

THE ECHO OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHTS IN NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY, 2020

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The National Education Policy of India 2020 replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986. The policy NEP, 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July, 2020. It outlines the vision of India's new education system.

The ancient India enjoyed a glorious past in the field of education. The glory of Nalanda and Taxila enjoys a special space in the heart of every Indian. The sharp decline in the field of education was noticed after the invasion in 712 A.D. The education became need based rather than the spiritual elevation of individual's soul. The NEP 2020 is not mercenary in instinct. It advocates spiritual leaning in imparting education from early childhood. The early childhood education plays an important role in shaping the personality of a man. The primary education holds importance in NEP, 2020 Education is the basic ingredients for achieving full human potential growth. The religious scriptures have deep impact on the moral shaping of thoughts. The NEP, 2020 gives stress to education. The National Education Policy speaks that the education must be provided to every individual irrespective of his place of residence, caste, colour, creed and religion. The education should be made available to historically marginalized class of people who were deprived from the fruits of education.

The education given by the *Rishis* to their *shishyas* in the *ashram* was holistic, integrated and inclusive. It was also enjoyable. Holistic means complete development and fine equilibrium of body, mind and spirit. The holistic growth is possible when education remains away from market and consumerism. Education deals with human life. It gives importance to human being. Early ancient education institution believes in ethics, peace, love, truth and tolerance. The NEP, 2020 echoes these fundamental principles of education. The ethics believe in attainment of salvation free from malicious thoughts. Peace evokes the violence free mind without any grudge against anyone. The NEP, 2020 is far away from cut throat competition. It gives space to every individual to prove himself. Indian education system has given birth to several prominent educationists. They were not only a great scholar but find human beings. These scholars include great physician Charka and Susrata, the brilliant mathematician Aryabhatta. The great teachers include Bhaskara, Madhav, Chanakya, Patanjali and Panini. The ancient educationists believe the acquisition of knowledge for the upliftment of nation. It prepares the individual for his incoming life. It is against the knowledge separated from ethics. The king depicted in the *Ramanaya*, Ravana is never adored in India, though he was great devotee of lord Shiva and Mahapandit. He was not loved by the sages because of his arrogance and pride he never attained his place among the educationists

- *Durjan Parihartabiyo Vidya langa Kritopi San,*
- *Mania Bhusit Sarpa Kimsonoo Bhayankara.*

(The wicked person should be avoided even if he has depth of knowledge because they are like serpent. The serpent has the magic blessing of precious Mani but the people remain away from it.)

The people like Ravana destroy the civilization and nation. The NEP, 2020 advocates the growth of physical as well as abstract mind. The physical development is incomplete without mental and spiritual elevation of the soul. The two-legged animal can become intellectual giant by his spiritual elevation. The education is like Virat Swaroop of lord Krishna. The almighty showed his *Virat Swaroop* to his disciple Arjuna when he desisted from his *karma* of doing war but the education ends his ignorance. He was taught the real path to tread by Krishna. The ancient education in India believes in four different sub stages to attain education. These four steps have become part and parcel of NEP, 2020.

1. *Addhayan* (Study)
2. *Chintan* (Think)
3. *Manan* (Observe)
4. *Karman* (To put into practice)

There was a gap in earlier education policy steps. The previous Education Policy tried to make successful UEE it but did not get expected success. They tried to impart Universal Elementary Education to every child. But it

was more theoretical and less practical. Keeping these difficulties in the mind, the NEP, 2020 has taken steps to end the fear in children. Education should embrace following steps to bring the children in its fold.

- Comfortable – the early education should be made comfortable, the student in primary school should not feel monotonous.
- Integration and coordination – the early school education should give the glimpse of future education. There should be no gap between early school education and higher-class education.
- Flexibility – The interest of the student should be given priority. His interest should not be frustrated. The option of flexibility enjoys a special privilege in ancient Indian education. If Arjuna and Karne were best archer of the period, Duryodhana and Bhima were adept in the mace whereas Sakuni was great gambler.
- Curricular and Extra Curricular Activities Earlier there was a sharp difference between curricular and extracurricular activities. The NEP, 2020 has ended this difference. In the NEP, 2020 curricular activities and extracurricular activities enjoy the same status. Certain facilities have been envisaged for the students. The goal of the education institutions is fixed. There must be proper integration and coordination in the institution for implementation for ideas and values. This is the most distinct feature of NEP, 2020. It reminds the old *ashram* education, where the goal of every disciple was fixed. Flexibility was not given in earlier Education policy. In present system of education, the learners are given freedom to choose trajectories. The separation between arts and science, between curricular and extracurricular, vocation and academics ended. The integrity and unity of knowledge has been given importance. It led with a sick patient. But a teacher deals with a healthy mind. The engineer deals with raw materials, the doctor with sick patient but the teacher deals with mentally sound students. They come from different background. The teacher and student have certain distinct relation. Rig Veda illustrates that Education is something, ‘which makes man self-reliant and selfless.

The *Bhaved Gita* says; True education stimulates the spiritual, intellectual and physical strength of the individual.

- The mighty lord Krishna was blessed with sixty-four Kalas. The NEP, 2020 considers the completion of whole in individual’s psychological and spiritual upbringings. The ignorance of Arjuna ended in battle of *Kurushetra* when he overcome the darkness of life. Krishna was a god, a devoted ruler, an incomparable lover, a loveable husband, a diplomat and a successful politician. He brought social consciousness against injustice and falsehood.

The school education should be enjoyable It should make the student aware of his environment. The pattern should be like this manner.

$$5+3+3+4$$

At the age of three entry should be given in school.

- Preparatory (Grade 3-5) – 3 years
- Middle (Grade 6 – 8) – 3 years
- High (Grade 9 – 12)
 - 9 – 10 – 2 years
 - 11 – 12 – 2 years

The foundation stage consists of play and activity based on character building. The foundation focuses on etiquette and behavior to conceptual understanding on creativity and critical thinking. Such kind of education leads to logical decision. The education attained by using unethical means never give fruitful results. The illustration can be comprehended through two different examples. Drona was the teacher of Kauravas and Pandaves. He taught lessons to them. One day he delivered a single sentence to them ‘*Speak Truth*’. Every prince learnt this sentence and spoke before him except Yudhishthira. Yudhishthira failed to speak this sentence before Drona for two days. Drona became angry. But he was surprised by the reason by Yudhishthira. He said that he lied during the last two days. So, he desisted to speak this sentence. The NEP gives importance to practical learning with ethical bent of mind. Another example is Karna. Karna became the disciple of Parsuram telling lie. The truth was unearthed before Parsuram and he cursed him. The NEP, 2020 desires to build the nation on moral strength of the future generation. The Indian philosophy believes in life skills like cooperation, team work, communication and resilience. Every child is blessed with rare virtue and talent. The individual’s talent is displayed in different platforms of life if opportunity is given to him.

The teacher should be 'light but tight'. His heart should be like the ocean of love but strict adherence to the discipline. The profession of a teacher is a sacred. He gives education to human beings. Etiquette is a set of customs and rules of polite behavior, especially in a civilized society. It is notable that 85% of a child's cumulative brain is developed to the age of six. Special emphasis is given to early childhood care and education (ECCE). Adolf Hitler and Changez Khan had a pitiable childhood they became tyrant and dictator. NEP realized this gap in children's education.

NEP, 2020 was drafted under the chairmanship of K.Kasturirangan, former ISRO Chairman and it realized the lacunae in ECCE. The two previous NEP did not fulfil the aspiration of the school education particularly at primary level. The present research paper confines itself to ECCE.

Reference:

National Education Policy, 2020, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.