



Jai Maa Saraswati Gyandayini

An International Multidisciplinary-Journal
ISSN: 2454-8367 Journal home page: www.jmsjournals.in
Vol. 07, Issue-II, Oct. 2021



NEP-2020: A NEW NATIONAL HIGHWAY FOR THE YOUTHS OF INDIA

Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh^{a,*} 

^a Assistant Professor, Department of English, MHPG College Moradabad, M.J.P. Rohilkhand University, Bareilly, U.P., (India)



KEYWORDS

NPE, NEP-2020, MoE, MIC, Youths, DNEP, HECEI, PoE, NCF, EFA.

ABSTRACT

'Change, the law of nature, is the only constant of life' so none and nothing can remain aloof from it' such is with the policies of the nations of the world be they belong to foreign policies or economy policies or education policies. So far as the thing is concerned with the education policies of India whether it is Macaulay's 'Minute On Indian Education of 1835' or 'The first National Policy On Education of 1968' or 'The New Education Policy of 1986', or 'Program of Action (PoE) of 1992, under the National Policy on Education' or 'NCF (National Curriculum Framework) 2005,' all of them have often been objected on various grounds from time to time as being out of fashion and being unable to fulfil the need of time and place. This is why 'The Union Cabinet Of India' has recently replaced the previous NPE of 1986 with / by the NEP-2020 with a comprehensive frame work from elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India. Although rural India is highlighted as the soul of India resides in the countries, urban India is not neglected yet .NEP-2020 has a broad outlook, visions-provisions and missions for the various people and various things. In this chapter, with these points, an attempt has been made to present what the special things are for the youths of the country; what the things are going to make them especial and how it is a new national highway for the youths of the country to run on and on.

Introduction

No policy of the world is without any vision and mission whether it is related to social or political or financial or educational areas. Such is with the NEP-2020 i.e. education policy is the backbone of a country and founder of new and carrier of the old but good tradition, culture and civilization for the posterity as the sustainable progress and development of a country depends on it. It is framed with the set visions, missions and provisions for targeted aims and objectives to be achieved in future by the posterity. This is why it is always futuristic, pragmatic and progressive in nature. There is a hidden purpose behind every policy, so is with the education policy. There has always been a need for a new education policy in any country of the world. The question is why a new education policy is needed. The answer is in the words of Dr. Sarvapally Radhakrishnan, the second President of The Republic of India and the world famous philosopher and educationalist –

A purpose which held good centuries ago may not hold good in view of the Rapidly changing conditions of our country and of the world. So the purpose which you adopt in your life, must be adopted to the relevant needs of the Present generation (Women's Education).

This is the reason why this NEP of 2020 has recently replaced the bygone the National Policy on Education of 1986. It was the first month of the year 2015 when a committee under the supervision of T.S.R. Subramaniam, the former Cabinet Secretary, started the consultation process for this NEP. It was based on report of the committee that was reported in June 2017. But the draft of this NEP was submitted in 2019 by a panel that was led by K.S. Kasturirangan, the former Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chief. Later on, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) replaced the draft of this new education policy of 2019. After this, a number of public consultations were taken to make it best. At last, the ministry took a careful consultation process in making the draft of the policy with following vision-

National Education Policy 2020 envisions India centric education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high - quality education to all (web.).

Every vision has its own provisions and these provisions are set keeping in mind what was gained, what was lost, how much was costed in the bygone NPE and what we need for the next. Such is with NEP-2020 which is formulated with the following provisions-

- 1) The aim of NEP-2020 is to increase expenditure of the state on education from around 4% to 6% of the GDP as possible as.
- 2) It has raised the importance and value of the mother tongue and regional languages. Sanskrit as well as other foreign languages will also be given an importance, but no language will be imposed on the taught.
- 3) The structure of 10+2 has been replaced with the model structure of 5+3+3+4.
- 4) In the area of higher education, it has proposed a multi-disciplinary bachelor degree of four years with multiple exit and entry options including professional and vocational areas.
- 5) While for teachers, a 4 year bachelor degree of education is must and the process for appointment of the teachers has also been strengthened besides making it transparent. NCTE is proposed to make a national curriculum frame work for the teacher education by 2021 with the help of NPST (national Profession Standards for Teachers) by 2023 etc.

After describing the conditions, visions, missions and provisions of NEP-2020, here is need to present what it has new for the youth students of the country whether for the students of present generation or for the posterity but before describing it, there is need to know the term "youth" as it has been defined differently by the various persons, authorities and organizations as Wikipedia says –

Youth is the time of life when one is young, and often means


* Corresponding author

E-mail: dksinghdharmendra@gmail.com (Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh).

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.53724/jmsg/v7n2.04>

Received 10th Oct. 2021; Accepted 20th Oct. 2021; Available online 30th October 2021

2454-8367 /© 2021 The Authors. Published by Jai Maa Saraswati Gyandayini e-Journal (Publisher: Welfare Universe). This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1333-810X>



The time between childhood and adulthood (maturity)...(web.).

While the United Nations says that youth is a person between the age of 15 & 24 years. All the statistics of the United Nations are based on this range and pleads for the education as a source for these presented statistics. According to it (The United Nations), this range of age differs without any prejudice to age groups listed by members as from “18 to 30”. On the other hand in Russia, it differs, as on November 11, 2011, the State Duma Russian Federation gave an approval for a project to raise the age-group of the young people from 14 to 35 years, while WHO defines the age group of youths from 15 to 24 but in the Republic of India, the age group from 15 to 24 is for the youth (As per India’s census 2011) whereas the National Youth Policy Of India (2003) defines the youth population as those in the age group of 15 to 35 years i.e. the age group of the youth varies from country to country but it is under 35 and not more than this.

Having a cursory glance on the term YOUTH, we are to see how NEP-2020 is a new national highway for the youth students of the country. First of all, we are to see what our President, Prime-Minister and the Education Minister have said about it. As the President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind,

On the occasion of the inaugural of a virtual conference of Governors on ‘The Role of National Education Policy 2020 in transforming Higher Education’ in Delhi on 7 September 2020 said-National Education Policy (2020) will take the country, especially the youth forward in accordance with the needs and aspirations of the Twenty first century... (web.). While the Prime – minister of India, Mr. Narendra Damodardas Modi, addressing the inaugural session of Governors conference on ‘National Education Policy’ said-

The NEP has changed the potential to not only change the education system but to also transform the entire nation. It will be the foundation of the New India... Education Policy As well as Education system are important Means of fulfilling the aspirations of the country..... (web.).

Later on, in an address on the New Education Policy at Nehru Centre (London) the Education Minister of India, Dr. Ramesh Ponkhriyal ‘Nishank’ said –

NEP (2020) will equip India to hold a position in global knowledge system. While maintaining and developing its traditional knowledge system... NEP 2020 has been implemented with a futuristic mindset, thereby turning the challenges into opportunities... through this India is hoping to transform education and putting a significant thrust on learning about how to think critically and solve problems (web.).

Having glances at the utterances of the authorities and the sovereigns, let us see what the new things are for the youth- students in this NEP of 2020. It is known to one and all that the rising sun has always been worshiped in this world for ages, and we are going to worship the rising sun of NEP – 2020 with great rejoice and enthusiasm. Welcome, friends, welcome. Come, let us welcome the dawn of this NEP For its brilliant, sparkling and illuminating multidimensional beaming aspects, as far as not the days when without any delay, its rays are going to illuminate the various aspects of the horizon of the Indian schooling system. For the youths of the country, as it is hoped, it shall pave a new path and they will run on it with great cavalry and confidence having intellectual properties such as mental (logical) physical and psychological and the dream of both the ancient and modern saints, sages, seers, prophets and educationalists, as it seems, are going to come true soon and our India is going to be VISHWA GURU soon back again and it will again regain its lost glory of the Vedic or of the golden age of India. As history repeats itself and India will repeat the history, we are sure of it and our youths will help India, the country in this game of repetition. The world knows that the destiny of each and every country is in the hands of its youths and our youths are not Telemachus, They are young Ulysses and the blood of heroic deeds flow through their veins. This NEP is going to be a talisman for the youths of the country with a single hymn ‘please

Jai Maa Saraswati Gyandayini | October 2021|

me and you will be pleased’ i.e. it will fulfill all the hopes, desires and aspirations of the youths of the country. It will make them ‘The Bhagya Vidhata’ not only of their career but also of the country.

Now, it is to see, why the youths can rejoice over it and how it is a new national highway for them. The first notable thing is that this NEP aims at the increasing the expenditure of state on education from around 4% to 6% of the GDP as possible. If it is done, there will be unexpected transformational reform in the schools, colleges, and universities of the country. All the educational institutes will have a good infrastructure and trained teachers resulting in the increase of the enrolment ratio naturally. Since there is a force for the vocational and professional education in it, all the youths will come to attend the classes like the bees to the cosmos flower. They will be taught what they like, they will have what they pine for. In this way, there will be education for all and no youth of the country will remain illiterate or without any profession or skill. Every hand will have a particular deed to earn his living. Doing it, this NEP is going to open the gate of national highway for the youths of the nation.

The second good thing for the youth students of the country is that it (NEP-2020) has solved the puzzle of the streams – separation of art, science and commerce etc. As this NEP clears that there will be no rigid separation between arts, science and commerce as well as curricular and extra-curricular activities. Our schooling system, in this matter, follows a multidisciplinary approach. A student can select the fashion studies with any subject as physics or bakery with subject like chemistry. They will be allowed to do so. An Einstein can be a Shakespeare and a Shakespeare a Picasso or a Michael Jackson. In this way every youth student has a good opportunity to study the desired subject to fulfill his pining hopes and turning aspirations.

Secondary stage (+4) of the schooling is the dawn of the youth-age. Here is no stream boundation but the blessing of multiple subjects with the critical and analytical power of thinking to be developed on and we can’t forget the windfall of the semesters for the youths of the country. This NEP has pulled down the brazen gates of the streams for the youths. Gone are the days of the annual exams and with them gone are the exam-phobia as the board exam will be at low stake – no marks but credit system like the credit /grading system of the scaling of the schools of the U.S.A. with multiple exit and entry. No anxiety, no tension as the exams will be held specially in the secondary and higher classes after every six month- twice a year something like this but not completely in a semester pattern, to lesser the burden of the examinees and the result will not only be based on paper-pen test but also the synthesis of paper – pen test, self-assessment, peer’s review and teacher’s assessment with the blending of other curricular and extra – curricular activities. So this pattern of result will make a healthy environment of the schools and colleges without any distance and difference between the teacher and the taught. In this way this assessment of 360 is a boon for the youth students of the country.

The third good thing of this NEP is in its universality as it pleads for Education for all without any partiality. The golden point is this that EFA is also a global movement that is being led by UNESCO. Like it, this NEP of India also aims to meet the needs of all the children, youths and adults of the country so that they may face all the big and small ironies of their life to live a life with respect, honour and honesty. Although EFA has ever been, leaving the exception, in the teaching and learning system or process of our country for ages but moderately. “No country can progress until its all the citizens are educated”- is not said by Nelson Mandela in vain. The equitable and inclusive vision of this policy determines EFA in our country and for the progress and development of the country all would have good education. Seeing the importance of education for all, once Swami Vivekanand Ji uttered— Educate and train the masses and thus alone a nation is possible— and his such advocacy is not in vain.

Now, are gone the days of B.A, B.Sc. & B.Com with the breaking of stream system. Only graduation is for all covering the time of four years. If a student studies for a year, and completes the exam, he will have a certificate; for two years a diploma and for three years a degree that is valid for jobs and competitions. 4th year of graduation is for research-

work. Re-entry is allowed for all with the motto- "Come when you have time, money and will". While P.G. is of one and two years; one for them whose graduation is of 4 year and two for those whose is only of 3 years. Here too M.A., M.Sc. and M.Com have no place but only Post Graduation. M.Phil. is, now, out dated. Research – Work is of 4 years. It is good for the youth students of the country that each and every year of theirs would be fruitful with a certain certificate or diploma or degree.

'Fee cap is must for all the institutes' as it is said in this NEP. The amount of the fee depends on the grading of the institutes and this grading of the institutes will be done by the various selected valid, authentic and credible agencies. In this way learning is made cheap, easy and accessible for all the students. They will have social justice – equality and equity without any difference and partiality. In this way, now, the doors of the royal academies will be opened for innumerable Eklavyas, Hamids and Gobras of our country.

Present NEP focuses on internship and vocational education in/at our educational institutes, colleges, & universities. With their help the youth students of the country will be trained to acquire some technical skill by which they can earn a livelihood easily to live a respectful, honorable and splendid life dependently. No hand will remain untouched with / from a particular skill to perform a particular deed. Where the vocational and technical education will enable them to learn a certain skill, there internship will sharp it to perform the deed easily and skillfully in the blink of the eyes. In this way the skilled and trained youth will be independent and in their independency is the dependency of the country. This NEP has also paid attention to the chief aim of education as we have heard 'the chief aim of education is not merely the acquiring of skill or information but the initiation into a higher life' and without the quality of humanity, equality, fraternity, respect for others, co- operation for both known or unknown and other heavenly qualities such as love, sympathy and mercy etc. we can't initiate into a higher life. Once, the essence of our culture and civilization was of "VASHUDHAIV KUTUMBKAM" as it was in the blood of our forefathers but curse upon the gross materialism and ultra-modernism that we left to follow and worship it, even though we forgot it but, now, this NEP is going to make the youth students not only of today but also of tomorrow again not MAN but HUMAN of today or for tomorrow. Although our posterity will live in a robotic age, their heart will be brimming with heavenly qualities of love, sympathy and cooperation and so on. Such is the vision of the presented NEP.

Digitalization of education is proposed in this NEP with the vision and mission of bringing Indian education with the international standard. Seeing the urgent need of the time, it lays down to eliminate the digitally divided through concerted tries and efforts to empower individual with skills like big data, machine learning, python programming and artificial intelligence through online or offline mode of digital learning with the view of provoking high quality education to all the youth students of the country. This new policy of education guidelines how to make India a hub of the global knowledge power having a view in mind of giving an excelled focus on the use and unification of the technology for the professional and vocational education. This policy focuses on the 'Digital India Campaign' that is going to help in transforming the entire and whole nation into a digitally empowered and knowledge economy. Digitalization of education is the need of the time and without keeping it in mind no nation can achieve the desired goal or destination of success. This is why this policy of education (NEP-2020) has recently pleaded for the interplay of education and technology. With the help of such interplay of education and technology the whole scenario of education will utterly change and without any doubt, the things that seemed unattainable would be in our palms or hands. 'Universalization of education' for the cultivation not only of the higher standards of education but also the characteristics of good and great citizenship among the youths of the country is the consisting magic and miracle of this long awaited NEP. As with the entry of the foreign universities in the country, even the poor students of our country are going to get the knowledge of the world level standard universities easily. Now the branches of the reputed, world - level universities such as of Oxford and

Cambridge etc. are allowed to open their branches at our doors as well as the Indian universities of high performance are also allowed to set up their campuses in the nook and corner of the world. With the globalization and universalization of education, not only the students of India but also of the other countries of the world are going to know, feel and understand the ethos, traditions, cultures and civilizations of one another in their milieu and it will help them to increase the feeling of co-operation and mutual understanding to avoid the horror and terror of the impending wars of the future. In this way the dreams of the NEP of internationalization of education is at hand. What wrong in communion with the great minds whether they belong to our country or not! What wrong if their ethos, tradition, culture and civilization differ when scholars are respected and worshiped and classics are studied everywhere throughout the world! Why not should we welcome the universities with such mottos. Here is a grand salute to this unique NEP for the same motto and for the internationalization of the education as well as for feeling the need of time with the need of the youth students not only of India but also of the world.

Next, characterful, praiseworthy and powerful pleading of this NEP is for 'the teacher education'. As it is known to one and all that teacher is the maker of the nation and backbone of the tradition, culture and civilization. This is why Chanakya has uttered that teacher is not a normal man as creation and holocaust flourish in his lap, but this uttering of his is only for those teachers who are active, creative, energized, and impassionate -not for those who join accidentally this pious field of teaching only for salary -so to shape the posterity of the country, this NEP of 2020 hails them who are grounded in Indian tradition, culture, and civilization as well as in ethos, knowledge and languages besides being well versed in the latest advances in education and pedagogy. For it, as by the year 2030, only educationally sound, multidisciplinary and integrated teacher education programs shall be enforced. All the programs related to teacher education must be conducted with composite multi-disciplinary institutions. The integrated degree of B.Ed., covering 4 years, would be the minimal qualification for the teachers teaching in the lower classes. While for higher classes Ph.D. is must. Besides it, to meet the need of the enriched teaching- learning process for the quality education, all the teachers will be provided various in-service continuous development trainings and program (10) with the help of NCFTE and to maintain the professional standards of the teachers and their teaching. A Common National Profession Standards For Teachers (NPST) will be developed in consultation with NCERT, SCERTs, teachers, experts, and PARAKH— Performance Assessment, Review And Analysis Of Knowledge For Holistic Development— will be set up in the form of standard-setting body (11) and such trained teacher will shape and train the mind, mood, psyche, character and behavior of the youth students of the country.

In this way, it can be said without any doubt that this policy (NEP-2020) is a windfall for the all youth students of our country as more holistic, integrated, enjoyable, engaging and multi- disciplinary

Learning environment by the well-motivated, energized and capable faculty (teachers) is for them. In to, it will provide a new national highway (Rajpath) for the youths of the country to run on and on with great confidence and cavalry. They may touch the horizon of the success with the little hands of their dreams, wherever they want. They may get what they desire i.e. dream and pine for. Now, without any partiality and hindrance, this policy of education promises and determines to provide 'education for all'. Here, a song of Rabindranath Tagore, a world famous saint poet and Nobel prize winner, can't be forgot/missed. Tagore writes:

Where the mind is without fear
And the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken
Up in to fragments by narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out
From the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches it's arms

Towards perfection;
 Where the clear stream of reason
 Has not lost its way into
 The dreary desert sand of dead habits
 Where mind is led forward by thee
 Into ever widening thought and action
 Into that heaven of freedom, my father,
 Let my country awake. (The Gitanjali, Song Number 35)

As, in the above poem, R.N. Tagore, the saint poet of India and Nobel Prize winner, has praised God for the growth and development of the holistic qualities in the country men of India. Such holistic qualities are also desired and mentioned to be developed in the youths of the country in this new policy of education Of India. This NEP is going to make the youths fearless from everything and it will help them in holding their head high with the help of the deep knowledge of various subjects without any difference and partiality. They will have perfection and their thought and action will be made broad, deep, ever widening and hallmarking with the help of (to be) developed analytical and logical perceptions.

Hailing to the dawn of this NEP, in a nutshell, it can be said that from a good, great and holistic Education policy of a country comes good teachers; from good, great, motivated, energized, devoted and capable teachers comes good, great, obedient, skillful, characterful and knowledge full students; From good, great, obedient, skillful, characterful and knowledge full youth students come good, great, self-disciplined and self-reliant citizens; from good, great, self-disciplined and self-reliant citizens of a country come a good, great, impactful, and ever-lasting tradition, culture, and civilization and; form a great,

strong, impactful and ever-lasting tradition, culture and civilization comes a great, strong, powerful and world governing and dominating NATION i.e. Presented NEP-2020 aims such things to pave a new national highway for the youths of the country. REST IS SILENCE.

References

1. Tennyson, A.L. (1808-1892). *Idylls of the Kings— Passing Of Arthur*, Edward Moxan & Co, Dover Street, London, 1859 & 1885, Print.
2. Jebaraj, Priscilla (2 Aug. 2020), "The Hindu Explains, What has the National Education Policy 2020 proposed? The Hindu, ISSN 0971-751X
3. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Sarvapalli (1888-1975), *True Knowledge*, New Delhi: Orient Paperback; Reprint edition, 1989, Print.
4. Radhakrishnan, Akila (16 Sep. 2020) "Draft New Education Policy & Schools for the Skilling Age." *The Hindu Center* Retrieved 31 July 2020.
5. Tagore, Rabindranath (1861-1941) & a new trans. by Radice, William (1951-00), *Gitanjali: Song Offering(1912)* (trans. 2011), song no. 35, Penguin Books India Pvt. Ltd, 11 Community Center, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi 110017, India, ISBN 9780670085422.
6. Shakespeare, William (1564-1616). *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark (1599 1601)*. PHI Learning Pvt. Ltd. Rimjhim House New Delhi, ISBN 9788120353282.
7. Youth: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth>, Visited 15th August 2021.
8. Youth: <https://unevoc.unesco.org/home/TVETipedia+Glossary/filt=all/id=9>, Visited 15th August 2021
9. Adolescent health in the South-East Asia Region: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/health-topics/adolescent-health>, Visited 16th August 2021.
10. 2011 Census of India: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Census_of_India, Visited 16th August 2021
11. President Kovind: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/new-education-policy-to-make-india-a-knowledge-hub-says-president-kovind/article32541981.ece>, published on 7th Sep. 2020, New Delhi, Visited 20th August 2021.
