

# Life Long Learning and Skill development: The nexus

## **Dr. Suman Buwa**

M.S.W., Ph.D. (Social Work),  
Acting Director  
Department of Life Long Learning & Extension ,  
Shivaji University, Kolhapur,  
MAHARASHTRA  
Mobile- 9011001514

### **Introduction**

Be it an educated or uneducated, be it literate or illiterate every individual keeps on learning some or other ways during his or her life span. Many a times life situations on personal as well as professional front demands certain set of skills to handle the situation successfully .Hence deliberated learning becomes necessary.

Life Long Learning offers education anytime anywhere. Continued skill development facilitates optimization of opportunities as and when it arises. Skill development programmes are one of the parts of Life Long Learning programmes organized by the Department of Life Long Learning and Extension, Shivaji University Kolhapur.

### **Objectives**

- To understand the concept of Life Long Learning
- To deliberate skill development through lifelong learning
- To usher the significance of Life Long Learning in the developmental agenda of national development
- To address the role of the Department of Life Long Learning and Extension in Skill development

### **Methodology**

### **Approach of the study**

The Department of Life Long Education and Extension formerly known as The Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension Work, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra is engage in conducting various Life Long Learning activities for the people of its jurisdiction. The Researcher, has been one of the active functionaries of various development programmes in different roles for these programmes. This paper describes conceptual framework of Life Long Learning for skill development. To support the view researcher has used her real work

experience in the field of Life Long Learning. This study also points out how the life long learning programmes have received great responses and appreciation for its efficiency in offering useful learnings for skill development. Considering the positive outcome and feedbacks from the the programmes, it may be apt to say that the work carried out by the department is contributing in the national development of India . The present study discusses how skill development is possible through life long programme anytime during our life span..

### **Review of Literature**

Sizable work in the area of lifelong learning has been done by various experts, researchers, scholars, policy makers , government and institutional entities. In addition to the real work experience of the researcher this study has referred various books ,journals, articles and documented information on print and online resources.

### **Scope of the study**

The three district of Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara come under the Jurisdiction of the Department of Life Long Learning and Extension Shivaji University, Kolhapur. This study is based on the readings and outcome experienced from the Life Long

Learning Programmes organized in this jurisdiction . This paper intends to highlight the significance of Life Long Learning education in bringing about skill development in various areas. The researcher puts forth these programmes as an exemplary activities of organized learning for skilled development by the way of continued process of learning throughout life. The area of three aforementioned districts , therefore ,is as the scope of the study.

### **Life Long Learning**

There have been number of definitions of the concept of Life Long Learning. However the definition or perhaps the meaning described by the website [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) would facilitate our understanding of the concept in simpler way.The dictionary defines Life Long Learning as “ the provision or use of both formal and non formal learning opportunities throughout people’s lives in order to foster the continuous development and improvement of the knowledge and skills needed for employment and personal fulfillment.”

**The Department of Life Long Learning and Extension ,Shivaji University Kolhapur**

With an aim to reach out to and take education to the masses the Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension Work was established in 1982 by Shivaji University, Kolhapur. Recently the department has been renamed as The Department of Life Long Learning and Extension .The Department of offers various kinds of need based (short duration) Continuing Education Courses. Along with the programmes in Leadership and Human Resource Development, Quality of Life Improvement, Individual Interest promotion, Social and Citizenship ,Role Awareness etc. Department also offers orientation and training in Life Long Education to teachers, students, social workers administrative staff etc. The department acts as link between University & affiliated colleges and society at large. The department has been instrumental in attaining all round development of people especially of rural areas of the department's jurisdiction by the ways of organizing various programmes for their socio-economic, spiritual and health development.

### **Skill Development through Life Long Learning**

Life Long Learning offers acquisition of education anytime during the life span.Life

long learning not only does open up new employment opportunities but also enriches our intellect in terms of skills, knowledge and abilities to take up better opportunities. In order advance economically one has to keep learning to match up with required skills set and knowledge. Enhanced economic status enhances purchasing power further enabling good health, education, living facilities to the person and his family .Thus ultimately skilled development through life long learning attains overall development of the person.

The department of Life Long Learning and Extension ,Shivaji University ,Kolhapur organizes various skill development programes to enhance the employability for income generation. The progremmes such as repairing electronic gadgets like Mobile , TV etc. ,Jute article making, edible item like papad, spices and pickles making, Floriculture, computer literacy, event management, gardening, imitation jewelry to name a few are organized for the people ,especially women of rural and slum areas of the jurisdiction of the Department. The jurisdiction encompasses three district of Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara.

Along with the employability and skill development for jobs outside these programmes also aim Entrepreneurship development. The programmes designed by the Department offers development of skills sets in various areas. The feedbacks received from the beneficiaries of the programmes shows that the programmes organized by the Department of Life Long Learning and Extension, Shivaji University Kolhapur has proved helpful for many beneficiary start the enterprise or small business from the scratches or with a minimal capital investment. According to them these programme have not only helped gain the technical knowledge but also has built and developed confidence among them to be an entrepreneur. According them they have been enjoying enhanced economic status giving them better health and education facilities earned through the income generated with the knowledge and skills they have gained through Life Long Learning Programmes by the Department. Therefore it can be suggested that such programmes considering the need of skill and area should be organized to encourage life long learning among the unprivileged classes of the society to empower them for their self as well as national development as a whole.

## Conclusion

Life Long Learning offers education anytime anywhere. Continued skill development facilitates optimization of opportunities as and when it arises. Life Long Learning offers acquisition of education anytime during the life span. Life long learning not only does open up new employment opportunities but also enriches our intellect in terms of skills knowledge and abilities to take up better opportunities. In order advance economically one has to keep learning to match up with required skills set and knowledge. Enhanced economic status enhances purchasing power further enabling good health, education, living facilities to the person and his family .Thus ultimately skill development through life long learning attains overall development of the person.

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