



NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY-2020 STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

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Abstract:

Education is crucial factor to determine status of country. Nation possesses responsibility as well accountability towards educational sector. According to great Philosopher Chanakya who flourished during 300 BCE stated that “Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere. Education beats beauty and youth” This Research paper evaluates background and provisions of National Education Policy 2020. Examination of Strengths and weaknesses is vital aspect of this Research Paper. Doctrinal methodology is foundation to explore the facts. Conclusion and suggestions have been offered with authentic manner. Eventually Research will contribute in reliable manner to overcome drawbacks of National Education Policy 2020, which will honor triumph to National Education policy.

Keywords: *Education, Ancient Era, Medieval Era, Contemporary era, Background of Education Policy, Moral and prudential values, National Development, National Policy on Education 1968, National Policy on Education 1986, Amendment of National Education Policy 1992, National Education Policy 2020, Third Education Policy, Public Schools, Private Schools, Commercialization, Democracy, Public opinion, Philanthropic approach, Human resource, Sustainable development*

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Introduction:

Education is an extensive phenomenon. Usage of education is immeasurable. Practice of imparting education had numerous shades during various reign. India had been through different phases to serve educational arena. “Ancient era, Medieval to Contemporary era is stunning transformation. Education served as an essential element to meet changing needs of society”. Adaptation during various phases directed the path of society towards individual, social as well National development.

Education is the milestone on which sustainable development of country ultimately counts. Concept of education has widened its horizons. To determine significance of real education outlook of society is shifting from moral to prudential perspective.

Objective:

- To have keen look on background of National Education Policy 2020
- To explore vivid details of National Education Policy 2020
- To examine the strengths and weaknesses of National



Education Policy 2020

- To move forward with conclusion and proactive suggestions

Background of National Education Policies in India:

Dynamic “National education policy 2020” is India’s third Educational Policy. Foremost policy on education was disseminated by Government of India in 1968, It was based on roadmap drawn by the Kothari Commission (1964-1966). Aim of First education policy was free and Compulsory education for all children up to 14 years. Second policy on education was executed in 1986. National Policy on Education 1986 had minor alterations in previous policy. Prime Goal of second policy on education was to ensure access to quality education by upholding values of equality. In 1992 Programme of action was adopted which resulted amendment in second educational policy. Objective of 1992 amendment was universal enrollment and retention. *“After 34 years National Education Policy 2020 had been legislated which revamped previous educational policies with modern approach”* Intent of third educational policy of modern era is to make education inclusive, equitable and holistic.

Vision of National Education Policy 2020:

Contemporary modern era is challenging as well bursting competition at global level. Education is an ultimate milestone which turns human beings in to assets for nation. Visualization of National Education policy is to strengthen human resource which will develop path for evolution. *“Eclectic arrangement of provisions is endorsing universal access to quality education. Principal purpose of policy is to attain economic growth, social justice, scientific advancement, national integration and cultural preservation.”* Global development education agenda has dream to foster sustainable development. Ultimate goal is to widen the landscape of knowledge with scientific temperament and technological progression.

Strengths of National Education Policy 2020:

Third Education Policy has modern and holistic approach towards education. Unique and innovative approach of current education policy is serving needs of society. New Educational structure had been introduced, 5+3+3+4. Starting age of education defined 3 years. Early childhood care is prime aim of policy, which is stressing upon foundation of learning. Foundational Literacy and numeracy have been determined as necessary prerequisite of learning phase. At all levels of education, Universal Access is identified as an urgent need of an hour. Orthodox approach of teaching and learning is replaced by holistic approach. Pedagogy and curriculum have innovative approach to style learning in enjoyable manner. Reduction in curriculum and inclusion of essential learning is essence of policy. Critical thinking received significance than rote learning. Experiential learning is boosted to have better understanding of concepts. Flexibility in course choices is remarkable step towards empowerment of students. Multilingual approach is permitting as well instructing schools to impart education in mother tongue at least till grade 5 preferably grade 8, This must get followed by public and private schools. Curricular integration of essential subjects, Vocational skills upliftment is key feature of New Education Policy. Multidisciplinary outlook has been included in policy regarding higher education to match up requirements of 21st century. *“Internationalization is peerless approach to open doors of education for foreign students in India. Similarly top 100 universities in the world facilitated to operate in India”*. Overall at several levels innumerable changes are leading to educational Road Map of India.

Lacunas of National Education Policy 2020:

New Education Policy is catering needs of modern India to have rock-hard footing on Global Platform. Numerous challenges are visible towards achievement of aim of current policy. New Education structural design states staring age of education 3 years which seems

unattainable due to various factors like Number of schools, awareness, access to education. Though policy is stating universal access to education, India is lacking behind due to varied factors like privatization, commercialization. Vocational skills, innovative approach, sparkling pedagogy are spirit of the new education policy seems inaccessible due to infrastructure and capacity of parents to educate their children. Critical thinking, Experiential learning are acting as pillars of education, number of educators to convey knowledge according to guidelines are insufficient. Upliftment of child education through mother tongue is crucial factor due to unobtainability of skillful teachers and whims towards competition. Multidisciplinary as well flexibility approach based on model of foreign countries like America is less suitable for country like India. Internationalization is detrimental aspect to create competition as well class formation in society based on economical aspect.

Conclusion: Unquestionably National Education Policy possess exceptional approach to upthrust educational zone of India. Destination of policy is bursting with hurdles. Though India has been woven in the golden thread of diversity, Uniformity is prominent challenge. Constitution of India is Supreme Legal document of the land on which educational policies and provisions rests. Its crystal-clear fact that provisions of New Education Policy regarding educational structure design is having different notions than Indian Constitution, which is leading to chaos regarding responsibility to provide child education (Early Childhood Care). Education is recognized as Fundamental Right under article 21A of Indian Constitution, which is not seeking justice. *“India’s literacy rate is on the verge of progress still far away from an ultimate goal. India’s average literacy rate as of 2021 was 77.70”*. Responsibilities of government to provide early childhood care look like toughest task. Drop out ratio, Net attendance ratio, Gross enrollment ratio are bulging hindrances. Directive Principles of state

Policy, Guidelines issued under “Article 45 - The state shall endeavor to provide early childhood care until they complete age of six years”, of Indian Constitutions have not been executed up to the mark.

Suggestions: Aim of India to turn as “Vishwa Guru” “needs plenty of impetus to stand rock steady on national and global platform. Education being fundamental right honored by Indian Constitution must be free of discrimination. Access to education and equality must flow well throughout the country. Vigorous efforts must get obligatory on the part of Government. Implementation strategies should get in to force at all levels of the nation. Awareness lineups should get planned through government as well by citizens. India is leading example for successful democracy. Public opinion is the strongest weapon for advancement of nation. Devils of commercialization must get curb through victory with philanthropic defiance, so that Right to education will turn out real from paper to reality.

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