Need Action on Skilling to Reap Demographic Dividends: CII

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India needs to take swift action on education and skilling to reap the benefits of its demographic dividend over the next 30 years, an industry body said, failing which the young population will become a liability to the nation.

The Confederation of Indian Industry said high quality school education, relevant higher education and skill development aligned to industry needs are some of the pre-requisites if India is to become an economic powerhouse, in its report - Harnessing India's Demographic Dividend for Boosting Growth. This not only creates good quality jobs for its youth, but also services the rest of the world, it said.

"Education and skill development will be the biggest enablers for reaping India's demographic dividend. If India does not create enough jobs and its workers are not adequately prepared for those jobs, its demographic dividend may turn into a liability," CII said. The report also highlighted the need for easier funding options for higher education loans without collaterals and innovative ways of repayment. Further, it suggested that youth be offered skill vouchers and scholarships that can be linked to the National Skill Qualification Framework to create an industry-ready model, leading to a transformation from supply-based to demand-based skill system.

Focus on the Future

India needs to focus on education and skilling: **CII**

Required to reap the benefits of India's young population

If not done, this growing population will become a liability

Estimates

101 million working-age people to be added in 2020-30

61 million to be added in 2030-40 and 21 million added in 2040-50

"In addition to government initiatives, corporate investment in employee education and training should continue to play a critical role to meet the demand for high-skilled workers. Thus, greater government-industry collaboration holds the key for skilling the burgeoning workforce," said Chandrajit Banerjee, director-general, CII.