

Experts maintain that country has failed to produce employable graduates

# 'Scarcity of skills, not jobs'

HT Live Correspondent  
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THE INCREASING number of unemployed youth is not due to dearth of jobs, but is the result of scarcity of employable manpower. Thus, there is a dire need to take urgent steps to bridge the gap by creating employable manpower.

This was the pivotal point of discussion at a seminar on 'Making Youth Employable', organised today by Elements Akademia in the city.

"With the economic development of the country, the job market creates a demand of six million new jobs annually in the service sector, as against 2.5 million graduates. Despite a whopping number of six million, the organised sector employs only 13 per cent of them, hinting at the need to introspect. It is here that the role of Elements Akademia begins," shared Nishant Saxena, CEO, Elements Akademia.

He said, "The paradox is that India's service sector is booming but faces an acute skilled manpower shortage, despite the presence of a large graduate pool. A part of the malady is perhaps in our university education system, which offers degrees but often



Delegates attending a seminar on 'Making Youth Employable' in Chandigarh on Tuesday.

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fails to make graduates employable and definitely calls for reforms."

Saxena said their vision is to annually make 10,000 Indians employable by reaching out to non-metro cities to attract students, train them on a curriculum designed

with their corporate partners and then help them get placed with their partners and beyond. There is a drastic mismatch between industry skill requirements and the kind of stuff our academic institutions teach, he added.

Satish Bagrodia, national

president, PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and T.P.S. Walia, COO Tata Tele Services, Punjab and HP Circle, highlighted the requirements of the corporate along with the qualities when they hire people.

Vinay Sharma, COO,

Elements Akademia, presented the research findings on key skills that corporates look for in new recruits.

Dr A.K. Saihpal, director, UIAMS, Punjab University, summed up the talk, pointing out that how today's youth focuses less on employment and more on employability and are therefore driving a privatisation of skill development.

Principals and students from major degree city colleges, besides senior executives from top companies and government representatives, participated in the symposium.

Elements Akademia, conceptualised, funded and run by a group of 15 IIM alumni, is the country's first chain of finishing schools aimed at bridging gap between academic theory and industry requirements.

Elements Akademia offers six months part-time vocational course, designed with the help of their corporate partners, who are leading players in various service sectors like insurance (MNYL), BPO/KPO (Genpact), retail (Reliance), banking (KMB) etc. This prepares graduates in tier-II cities for entry-level jobs in the booming service sectors.