ABSTRACT

The Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector is emerging prominently in response to the global challenges of fighting poverty, unemployment and sustainable development. Currently, the demand for the skilled workforce is ever increasing for increased productivity and better economy. Thus, as of now, the future perspectives of VET are seemed to be bright. As a result, the present focus of the education has shifted to make the high school children and university graduates ready for the jobs. This demands imparting skill and training to them, however, the rapidly changing needs of the skills market has increased complexity. This is notable that the highly skilled people are in acute demand. Therefore, their movement across the countries is very frequent. At an estimate, about 193 million migrant workers moved to the countries for employment during 2010 and will continue to rise in future also. South Asian developing countries like India could be referred as a young nation because the millions of population of youth being added every year. In the Indian context VET, infrastructure is not sufficient. The most of the job opportunities are existing in the unorganised sector especially in the blue collar jobs. These blue collar jobs require hands-on VET skills, which are not taught at the secondary and higher level in a general education system. To become at par with the level of world-class skills the world's two largest labour markets China and India have begun to invest heavily in significantly improving their training programmes and skills for capacity building of workforce just like the US, European Union and other leading training providers.

To sketch the landscape of VET for policy maker the present study provides scientometric (quantitative) analysis of knowledge (publications) in the area of VET, pursued through scientometric research method. The Web of Science Core Collection Database was explored to retrieve the publication data. The term "Vocational Education* OR Vocational Training*" is used in the topic field. The study is limited to the data analysis published during the period of study. The efforts have been made to explore the periodic growth and development of literature. The average number of articles and citations per paper was calculated. Further, analysis at continental and country level is performed to identify the prolific organisations and authors in VET. The degree of

collaboration among the authors is determined. Various performance indexes like Publication Efficiency Index, Relative Citation Index, h-Index and g-Index have been drawn. The study identifies highly preferred journals. The study also reports highly cited articles in VET.

The data analysis revealed that total 6719 records, attained a sum of 64065 citations. The overall average citation rate was 9.53 per paper and h-Index was 86. The average number of publications per year was 268.763 for the period of study. The highest number of publications 805 papers was diffused in 2016. The year 2004 is the highly cited year. The whole study period records the mean relative growth rate of 0.35. The European continent is the highly productive region with 3827 records, resulting 56.96% of the global output, followed by North America with 2332 records, sharing 34.71% global output. Total 68 countries across the globe had diffused 6719 records. Among the global share of knowledge diffusion and dissemination in the VET domain, United States of America is the leading knowledge diffuser and disseminator in VET with 2249 records, which contributes more than ¼ of the global share (33.472%). Norway has the highest Publication Efficiency Index (158.515%). Among the countries, Denmark has the highest Relative Citation Index (2.15). The major share 26 publications (0.3870%) of prolific authors are contributed by the Chan, F., and Anonymous authors/bodies. Murray, T.S., is ranked second with 16 publications (0.2381%), Benbow, C.P., is at the third place with 15 publications (0.2232%). University of London (UK) has contributed the highest number of publications 149. Journal of Vocational Behavior (ISSN: 0001-8791) published from the USA is the highly productive and preferred journal with 87 records. The journal "British Medical Journal" is having the highest journal impact factor (20.785). Out of the total output of 6719 records, 1991 publications did not receive a single citation whereas about 70% of the total knowledge diffused received citations in the range of 1-150, which is the highest cited share. Remaining 28 records received 8466 citations. The USA has the highest h-index (72) and g-index (120). English language being a global communication language is the most preferred language. The highest amount of Knowledge Diffused is in the form of Articles.

The output of the study may serve the stakeholders involved in planning, imparting training, teaching and learning of VET in the country. The funding and regulating bodies working for VET in India i.e. UGC, AICTE, National Skill Development Authority (NSDA), NSDC, Government may use the findings for framing policy and needs to focus more on neglected areas. Further research based on social network analysis in VET may be focused.

Keywords: Vocational Education, Vocational Training, Citations, Co-Authorship, Productivity, Publications, Scientometrics, Policy Research, Research Performance.