

Sustainable Development Through National Education Policy 2020

***Dr. Manju Sharma**

Abstract

Quality Education is the backbone for the growth of any society and education policy is the best way to attain it. The NEP 2020 is consistent with Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which states that equal access to the education is the foundation of the long - term development. Along with this NEP is very necessary for the country at school and college level. The New Education Policy is expected miracle and different from the other past education policies. NEP 2020 will strengthen all the citizens of the country by enhancing their skills and knowledge. Besides, it clearly talks about the complete overhauling of the Indian Education system from pre primary to higher education with curricular reform and institutional reform in a phased manner which will help India to achieve Sustainable Development Goals objectives. The main of the NEP 2020 is to provide quality education, equal access to education and encouraging innovation and research in which technology plays a very important role. If we have to achieve SDG objectives, then we need to improve the education system. In this paper, we shall try to elaborate actions and steps needed for sustainable development in education.

Keyword: Sustainable Development, NEP 2020, Innovation, Miracle, Curricular.

Introduction:-

India will have the largest number of young population by 2030. The population will prove boon for our country, if they are skilled enough to join workforce. Quality education play important role in it, as it is the backbone for the growth of society. Sustainable Development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their needs. In sustainable development, our aim to solve the issues we are faced with today while leaving an opportunity for future generation to solve their own issues.

Three main elements of sustainable development are **Economic Growth, Social Inclusion** and **Environmental Protection**. Along with development (Sustainable Development) is very urgent need for higher education. According to a study, there is need to integrate sustainability into their curriculum. Curriculum should based on integration of scientific and traditional knowledge. If the people are able to contribute their local resources and practices into the process of change, the development becomes not only sustainable but also gets accelerated; combining tradition with scientific knowledge is called community knowledge. Importance of traditional knowledge has been recognized in India through National Aayush Mission (NAM) and the Traditional knowledge Digital

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Learning (TKDL). Education has also always been the main weapon of change in this world and educated people is backbone of a well developed and strong nation. Earlier educational policy could not bring change as the educational scenario is concerned. It had many drawbacks. The new educational policy is aimed at providing quality education. It also focuses to reduce gender disparities and on lifelong learning.

In this article, I want to discuss the strengths and weakness of the policy with respect to higher education and research and it is also clear that NEP 2020 and SDG 4 is very important to bring about a change in the educational scenario.

SDG 4 is about providing and ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all. It also aims to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. It is possible only by increasing knowledge and skill levels of all men and women to bring about a sustainable development.

4.1 Universal Primary and Secondary Education

By 2030, it ensures that all girls and boys complete free, equitable primary and secondary education as NEP 2020 universalizes free and compulsory education without discrimination.

4.2 Early Childhood Development and Universal Pre- Primary education

By 2030, all girls and boys have access to quality childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

4.3 Equal Access to Technical / Vocational and Higher Education

It ensures affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education including university.

4.4 Relevant Skills for Decent Work

By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills including technical and vocational skills for employment, job and entrepreneurship.

4.5 Gender Equality and Inclusion

By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education.

4.6 Universal Youth and Literacy

It ensures that all youth and substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

4.7 Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship

By 2030, ensures that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development. Through this, it is aimed to increase the knowledge of the all men and

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women so as to bring about a sustainable development with ample focus on sustainable lifestyle, gender equality, global citizenship and cultural diversity by ensuring a culture of peace and non-violence.

These targets are planned to be implemented through the following-

4. A *Providing conducive learning environment-*

This emphasis on building, upgrading and improving the learning environment that is compatible and conducive for children disabled and economically vulnerable.

4. B *Through ample scholarships-*

There emphasizes on providing ample scholarships to the economically vulnerable people to increase and improve the education.

4. C *Improving the quality of teachers-*

Here emphasizes is on improving the quality and supply of teachers through proper training.

According to NEP, teachers are the key to achieving all the SDG4 targets. It requires urgent attention, with a more immediate deadline because the equity gap in education is exacerbated by the shortage and uneven distribution of professionally trained teachers. Teachers and educators should be empowered.

Conclusion:-

This article focuses on the importance of education as laid out by National Educational Policy 2020 and Sustainable Development Goal 4. Education, no doubt is key to bringing sustainable development and a game- changing tool. Education can bring about the required changes. This article provides information on various initiatives, schemes and scholarships started by the state and central government, educational and research institutions for promoting, improving and developing the educational landscape.

In short, the article tries to elaborate on actions and steps needed around sustainability and focuses on education for sustainable development, not education about sustainable development.

***Assistant Professor
Department of English (Adhoc)
Govt. Girls' College, Karauli (Raj.)**

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