

National Educational Policy 2020 and Responsibility of 21st Century Teachers

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ABSTRACT

We Live in a world that is going to accept its citizens on the strength of a degree. An individual is going to be measured on the basis of different skills such as technological, Communication, networking, Leadership and interspersed Skills. Teachers truly Shape the future of our Children and therefore future of our nation. Based on the recommendations of National Educational Policy 2020 on Teacher Education and Training, there is a proposal to draft National curriculum Frame work for Teacher Education to guide all, teachers educator, pre service and in-service teachers, teachers of working in academic, vocational and special education streams. The NEP 2020 talks of creating performance standards for teachers clearly spelling out the role of the teachers at different levels of expertise and competencies required for 21st century teacher.

Keywords: Leadership, Technological, Communication, Multidisciplinary, Promotions, Innovative Teaching, Opportunity.

In the light of changes taking place in the new world economy and in the country, it is time to question the very basics of teaching, the way education is imparted in our country. We live in a world that is going to accept its citizens on the strength of a degree. An individual is going to be measured on the basis of different skills such as technological, communication, networking, leadership and interpersonal skills. The quicker he/she acquires these, the faster they will progress. How do we ensure this? How do we build an environment that enables us to create confident Knowledge-empowered students?

The solution lies in replacing the conventional role of the teacher as a disciplinarian and an enforcer of learning with the concept of mentor. W. Edwards Deming, a renowned educationist, has observed, "To create a quality school and a quality climate we must remember that how the students of any progressive school should view their teachers and how the teachers, in turn should view the students.

One common factor that can turn the tide and lead the education system to become a progressive, flexible, multidisciplinary, technology and skill focused education system that will have the capability to produce competent, creative, skilled, employable and ethical learners. This common factor is- the "Teacher".

The NEP 2020 too exhorts, - "Teachers truly shape the future of our children- and therefore, the future of our nation. Teachers play the most important role in nation- building by creating high quality of human resources in their class rooms. While this idea of an empowered teacher has the potential to move mountains. The quality of teacher education, recruitment, deployment, service conditions and empowerment of teachers is not where it should be.

Justice J.S Verma committee Report, 2012 said "a broken teacher in education sector is putting over 370 million children at risk upon inspection scores of private Teacher Education Institutes

(TET) were found to have only a foundation stone in the name of infrastructure and 99% passing rate. The report also revealed that on average 85% teachers failed to qualify the post qualification competency test- Central teacher Eligibility Test (C-TET).

Instead of blaming teachers for poor performance the NEP 2020 holds these dismal conditions of teacher education, recruitment, deployment, and service conditions responsible for the lack of teacher quality and motivation.

Recognizing the power of teacher NEP 2020 has put in place systematic reforms that would help 'Teaching' emerge as an attractive profession of choice for bright and talented young minds. It proposes several reforms to empower teachers and restore the high respect and status to this profession hoping that it would eventually attract the best minds and talent to choose teaching as their profession. Based on the recommendations of NEP 2020 on teacher education and training, there is a proposal to draft National Curriculum Frame Work for Teacher Education to guide all, teacher educators, pre-service and in – service teachers, teachers of working in academic, Vocational and special education streams.

The 4 year integrated B.Ed, the minimal degree qualification for school teachers, is conceived as a multidisciplinary and integrated dual-major bechelor's degree, in education as well as a specialized subject. Shorted post- B.Ed Certification courses will also be available for career growth of teachers who wish to move into more specialized areas of teaching. A provision is that all fresh Ph.D Entrants will be required to take credit-based courses in teaching, education/ pedagogy/ writing related to their chosen Ph.D Subject during their doctoral training period.

The NEP 2020 provides- TETs- Teacher Eligibility Tests for appointment of teachers at all the new stages for government and private schools. For subject teachers, TET as well as NTA tests

scores in the corresponding subjects will also be consider for recruitment. The NEP 2020 also encourages school complexes to hire local eminent persons or experts as "master instructors" in various subjects, such as in traditional local arts, vocational crafts, entrepreneurship, agriculture etc to meet the need for teachers to teach the newly introduced classical languages and vocational and skill subjects.

The NEP 2020 talks of creating performance standards for teachers clearly spelling out the role of the teacher at different levels of expertise and competencies required for that stage. The NEP 2020 suggested for a set of National Professional Standards for teachers (NPST) to determine all aspects of teacher career management, including tenure, continuous professional development (CPD) efforts, salary increasing, promotions and other recognitions. School teachers must undergo 50 hours of CPD opportunities every year to keep themselves by attending workshops or online teacher development modules. School principals too must undergo in CPD modules related to leadership, school management and for implementing competency- based learning. In addition, International pedagogical approaches will be studied by NCERT, identified and recommended for assimilation in pedagogical practices.

Teacher empowerment means investing teachers with the right to participate in determining school goals and policies and to exercise professional judgment about what an how to teach. When teachers are engaged in the reform process, they need freedom and control over their own work. This makes them feel empowered, motivates them to work harder and enhances their commitment to their learners.

Innovative teaching methods adopted by teachers to improve the learning outcomes has been recognized, documented, and shared widely as recommended practices by NEP 2020. Close collaboration is recommended among schools

within a school complex as it will reduce teacher isolation experienced by teachers working in smaller schools and create vibrant teacher communities that work collaboratively sharing their best teaching practices.

To help schools and school complexes evolve into vibrant, caring, and inclusive communities of teachers, students, parents, principals, the school management have been directed to ensure adequate and safe infrastructure, basic amenities and hygiene, computing devices, internet, libraries, and sports and recreational resources to all teachers and students.

Conclusion :

Many of these ideas are not new and have been said in earlier policies. The real question is whether there is a serious implement action plan that will take on board all stakeholders. None of the ideas discussed in NEP 2020 can be operationalised without a clear road map to transform the way teachers are positioned in the educational system. We all believe that social norms have changed and schooling is now part of our ethos. We have also celebrated the gradual closing

of gender gap right up to the secondary level. All these gains may be lost with covid-19, and our system needs to do a lot more to ensure children enroll again, come to school and are able to learn. We are living through difficult times, and the medium and long term impact of the lockdown and economic distress will be seen in our education system.

Benjamin Disraeli had said, “The Secret of Success is to be ready when your opportunity comes”. For Indian Teachers time has come to seize the opportunity and becomes makers of their own destiny.

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