Society & Social Justice · GS - II

"'Earn while you learn' scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful." Comment.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Vocational education, work-based learning, apprenticeships, employability, industry-academia partnership, practical skills, National Education Policy 2020, skill certification, stipends, workplace safety, industry relevance.

Model Answer

Introduction

The 'Earn while you learn' approach combines education with paid work experience. Strengthening it can bridge the gap between classroom learning and labour-market requirements.

Significance

- **Practical skills:** Workplace exposure enables learners to apply theoretical knowledge and develop job-ready competencies.
- **Financial support:** Earnings reduce the financial burden on students from economically weaker households.
- **Employability:** Apprenticeships and internships help learners acquire experience, professional networks and workplace discipline.
- **Industry alignment:** Employers can train candidates according to actual technological and occupational requirements.

- **Reduced skill mismatch:** Structured work-based learning can improve transitions from education to employment.

Measures for Strengthening

- Expand quality apprenticeships across manufacturing, services and emerging technologies.
- Develop partnerships between ITIs, colleges and local industries.
- Ensure fair stipends, workplace safety and protection against exploitation.
- Introduce recognised skill certification and credit transfer between vocational and academic pathways.
- Provide mentoring, career counselling and special support for women and disadvantaged learners.
- Monitor training quality and employment outcomes rather than merely enrolment.

Conclusion

An effective ‘Earn while you learn’ model must combine meaningful education, fair remuneration and recognised skills. Strong industry partnerships and quality assurance can make vocational education more inclusive and employment-oriented.

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