REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-53121**   Date: 06-08-2025

Title: Skill India Mission: Bridging the Skill Gap for an Empowered Workforce in the Age of Automation

Recommendation:
Accept as it is ....YES...................
Accept after minor revision.................
Accept after major revision ....
Do not accept (*Reasons below*) ....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			✓	
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Mir Jaffar

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract

The abstract provides a concise and well-structured overview of the paper, outlining the context of India's demographic advantage and the pressing challenge of the skill gap. It effectively incorporates key statistics, such as the proportion of the working-age population, number of individuals trained under PMKVY, and the employability percentage among graduates. The mention of youth unemployment rates and the broader economic implications adds relevance and urgency to the topic. The scope of the paper—covering necessity, structure, sub-schemes, socio-economic impacts, and challenges—clearly establishes the thematic direction. The keywords are appropriate, accurately reflecting the study's core focus on skills, employability, and demographic dividend.

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Introduction

The introduction sets the stage by presenting India's demographic profile and its potential for economic growth. It highlights critical challenges, including misalignment between education and industry needs, high youth unemployment, low female participation, and the prevalence of informal employment. The inclusion of current statistics, such as the Graduate Skill Index and youth unemployment figures, reinforces the timeliness and significance of the issue. This section effectively conveys why addressing the skill gap is vital for leveraging the demographic advantage and mitigating socio-economic risks.

Contextual Relevance

The paper addresses a subject of national importance, directly linked to economic policy, workforce readiness, and the technological disruptions of automation and AI. The reference to PMKVY and its training achievements provides a concrete example of governmental intervention, adding credibility and grounding to the discussion. The focus on both challenges and opportunities reflects a balanced analytical perspective.

Thematic Scope

The research examines multiple dimensions of the Skill India Mission, including its necessity, structural components, sub-schemes, and socio-economic impacts. It also considers contemporary challenges posed by automation and artificial intelligence. This breadth ensures comprehensive coverage of the topic, making the study relevant for policymakers, academicians, and industry stakeholders alike.

Language and Presentation

The language used in both the abstract and introduction is formal, precise, and academic in tone. The integration of statistical data and relevant terminology such as "demographic dividend," "employability," and "vocational training" demonstrates conceptual clarity. The writing style maintains coherence and flow, ensuring readability while retaining analytical rigor.

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Overall Assessment

The paper provides a strong foundation for an in-depth discussion on India's skill development initiatives in the context of automation and digital transformation. It combines demographic insights with policy analysis, emphasizing the socio-economic implications of skill gaps and workforce preparedness. The inclusion of statistical data, program details, and thematic focus on both opportunities and challenges enhances the relevance and significance of the study. The title accurately represents the core argument and aligns well with the content.