



## FAQ

### Q. Why is the Government establishing the NSQF now?

In India, general education and vocational education and training have been operating as separate verticals with limited mobility between the two. This has led to hesitation amongst the youth in opting for vocational education and training as it is presumed that this avenue would preclude the concerned individual from acquiring higher degrees and qualifications. In order to facilitate mobility from vocational to general education, and vice-versa, a qualification framework for India, i.e. NSQF will help make qualifications more understandable and transparent. Besides these, there are several other factors which necessitates the NSQF –

- Need for outcome-based learning
- Clearly defined progression pathways leading to horizontal and vertical mobility
- Establishing equivalence of certificates/diplomas/degrees in different parts of the country
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Alignment with international standards
- To build employers' trust in training
- To add credibility to vocational education

### Q. What practical benefits will the NSQF have?

NSQF offers several benefits to each stakeholder (trainees, employers, training providers and Government of India).

#### 1. Trainees

- Formal recognition of experiential learning
- Access to career opportunities – within and across sectors
- Opportunities for wage premium for the formally skilled
- Opportunities for mobility from vocational to general education and vice-versa
- Mobility opportunities - within India and Internationally
- Informed choice of qualification/training
- Adds aspirational value to vocational training

#### 2. Employers

- Access to standardized and quality skilled manpower
- Improved labour productivity
- Reduced investment for on the job training especially of new recruits
- Use of certified, high quality labour will allow firms to access to new business avenues including export markets

#### 3. Training providers



- Alignment with Industry requirements
- Greater credibility of institute to target potential trainees

#### **4. Government of India**

- Improved Labour Productivity
- Equity and Equality in access to jobs
- Standardization of qualifications across sectors; outcome-based approach towards skilling
- Improved Return on Investment for skilling-related expenditure
- Removes stigma from vocational education

#### **Q. Is it mandatory to empanel a third party assessor?**

We encourage third part assessors for assessment. In case an institution is offering training and conducting assessment as well, it is important to establish independence between the department/division/wing offering training and conducting assessment. Details of the same have to be captured in Section 1 of Qualification File i.e. **“Assessment”**.

#### **Q. Does NSQF prescribe certain number of training hours for any level?**

No. NSQF is based on an outcome based approach and hence the focus is not on the number of training hours for any level. It is the responsibility of the submitting body to appropriately allocate training hours required, on an average, to achieve the learning outcomes of a qualification. These training hours are referred to as ‘notional hours’.

#### **Q. Can two bodies offer qualifications with minuscule differences?**

Yes, only if the two bodies can establish need for respective qualifications. Qualification file for both the qualifications should clearly capture the justification for the need. In case one Qualification file is submitted post the approval of other Qualification, the former should demonstrate efforts to avoid duplicity of the Qualification.

#### **Q. How to implement NSQF in schools?**

There are two important implications of NSQF implementation in schools. School boards need to define entry and exit parameters to facilitate mobility between general and vocational education.

Additionally, with respect to vocationalization of school education, it is expected that state boards will include vocational education as one of the electives offered to students from class IX onwards.



**Q. Which all qualifications in state needs to be aligned to NSQF?**

The state needs to list down the qualifications offered by each department along with the awarding/certifying body. All the courses which are awarded by a national certifying/awarding body will be aligned at a central level, for e.g. qualifications of SSCs and NCVT. Besides these, if there are specific qualifications which are certified/awarded by a state body, they need to be aligned to NSQF.

**Q. Will the state qualifications aligned to NSQF be recognized nationally?**

Yes. Once a qualification is approved by NSQC, it will be NSQF compliant which will have national acceptance.

**Q. What steps can be followed after approval of a qualification from NSQC?**

Following steps can be followed to implement the qualifications post approval

Step 1: NSQC approves the proposed qualification

Step 2: Awarding body/Training providers to design an outcome based curriculum

Step 3: Awarding body/Training providers to train the trainers

Step 4: Awarding body/Training provider to make necessary arrangements as per the assessment strategy

Step 5: Certification of the trainees