

ST. XAVIER'S INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Report on National Webinar on

Transforming School Education – Perspectives and Challenges

National Education Policy 2020

(Afternoon Session)

The Panel Discussion Session began with a brief overview of the Morning Session given by Dr. Vini Sebastian followed by introduction of the illustrious panellists for the afternoon, namely Dr. Haneet Gandhi (Assistant Professor, CIET) and Dr. Gagan Gupta (Dept. of Education, NCERT).

Dr. Geeta Shetty, Associate Professor, St. Xavier's Institute of Education moderated the panel discussion. The first speaker Dr. Gagan Gupta was invited to put forth his thoughts on the NEP2020 and its implications on School Education. Dr. Gupta initiated his presentation by pointing out that the NEP 2020 needs to be seen in continuum with the earlier policies of education as education is continuously evolving. Dr. Gupta touched upon the following aspects in his presentation;

- The Policy is in keeping with the 2030 agenda of SDG-2015, especially SDG 4 namely 'Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All.
- The Policy has majorly 3 USP's namely i. Formulation of the Foundational Learning Program, ii. Revamping of vocational courses and iii. Merging of Colleges of Education with Multidisciplinary Colleges.
- Restructuring of the entire educational structure and curriculum beginning from ECCE to the Secondary School Stage.
- Focus of the Policy is on Holistic Development of the learners by making space for Critical thinking, Problem Solving Skills, Discovery based teaching and learning and also Discussion and Analysis based Teaching and Learning.
- The stress is on making teaching and learning more interactive, creative, collaborative, exploratory and experiential.

- Timelines for implementation of the various dimensions of the policy.
- Programmes for Teacher Capacity Building.

Dr. Haneet Gandhi stressed on the most important focus areas in the National Education Policy and their implications on the personnel of teaching and learning. Some of the highlights of Dr. Haneet's observations are as follows;

- The one word that finds its place predominantly in the 64 Page NEP document is 'Multidisciplinary'. The word appears 71 times, indicating the significance that the policy laid on it. Teachers ought to teach their subjects holistically rather than as separate entities. However, teachers seldom do so. The Multidisciplinary Approach should be adopted by teachers at all the levels of education.
- Research-based approach and an amalgamation of vocational training in teaching are emphasized.
- At the administrative level, school clusters and school textbooks are focussed upon in the policy. Teachers would be needed to be shared as resources by schools. There would be mobility of teachers.
- National testing at four levels would be done and teachers would have to be ready for. School ranking and college ranking would be done by PARAKH.
- The use of learning outcome approach would be the focus for all educational institutions.
- TET would be needed at every stage and it would be having lifelong validity.
- Continuous Professional development would need be done
- Challenges are with reference to the credit-based system especially with reference to credit transfer.

Questions raised by the participants-

Dr. Vin Sebastian posed a question about Holistic school record – what are the dimensions in it and will it be proposed in a standard format by NCERT?

Dr. Gagan Gupta – There would be a standard format, but it should be adaptable to different contexts. Sir explained this with an apt example and stressed about contextualization of these formats.

Fr. Blaise D' Souza s.j. highlighted the importance of contextualization of the curriculum and the syllabus. A question asked by Fr. Blaise was on Multidisciplinary approach, which he felt was due to specializations. So how would subjects be non-compartmentalized?

Dr. Haneet Gandhi replied that it would be needed to look into this direction. Dr. Gagan Gupta too reiterated that prototype textbooks were to modelled using the approach and then tested for its validity. Scientific temper is a way of life and is not limited only to Science.

A question was posed on the Youtube by Ms. Betsy Jaison – regarding the 30:1 ratio that should be ensured then the present scenario, when there are about 100 students in one class, how would this be possible? Would the number of divisions be increased and would they be sanctioned by the government? Dr. Gagan Gupta mentioned the answer for this was 6% GDP.

Fr. Blaise D'Souza was invited to give his concluding remarks. He was introduced by Dr. Elvina Pereira. Fr. Blaise concluded by stating the following;

- To follow the values enshrined in the Constitution and ensure that they are emphasized through the subjects.
- While academics are given importance, more significant is the development of values among children. This is essential for the pluralistic nature of our nation. It is this that will ensure harmony among the diverse people of the nation. Harmony needs to be processed through the processes of education. Harmony is different from uniformity.

The afternoon session ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Elvina Pereira.