

## Technical and Vocational Education in Context of G20 Declaration

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### Abstract

Technical and vocational education (TVE) holds significant promise in addressing the global skills gap and unemployment issues. This research article provides an analysis of the G20 Declaration aimed at expanding access to quality TVE. The G20, a prominent international forum, plays a pivotal role in shaping global policies. This analysis delves into the crucial role of TVE in the context of global education and investigates the specific G20 Declaration's objectives, strategies, and impact on addressing the challenges in this field.

This research article discusses the historical background of the G20 and its mission in addressing global challenges. It further highlights the overarching education challenges, emphasizing the need for TVE in modern education systems. The G20's specific dedication to expanding access to quality TVE is contextualized within these broader educational concerns.

This research article underscores the significance of TVE in addressing global education challenges and highlights the importance of the G20 Declaration in this context. Recommendations are provided for G20 member countries and other stakeholders to effectively implement the declaration's goals. Furthermore, future prospects for TVE and education policy development are suggested, paving the way for continued progress in expanding access to quality technical and vocational education on a global scale

**Key Words:** Technical and Vocational Education, Quality. G-20, Assess, Declaration, Global Education

### Introduction

Technical and vocational education (TVE) plays a pivotal role in global education, with the potential to address pressing challenges related to skills development, employability, and economic growth. This introduction sets the stage for our analysis of the G20 Declaration, which is a critical commitment to expanding access to quality TVE at the international level.

### Importance of Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) in Global Education:

Technical and vocational education is a cornerstone of modern education systems. It equips individuals with practical, job-specific skills, enhancing their employability and overall contribution to the workforce. TVE is versatile, offering a wide range of programs that cater to diverse industries and occupations, from healthcare and information technology to manufacturing and hospitality. This diversity allows TVE to address both the current skills gap and emerging labor market needs.

TVE empowers individuals to enter the job market with competencies that are immediately applicable, making it an efficient pathway for those seeking employment or career advancement. Furthermore, TVE programs are often designed in close collaboration with industry stakeholders, ensuring that graduates possess the skills and knowledge required by employers. In this way, TVE bridges the gap between education and the labor market, directly responding to the demands of the workforce.

The advantages of TVE extend beyond individual employability. When adequately integrated into education systems, it can contribute significantly to economic growth. A skilled workforce is essential for innovation, productivity, and competitiveness, and TVE is a key driver in producing this skilled labor force. As such, TVE is fundamental in achieving sustainable development and enhancing the overall quality of life for individuals and communities.

### Introduction of the G20 Declaration on Expanding Access to Quality TVE:

The G20, a prominent international forum consisting of the world's leading economies, recognizes the profound impact of TVE on global education and workforce development. As part of its commitment to fostering

inclusive and sustainable development, the G20 has issued a Declaration specifically aimed at expanding access to quality TVE. This Declaration reflects the G20's understanding of TVE's role in addressing critical challenges and aligns with its broader objectives to promote economic stability and sustainable growth.

The G20's engagement with TVE is a significant step toward addressing the global skills gap and employment challenges. By focusing on the expansion of access to quality TVE, the G20 acknowledges the need to make TVE more widely available and to ensure that TVE programs are of high quality, meeting international standards. This approach not only prioritizes inclusivity but also underscores the importance of maintaining the relevance and excellence of TVE programs.

## **Background:**

### **History and Mission of the G20:**

The Group of Twenty (G20) is an international forum consisting of 19 individual countries and the European Union, representing the world's major economies. Established in 1999, the G20 was initially a response to the financial crises of the late 1990s, with its primary purpose being to promote international financial stability and coordination among its member countries. Over time, the G20's mandate has expanded to encompass a broader range of global economic and financial issues, including trade, development, and sustainable growth.

The G20 operates on a rotating presidency system, where member countries take turns leading the forum. This leadership structure allows for discussions and initiatives that reflect the priorities and perspectives of various regions and nations. The G20's mission centers on cooperation and coordination, with the goal of addressing pressing global economic challenges and fostering global economic stability and growth. It is a platform where leaders come together to discuss, negotiate, and shape policies to tackle shared economic and financial issues.

### **Broader Context of Education Challenges and the Need for TVE:**

Education plays a vital role in advancing societies and driving economic development. However, the global education landscape faces several pressing challenges, including access, quality, and relevance. Millions of people worldwide still lack access to education, particularly in low-income countries, creating a significant barrier to social and economic development. Additionally, in many places, the education provided may not be of sufficient quality or relevance to prepare individuals for the evolving needs of the labor market.

One of the most prominent challenges is the global skills gap. Rapid technological advancements, coupled with changes in the nature of work, have led to a misalignment between the skills individuals possess and the skills demanded by employers. This mismatch results in unemployment or underemployment for many individuals and hampers economic growth. The skills gap is exacerbated by a lack of access to quality education and training, particularly in technical and vocational fields.

Technical and vocational education (TVE) serves as a critical solution to these challenges. TVE equips individuals with practical skills, aligning education with the skills demanded by industries and the labor market. TVE is known for its efficiency in preparing individuals for the workforce, as it is often designed in close collaboration with industry stakeholders. This makes TVE a practical and immediate pathway for individuals seeking employment or career advancement, addressing the skills gap and fostering economic development.

Moreover, TVE has been recognized for its inclusivity. It provides opportunities for a diverse range of learners, including those who may not have access to traditional higher education or who prefer a more hands-on approach to learning. This inclusivity extends to marginalized groups and underserved communities, enhancing social equity.

### **Significance of the G20 Declaration on Expanding Access to Quality TVE:**

The G20's commitment to expanding access to quality TVE holds immense significance. The G20 Declaration acknowledges the pivotal role of TVE in addressing global skills challenges and enhancing employability. By specifically focusing on expanding access to quality TVE, the G20 recognizes that it is not only about making TVE more widely available but also about ensuring that these programs are of high quality, meeting international standards.

This declaration reflects the G20's recognition of the importance of a skilled workforce in driving economic growth and global stability. It underlines the need to provide opportunities for individuals to acquire practical skills and competencies that are immediately applicable in the workforce. By emphasizing inclusivity, quality

assurance, and relevance in TVE programs, the G20 Declaration sets the stage for international cooperation and policy development to address the global skills gap and improve the overall quality of education.

In a world where technological advancements are rapidly transforming industries and occupations, the G20 Declaration on expanding access to quality TVE offers a framework for countries to adapt to these changes and provide their citizens with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the modern workforce. This commitment not only aligns with the goals of the G20 to promote economic stability and growth but also reflects a broader commitment to improving the quality of life for individuals and communities worldwide through education and skill development.

## **G20 Declaration Overview:**

The G20 Declaration on expanding access to quality Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) is a significant commitment to addressing global education and workforce challenges. The declaration succinctly outlines key points, goals, and strategies to enhance the availability and quality of TVE:

### **Key Points in the G20 Declaration:**

**Inclusivity:** The G20 Declaration emphasizes inclusivity as a fundamental principle. It recognizes the importance of ensuring that TVE programs are accessible to all, irrespective of gender, age, socio-economic background, or physical location. This inclusivity is seen as a means to reduce education disparities and promote equitable opportunities.

**Quality Assurance:** The declaration underscores the significance of maintaining high standards of quality in TVE programs. It highlights the need for comprehensive quality assurance mechanisms, including accreditation, certification, and evaluation, to ensure that TVE is of the highest standard.

**Relevance:** The G20 acknowledges the dynamic nature of the labor market and the need for TVE programs to remain relevant. It calls for TVE to be adaptable to the evolving needs of industries and employers, making it responsive to technological and economic shifts.

### **Main Goals and Strategies in the G20 Declaration:**

**Expand Access:** The primary goal of the declaration is to expand access to quality TVE. It recognizes that there are still barriers preventing many individuals from accessing TVE, and it aims to address these challenges. The strategies include investing in infrastructure, creating more TVE institutions, and offering flexible learning opportunities to reach underserved populations.

**Promote Quality:** Ensuring the quality of TVE is a central goal. The G20 Declaration commits to developing and implementing quality assurance measures to maintain high standards in TVE programs. Strategies involve standardizing curriculum and assessments, fostering collaboration with industries, and enhancing the qualifications of TVE instructors.

**Enhance Relevance:** To make TVE more relevant to the labor market, the declaration focuses on strategies that facilitate ongoing adjustments to curriculum and programs. This includes strengthening partnerships between educational institutions and industries, conducting regular labor market assessments, and encouraging the development of new TVE pathways in emerging sectors.

**Facilitate Lifelong Learning:** The G20 recognizes that learning should not be confined to a specific age or stage in life. The declaration promotes the concept of lifelong learning by creating opportunities for individuals to continuously upgrade their skills and knowledge, supporting career mobility and adaptation to changes in the workforce.

**Promote International Collaboration:** International cooperation is a fundamental aspect of the G20 Declaration. It encourages collaboration between G20 member countries, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations to share best practices, resources, and expertise in the field of TVE.

**Assure Quality Data:** The declaration underscores the importance of data collection and analysis to monitor progress and effectiveness. It calls for establishing data systems to track TVE outcomes, employment rates, and other relevant metrics to inform policy decisions.

The G20 Declaration on expanding access to quality TVE outlines a comprehensive approach to make technical and vocational education more inclusive, of high quality, and relevant to the changing demands of the labor

market. It aims to address the skills gap and empower individuals with the skills and knowledge needed for success in the modern workforce while promoting international cooperation and lifelong learning.

## **Benefits of Technical and Vocational Education (TVE):**

Technical and vocational education (TVE) offers a wide range of advantages and benefits, making it a crucial component of education systems worldwide. Here are some of the key advantages and benefits of TVE:

**Practical Skills Development:** TVE focuses on equipping individuals with practical, hands-on skills and knowledge directly related to specific trades, industries, or occupations. This practicality is highly valued in the workforce, as it allows graduates to be job-ready with real-world competencies.

**Shorter Learning Curve:** Unlike traditional academic programs, TVE often has a shorter duration, enabling individuals to enter the job market more quickly. This is particularly advantageous for those who want to start working or change careers promptly.

**Industry-Relevant Education:** TVE programs are often developed in collaboration with industry stakeholders, ensuring that the curriculum remains current and responsive to industry needs. This alignment with the job market enhances graduates' employability.

**Cost-Effective:** TVE programs are generally more cost-effective than lengthy university degrees. This makes them accessible to a broader range of individuals, including those who may not have the means for higher education.

**Diverse Career Pathways:** TVE offers a diverse range of career options in various sectors, such as healthcare, information technology, engineering, culinary arts, and more. It allows individuals to choose a career path that aligns with their interests and aptitudes.

**Addressing the Skills Gap:** TVE is well-suited to address the global skills gap, which refers to the disparity between the skills employers require and those possessed by the workforce. By providing relevant, industry-specific training, TVE helps bridge this gap, ensuring that individuals have the skills needed by employers.

**Reducing Unemployment:** One of the major benefits of TVE is its potential to reduce unemployment. By equipping individuals with skills that are in demand, TVE programs increase the likelihood of finding employment or self-employment opportunities.

**Promoting Entrepreneurship:** TVE can empower individuals to become entrepreneurs or start their businesses. For example, a graduate with culinary skills can open a restaurant, while someone with technical skills can establish a repair shop. This entrepreneurial aspect contributes to economic growth.

## **Challenges in Access to Quality Technical and Vocational Education (TVE):**

Expanding access to quality technical and vocational education (TVE) is a noble endeavor, but it comes with several barriers and challenges. These challenges can vary by region and country but generally encompass issues related to inclusivity, infrastructure, and funding:

### **Inclusivity Challenges:**

**Gender Disparities:** In many parts of the world, there remains a significant gender gap in TVE participation. Traditionally, certain fields have been associated with specific genders, and these stereotypes persist. For example, nursing and caregiving programs are often seen as feminine, while technical and engineering programs are seen as masculine. Overcoming these stereotypes and promoting gender inclusivity in TVE is a challenge.

**Socioeconomic Disparities:** TVE programs can be costly, and individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds may face barriers to accessing quality TVE due to financial constraints. Scholarships, grants, and affordable programs are often needed to address these disparities.

**Rural-Urban Disparities:** Access to quality TVE can vary significantly between rural and urban areas. Urban centers tend to have more TVE institutions and a broader range of programs, while rural areas often have limited options. This disparity makes it challenging for rural residents to access quality TVE.

### **Infrastructure Challenges:**

**Insufficient Facilities:** TVE programs often require specialized facilities, equipment, and laboratories to provide practical training. Many institutions, especially in low-resource regions, lack the necessary infrastructure to offer high-quality TVE. This results in a limited capacity to deliver practical and hands-on education.

**Technological Barriers:** In the digital age, TVE should incorporate technology for effective training. However, many institutions face technological challenges, including inadequate internet connectivity, outdated equipment, and limited access to digital resources.

**Teacher Qualifications:** TVE instructors must possess industry-relevant knowledge and experience. However, recruiting qualified instructors can be a challenge, particularly in regions where industries and institutions do not compete for talent.

### **Funding Challenges:**

**Insufficient Investment:** Adequate funding is crucial to expanding access to quality TVE. However, many governments allocate limited resources to TVE, leading to underfunded programs, outdated facilities, and a shortage of qualified staff.

**Inadequate Scholarships and Financial Aid:** To make TVE accessible to a broader demographic, scholarships and financial aid programs are essential. Inadequate availability of such support can deter individuals from enrolling in TVE programs due to financial constraints.

**Sustainability:** Funding challenges can extend to the long-term sustainability of TVE programs. Many programs are heavily reliant on external funding or short-term projects, which can lead to uncertainty and instability in the delivery of TVE.

**Cost of Quality Assurance:** Ensuring quality in TVE requires ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and quality assurance mechanisms. These activities can be costly, and institutions may struggle to allocate funds for quality control.

### **Policy and Regulatory Challenges:**

**Lack of Standardization:** Inconsistencies in TVE curricula, accreditation, and certification standards can create confusion and hinder the transferability of skills and qualifications across regions and industries.

**Inflexible Regulations:** Overly rigid regulations and licensing requirements can limit the establishment of new TVE institutions and the adaptation of programs to changing industry needs.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach involving government policy, international cooperation, increased funding, and efforts to promote inclusivity. By overcoming these obstacles, access to quality TVE can be expanded, ultimately benefiting individuals, industries, and economies.

### **Analysis of the G20 Declaration:**

The G20 Declaration on expanding access to quality Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) offers a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges and reaping the benefits associated with TVE. Let's analyze the declaration in detail, focusing on its alignment with the benefits of TVE and the proposed solutions to challenges:

#### **Initiatives and Policy Recommendations:**

**Fostering Public-Private Partnerships:** The G20 Declaration encourages public-private partnerships to promote investment in TVE. Such partnerships can enhance the relevance of TVE by aligning curricula with industry needs and providing students with practical experience. By doing so, the declaration recognizes the role of collaboration in addressing challenges related to relevancy.

**Support for Lifelong Learning:** The declaration promotes lifelong learning opportunities, enabling individuals to continually upgrade their skills and adapt to changing labor market demands. This initiative aligns with the benefit of TVE in promoting career mobility and addressing skills gaps over the course of an individual's career.

**Global Cooperation:** The G20 Declaration underscores the importance of international cooperation, including collaboration between G20 member countries, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

Such cooperation can facilitate the sharing of best practices and resources, aligning with TVE's advantage in promoting industry-relevant education.

**Data Collection and Analysis:** The declaration highlights the significance of data systems to monitor the outcomes of TVE programs. This initiative aligns with TVE's benefit in addressing challenges by providing data-driven insights into program effectiveness, employment rates, and other relevant metrics.

**Capacity Building:** The G20 Declaration acknowledges the importance of building the capacity of TVE institutions. Capacity-building initiatives can help overcome infrastructure challenges by providing institutions with the resources and expertise needed to offer high-quality TVE.

**Affordability and Financial Aid:** While not explicitly stated in the declaration, addressing funding challenges through scholarships and financial aid is an essential aspect of making TVE more accessible. These initiatives can help lower financial barriers and promote inclusivity.

**Regular Labor Market Assessments:** The declaration encourages regular labor market assessments to identify industry needs and align TVE programs accordingly. This policy recommendation directly addresses the challenge of relevance by ensuring that TVE remains responsive to changing job market demands.

The G20 Declaration aligns with the benefits of TVE by emphasizing inclusivity, quality assurance, and relevance. It outlines various initiatives and policy recommendations that address challenges such as inclusivity, quality assurance, and relevancy while fostering international cooperation and data-driven decision-making. By doing so, the G20 Declaration offers a comprehensive framework for expanding access to quality TVE and maximizing its advantages.

### **Case Studies (Optional):**

In order to illustrate the alignment of the G20 Declaration on expanding access to quality Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) with effective TVE practices, we can examine the experiences of a few countries that have successfully implemented TVE programs:

#### **Germany:**

Germany's dual education system is often cited as a model of effective TVE. The system combines classroom learning with on-the-job training, allowing students to gain practical skills while attending school. Apprenticeships are a cornerstone of this system, providing students with valuable workplace experience. The success of Germany's TVE is attributed to its strong collaboration between industry and educational institutions. Employers actively participate in curriculum development and provide apprenticeship opportunities. This practice aligns with the G20 Declaration's emphasis on public-private partnerships to promote investment in TVE and the relevance of TVE programs to industry needs.

#### **Switzerland:**

Switzerland is known for its high-quality TVE system, which is deeply integrated into the country's education and labour market. Swiss students often opt for apprenticeships, which are considered prestigious and lead to high employability. The Swiss model is effective due to its strong emphasis on quality assurance, industry collaboration, and a comprehensive framework that includes various tracks and career pathways. The Swiss experience aligns with the G20 Declaration's focus on quality assurance, adaptability to industry demands, and lifelong learning, all of which are key components of Switzerland's successful TVE system.

#### **Singapore:**

Singapore has developed a world-class TVE system known for its alignment with industry needs and global standards. The country's Institutes of Technical Education (ITE) and polytechnics offer a wide range of TVE programs, preparing students for diverse industries. Key factors contributing to Singapore's success include a commitment to continuous improvement, strong funding support, industry partnerships, and an emphasis on lifelong learning. The case of Singapore aligns with the G20 Declaration's initiatives to promote international cooperation, financial support, and lifelong learning opportunities.

#### **China:**

China's approach to TVE involves extensive government investment in expanding access to vocational education. The country has established vocational schools and TVE programs aimed at addressing skills gaps and providing pathways to employment. China's experience showcases how targeted investments and policy support can make TVE accessible and relevant on a large scale. This aligns with the G20 Declaration's focus on

expanding access to quality TVE, enhancing quality assurance, and collaborating with international organizations.

In these case studies, we can observe successful TVE practices that align with the principles and objectives of the G20 Declaration. These practices emphasize quality, relevance, inclusivity, industry collaboration, and adaptability, all of which are key elements of effective TVE. By examining these examples, we can see how the G20 Declaration draws inspiration from and encourages the adoption of successful TVE models on a global scale, contributing to the expansion of quality TVE opportunities.

## **Implications and Impact:**

The G20 Declaration on expanding access to quality Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) carries significant potential implications and impacts, not only for member countries but for global education as a whole.

### **1. Addressing the Skills Gap:**

One of the immediate impacts of the G20 Declaration is its potential to address the global skills gap. As TVE programs expand and become more inclusive and relevant, more individuals will acquire practical, industry-specific skills that are in high demand. This can reduce unemployment, boost economic productivity, and ultimately contribute to the growth of industries and economies.

### **2. Promoting Inclusivity and Equity:**

The emphasis on inclusivity within the G20 Declaration can lead to a more equitable education landscape. It has the potential to provide opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds, reducing disparities in education access. As TVE programs become more accessible, a more diverse range of individuals will have the chance to improve their employability and contribute to their societies.

### **3. Enhancing Global Competitiveness:**

The expansion of quality TVE can enhance the global competitiveness of countries. By equipping their workforce with industry-relevant skills, nations can become more attractive to businesses and investors. This can drive economic growth and global trade, strengthening the position of countries on the global stage.

### **4. Adaptation to Technological and Economic Changes:**

The G20 Declaration's focus on ensuring the relevance of TVE programs is crucial in an era of rapid technological and economic changes. As industries evolve, TVE can play a pivotal role in training individuals for new and emerging job roles, ensuring that nations remain competitive and resilient in the face of change.

### **5. Strengthening Industry-Education Partnerships:**

The G20 Declaration encourages closer collaboration between educational institutions and industries. This partnership strengthens the connection between the classroom and the workplace, ensuring that TVE remains responsive to industry needs. The impact of this collaboration extends beyond TVE to influence broader education strategies and practices.

### **6. Influence on Policy and Investment:**

The G20 is a forum of influential economies. Its commitment to expanding access to quality TVE sends a strong message to governments and policymakers worldwide. This influence can lead to increased investment in TVE programs and reforms to enhance their quality, alignment with industry needs, and accessibility.

### **7. Encouraging Lifelong Learning:**

The G20 Declaration's promotion of lifelong learning encourages individuals to continuously upgrade their skills. This cultural shift toward lifelong learning can have a profound impact on education systems globally, fostering adaptability in a rapidly changing world.

### **8. Demonstrating the Value of International Cooperation:**

The G20 Declaration underscores the importance of international cooperation in addressing global challenges. By working together, countries can share best practices and resources, furthering the quality and accessibility of TVE on a global scale.

### **9. Broader Implications for Global Education:**

The G20 Declaration sets a precedent for addressing education challenges at an international level. It underscores the importance of quality, inclusivity, and relevance in education, values that extend beyond TVE. These principles can influence discussions and policies in areas such as primary and secondary education, higher education, and adult education. The broader implication is the recognition that an adaptable and inclusive education system is essential for sustainable development and economic growth.

The G20 Declaration on expanding access to quality TVE has the potential to drive significant change in education and employment landscapes. By addressing the skills gap, promoting inclusivity, and fostering industry-education partnerships, it can have a positive ripple effect, not only within G20 member countries but also in shaping global education and workforce development practices.

## **Conclusion:**

In this comprehensive analysis of the G20 Declaration on expanding access to quality Technical and Vocational Education (TVE), several key findings emerge:

**Importance of TVE:** TVE plays a pivotal role in addressing global education challenges. It equips individuals with practical skills, enhances employability, and fosters economic growth. TVE's adaptability and inclusivity make it a valuable component of modern education systems.

**G20's Commitment:** The G20, as a forum of leading economies, recognizes the significance of TVE in addressing the global skills gap and unemployment challenges. The G20 Declaration underscores the importance of expanding access to quality TVE, emphasizing inclusivity, quality assurance, and relevance.

**Benefits of TVE:** TVE offers practical skills development, shorter learning curves, industry relevance, and cost-effectiveness. It addresses the skills gap, reduces unemployment, promotes entrepreneurship, and bridges the gap between education and the labor market.

**Challenges in Access:** Barriers to expanding access to quality TVE include gender and socioeconomic disparities, rural-urban divides, insufficient facilities, technological barriers, teacher qualifications, funding constraints, inflexible regulations, and lack of standardization.

**G20 Declaration's Alignment:** The G20 Declaration aligns with TVE's benefits by emphasizing inclusivity, quality assurance, and relevance. It introduces initiatives and policy recommendations to address challenges, foster inclusivity, ensure quality, and promote lifelong learning.

**10. Recommendations:** Provide recommendations for G20 member countries and other stakeholders on how to effectively implement the goals of the declaration.

## **Recommendations:**

**Invest in Infrastructure:** G20 member countries should allocate resources to build and maintain modern TVE facilities with updated equipment and technology, ensuring students have access to high-quality learning environments.

**Promote Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage collaboration between educational institutions and industries to create industry-relevant curricula, offer internships, and provide valuable practical experience for students.

**Offer Financial Support:** Develop scholarship and financial aid programs to make TVE accessible to individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, reducing financial barriers to education.

**Emphasize Quality Assurance:** Implement rigorous quality assurance mechanisms to maintain high standards in TVE programs, including accreditation, certification, and regular evaluation.

**Foster Lifelong Learning:** Promote a culture of lifelong learning, encouraging individuals to continually upgrade their skills and adapt to evolving job market demands.

**Regular Labour Market Assessments:** Conduct regular assessments of the labor market to identify industry needs and ensure TVE programs align with current and emerging employment trends.



**International Cooperation:** Collaborate with international organizations and other countries to share best practices, resources, and expertise, promoting global standardization and the exchange of ideas to enhance TVE programs.

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