

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

further to amend the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012 (XXIV of 2012), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Right to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2017.

(2) it shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Act XXIV of 2012.- In the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012 (XXIV of 2012), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2,-

(i) in paragraph (l), the word "and" shall be omitted; and

(ii) in paragraph (m), for the full stop occurring at the end a semi colon and word "; and" shall be substituted and thereafter the following new paragraph shall be inserted, namely:-

"(n) "Career technical education coursework" means such career technical education programs' component that begin with career exposure in elementary grades and continue through hands-on, industry specific as well as advanced vocational and skills training secondary school courses included in the mainstream of general school education course work."

3. Amendment of section 3, Act XXIV of 2012.- In the said Act, in section 3, in sub-section (3),-

(i) in paragraph (l), the word "and" shall be omitted; and

(ii) in paragraph (m), for the full stop occurring at the end a semi colon and word “; and” shall be substituted and thereafter the following new paragraph shall be inserted, namely:-

"(n) provide career technical education as part of the general school education course as well as skills needed to make our next generation more competitive in global economy by preparing them for both college and career at a time."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Sufficient attention has not been paid to the technical and vocational education in Pakistan. The number of technical and vocational training institutes is not sufficient and many are deprived of infrastructure, teachers and tools for training. The population of a State is one of the main elements of its national power. It can become an asset once it is skilled. Unskilled population means more jobless people in the country, which affects the national development negatively. Therefore, technical education needs priority handling by the Government.

Vision 2030 of Planning Commission of Pakistan looks for an academic environment which promotes the thinking mind. The strategies charted out to achieve the goal included. Re-introduce the technical and vocational stream in the last two years of secondary schools. Gradually increase vocational and technical education numbers to 25-30% of all secondary enrolment by 2015 and 50 per cent by 2030.

The most economically viable and effective strategy to streamline the updated technical, vocational and skill based career education is to include it in the secondary school education coursework. This strategy needs to be adopted keeping in view of the examples of developed countries as to how they are streamlining their education coursework in order to make their young generation more competitive in global market. Pakistan having one of the largest young and enthusiastic youth in the world needs to initiate this effort at the earliest.

The Bill has been designed to achieve the aforementioned purpose.

SENATOR MIAN MUHAMMAD ATEEQ SHAIKH
Member-in-charge