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NEP 2020 AND THE FUTURE OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Swami Vivekananda said“Education is not the amount of information that is put into the brain and runs riot there, undigested all life.We must have life-building,man-making,character-building assimilation of ideas “.In United Nations Panel discussion a voice-over accompanying the Gandhi hologram shared the iconic leader's thoughts on education "Literacy is not the end of education or even the beginning. By education, I mean an all-around drawing out of the best in the child and the man, body, mind and spirit. By spiritual training, I mean education of the heart," Gandhi said.

The National Education Policy 2020 aims for transformative role of education and envisages the education for all ,with special focus on girls, children and youth of the country.

NEP 2020 categorically defines the problems of the Girl’s education and the challenges that is there in educating them.The urban and suburban areas have various issues which girls have to face and they struggle a lot in the path of education. The issues are- child marriage, dowry.female infanticide, poor nutrition,corporal punishment,bullying,and physical,verbal,sexual abuse.

The National Education Policy 2020 aims to cater to the issues of rural and urban areas girls. The recruitment of teachers, women teachers, skill enhancement courses ,economic empowerment of women through skilling in educational institutions, emphasis on gender sensitization. In short, NEP2020 emphasizes on Equitable and Inclusive Education giving importance to Girls’ Education by bringing the gender equality and developing the social, economical status of girls and boosting the ethical ,emotional capacities by providing high quality education and making India the most developed country in the world.

Key Words:

**NEP, Girls Education, Issues of girl’s Education, Gender Equality, Inclusive Training
PROBLEMS FACED BY GIRL CHILD**

India is the land of villages and in our country there has always been efforts of Education policy to mitigate the problems faced by the rural Girls. Our girls have to face problems in and outside the house..Female infanticide is quite common in the remote and superstitious states. Those who are born get shorn of primary education because if the girl has a brother then it is the boy who will have every opportunity to go to study.In such a condition the girl is meant to remain at home and do the household chores.Many a times the girls have to look after the siblings.Apart from this,child marriage also debars the girls from attending the school. Some of the families who send their girls to school,there also poor infrastructure of teaching and learning ,non availability of toilets ,and lack of

menstruation education put the girls in an untold miseries. Such situations also lead to physical and sexual abuse. Poor nutrition also leads to the non attendance of the girl in the school.

It is not only problems of girls in the rural areas but the urban areas girls also have numerous problems to deal with. Gender inequality, physical, mental and sexual assault, growing rates of cyber crime, insecurity, dominance, and fearful atmosphere are some of the common issues which have been noticed. Apart from this Lack of women teachers, poor quality of education, lack of infrastructure, lack of sensitized and untrained teachers.

The National Education Policy of India 2020 (NEP 2020)

The National Policy on Education was framed in 1986 and modified in 1992. With the various changes, there arose the need of the revision of the Policy. The National Education Policy of India 2020 (NEP 2020) was started in 29 July 2020 with a vision for the comprehensive framework of Elementary Education, Higher Education, vocational Training and most importantly Transformation of India's Education system by 2030. The main objective of NEP 2020 is that the school and college education should be more flexible, holistic and bring out the unique talents, potentialities and capabilities of every student.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisages equitable and inclusive education for all, especially girls, from socially and economically disadvantaged groups. Realising the problems of the girl students, NEP 2020 lays emphasis that every girl child should feel welcomed and there should be conducive atmosphere and a safe and stimulating learning environment for every girl student.

GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS

NEP 2020 aims to address the gender equality by empowering female students. The policies like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is an inclusive educational programme to make the poor and vulnerable girls to continue their education. The innovative programmes like Shiksha Karmi, Lok Jumbish and Mahila Samakhya are helping to build women's skills and giving them the opportunity to acquire the positions of responsibility and showing significant impacts. The schemes like Kishori Sangh and Meena are empowering the adolescent girls and active participation of the girls in the activities of the school. The education system should widen the participation of the females to fill the gap of gender discrimination.

.NEP ensures that Gender education must be made compulsory in the school curriculum. The component of sex education needs to be carefully added and be made a mandatory part of the teaching-learning process. In order to make this success 'Street plays' are helping in reaching out to the larger groups. The opinions of parents regarding the drop outs, failure to attend the schools, inequality in the school environment are discussed. The provision of MID DAY MEAL, FREE UNIFORM AND BICYCLE to every student have helped a lot in mitigating a major issue of school drop outs. It helps in providing a better nutrition to all the students.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

NEP 2020 envisaged that along with sex education, menstrual issues, health and hygiene are the major aspects which should be incorporated in the curriculum. The policy Swachh Vidyalaya Mission-a sub-mission of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan includes that there should be the provision of separate toilets for girls and boys. This will reduce absenteeism of girls from school because of menstruation and uphold the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan's main motto of providing access and retaining girls in schools. NEP 2020 directs that female health should be of prime importance and every school should take initiative to provide right kind of nutrition to battle malnutrition faced by female students. The policy lays down that employment of female teachers in schools should be given preference. This would ensure safety, security, of girl students and to some extent make a congenial atmosphere for the girl student in understanding about the health, hygiene and sex related issues of the girls.

DIGITAL EDUCATION

NEP2020 highlights multimode approach to education and use of technology. It emphasizes on availability of low –cost technology for personalized and accessible education. NEP 2020 guides that provision of portable devices (tablet, laptop) in the rural areas would make every student has the accessibility of digital learning and eliminate digital divide. NEP2020 says that for the use of digital technology NETF (National Education Technology Forum) will provide free exchange of ideas and enhance teaching –learning and assessment planning for school and higher education. Programmes like Diksha /Swayam Nistha will be integrated across school and colleges and the content writers will give qualitative content and it will be user friendly as well. NEP 2020 mentions that the multiple bodies like MHRD, NTA, NCERT, SCERT, education related Ministries of Union and State Govt must implement the Policy's initiatives and actions in a systematic and synchronized manner.

EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

NEP 2020 envisages an inclusive and Equitable education. It focuses on the idea that no child (Specially Girls) should be left behind in terms of educational opportunity. Every student should be equally treated and are supported, valued by the teachers, instructors and the peers. The important aspect of NEP2020 lays that the framers of curriculum should include that EDUCATION IS THE LEGAL RIGHT AND SPECIALLY THE GIRLS SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THEIR LEGAL RIGHT. RIGHT TO EDUCATION in compliance with the UNITED NATIONS CHARTER assigned by India states that India will provide free education upto the age of 18, free collegiate and vocational training to the marginalized women of India and ensures to provide support to the needs of the girls at all levels of Education. This Policy reaffirms that bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes in school, education will continue to be one of the major goals of all education sector development programmes.

SKILL ENHANCEMENT AND TRAINING

NEP 2020 aims that sound teacher training is imperative for quality education. Women teachers are provided appropriate forums for recruitment. Women Empowerment is possible by elevating the

status of women through education, awareness, literacy, and training. The Policy underlines that teachers and facilitators like Anganwadi workers should be given proper training so that they may counsel the families of the girls students. NEP foregrounds skill enhancement courses for girl students. It directs the Educational Institutions to provide vocational training and skill enhancement for the Economic Empowerment of women. The NEW POLICY ascertain that wide range of learning experiences are offered with good physical infrastructure and conducive atmosphere for the girl student. There should be integration and coordination across institutions and across all stages of education. Teacher Education programme should be conducted at all multidisciplinary University and colleges. Vocational education programmes should be integrated into mainstream of all educational institutions so that the students will have the first hand experience of a workplace. In the end, the Policy has a clear vision of reconstructing the nation's learning methodology and building a vibrant Bharat. The Policy aims to transform the Education system of our country by 2030.

CONCLUSION

NEP 2020 is the biggest highlight in the Education Industry. It is built on the foundation pillars of – ACCESS, EQUITY, QUALITY, AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY. It is the most comprehensive Policy which has the guidelines for the school, college, university, multidisciplinary, multimode and technological education providers. NEP 2020 recognises the vastness and diversity of India and more specifically the problems faced by the girls. Through equitable and inclusive education, the NEP promises to bring about revolutionary changes. The Policy lays emphasis on the development of creative, foundational and cognitive capacity of every individual. It embarks on developing good human beings with sound knowledge, capability of rational thought, possess courage, compassion, empathy, scientific temper and creative imagination. Our Education System rooted in Indian ethos should provide high quality education for all and thereby contribute for equitable and vibrant knowledge society and make India A GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE SUPERPOWER. The philosophies of Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi on Education have been incorporated in NEP2020.

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NEP 2020-WOMEN EDUCATION- ITS PROVISIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND CHALLENGES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NAGALAND

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AN INTERFACE BETWEEN NEP 2020 AND WOMEN EDUCATION

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