* ***Note : A serious crisis of higher education system of the country is that many of the courses are not applicative that created another challenge called unemployed graduates, university students who neither have useful knowledge for job market nor are intended to work in positions except their specialty field. Focusing on theoretical teaching in higher education centers has caused our university system to get far from industry too and even many technical and engineering universities of the country send graduated students to the society majority of whom cannot have any positive effect on country’s finance and national wealth producing. Meanwhile, Technical and Vocational University is trying to focus on technical and applicative trainings and transfer that kind of knowledge to students that enable them to have something to say in job market after graduation.***

***This university have 250 thousands students at present time all of which are taken from technical & vocational and work & science high schools and more than 90 percent of them are studying in associate’s program of studies.***

***Interestingly, in the situation of having 500 thousands free places in associate’s and bachelor’s program of studies, competition for entering free education courses of Technical and Vocational University is so intense and even Sohrab Rezaei, chancellor of State Technical and Vocational University in an interview with “Jame Jam” newspaper notes: Each year about 20 percent of applicants for Technical and Vocational University are admitted and about 280 thousands are not admitted.***

***Rezaei complains about lack of attention by higher education system to the matter of technicians training and in a detailed conversation with us he mentions that if applicative trainings were offered to students and technical & vocational and associate’s program of studies were more supported, now there would not be this much unemployed graduates in the country. The detailed conversation will be in following.***

 ***Honestly talking, many people still believe that students of technical high schools and Technical and Vocational University students are studying in these places out of necessity and more intelligent students study in theoretical fields such as Mathematics and Experimental Sciences. Do you agree?***

 ***I disagree with this view for 100 percent and my experience in Technical and Vocational University has proved vice versa. People have various intelligences, one of which is imaginative and practical intelligence. In our viewpoint technical high schools students are active and dynamic students who do not the patience to sit still in classes and educational space of many of schools in the country are not susceptible for these students’ spirit and interests, therefore they prefer to go to technical high schools and perform practical works.***

***In Technical and Vocational University, professor and students do not enter with neat and chick clothes and the space is ready for imaginative intelligence and operational works and perchance Technical and Vocational University students are elite individuals.***

***Most of the students who have completed technicians program of studies are successful individuals in job and teaching market. Of course some of elite university students of Technical and Vocational University who have a lot of inventions, are not successful in university entrance examinations, for this reason, sometimes there are some pushes on us to provide special quota for them for admission in universities.***

***These students say that we do not have the mood for reading book, but we know technical works. For example, recently I was talking to one of Technical and Vocational University students in Kerman who had six unique operational inventions and asked me to be let to enter higher program of studies without passing university entrance examination. When I asked him why with this excellent talent he does not attend at university entrance examination, he answered that he know he cannot pass an exam based on theoretical tasks.***

***There are many similar examples. For instance there is another student in Technical and Vocational University of Minab who has 91 inventions, but he has no patience for university entrance examination and instead he accept to work in lab day and night.***

***What I am saying is that technical and vocational high schools and universities students are not lazy at all, but unfortunately by propagation of degree oriented approaches in the country, neglecting technical fields of study and too much focus on theoretical fields of study, such a wrong and irrational view exists toward them.***

 ***With a glance to 40-year history of Technical and Vocational University, it seems that from the first day technical and vocational institutes were not supposed to turn into universities. What happened that caused the aggregation of technical and vocational institutes in name of Technical and Vocational University?***

 ***Technical and Vocational University has two histories. One of them returns to the Fifth Development Plan which was started from 2011 and the other returns back to the discussion of technicians training and technical and vocational institutes from decades ago.***

***Technician training discussion was offered in our country from 1965 and technical trainings were started for interested individuals the same year by establishment of the first technical school and later a girls’ technical school was also established and similarly establishment of technical schools were continued until revolution.***

***At the time of revolution we just had 14 technical schools that were called Technology Institute on the time and were training technicians.***

***On that time, the task of technician training was so important and focused in the world and because of scientific relation of Iran with western countries, technician training subject entered our country, but by passing of time, since university education became more attractive, these schools were aggregated and called university.***

***But after revolution, Ministry of Education was assigned responsible for technician training, but because of numerous priorities of Ministry of Education, little by little technical and vocational trainings in technical institutes were performed weakly.***

***Finally with new education system in Construction Government, technician training discussion was introduced again and it was assigned that technical high schools receive more supports.***

***At early years of Mr. Hashemi’s government, because of increased number of university entrance examination applicants it was decided to guide a number of secondary education students toward technical and vocational educations in technical & vocational and Work & Science high schools. Then, by reinforcing technical high schools and increase in their number it reached to the point that authorities of Ministry of Education and Higher Education thought that they should plan about education continuation of these increased technical students, therefore, on those years, Colleges Office was established in Ministry of Education so that in early years of ninth and tenth government, technical schools faced an ever increasing growth; as at present time there are 165 active technical and vocational faculty, 3 certified centers, and about 42 technical and vocational higher education centers that were approvals of provinces visits of government and are being established at present time.***

 ***Which attractions caused the increase of the number of technical and vocational faculties in Construction Government and accretion of students’ interest in technical courses?***

 ***The most important attraction of technical courses was and is that technical students choose their field of study from the second year of high school and their university field of study will be the same. For instance, if a student enter electricity or mechanics field of study, his university field of study would be electricity or mechanics. It means that technical and vocational schools were established so that 2 years training in university get aggregated with 3 years of training in high school and finally the student, after graduation, has completed an efficient 5-year course. Therefore, s years study in technical high school is added to 2 years education in technical and vocational universities and a 5-year practical course is formed during which most of educational courses are workshop courses.***

***The student get acquainted with alphabet of his vocation, learn how to work with equipments and after entering university (s)he is not a student who starts from zero, but this student has studied the introductions of his field of study from the first day and then he is passing the complementary courses. Therefore the student, after two years of education in higher education centers, can serve the country as a skilled, technical and resourceful power.***

***Technicians have 80 percent of jobs in the world, in Iran this program of study is called Kardani [associate’s degree]; that is a person who can enter job market with the least university training.***

***Associate’s program of studies is the least academic training that an educated citizen should pass to enter society and job market. In these courses, student will pass the minimum general education training courses that are needed to be a good citizen, but 70 percent of his educational courses are practical and workshop courses, and incorporation of these knowledge will make an Associate’s graduate student into a semi skilled craftsman after 5 years education in his field.***

 ***But in 2000s students were more interested in pre-university centers than technical high schools and this has even continued to present time. Why Education system could not preserve that previous interest of students in technical and vocational program of studies?***

 ***You see, when technical high schools were established vs. pre-university, it was not supposed that all high school graduates enter pre-university, but that only some can enter pre-university and some can pass this filter and enter university through technical high schools, but according to social resistance and growth of degree-orientation, little by little pre-university turned into an obligatory education level which should be completed by most of high school students.***

 ***How many students are studying in Technical and Vocational University just now?***

 ***All over the country, there are about 250 thousands students and 165 technical and vocational higher education center, from which 55 belong to girls and 110 to boys.***

 ***It seems that during recent years some more fields of study are added to the list of Technical and Vocational University fields of study?***

 ***That’s right, but still fields of associate’s program of study are so more than Bachelor’s program of study. In Technical and Vocational University, about 64 fields are being taught in associate’s program of study and in 28 fields Bachelor’s program is also active. Of course bachelor’s program is non-connected, that is the student should complete associates program first and then manage to study in bachelor’s program. But still 90 percent of our students are studying in associates program and we do not intend to move toward developing complementary education fields of study in Technical and Vocational University.***

 ***While during recent years, more than one million people are waiting for master’s program of study entrance examination, why you say that you do not have any plan for increasing the number of bachelor’s fields of study and more focus on developing fields of complementary education?***

 ***We have defined two missions for Technical and Vocational University. The first mission is training technicians in the country which is neglected and now we can see that most of universities moved toward degree orientation and are planning to increase admission capacity in complementary education programs of study.***

***Our second mission is practical and workshop training for students; in a way that students would not remain unemployed after graduation.***

***I assure you that if applicative trainings were offered to students and Associate’s and technical & vocational programs were more supported, there would not be this much unemployed graduates in the country. For this, the nature of most of fields of study in Technical and Vocational University is applicative and operational. That means that the student of Wood Industry should make table for his practical fields training, the Welding student should do welding or Auto-mechanics student should repair car engine and in general, the student will learn work and lesson together from just the first day.***

***In fact, unlike many university fields of study that now 1 million and one hundred thousands are waiting for entering their master’s program, we do not have even bachelor’s program for some fields and even demand is also low for educating in bachelor’s program.***

***According to our statistics, now we just have 28 Bachelor’s program of study and interestingly only 8 to 10 percent of graduates of Technical and Vocational University wants to enter Bachelor’s program.***

***For example you won’t see any Technical and Vocational University student go to Ministry of Science and complain why they don’t have Master’s program for welding in their university. Because the job market is ready for their field of study and when they see that they can find a job in their field after graduation, they do not insist on education continuation.***

***We want to contend against degree orientation, there is no reason to take four of the best years of student’s youth and give him a paper after Bachelor’s program, and when he asked where I can work after graduation, we say we do not know.***

***The policy of our university is that whoever enters the Technical and Vocational University should know that he can find a job after graduation.***

***But many of these Technical and Vocational University graduates are not from well-to-do levels of society and do not have any capital to start a business related to their university field of study, while most of technical and vocational fields need investment for profiting and self employment.***

***I accept that many of Technical and Vocational University students are from medium or low levels of society who do not afford starting business at early studying years or after graduation. For this a project called supporting university students cooperative is formed in which some technical and vocational students with cooperation of their professor produce goods and present to market.***

***It means that if the student can work, he is let to use university facilities such as workshops, water, electricity, gas, and other side facilities to have employment and income. In this project a part of benefits is allocated to student, a part to professor and a part to university, which is used for mobilizing facilities of university and providing teaching facilities.***

***In fact, with this project we try to ensure student that his university trainings can be beneficiary and plan for the student so that even in his free time, the student move toward deepening his learning and therefore we defined an approach in which producing-oriented education is in agenda of Technical and Vocational University.***

***Now, about 30 to 40 students’ cooperative are set up all over the country and we are about to have at least one students’ cooperative in each center.***

***But working in these cooperatives cannot be defined as a permanent job for the student.***

***When we talk about this kind of production, it does not mean mass production, but it is a limited production that can create self confidence and hope for the student of not being unemployed and in fact, we have provided a situation that the student in case of having knowledge and information about his field of study can produce goods in his filed in the university.***

 ***Then what did you plan for those graduates who are not located in cooperative frameworks or they don’t like to work in Technical and Vocational University cooperatives?***

 ***Today, the third generation university or entrepreneur university is introduced in the world. That is, universities responsibility is not just training and research any more, but university should support student to the end and see weather university output has any fan out of the university or not. We are about to create this viewpoint in Technical and Vocational University and create a model of modern university against traditional one.***

***For this we are about to send the plan of supporting technician training to the parliament and try to make city councils and various guilds to allocate a part of their producing activities licenses to technicians of Technical and Vocational University and support them so that the Technical and Vocational University graduate can find job easier.***

 ***One of the main critics addressing Technical and Vocational University is that many of graduate students of technical high schools cannot pass the difficult entrance examination of Technical and Vocational University. Why the admission capacity of this university does not have a rational proportion with the number of applicants?***

 ***The reason is that all chairs of higher education were allocated to high school students. Even before Technical and Vocational University formation, there was not even one empty place allocated to technical high school students, therefore according to higher degree documents, Ministry of Education was assigned to allocate at least 50 percent of its capacity to technical and vocational students until the end of fifth development plan. The problem is that now many of the technical high school graduates tend to continue education but the capacity is not enough for their admission.***

***The annual admission capacity of Technical and Vocational University is about 70 thousands students and cannot answer applicants at all. The number of graduates is also increased every year, but we do not have enough capacity for admitting technical and vocational university student.***

***Since Technical and Vocational University is the only government university for technical high school students’ education continuation, and other universities are not free, there is an intense competition. Therefore because of limited capacity for technical high school students we have to perform entrance examination.***

***Considering the capacity of 70 thousand for Technical and Vocational University, how many applicants are there?***

***Technical and Vocational University can admit 20 percent of applicants every year and about 280 thousand cannot pass the exam that make us to critic this situation and ask authorities of higher education to make a decision for qualitative and quantitative promotion of Technical and Vocational Institutes.***

 ***While official statistics say 900 thousands of university graduates are unemployed, do you have any statistics about the number of unemployed or employed graduates of Technical and Vocational University?***

 ***According to information of Iran Statistics Center, about 85 percent of Technical and Vocational University graduates are employed, but I believe that there are few Technical and Vocational University graduates who looked for job but remained unemployed.***

 ***Accepting this is a little hard. While job market is facing a challenge even for absorption of many of scientific elites from credited universities of the country, how it can be said that 85 percent of Associate’s graduates of Technical and Vocational University are employed?***

 ***The reason I say 85 percent of Associate’s graduates of Technical and Vocational University are employed is that you cannot even find one percent in graduates of more than 50 fields out of 64 present fields who remained jobless, because not only the need of job market need for their absorption is high but also these specific fields are only taught in Technical and Vocational University.***

 ***What are the fields that you say have not any unemployed at all?***

 ***For instance the field of Building Establishments Technician, Welding Technician, Turnery Technician, and Engraving Associate’s are fields that I can claim all their graduates are employed, because these fields, as well as automobile mechanics, even if there is no job in market, the individual can work for himself with the least capital.***

***It means that while the higher education system of the country could not admit university student according to the needs of the country, Technical and Vocational University, with a need-oriented approach, have tried and is trying to admit its students in accordance with society’s employment needs.***

***For example, this year, a new field called Repairing and Maintenance of Electric Stairs and Elevator is set up, in which there is not even one university graduate in the country and it is impossible that this field become saturated soon according to the present housing market.***

***Even in a period of time we had to hire 3000 foreign welder for South Pars Oil Project, while now many needs of the country are answered by training welding technicians in Technical and Vocational University.***

 ***What are the 15 percent fields that have unemployment?***

 ***In fields such as accounting, computer and administrative affair and agriculture, the Technical and Vocational University graduates are confronting with unemployment and since other universities are teaching these fields without considering the real needs of job market and unfortunately the atmosphere of job market is in a way that employer prefer to hire a Bachelor or Master of computer, some of technicians of these fields of Technical and Vocational University are unemployed.***

 ***When you know that there is graduates’ unemployment in these fields and they are saturated in market, why you still admit students for them?***

 ***This year, our plan is to reduce admission in these fields and we have limited admission in computer, accounting, and agriculture and instead we have expanded some of inter-fields.***

***For example the field of General Accounting is changed into Industrial Accounting and Computer is changed into IT, so that they have more conformity with job market.***

***Why Technical and Vocational University is separated for girls and boys?***

***Girls and boys are not separated according to a specified prejudice, but they are separated according to their abilities. Because we believe that some of technical and scientific fields are conforming to taste, spirit, and abilities of girls and some are more conforming to boys.***

***Some of rough workshop fields, such as automobile repairing needs boy students and in some fields such as Graphics, Sewing, Sewing Designing and Clothing Designing and Weaving, girls are more successful.***

***On the other hand, this separation in higher education Technical and Vocational Institutes is according to logistics documents of higher education, because in this document it is mentioned that university fields of study should be chosen according to physical and spiritual needs of the students which is done in Technical and Vocational University by separating fields of study.***

***Also, since most of our courses are workshop and students attend with overalls and they need more comfort of work, therefore workshops of Technical and Vocational University cannot take place coeducational.***