

School Environment in the Light of NEP 2020

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Abstract- To quote the vision of the new policy of education NEP 2020, in few words won't be too easy rather one has to understand and look at it as a whole. It takes the new world's complexities into concern and envision education in a new garb. Today's world is full of everyday innovation. Changes are taking place due to scientific, revolutionary technological advancements and digitalization. India is marching and emerging as a fast-growing in all aspects of life on global map but unmistakably requires immediate and prompt changes in the system to cope up with high peak rising demands by preparing 21st century befitting youth only via education.

Education is the wheel to push and lead forward the Nation and also prepares the youth to become independent driver of the new and upcoming generations. NEP 2020 visualize the present scenario of education from 360 degree angle. Taking into consideration all the issues related to school and higher education, it talks on making vast changes in the education sector with a well-structured plan. It basically focuses on laying strong foundation at school level through adopting new trends and approaches of teaching and learning for preparing better future generation at higher level education. The policy lays emphasis on developing the creative mind, cognitive capacities along the 'foundational capacities' of literacy and numeracy.

The policy hints on the same national structure of education but with a new mind-set, which demands to look at the whole education system with a new perspective as envisioned in the policy, where all stakeholders are to set the only one goal education and make their efforts united one in the same direction, rather working as a team selflessly for the good of students and the nation.

Index Terms— digitalization, NEP, foundational capacities.

School Environment

A vast knowledge store of researches emphasized that the school where all composite elements physical, socio-emotional and educational, contributing to the fulfilment of the goals and targets, is promise for not only students' academic achievement but also, mental and psychological growth and development and enhances students' self-motivation at this tender stage of life.

The education stakeholders are to take up the reshaped roles and responsibilities and paving the way and making an easy approach for one and all. Like a family, they are in demand to work together to lend voice to all's ideas, opinions, perspectives, decision-making and thus influencing the organizational action. Like each member of the family, they can make students develop life skills and enhancing their real life experiences. School environment demands on developing family-friendly policies and laws to encourage participation and team spirit among stakeholders and is crucial for achieving the goals of the new policy

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School Environment as Highlighted in the NEP, 2020

It takes great care to address the common issues related to the school environment. The new education system takes over a kid when she or he is just three years old and that certainly puts enormous responsibility on the system. Teacher is visualized as the vehicle of the vision and mission of NEP 2020 and teaching strategies are to steer the all-round/holistic development of the child. Teachers require an effective school environment to maximize their abilities and do their job effectively. A congenial school environment requires to embrace parents, students administrators, managers, supportive staff, all stakeholders under one umbrella.

NEP 2020 stated, "to achieve the goals, the first requirement in this direction will be to ensure decent and pleasant service conditions at schools. Adequate and safe infrastructure, including working toilets, clean drinking water, clean and attractive spaces, electricity, computing devices, internet, libraries, sports and recreational resources will be provided to all schools to ensure that teachers and students, including children of all genders and children with disabilities, receive a safe, inclusive, and effective learning environment and are comfortable and inspired to teach and learn in their schools," and "to help ensure that schools have positive learning environment, the role expectations of principals and teachers will explicitly include developing a caring and inclusive culture at their schools, for effective learning and the benefits of all stakeholders."

Teachers with a New Mind-set

A new conducive school environment is to be failed unless teachers develop fair understanding and promise with the new vision of education, and revamp their mental-framework and be ready to trigger the task a new way. Education is to prepare next generations not only to be able to enter future life confidently but also be able to navigate uncertain future where uncountable new opportunities will open and they will need to master varied skills at various stages in this world of uncertainties awaiting ahead. Teachers will have to nurture these same values of adaptability and innovations in their classroom. Teachers are to be empowered to lead the change. As per the policy teachers are to work on students' multi-disciplinary thinking as in school in Finland where they challenge students to look at real-world problems through the lens of different subjects, e.g. whether Math can hold a solution to climate change. At higher level also visualizes education where graduates expected be skilled and knowledgeable to look at the problem or issue with different point of views, analysing them with different perspectives, thinking creatively on original and unique solutions. This is possible through integrated approach of learning where faculty members from technology, computers and engineering to liberal arts professors are involved in the same field and process without segregating different streams of education.

Teaching-Learning Culture

Teachers are the early mentors. They can mould child mind to 'HOW-TO-THINK', a 21st century skill. APJ Abdul Kalam, "Learning needs freedom to think and freedom to imagine, and both to be facilitated by the teacher." Adopting appropriate pedagogies and creating suitable environment can help which cannot be imagined until teachers are prepared within the new framework and standards of teaching.

New and higher demands pressed on human shoulder due to infinite possibilities of technological advancements and digitalization, uncertain but expected worldwide emerging new roles in coming future, where definitely too much to cope with, has changed the very goal of education from traditional, book oriented, child centric to make each child independent, a thinker and a lifelong learner. Unavoidably students will ever need to skill and up skill them to upgrade professionally or pivot in their careers. Teachers have a major role to play in creating an environment that fosters a mind-set for lifelong learning. The powers entrusted on teachers and through their appropriate use and creation of a suitable environment, teachers can make children interactive, question raiser, explorative, creative, problem solver, critical thinkers and ethical learners through applying suitable strategies. Policy points out to give autonomy to teachers in choosing finer aspects of pedagogy so that they may teach in the manner that they find most effective for the students in their classroom and communities. For holistic development of the child, teachers need to focus on socio-emotional learning through integrating teaching and learning processes with Art and Sports. Teachers were given importance through preventing them from non-teaching/academic tasks. Teachers will be recognized for novel approaches to teaching that improve learning outcomes in their classroom.

Teaching Machines

The possibilities with use of technology in the class are immense. Schools are in need for proper arrangement and internet use and accessibility. With introduction of technology and AI based learning tools, teachers can adapt hybrid classroom to build engagement. Technology with its flexible feature can assist teachers to opt the appropriate ways or methodologies of teaching and learning as per requirement of individual child. Teacher can plan lessons as per the strength and weaknesses of individual child. There is a mode of teaching in a flipped classroom. There is facilities to prerecord lectures supporting students further for discussion, inquiries or self-modes of learning. Machines can save time, energy and money with its immense potentiality.

Cooperation and Collaboration among Stakeholders

Creating a vibrant, caring and friendly environment to maximize abilities of the teachers and students' learning, to enable teachers to do their job effectively, teachers with students, parents, principals and other support staff, they all have to share a common goal and that is to ensure that our children are learning

The policy instructs on thinking a new, involving parents and community as equal partners during schooling. A new mapping is to be prepared where schools will work in different cluster forms or complex formats which will enable

teachers to work in cooperation and collaboration with nearby and distant schools and their members.

To Ensure Decent and Pleasant Service Conditions at Schools

Good working environment with adequate support system will lead to better productivity. Learning supportive environment will enhance students' interest in learning and resultantly to low drop outs. The first requirement in this direction will as mentioned in the policy, be adequate and safe infrastructure, including working toilets, clean drinking water, clean and attractive spaces, electricity, computing devices, internet, libraries, sports and recreational resources." NEP advocate for an environment of enjoyable, flexible, multi-level, play/activity based methodology along focusing on skills' development, vocational training, talks about art integration and sports integration. Also puts emphasis on high quality bilingual texts, a lot teaching –learning material, creating national textbooks with local content and flavour and also online teaching-learning material.

Inclusive and Effective Learning Environment

The policy, emphasizing on constitutional values, advocates to prepare education as a tool which gives equal opportunity to each and every child to ensure that no child loose just because of its gender, disabilities, caste, religion, and even trans genders who are being neglected to get mainstreamed with society since long back in human history. All stakeholder of the system have to develop a sensitivity, empathy, realizing on human relations and values to create an environment of equal respect and dignity catering to all types of diversities. School environment should evoke ease, comfort and an inspired environment to enhance the learning outcomes. The policy puts special emphasis on providing special facilities and developing an advance mechanism to support underrepresented. The policy states that, "It calls for bettering efforts like scholarships, conditional cash transfer to incentivize, providing transport means, dividends funds, hostels and boarding facilities. "One-on-one teachers and tutors, peer tutoring, open schooling, appropriate infrastructure, and suitable technological interventions etc. are to be ensured so that access can be made effective with the disadvantages and deprived groups."

The School Curriculum

To realize the new millennium goals, taking multi-level diversities into consideration the policy focus attention to universal human values, life skills without losing one's national identity, creating a local environment among students where people learn to live together respecting individual's difference and the diversities at all levels.

Safe and Decent Environment

Students need a safe, caring, loving and family like environment to protect and safe guard their physical and psychological development. Environment must protect them from current juvenile delinquencies, drug issues and any similar issues and situations. Thus a mechanism has to be developed well in time to strengthen students' sense of

security, motivation for learning to be successful and progressive in life with priority.

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