



National education policy-2020 in the vision of Rabindranath Tagore

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Abstract

National Education policy makes a framework with the coordination of whole education system of a nation. New Education policy 2020 emphasizes on the creative potential development, critical thinking, problem solving, social, emotional and ethical capacities of each people in India. This education policy aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education with promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all as earlier mentioned in Sustainable development goal (SDG4). This policy focussed on employment enhancement, environmental protection, multidisciplinary learning and research. This policy ensures skilful human resource for the development of nation. All the aspects discussed above has close relationship with the vision of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Philosopher Rabindranath Tagore perceived earlier that this type of policy has urgently needed in the present society for the development and become self-reliant. So, he implemented this framework earlier in his workplace Santiniketan & Sriniketan (Visva-Bharati). Therefore, this paper aims to discuss the National Education Policy- 2020 in the context of Visva-Bharati as well as vision of Rabindranath Tagore.

Keywords: national education policy (NEP), vision

Introduction

Education is the backbone of society. Education is the most powerful weapon of society to protect from any kind of obstacle of society and to destroy such kind of harmful elements. Someone said if you want to destroy a nation just spoil its education system. Therefore, we have to acknowledge that education has a remarkable effect on society. India is a seventh large and second most populous country in the world. But unity in diversity is the key character of India. National education policy unites all the different education systems in a common framework. If we look on the history of Indian education system first national education policy was developed in 1968. Commission of Members of Parliament on Education sent the report to CABE for deliberation and after discussion it was finally declared. But it failed to give a deep impact to the society. Although in 1986 another national education policy was declared and POA (1992) [3] got some success in the educational field. After a long gap a new education policy was declared in 2020 [2, 4] with a lot of expectation. After preparing a draft, a lot of suggestions were accepted and finally declared the National Education Policy on 29th July, 2020 [2, 4]. If we look upon the new education policy a number of changes are found in course structure, course duration, assessment procedure, teachers' training etc.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was not only an eminent poet who has received Nobel prize firstly in Asia in 1913, he was an educationist, philosopher and a person of multiple talents. He perceived social change is the character of society and education is the key factor of a society. Therefore, our education system should be like that which can fulfil societal needs with its flexibility. He has implemented the unique education system in his workplace Santiniketan & Sriniketan (Visva-Bharati). A lot of similarities are found between the NEP- 2020 [2] and Education system of Visva-Bharati which proves that Gurudev

Rabindranath Tagore has a great educationist and philosopher who perceived the need of that kind of educational system for the betterment of society.

Objective

To find out the similarities between the vision of National Education Policy- 2020 [2, 4] and vision of Rabindranath Tagore.

Research Question

Are there any similarities between the vision of National Education Policy- 2020 [2, 4] and vision of Rabindranath Tagore?

Similarities between the Vision of Nep-2020 and Vision of Rabindranath Tagore

National Education Policy- 2020 [2, 4] was declared on 29th July, 2020 by the Ministry of Education. Former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan was the Chairman of Committee to prepare the National Education Policy 2020 [2, 4]. Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) transformed into Ministry of Education. It was declared that 6% of GDP will be spend on education sector. School fees of private schools should be fixed by the Education Ministry. Result of the students will be based upon not only the marks of examination, self-assessment and all-round activities will have important role. Top 50 universities of world can be open their branches in India for better quality of education. Four different departments should be built for education sector as for syllabus formation, inspection & supervision, financial activities and conduct examination & result.

A lot of similarities are found between the National Education Policy- 2020 [2, 4] and vision of Rabindranath Tagore or Education System of Visva-Bharati which have been discussed below-

Aims of Policy

1. National Education Policy- 2020 ^[2, 4] wants to make an education system in India which based upon Indian ethos. It will build India into equitable & vibrant knowledge society. In ancient India, Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila etc. were the high standard multidisciplinary institutions in the world. This policy aims to build India as a global knowledge superpower country. The motto of Visva-Bharati is “yatra visvam bhatyekanidam” (where the world makes a home in a single nest) which is similar to vision of NEP-2020 ^[2].
2. NEP-2020 ^[2] ensures an education system based upon memory level to reflective level where ‘eating and vomiting’ will be stopped for earning degrees. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore said “...the highest is that which does not merely gives us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.” Also, it is clear in many of his writings such as ‘Shikhar Herpher’, ‘Dharmasikha’, ‘Shiksa Bikiran’ etc.
3. Develop respect among the students towards fundamental duties and constitutional values are one of the main objectives of NEP-2020 ^[2]. We the people of India, have not only fundamental rights, also some duties towards the nation. Guudev Rabindranath Tagore have a great role for the nation. Also, he motivated people to perform duty (seva) for the country (mother).
4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4) was adopted in 2015 to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all” by 2030. To support this, education system NEP- 2020 ^[2] was formulated. Guudev Rabindranath Tagore gave the equal opportunity of education for all the students in Visva-Bharati. For quality enhancement, he called teachers from different parts of world. He considered education as a lifelong process.
5. Skilled manpower with multiple abilities is urgently needed in present society. It is important to be a developed country. Vocational education will be promoted by this policy. Rabindranath Tagore said, learning should be linked with practical knowledge by hand experiences.
6. Environmental protection is a burning issue in present world. New education policy emphasizes on environmental conservation also. Environmental values should be developed from early age. The education policy ensures that. Rabindranath Tagore takes many initiatives for environmental preservation. It can be observed in many festivals of Visva-Bharati like ‘Brikharopan’, ‘Halakarshan’, ‘Rakhi Bandhan’ etc.
7. Collaborative research and multidisciplinary learning are emphasized in NEP-2020 ^[2]. NEP-2020 ^[2] & CBCS system ensures no hard separation among Arts, Science & Commerce subjects. Rabindranath Tagore made the curriculum like that any child can take multidisciplinary subjects for learning from their own choices. Languages, History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Math, Song, Dance, Painting, Agriculture etc. subjects are taught in Visva-Bharati and the students are free to choose their subjects. There is no hard separation.
8. Demand of humanities and arts are needed to become developed country. NEP-2020 ^[2] emphasizes on this. When Rabindranath Tagore established his school in Santiniketan, it is mainly for Arts & Humanities. He introduced Santiniketan as a centre of Arts & Culture. After that Visva-Bharati also became famous for its Arts & Culture.
9. NEP-2020 ^[2] emphasizes on teaching which learn students how to learn. Education should be based upon critical thinking, problem solving approach. According to NEP-2020, learning should be experiential, holistic, integrated, inquiry driven, discovery oriented, learner centred, discussion based, flexible, enjoyable. All the above characteristics are observed in Visva-Bharati. Rabindranath Tagore said such kind of characteristics are essential for effective learning and fruitful learning outcome.
10. According to NEP-2020 ^[2], education emphasizes on character building, make human ethical, rational & caring. Education should solve the problem of unemployment. Rabindranath Tagore said the character of students should be honest, respectful, disciplined etc. He wanted that every student should be ethical, rational & caring human. To solve the unemployment problem, he established Sriniketan for the students to be self-reliant. Agricultural & vocational education were taught in Sriniketan.
11. Removal of gap between early childhood care and higher education is an important issue in educational field. Tagore feel that our education system should be holistic. He established Visva-Bharati where from Nursery to Ph.D courses are available for students. The courses are designed as a way that build a bridge between early childhood care and higher education.
12. NEP-2020 ^[2] ensures equitable access to quality education for all learners from any social and economic background. It is an initiative towards inclusive education. In the early age of Santiniketan, Tagore gave education free of cost to the all students from any social and economic background.
13. Develop foundational capacities and higher-order cognitive capacities are the key issues of human resource development. The education should not only develop foundational capacities of literacy and numeracy and higher order cognitive capacities such as problem solving, critical thinking, it also develops emotional, ethical & social capacities. Tagore said that education should be problem-centric. Students would learn through their critical thinking supported by the teachers through creating the environment in that way.
14. Indian philosophy based on knowledge, wisdom and truth. NEP-2020 ^[2] emphasizes on Indian philosophy. Yoga, fine arts, previous Indian culture preservation, nurtured and enrichment are the objectives of NEP-2020 ^[2]. Tagore believed in Vedas and Upanishad where knowledge, wisdom and truth are important. Visva-Bharati is an institute of culture and Indian heritage where previous culture preservation and enrichment are common.
15. Empowerment of teachers by different programmes, trainings is needed for effective teaching-learning. NEP-2020 ^[2] ensures that. Tagore also try to empower the teachers of Visva-Bharati. He sent teachers to different countries and brought various eminent peoples from abroad to understand the new concepts, discovered things, instruments etc.
16. Education must be able to fulfil local and global needs of society. Making India self-reliant is one of the main aims of NEP-2020 ^[2]. Vocational education will be emphasized. Tagore wanted every man should be a productive member of

society. He was influenced by Gandhiji and during Swadeshi movement he contributed a great role. Sriniketan was also established to fulfil local and global needs of society by producing different materials.

17. NEP-2020 ^[2] emphasizes enjoyable learning at early age by playing games, painting, singing, dancing etc. with no examination till class-II for ensuring no dropouts and familiarize with school. Tagore adapted joyful learning techniques in the early age of Visva-Bharati. Mrinalini Ananda Pathshala, Patha Bhavana, Shikhasatra of Visva-Bharati are the institutions where such kind of joyful learning are running.

Conclusion

National Education Policy-2020 ^[2, 4] aims to build an equitable and vibrant knowledge society in India where people are not only the consumer of society, they will be the productive members of society. Skilled manpower with multiple abilities and higher-order cognitive capacities are able to generate a global knowledge superpower country. This policy aims to develop respect towards the fundamental duties & constitutional values and environmental values. This policy ensures equitable access on high quality education and removal the gap between early childhood care & higher education with joyful learning. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was a great educationist and philosopher. He established Visva-Bharati as a world-famous institution of multidisciplinary learning where the world makes a home in a single nest. He considered that education should be problem-centric where the students solves the problems with logical thinking. He took many steps to develop respect towards the fundamental duties & constitutional values and environmental values among the students. At the early age of Visva-Bharati, he gave joyful education without any cost to all the available students irrespective of caste, class, religion. From the above discussion, it can be said that he had also same kind of thoughts of education system. Therefore, it is clear that there is a similarity exists between the vision of NEP-2020 ^[2] and vision of Rabindranath Tagore. So, we can say that educational thoughts of Rabindranath Tagore have a great influence to make NEP-2020 ^[2].

References

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