

NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
NEW EDUCATION POLICY: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES
ON
30TH OF JANUARY, 2016

OVERVIEW OF THE SEMINAR

Education is a crucial sector in any nation. Being a major investment in human capital development, it plays a critical role in long-term productivity and growth at both micro and macro levels. This explains why the state of education in India continues to be our national discourse at



all levels. Consequently, the implication of the declining quality of education at all levels has far reaching negative impact on a nation's moral, civic, cultural and economic sustainability. At this point, it is important to realize that discussions on education and its reforms to make it contribute meaningfully to national development should gradually and systematically move away from a politicized to a more analytical approach that appreciates the complexities inherent in proffering genuine and workable solutions for revamping our educational system.



Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India has begun a painstaking job of revisiting the education system in India and find ways to revamp it with a hope to devise a policy that is inclusive in all senses and would cater to

demands of modern era of technological advancement and at the same time is able to strengthen the cultural, social, religious, and regional integrity of our diversified nation. The New Education Policy (NEP) is meant to replace the Education Policy, which was formulated in 1986 and amended in 1992 to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regards to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry. Under the new education policy thirteen themes have been identified in School Education and twenty themes in Higher Education, some at grassroots level and some at the State level. These themes emphasizes the need to ensure learning outcomes in education, extending outreach of education, strengthening of vocational education, reforming examination systems, revamping teacher education for quality teachers, accelerating rural literacy with special emphasis on women, SCs, STs, minorities, promotion of information and communication technology systems, development of assessment and management systems, inclusive education, promotion of languages, bridging of social, lingual, regional and gender gaps. In addition, emphasis has been laid on the ranking of institutions and accreditation, improving the quality of regulation, partnership with private sector, financing higher education, collaboration with industry and promotion of research and innovation.

From Swami Vivekananda to Amritanandamayi, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan to Sam Pitroda..... they all have pronounced on education and nothing more can be said. What we need is a new action plan to devise a new system of education, without which our graduates will not be able to benefit from the demographic dividend of the 21st century.

In order to address the issues of present education system and the need for formulation and implementation of a new education policy, it was decided to organize a one day National Seminar on the theme '**New Education Policy: Issues and Challenges**' to invite academicians, educationists, policy makers, development workers as well as experts on related fields providing a platform for presenting their research outcomes, on observations, findings and innovative ideas. The seminar is a joint venture of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Department of Education of Govt. Degree College (Boys), Kathua.

The seminar is a collective initiative to shape and promote a common interaction platform for the academicians, educationists, researchers and students from various disciplines of education department across the country to interact, share and debate on the innovative ideas for inculcating in the forthcoming education policy. It is an opportunity for all



stakeholders to interact on the current issues and challenges and future perspectives in education. We sincerely hope that this abstract will be highly useful for the planners of new

education policy in the country by incorporating the suggestions and viewpoints presented in the seminar which will also act as a consultative drive for the new education policy.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

- 1. To provide a platform for the exchange of information and experience between educationists and students from various educational institutions of the country, basic education teachers, teacher educators and non-governmental organizations or groups, working in the field of education.**
- 2. To develop a sense of responsibility among the teachers to improve educational standards and their teaching efficiency at elementary, secondary and higher education levels.**
- 3. To promote a forum for exploring and sharing initiative for quality excellence in elementary, secondary and higher education.**
- 4. To discuss the emerging issues and challenges related to education at all levels in India.**
- 5. To understand and analyze present trends and future prospects in different stages of education viz. elementary, secondary, vocational and higher education.**

THEMES FOR THE SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Need of Governance reforms for quality excellence**
- 2. Promoting cultural integration through language**
- 3. Revamping teacher education for quality teaching**
- 4. Enabling inclusive education: Education of deprived sections of society.**
- 5. Strengthening of vocational education.**

- 6 .Ensuring learning outcomes in elementary schools**
- 7. Extending outreach of secondary and senior secondary education**
- 8. Integrating skill development in higher education and creating opportunities for technology enabled learning.**
- 9. Addressing regional disputes and bridging gender and social category gaps by linking higher education to society.**

We received 63 abstracts on various sub-themes and out of the total, 46 abstracts have been selected by the screening committee for the publication. These abstracts are based on the different sub themes of the seminar like the Need of Governance reforms for quality excellence, Promoting cultural integration through language, Revamping teacher education for quality teaching, Enabling inclusive education: Education of deprived sections of the society, Strengthening of vocational education, Ensuring learning outcomes in elementary schools, Extending outreach of secondary and senior secondary education, Integrating skill development in Higher Education and creating opportunities for technology enabled learning, Addressing regional disputes and bridging gender & social gaps by linking higher education to society, Promoting Public Private Partnership in higher education and Present status and future prospects of environmental education.

The inauguration of the national seminar was held in the college auditorium at 11 a.m. The programme began with the lightening of the traditional lamp by the distinguished guests. The welcome address was given by the principal of the college Dr. Nater Singh Raina .The key note address was presented by Prof.(Dr.) J.N. Valiya from Department of Educational studies, Central University of Jammu, Jammu. In his address he touched all the themes of the seminar very minutely. Ch. Lal Singh MLA, Basohli was the chief guest of the session. An abstract book with 46 abstracts was also released by the guests in the session.

Three parallel technical sessions were conducted in the seminar from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The first technical session was held in the smart class room 1st floor arts block of the college. The session was chaired and co- by Dr.J.N. Valiya and chaired by Dr. Aman Bhardwaj, Department of Educational Studies Central University of Jammu.Dr Pankaj Gupta from Department of Chemistry was the Rapporteur of the session. The session by conducted by the convener Dr. Ram Singh. Fifteen research papers were presented on different themes of the seminar in the session.

The second session was conducted in the Conference Hall 1st floor Administrative Block. The session was chaired by Dr.N.K. Gupta, Principal GDC Hiranagar and Co-chaired by Dr. Janak Singh, Principal GDC Thathri. Dr.Suram Singh from Department of Physics was the Rapporteur of the session. About fourteen papers were presented by the academicians, research scholars and students. The session was conducted by Dr.R.K. Manhas Co-convener of the seminar.

The third parallel session was conducted in the Seminar Hall 1st floor, Department of Geography. The session was chaired by Prof.K.C. Badgal, Principal GDC Mahanpur and co-chaired by Dr.C.P.Sharma Ex.Head Department of Zoology GDC Kathua. Dr.Sumit Dubey was the Rapporteur of the session. The session was conducted by Dr. Surya Partap Singh Co-convener.

After lunch, the valedictory function was organized in the college Auditorium at 3.p.m.The welcome address was presented by the Principal of the College Dr.Nater Singh Raina.The

detailed report of the seminar was presented by the convener of the seminar Dr.Ram Singh.Prof (Dr.) Renu Nanda, Head, Department of Education University of Jammu presented valedictory remarks of the seminar. Prof.Neshla, Department of Education University of Kurukshtra was the chief Guest of the session. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr.Rachna co-convener

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PAPER PRESENTERS IN THE SEMINAR:

- Feedback mechanism from students.
- College faculty training programmes viz. workshops, courses in pedagogy, etc.
- Lesson planning methodology be introduced.
- Performance based promotion shall be made.
- Performance incentive should be created.
- Evaluation of performance of teachers after completion of the session.
- Screening committee shall include students, parents, governing body and team of observers.
- Training schedule for all the teachers shall be prepared.
- Training of teachers should be considered essential practice.
- Provision of reward/award for good performance of teachers.
- Academic audit shall be conducted.
- Introduction of district level awards for college teachers.
- Counselling should be given to such teachers.
- Teacher counselling centres should be established at every college.
- Teachers shall be trained in organising curricular and co-curricular activities for students.
- Identification of hard spots by framing a Quality Assurance Cell.
- IQAC should be given the assignment of improving and motivating this type of teachers.
- IQAC can organise training programmes for these teachers.
- Train restrain method should be established.
- Teaching Aptitude Development (TAD) mechanism shall be developed.
- College Principal / Governing body should be given full autonomy i.e. financial autonomy with responsibility for expenditure and to take wise decisions for the institution.
- Special training to Principals regarding operation of Grants.
- Internal Audit Cell (IAC) shall be established to keep watch over expenditure.
- Giving autonomy to college will definitely improve the performance off college. But only those college shall be given autonomy which are having adequate infrastructure, enrolment, and faculty.
- The college history and performance of the college shall be considered while giving autonomy.
- The college enrolment in the last two decades, number of streams, subjects and facilities viz. labs, libraries, grounds and hostel accommodation shall be kept in mind.
- In Kathua district of J&K, Govt Degree College (Boys) Kathua established in 1961, is one of the oldest colleges having streams of Arts, Science, Commerce, BBA, BCA, Home Science, having consistent enrolment id eligible for seeking autonomy.

- Autonomy, but with additional administrative staff so that the teaching faculty is least involved in official works.
- Reasonable fee shall be charged at UG level.
- Poor, disadvantaged, deprived and backward students should be given fee concession.
- The fee structure can be enhanced by introducing technical and skilled based courses at UG level with full employment opportunities.
- Governing body needs to be given power to take decisions for the development of institution and welfare of the students.
- Governing body shall be given power to introduce any need based course, skill oriented course and any other subject as per the demand of locality and University should accept the decision of the Governing Body.
- Governing body should have the powers to improve service conditions of the faculty.
- Complete infrastructure should be provided in the college.
- Smart class rooms, smart library, smart labs, language labs, internet facility, etc shall be established in the colleges.
- Infrastructure needs be evaluated every year.
- Lower staff shall be trained to handle smart infrastructure.
- Heating/cooling arrangements.
- Infrastructure Assessment and Evaluation Cell (IAEC) shall be established in every college.
- Screening of faculty after every session.
- All faculty members shall be deputed to orientation courses, refresher courses, workshops, conferences, seminars, etc. at national and International level.
- Special training course for college teachers like Certificate/Diploma in Higher Education should be introduced.
- Faculty exchange programmes with college of districts/state/country giving exposure to teachers.
- Regular training / retraining schedule of every college during winter and summer vacations.
- Holiday/vacations of the teachers should be abolished.
- Skill based courses/vocational courses should be introduced in the college as a part of regular curriculum so that after completion of course the students me be employed suitably.
- Need based/skill based courses viz. poultry, bee keeping, tailoring, knitting, yoga, beautician, small entrepreneur courses, fish ponds, etc. shall be introduced in the colleges.
- Skill bases courses shall be made compulsory for all 12th class pass-outs and after completion of course, the student can go for UG regular/General Degree Course.
- Need to integrate skill development in higher education with secondary education.
- Skill based courses viz. Pahari/Basohli painting, local painting Art, Handicrafts, etc. which besides providing opportunity for self employment will help preserve the local art and culture.
- A specific skill based course shall be introduced as one of the subjects in all the classes for UG course.
- Introduction of a variety of skill based courses to choose from.
- Coordination between higher secondary schools and colleges should be maintained regarding skill based subjects.
- Special skill based course/stream shall be introduced in the colleges.

Reasons for students of the disadvantaged groups not going for higher education?

- Due to lack of awareness.
- Poverty.
- No access to higher education.
- Insecurity/safety.
- Ignorance of parents.
- Orthodox attitude.
- Long distance.

Steps to be taken

- Special financial assistance to students of deprived classes.
- Special hostel and transportation facilities.
- Awareness programmes.
- Motivation to parents.
- Fee concession.
- Free supply of books/stationery.
- Remedial classes for such students.
Tutorial period.
- Awareness regarding need of Girl/women education.
- Interlinking of Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges to ensure maximum admission of 12th pass-out girls.
- Hostel facilities to girls coming from far-flung areas.
- Transport facility to all girl students.
- Common rooms/wash rooms/ toilets for girls.
- Lady attendant for girls.
- Female Medical officer for girl students.
- Safety / security for girls.
- Age of marriage should be increased.
- Community mobilization and community service should be introduced at UG level.
- Field work in specified village/community should be made compulsory for all students.
- Project work on community/village level should be introduced in all streams.
- Promotion of NSS,NCC, Social work activities among college students.
- NSS Volunteers should organise activities like cleanliness drives, construction of roads, Socio-economic Survey, awareness regarding diseases, health initiatives, literacy campaigns, drives against social evils, etc.
- Introduction of social service in curriculum.
- Village camping of students of all classes.
- Adopting villages by colleges.
- Employed students can aware the masses about the jobs and opportunities.
- Can devote some time for preparing young aspirants for facing interviews.
- Provide information about new schemes of self employment launched by govt. from time to time
- Local well qualified teachers of the district should be appointed in colleges on contract basis.
- Reasonable salary should be given to teachers on contract basis.
- Subject expert and best teachers should be appointed /engaged in centrally located college.

- These teachers then can act as resource persons in the district and offer expertise in all the colleges of the district.
- Training should be made compulsory.
- Student feedback mechanism should be developed to evaluate performance of the teacher.
- Hard spots of the teachers should be identified and organise training accordingly.
- College faculty having Ph.D. degree and minimum 5 years of teaching experience should be allowed to supervise/guide research of Ph.D. students.
- Training in Action Research.
- Training in writing research papers/articles.
- Soft loans to students undergoing UG courses should be given at zero percent interest.
- Higher Education loan for students going for Post-graduation at minimum interest of 2 to 5%.
- Interest rate on the basis economic status of the student.

The recommendations were consolidated in the form of booklet and were submitted to the Department of Higher education J&K Government for onward submission to MHRD Govt. of India and UGC.

Dr. Ram Singh
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National Seminar
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