These include banks, post offices, and IT companies.

GUEST LECTURE

Guest lectures play a pivotal role in enhancing students' learning experience and guiding them toward a brighter future. Here's how they contribute:

1. Real-World Knowledge

- Guest speakers, often industry professionals or experts, bring firsthand experience and practical insights into their field.
- They help students understand how theoretical concepts are applied in real-world scenarios.

2. Exposure to Diverse Perspectives

- Students learn from individuals with varied backgrounds, expertise, and viewpoints.
- This broadens their understanding and introduces them to different ways of thinking and problem-solving.

3. Inspiration and Motivation

- Listening to success stories and challenges faced by experts inspires students to set ambitious goals.
- It motivates them to persevere in their studies and work toward achieving their dreams.

4. Bridging the Gap Between Academia and Industry

- Guest lectures help students understand the latest industry trends, tools, and technologies.
- This prepares them to align their skills with current market demands.

5. Skill Development

- Interacting with guest speakers enhances students' communication and critical thinking skills.
- It encourages them to ask questions, engage in discussions, and think analytically.

6. Networking Opportunities

- Guest lectures often provide a chance for students to connect with professionals who can offer guidance, internships, or mentorship opportunities.
- These connections can prove invaluable for future career growth.

7. Career Guidance

- Experts can provide insights into various career paths, helping students identify their interests and strengths.
- They also share tips on how to succeed in specific fields, making students more career-ready.

8. Increased Engagement

- Guest lectures break the routine of traditional teaching, making learning more interactive and engaging.
- This sparks curiosity and encourages students to delve deeper into their subjects.

In summary, guest lectures not only enrich students' academic knowledge but also equip them with the skills, motivation, and connections needed to build a successful future.

How NSQF Information Technology syllabus co relate student with present job market

The **NSQF (National Skills Qualifications Framework)** Information Technology syllabus is designed to align students' education with the current job market, ensuring they are well-prepared for employment opportunities. Here's how it correlates:

1. Industry-Relevant Skills

- The syllabus focuses on practical IT skills such as word processing, data management, programming, and digital communication.
- These skills are directly applicable to modern job roles in sectors like banking, retail, IT services, and administration.

2. Alignment with Market Demands

- The curriculum includes emerging technologies like cloud computing, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence, which are high-demand skills in the job market.
- It ensures students are trained in tools and platforms commonly used in industries.

3. Hands-On Experience

- Practical modules, internships, and project work simulate real-world scenarios.
- Students gain experience with IT tools and software widely used in professional environments.

4. Job Role Mapping

- The NSQF syllabus is mapped to specific job roles, such as data entry operator, IT support assistant,

and software tester.

• This makes it easier for students to transition into the workforce with clarity about their potential career paths.

5. Employability Enhancement

• Soft skills like communication, teamwork, and problem-solving are integrated into the curriculum.

• These skills complement technical abilities, making students more employable.

6. Certification and Recognition

• The NSQF provides nationally recognized certification at different qualification levels.

• These certifications are valued by employers and increase the credibility of the student's skillset.

7. Focus on Entrepreneurship

• The syllabus encourages innovation and entrepreneurial thinking, preparing students to start their ventures in IT if they choose.

8. Lifelong Learning Pathways

• The modular structure of NSQF allows students to continue their education or upskill based on industry needs.

• This adaptability ensures they remain relevant in a dynamic job market.

Conclusion

By integrating technical knowledge, practical training, and industry-aligned competencies, the **NSQF Information Technology syllabus** bridges the gap between academic learning and the skills required in the job market. It empowers students to be job-ready and adaptable to future technological advancements.

SEARSOLE RAJ HIGH SCHOOL DROP OUT DECREASE

SEARSOLE RAJ HIGH SCHOOL
N.S.Q.F. STUDENT DATA

YEAR	ENROLMENT	CLASS IX	CLASS X	CLASS XI	CLASS XII	TOTAL
2016	60	28	0	32	0	120
2017	90	44	28	18	32	212
2018	131	65	44	22	18	280
2019	156	67	65	24	22	334
2020	168	71	67	30	24	360
2021	178	75	71	32	30	386
2022	190	77	75	38	32	412
2023	194	75	77	42	38	426
2024	207	80	75	52	42	456
TOTAL	1374	582	502	290	238	