

# **Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology**

## **Report of Webinar**

on

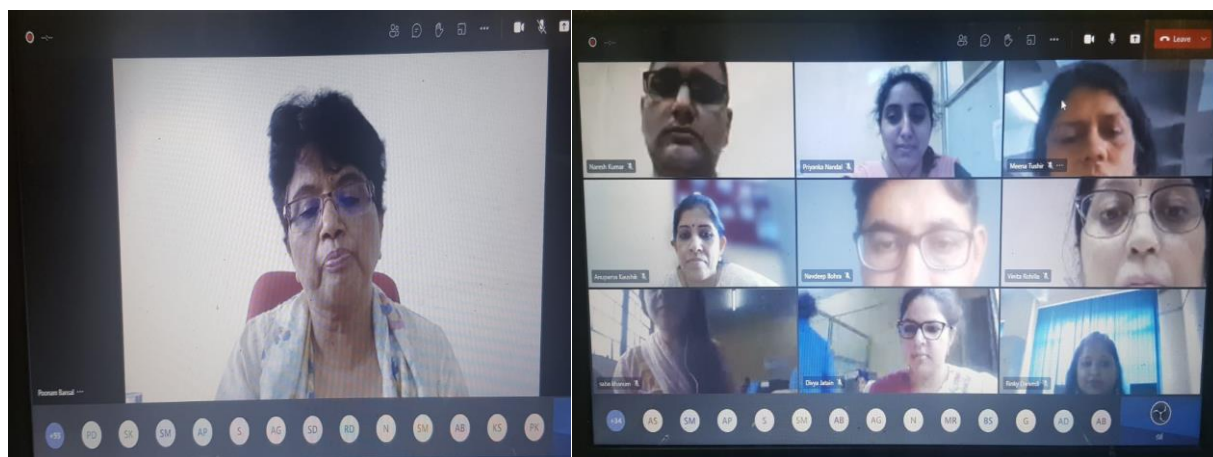
### **Multidisciplinary and Holistic Development**

#### **(National Education Policy – 2020)**

(05/08/2021 – 11.00AM – 12.00 AM)

by

**(Prof. Poonam Bansal)**



Education policy NEP 2020 was introduced in India in the middle of the pandemic last year in July and since then extensive steps are being taken in the direction of its implementation. In this direction A national level program has been initiated by Ministry of Education, UGC & AICTE, under the leadership of Hon'ble prim minister Sh. Narendra Modi ji to discuss the transformative reforms which are required for its smooth boarding.

The present education system has focus on theoretical learning with a lesser emphasis on skills. The system is making students to focus only on scoring more marks rather than having the contemporary necessary knowledge. The present Education system has been creating graduate, postgraduate, and doctorate degree holders without having much emphasis on their life afterward and career opportunities they will get. The Present education system is linear & uni-directional. India enjoys the benefit of demographic dividend today. Such a group will become a liability for us if we do not focus on their knowledge and skill-building.

NEP 2020 calls for proper training and imparting of knowledge to our youth generation so that they become an asset to the nation. NEP 2020 aims for multi-dimensional, multi-disciplinary, and holistic education in a continuum to provide

## Multidisciplinary and holistic education

socially useful knowledge. NEP 2020 has given multi-dimensional routes wherein one can shift from one discipline to another and also take multiple subjects at one go. When you look at some of the developed countries the students there are given choice in selecting their subjects and this system has been found to be highly successful in creating individuals having critical thinking. National Education Policy 2020 is a comprehensive document and its main purpose is to improve the education sector by making it inclusive, holistic, multidisciplinary and more fruitful.

Multidisciplinary education is a unique educational approach that allows the students to learn & explore distinct subjects or curriculum from various disciplines. Education is not limited to a particular discipline. For instance, a student of Engineering can take a subject from humanities.

Holistic development essentially means the development of intellectual, mental, physical, emotional, and social abilities in a child so that he or she is capable of facing the demands and challenges of everyday life. These abilities are vitally important for success in professional fields of work.

Multidisciplinary education provides the right to students to choose their favourite subject, the subject that they want to learn. Subjects that can add some value to their knowledge. Subjects that can raise the bar of education. Not the ones which are forced onto them. when our students are clueless, they don't know about their passion initially, Multidisciplinary Education provide them opportunity to discover it during the teaching-learning journey. It helps to develop pragmatic attitude, because it will allow the students to decide which subjects they can opt for and what are their benefits. It helps to develop real world approach and helps in developing collaboration skills among students

Purpose of ME is to develop Abilities that can facilitate the process to find solutions to complex problems from several perspectives. Call of NEP 2020 is for creating new knowledge which exists at the intersection of the boundaries of the various disciplines

Studying more than one subject, helps the students to develop important transferable skills, which continually go on developing at all stages of life, like Critical thinking, Self-management, analysis and problem solving and application of information technology.

## Vision of NEP- 2020 for HEIs

1. Higher Education curriculum to have Flexibility of Subjects.
2. Multiple entries and exit points with appropriate certification. UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period. For example, Certificate after 1 year, Advanced Diploma after 2 years, Bachelor's Degree after 3 years and Bachelor's with Research after 4 years.
3. An Academic Bank of Credit is to be established for digitally storing academic credits earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards final degree earned.
4. The National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.
5. An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning and administration.
6. NEP 2020 aims to ensure that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel, because of the circumstances of birth or background. Special emphasis will be given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs). This includes setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund and also Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups
7. Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges. Over a period of time, it is envisaged that every college would develop into either an Autonomous degree-granting College or a constituent college of a university.
8. New Policy promotes Multilingualism in both schools and higher education. National Institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation to be set up.
9. Higher education institutions will be transformed into large, well resourced, vibrant multidisciplinary institutions providing high-quality teaching, research, and community engagement.
10. Establishment of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.

## **Challenges:**

The infrastructure issue will be the first big challenge for the government as there are not adequate resources. Secondly, To increase GER to 50% is challenging in itself. We have to open 100+ new universities and enhance seats in existed universities to doubling the Gross Enrolment Ratio in the next 15 years. The central government and state governments have to allocate a particular budget for this.

## **Initiatives – Which are in progress**

- Two novel papers in this year's GATE entrance examination. The papers are Environment Science and Engineering; and Humanities and Social Sciences have been introduced in the current year.
- IIT Guwahati's initiative to open a medical school, a management school and it is also broadening its horizons into architecture, arts and philosophy along with bachelor degree programme in design it has also going to start a centre for linguistic studies and technology, a centre for Sanskrit, yoga and Indian languages and a centre for energy and rural technology.
- In this multidisciplinary approach, IIT Delhi has chosen to set up a 'School of Public Policy'.
- IIT Madras is all set to offer its students a bachelor's degree in Data Sciences that will have multiple entry and exit systems.
- IIT Kharagpur is also working on making the diverse curriculum by offering research programmes, micro-specializations and micro-credits that are interdisciplinary in nature.
- There are challenges in front of Govt., academic bodies, universities, HEI , faculty, students all the stake holders, and the need of the hour is, we all take our respective responsibility in implementation of these educational reforms at national level.