

Virtual National Conference on NEP 2020: A TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATIONAL POLICY FOR ASPIRATIONAL INDIA September 15 and 16, 2020

Kristu Jayanti College in collaboration with Bengaluru North University and Centre for Educational and Social Studies [CESS] organized a two day Virtual National Conference on NEP 2020: A Transformative Educational Policy for Aspirational India on September 15 and 16, 2020.

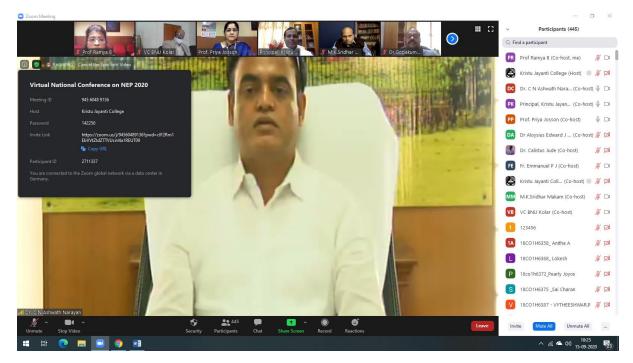
The conference was inaugurated by Dr. C. N Aswath Narayan, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Higher Education, Government of Karnataka.

INAUGURATION

Inaugural Address: Dr. C. N Aswath Narayan, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Higher Education, Government of Karnataka. The inaugural address by the Chief Guest of the Conference started with a deep appreciation of the topic of the Conference NEP 2020: A Transformative Educational Policy for Aspirational India and the message it conveyed. He bemoaned the lack of dynamic changes in the field of Education and mentioned that the Trust Deficit was probably one of the main reasons behind the stagnation in our educational system. He stated that the National Educational Policy would facilitate the participation of the entire society in the betterment of the Educational System which would focus on the important issue of how to live and function with the system within which we live. He also urged that we consider the challenges that the society faces and urged that we all be part of the solution as that was the main purpose of learning. Education should facilitate enlightenment and the eventual process of becoming good human. We should create learners who are creative, critical and concept learners who learn not just for the sake of a degree. He also affirmed the fact that the Government is willing to empower and facilitate all these changes and to bring it to fruition to ensure that India becomes a superpower and that quality education along with the convergence of technology would be able to reach all the people even those in the remotest areas. He further avowed that the Government is committed to address all the challenges that may arise in facilitating this Convergence of Education and Technology maintaining that Internet connectivity is now a basic necessity like water. He concluded with the exhortation that Kristu Jayanti College, CESS and Bangalore North University should not limit themselves to a particular jurisdiction but attempt to

pass on their best methods of teaching and learning to all who wish to learn and assist in the creation of such an Environment that facilitates this. The creation of an Awareness to this effect has to be created and that would make a big difference in the education scenario. He concluded by congratulating and appreciating the three institutions involved for their commitment to making positive changes in the process of facilitating the transformative Educational Policy and thanking them on behalf of the people and Government of Karnataka.





KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Prof. M.K. Sridhar Member , Committee for Draft NEP 2020 Member, University Grants Commission and Member, Task Force of Implementation of NEP in Karnataka

Prof. Sridhar started off with the an opening gambit of introspection to consider whether we wish to be part of the solution and look for opportunities and where to find these opportunities, stating that NEP is not the policy of the government but it is the policy of the people as he went on to trace the origin of the policy and the journey of its creation and formulation.

In a rhetorical question as to how to make Karnataka a vibrant knowledge society he stated that it is the it is the aspiration of the people that has shaped this policy that has taken 5 ½ half years to be formulated. He stated that the policy encompasses the inputs of more than 3 lakh comments and feedback from all the sections of the different minorities in India. It was only after processing all this that the 66 page policy was finally formulated. It is in fact the consolidation of the aspirations of all stakeholders including minorities and people from all sectors of society, in other words it is the aspiration of 132 crores of people.

- NEP is going to be the policy for the next 20 years.
- NEP as a policy is coming from a position of strength and confidence from aspirational India
- Transformation is all inclusive as it helps us change and it is wholly backed by the Government
- NEP does not intend to change the syllabus instead it hopes to inspire every Institution to become a agent of change and that every teacher should become a change agent
- The policy hopes to empower people and it is time tfor people to take charge
- The next step is a the need for a mechanism to implement the policy
- A Task Force needs to be created to discuss the policy at the institution level and take the implementation of NEP forward in the institution



Presidential Address : Prof T.D. Kemparaju, Vice Chancellor, Bangalore North University

Prof T.D. Kemparaju stated that we have a greater responsibility to carry forward the vision and mission of the NEP policy and its objectives and oversee its successful implementation in letter and in spirit

- NEP is truly a policy of difference
- We are living in the age of transition, and Education has its own importance in this era of transition it has become a basic component to achieve success
- The world is looking at India because it has a strength that no country has it has a Youth Capital that is its greatest asset that can be of use not only for India but for the countries of the World
- Developmental activities can be instituted only through good quality educational system and great educational policies.
- In the last seven decades India has achieved a lot in the fields of IT, science and technology but it still leaves much to be desired in the field of education.
- Not even one university has appeared in the top 100 universities of the world. It is a time to rethink
- We have to strategize our actions and policies to ensure that we reach global requirements.
- We are yet to find an answer to the question how far is our educational system is relevant today? The NEP is one such meaningful attempt to bring about relevancy at all levels of education.

- The NEP is Student focused and learner centric and inclusive at all levels and has incorporated a lot of meaningful structural changes.
- The four year programme at the graduation level and the creation of the National Research Foundation are steps in the right direction so that they can find solutions to our society's problems and create a culture of research even at the degree level.
- Karnataka is the first state to take the initiative to implement the recommendations of NEP with the constitution of a task force for this purpose. As we are living in the age of collaboration and networking he concluded with the call urging us to work collectively to implement the NEP. Greater autonomy is thus granted to institutions to take forward the implementation of NEP which makes the days ahead days of great challenge and expectation to ensure that quality education reaches all.



Prof. T D Kemparaju, theVice Chancellor of Bengaluru, North University give the presided over the meeting. Rev. Dr. Augustine George, Principal Kristu Jayanti College welcomed the gathering and the inaugural session ended with the Vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Aloysius Edward, Co Ordinator of IQAC, Kristu Jayanti College.



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DAY 1: TECHNICAL SESSION – REVOLUTIONARY REFORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Resource Person : Dr Manasa Nagabhushanam, Member Sub- Committee Task Force on Implementation of NEP in Karnataka and member, Executive Council, CESS.

Session: Towards Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education

Dr Manasa Nagabhushanam started off with the fact that NEP was a game changer and that education was about to undergo a sea change. In the current scenario apparent around us we see Parents and Teachers would prefer if their students and wards would choose professional courses. A normal graduate course was not a very attractive proposition these days. She further presented the normal concerns of parents as to whether students would be able achieve their true potential. She stated that education is about opening the doors and windows of the mind so that we may be able to gain perspective, think critically, and express creatively and thus find meaning in a holistic way. She added that Education is not just about jobs or careers, it is about educating people for life. She elaborated on the advantages of Multi-disciplinary education as opposed to Single Disciplinary Approach

Multi-disciplinary education provides a conscious breaking down of boundaries between disciplines and enhances the breadth and depth of understanding and provides an exposure to new and diverse disciplines, concepts, thoughts or perspectives for example 50% of knowledge people learned in college has become obsolete.

Multi-disciplinary education helps us explore and discover interests that can motivate the students

It is important to link specialized areas of study to other variables to help us make the shift from Data Era to Knowledge Era.

Multi skilling also provides the advantage of multi skilling to shift careers in effect Technology Enhancing Occupational Mobility

Multi-disciplinary education encourages Passion that drives Motivation, High Adaptability Breadth of knowledge, Creativity and the Synthesizing ideas and the Linking of concepts

The Challenge is for institutions to carefully consider how they can offer the variety of courses on offer so as to do justice to all of them. How to make our institution multi-disciplinary is the foremost challenge that we need to ponder on and how to integrate different skills into each of these courses is the challenge before us. So students would have more choices

Multi disciplinary education also provides flexibility with multiple exit and entry including

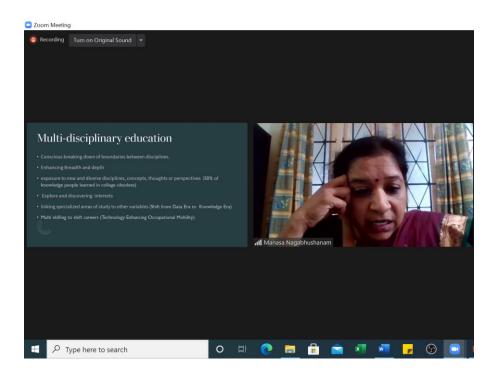
- Credit structure through which one can build an academic bank of credit
- Discipline Choice Elective Choice
- Passion driven choice
- Deep Knowledge: Study majors and Specialization in Honors in the fourth year
- Learner Career
- Disciplinary skills and Transferable skills

- Skill based Jobs
- Research and projects based learning

The idea is to make education more holistic by adopting content reduction and adopt more options for experiential based learning

She concluded with certain clear actionables namely:

- Acclimatize by gaining clarity and shedding apprehensions
- Analyze and Evaluate how it can benefit the students and the institution
- Accept Appreciate Think through the process
- Action that is to Start implementation at the institution level.
- Dr Nagabhushanam ended with a sincere appeal to make NEP a reality



Resource Person: Dr K Sudha Rao, Former Vice chancellor Karnataka State Open University, Mysore

Dr K Sudha Rao, handled a session on Transforming Regulatory System and Governance. The resource person started with making a comparison with the existing and proposed systems. In the existing system of universities, once you enter a university it becomes very difficult to take a transfer. India is the only country next to Pakistan to have an affiliated college system. In developed countries the vast majority follow the certain principles:

- Professional Ethics is a basic principle of life;

- Integrity of employees;
- Responsibility is taken over by the employees;
- Respect to the laws and Rules of the land;
- Respect to the rights of other citizens;
- Loving and enjoying their work;
- Strive for saving and investment of resources
- Will to offer superior performance;
- Punctuality at work and play

Responsibility of the universities

- Goal for universities is to become multidisciplinary institutions
- Teachers need to be provided with a permanent employment structure
- To attain these goals: consolidation, substantial expansion and improve existing structure
- Single-stream HEIs will be phased but over time; Single-stream HEIs will, add departments across different fields that they currently serve;
- At this stage it is still unclear whether private institutions will fund themselves or if the Government will fund them for scholarships etc.
- Higher Education Grants Council will carry out funding and financing of higher education based on transparent criteria, including the IDPs prepared by the institutions and monitor the progress made on their implementation;
- All HECIs will be required to have IDPs

It is essential for every person connected with Education planners, Administrators, Implementers, Vice Chancellors, Principals, Heads of the Departments, Teachers and the PhD Scholars to read and understand the NEP 2020 as it concerns each one of us and our performance. It is only our understanding of the NEP 2020 and that would bring the change at implementation levels, all this will be possible only if we can reach the unreached and have an equity between the have and the havenots.

DAY 2 : TECHNICAL SESSION – PARADIGM SHIFT IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

Date: 16/09/2020 Session: Technical Session – I Time: 10 AM – 11 AM Platform: Zoom

TOPIC: TOWARDS TRANSFORMING SCHOOL EDUCATION

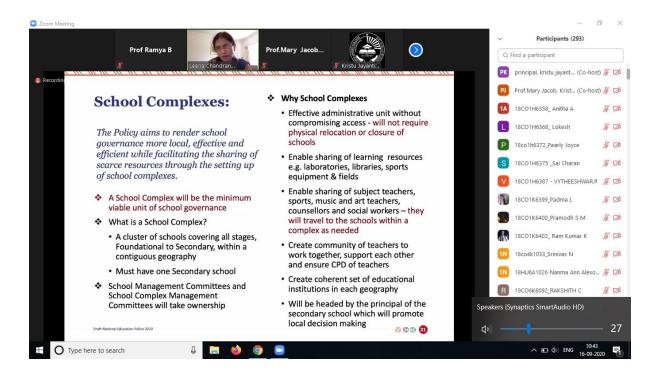
Resource Person: Dr. Leena Chandran Wadia, Chief Consultant, Committee for Draft NEP & Member, Drafting Committee, NEP.

The first session of the second day of the Virtual Conference on NEP was handled by **Dr**. **Leena Chandran Wadia**, Chief Consultant, Committee for Draft NEP & Member, Drafting Committee, NEP.

The session focused on the transformations that is happening in Indian school education. The speaker highlighted the changes proposed in the NEP which will help in enhancing the overall quality of Indian school education. The major highlights of the talk were

- Areas of focus in school Education: Early childhood Care and Education covering children between 3-6-years
- Ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by the age of 8 10.
- Stemming dropouts and ensuring 100% enrolment by 2030
- Universalization of free and compulsory education: for children between the ages of 3-18 years – No child left behind
- New developmentally appropriate curriculum and pedagogy the 5+ 3+3+4 architecture: does not have to be aligned with physical infrastructure.
- New National Curricular Framework (NCF)
- Central role for teachers: rigorous preparation, robust recruitment, professional development and attractive career paths
- School complexes: to support teachers, and to provide shared resources to all schools
- Governance Reforms Principle of separation of roles and powers.

The session ended with the speaker addressing the queries of participants on various aspects of her address. The session was well appreciated by the audience.



Session - 2: HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNERS

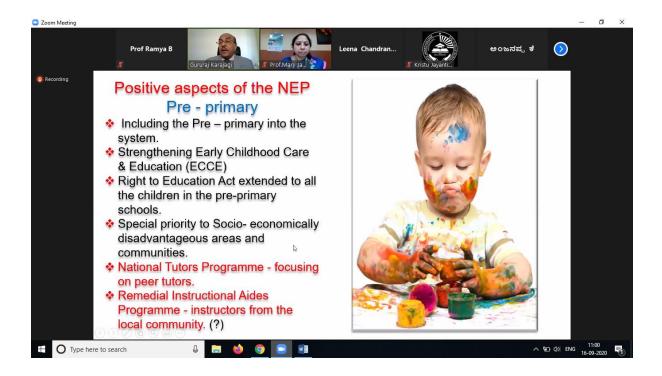
Resource Person: Dr. Gururaj Karajagi, Chairman, Academy for creative writing

The second session of day 2 was on the holistic development of learners. Dr. Gururaj Karajagi beautifully narrated the importance of holistic development of the learner using beautiful and simple examples. The keypoints discussed were

- Strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education
- Based on the scientific view that, nearly 85% development occurs before the age of 6.
- Language learning in children through interaction with adults and with other children.
- Three language formula with two important changes.
- Introduce the language before age 10.
- Only language learning focused on listening/speaking not focused on reading and writing.
- Ensuring Foundational Literary & Numeracy
- Key stage assessments at Grades 3 and 5.
- Exposure to Vocational Education. Children get a chance to Multi skill courses. Semester system instead of Exam system which give
- Experimental learning in secondary education
- Challenge to implementation of Vocational Education
- Vocational education covers a very large variety of job roles.
- It provides 100% employability.

- Secondary School: 14-18 years Integrated four-year education within school
- Transformation of Curriculum & Pedagogy
- School Teachers: Torchbearers of Change (B. Ed degree to be taught in universities as a stage-specific 4-year undergraduate program)
- Continuous Professional Development
- NEP emphasis of School Complexes
- Making Government Schools Works Separation of Functions in Governments





Panel Discussion – Decoding Education Post NEP 2020 Time: 12 pm -1.30 pm

PANELISTS

Session Chair . Dr. Venkatesha Murthy V. KAS

Registrar, Bengaluru North University

Prof. B. Thimme Gowda,

Former Vice Chancellor Bangalore University, Former Vice Chancellor Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, Member, Taskforce on Implementation of NEP in Karnataka.

Dr. Yashavantha Dongre,

Formerly Professor of Commerce & Director, PMEB, University of Mysore Chairman, Sub-Committee, Taskforce on Implementation of NEP in Karnataka.

Shri. T. R. Parasuraman,

Deputy Managing Director, Toyota Industries Engine Pvt Ltd President, Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC)

Moderator: Dr. Padmavathi B.S,

Director, CESS, Convener, Sub-Committee, Taskforce on Implementation of NEP in Karnataka.

The conference witnessed a vibrant panel discussion. The panelists presented the various aspects of NEP and highlighted the positive aspects of NEP. All the panelists were unanimous in their opinion that implementation of the policy is the key factor.

Key Points of Discussion:

- New vision and architecture for higher education
- Large, well- resourced, multidisciplinary institutions
- Researcher-intensive Universities, Teaching Intensive Universities, and Autonomous Degree-Granting colleges
- Broad-based holistic undergraduate education
- Flexible curricular structure & Multiple entry and exit points
- Creative combinations of study
- Strong focus on equity and inclusion
- Empowered governance and autonomy for higher education institutions 'Light and tight' regulation Separation of function to eliminate conflicts.

Key Recommendation points in NEP 2020:

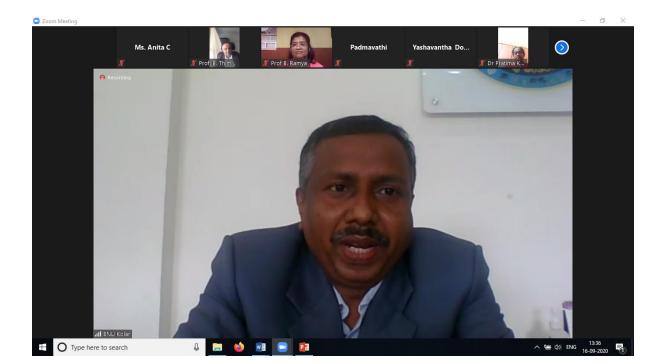
- Moving towards a more multidisciplinary undergraduate education
- Revamping curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and student support for enhanced student experience
- Promote imaginative and flexible curricular structure.
- Offer multiple entry and exit points, thus, removing currently prevalent rigid boundaries and creating new possibilities for life-long learning
- The flexible and innovative curriculum of all Higher Education shall include creditbased courses and projects.
- As part of a holistic education and employability of graduates, students in Higher Education will be provided with opportunities for internships with local Industry businesses, artists, crafts persons, etc., as well as research institutions
- The UG degree will be of either 3 or 4 year duration, with multiple exit options, with appropriate certifications.
- Students can opt for 'majors' and minors' or a major and a Vocational Subject or a discipline & Teacher Education aspects in multidisciplinary education:
- An Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) shall be established which would digitally store the academic credits earned from various recognized Higher Education scheme so that the degrees from a Higher Education Scheme can be awarded taking into account credits earned.
- Effective Learning requires a comprehensive approach that involves appropriate curriculum, engaging pedagogy, continuous formative assessment, and adequate student support.
- The curriculum must be interested and relevant, and updated regularly to align with the latest knowledge requirements and to meet special learning outcomes

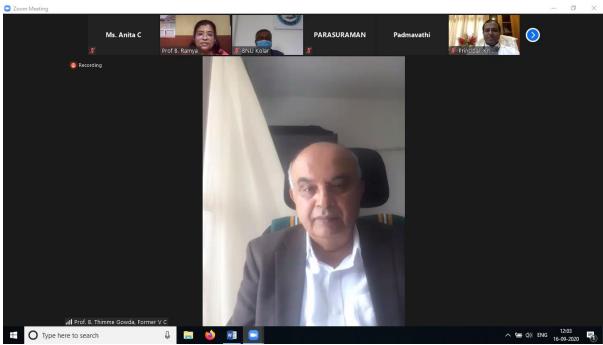
- Higher Education Scheme shall move to a criterion based grading system that assesses students achievements based on learning goals for each program, making the system fairer and outcomes more comparable.
- Higher Education Scheme shall also move away from high-stakes examination towards more continuous and comprehensive evaluation
- As teacher education requires multidisciplinary inputs, education with high-quality content and pedagogy. All teacher education programs must be conducted within the composite multidisciplinary institutions.
- The 4 years integrated B.Ed. will be a dual- major holistic Bachelor's degree, in Education as well as a specialized subject.
- Vocational education will be integrated into school and higher education.

Salient Features of the Proposed 4 Years Multidisciplinary UG Program – General Education

- The undergraduate programs shall be structured in a semester mode with multiple exit options with certification, Diploma & Basic Bachelor Degree at the completion of first, second and third years, respectively.
- The Candidate who completes the 4 years UG Program, in one stretch or through multiple exits and re-entries will get a Bachelors, degree with Honors:
- 4 years UG Honors Degree holders with a suitable grade will be eligible to enter the Doctoral (Ph.D.) Program, in a relevant discipline or a 'Two Semester Master Degree program with project work':
- Candidates who wish to enter the masters/Ph.D. program in a discipline other than the major discipline studied at the UG program have a take additional course in the new discipline to meet the requirement.
- There may be parallel five year integrated Master's degree program with exit options at the completion of the third and fourth years, with UG basic degree and UG Honors degree in a discipline, respectively;
- There may also be an integrated doctoral program with exit options at the end of the fourth and fifth years with the Bachelor degree with Honors and the Master's degree, respectively:
- Students who exit with Certificate, Diploma & Basic Bachelor Degree shall be eligible to re-enter the program at the exit level within 5 years to complete the program or to complete the next level. The candidates any have a maximum two exit options or lateral entries to complete the program:
- The Multidisciplinary UG Program will help in the improvement at all the education; outcomes, with a flexible & imaginative curricular approach:
- The program shall fulfil knowledge, vacationed, professional & skill requirements alongside humanities, arts, social, physical and life sciences. Mathematics, sports, etc.,

- The curriculum combines conceptual knowledge with practical engagement and understanding that has relevant real world application through particle laboratory / field work, internships, workshops and research projects
- The areas of specialization which the Students are required to choose are either one or two disciplinary/ subjects or a major (e.g.: History) and an area of additional discipline called 'minor' (eg: Music)
- Students can choose subject combinations across 'stream'. One of the disciplines can also be a vocational subject;
- Skills shall be explicitly integrated, highly visible, taught in context and have explicit assessment;
- The skills shall include abilities language and communication, working in diverse teams, critical thinking, problem solving, add analysis and life skills;
- Students shall be given options to choose from a basket of courses which the institution is capable of offering. There shall be no rigidity of combination of subjects.





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The panel discussion ended with the panelists airing their opinion to the queries raised by the participants.

The two day conference concluded with Prof. Ramya B, Member, IQAC proposing the Vote of Thanks. The conference was successful in conveying in aspirations of the NEP 2020 to all the participants.