

National Productivity Week

12-18 February, 2022

Theme: “Self Reliance Through Productivity”

A Concept Note

Self reliance or “Atma Nirbharta” is a developmental quality ascribed to a nation, people or a person. It simply means, being fully equipped and functional to provide one’s self with life-sustaining and economic progress. Development could be synonymously used with self-reliance.

Productivity or “Utpadakta ” refers to the rate at which a company or country makes goods, usually judged in connection with the quantity of resources put in to produce goods and services. Productivity improvement is vital for the nation to achieve self reliance. Considering the importance of Productivity in achieving self reliance, National Productivity Council (NPC) has selected the theme “**Self Reliance Through Productivity**” or “उत्पादकता के माध्यम से आत्म निर्भरता” for the National Productivity Week celebrations during 12-18 February, 2022.

Every nation in the world is currently fighting the COVID-19 pandemic challenges. Considering the lockdowns scenario across the world to contain the spread of Pandemic, need to focus on Productivity is paramount to achieve **Self Reliance**. Self-reliance will enable to build strong social structures and increase levels of economic activity, socio-economic links with local communities. Economic self-reliance is based on, access to, and management of, material and monetary assets. Self-reliance provides the basis for working towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals for the country.

Challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic:

- ❖ **The pace of technology adoption accelerates economic activities:**
 - The adoption of cloud computing, big data and e-commerce remain high priority areas. There has also been a significant rise in interest for encryption, robotics and artificial intelligence.
 - Technological adoption by companies is transforming tasks, jobs and skills substantially. It has been forecasted that, by 2025, the time spent on current tasks at work by humans and machines will be equal.
- ❖ Although the number of jobs destroyed have surpassed the number of jobs created, in contrast to previous years.
 - Jobs may be displaced by a shift in the division of labour between humans and machines, while new roles may emerge that are more adapted to the new division of labour between humans, machines and algorithms.
- ❖ Skills gaps continue to be high as in-demand skills across jobs change.
- ❖ The future of work has already arrived for a large majority of the online workforce.
- ❖ In the absence of proactive efforts, inequality in job market is likely to be exacerbated by the dual impact of technology and the pandemic recession.

In order to sustain economic development, the emphasis must be on the liberation of the energies of the people on a self reliant path that puts a heavy emphasis on the efficient and productive use of local human and material resources to satisfy the basic needs of the economy.

The scope of self reliance can include, among others:

- Diversification of mono-cultural economy
- Raising the quality of human capital and skills
- To improve quality of the environment
- To restructure agriculture in the interest of food security for all
- To adopt science and technology for domestic usage.
- To change the structure and pattern of industrialization; carefully selecting some key areas of manufacturing targeted to export markets.
- To address poverty, hunger and unemployment directly with programs suitably packaged and targeted to poor, hungry and unemployed.

The self reliance focus laid down by Honorable Prime Minister is mainly based on the following five Pillars:

1. Demographic Dividend
2. Infrastructure
3. Demand
4. Technology
5. Socio- economic Growth

Self reliance will truly ignite the innovative entrepreneurial spirit of New India by focusing on strengthening the above pillars. This in turn will enable an unprecedented wave of long-deserved growth, prosperity and well-being that will go in cognizance with rest of the world as well.

Some of the Indicators of Productivity are:

- Sustained increase in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Stability in the price level- control of inflationary and deflationary tendencies.
- Maintenance of a favorable balance of payment.
- Stability in the rate of foreign exchange
- Economic Development within the framework Sustainable Development Goals
- Reduced income inequality through income re-distribution.

Productivity improvement is sine qua non for the nation to achieve self –reliance through effectiveness in resource (man, material and machine) use through the adoption of evolutionary techniques. Hence the role of productivity in achieving the realization of self reliance of India is paramount.

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