

## **MHRD**

### **Department of Higher Education**

#### **Summary record of the discussions on the consultative process on formulation of New Education Policy (NEP) in the Meeting held on 21.03.2015 under Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development with State Education Ministers and State Education Secretaries**

A Meeting of the State Education Ministers and State Education Secretaries for formulation of New Education Policy (NEP) was held under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble HRM on 21.03.2015 at New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Secretaries of the Departments of School Education and Literacy and Higher Education, MHRD, Chairman UGC& NCTE, acting Chairman AICTE, Education Ministers of 22 States/UTs along with State Education Secretaries and other senior officials of MHRD and State Governments as well as State Information Officers (SIOs). The list of participants is enclosed at Annexure-I.

2. At the outset, Shri Rakesh Ranjan, Joint Secretary, MHRD welcomed the Hon'ble HRM, Secretaries of the Depts. of MHRD, State Education Ministers and officials from different States and MHRD. Both the Secretaries of School Education & Literacy and Higher Education addressed the august gathering and gave an overview of the identified 33 themes on school education and higher education themes.

3. Ms. Vrinda Sarup (SE&L) gave an overview of the identified 13 themes on school education and appreciated the cooperation of different States/UTs in carrying forward the agenda on education. She drew attention to the challenges of reforms in the school and literacy sector, inclusion of public aspirations, private initiatives, educational administrators and other stakeholders, upgradation of quality in education, need for improving learning outcomes, promoting ICT enabled technologies, extending outreach to school and secondary education, searching frontiers of new knowledge by combination of subjects in multi disciplinary way, vocationalisation of education upto class XII and its linkages to employability, focus on value education and life skills. She sought for specific

suggestions on the 13 themes of School Education. She said that this meeting would help to develop a consensus through consultation with States/UTs in the context of above issues.

4. Shri Satyanarayana Mohanty, Secretary, Higher Education, stated that New Education Policy is being formulated after 30 years with the guiding spirit to connect the voice of the people in the consultation process and making a composite policy that would help to transit in a knowledge society and economy both nationally and globally. He stressed the fact that quality in education should be cornerstone of the policy dimension and new tools of knowledge, research and innovation should be given priority to make our higher education globally competitive. He highlighted that demographic dividend for India is a blessing but at the same time it is a massive challenge, keeping in view the size of higher and technical education and making our students employable. He urged the States to look at the 20 themes of Higher Education from the angle of cooperative federalism.

5. Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Human Resource Development, in her keynote address congratulated the State Education Ministers for the success that the Government was able to achieve in the preceding ten months due to the spirit of cooperative federalism and practicing minimum government and maximum governance. She stated that the primary purpose of this meeting is to initiate discussion on the consultation process for the New Education Policy and seek views, comments and suggestions of all the States and UTs. She highlighted that for the first time in the history of education policy making, every citizen right from the village level, is given an opportunity to express his/her views. For the first time, moving from cooperative federalism to cooperative citizenship, a time bound grassroots consultation process has been undertaken to widen the frontiers of New Education Policy. She expressed that the consultation process involves participation from the grassroots level to the state, regional and national levels in bringing out a comprehensive policy which will reflect the aspirations and needs of the country. She observed that it will also seek to meet the inherent needs of stakeholders, students and their parents whose goal is to make their children a better human being and a better citizen. She said that it is the time to chart

out the path for future growth of the country with a sound education policy to make a better citizen.

6. Shri Rakesh Ranjan, Joint Secretary (Policy) made a presentation which explained the stages in the consultation process for formulation of the NEP covering objectives, 33 themes on school education and on higher education, online and offline consultations, timelines and steps involved in the grassroots consultations from village level upwards to Block, District , urban local bodies and State level, thematic consultations with experts, and finally synthesizing the policy through regional and national consultations . The main objective of the meet is to make the citizens aware and enhance their participation both in online and offline consultations.

7. This was followed by a presentation by Shri Gaurav Dwivedi, CEO, MyGov on the proposed ICT based workflow to be followed for the grassroots consultation process. The active involvement of the State administration through its lower levels of administration is integral to ensure time bound flow of activities across different levels. It was also informed that more than 8300 suggestions have been received so far on the online consultations that were open on their [www.MyGov.in](http://www.MyGov.in) portal.

8. Following the two presentations, Hon'ble Minister invited the State Education Ministers to give their views and suggestions on the consultation process envisaged for the New Education Policy. The comments and suggestions expressed by State Education Ministers and the State officials are summarized below:

- (i) Education must be accessible and affordable with more thrust on equity and excellence.
- (ii) The curriculum must be industry friendly and in accordance with the aspirations of the youth.
- (iii) Skill Education must be part and parcel of the syllabus. Education and knowledge should revolve around skill development for more employability.
- (iv) New Education Policy must be structured in such a way that 'Gross Enrolment Ratio' should increase and number of 'dropouts' should come down effectively.

- (v) Teachers must be given training so as to ensure better learning outcomes at elementary, secondary and higher education level. There must be some mechanism of evaluating the teaching skills of teachers.
- (vi) There is a need for greater thrust on technology driven education with flexibility on e-learning.
- (vii) Private partnership needs to be encouraged with more emphasis on the PPP models.
- (viii) MHRD could consider bringing out a scheme where both the Central and State Governments could jointly fund educational infrastructure related work .
- (ix) Corporate and industry sector must be encouraged to fund various activities in education through CSR.
- (x) There should be tax exemption on research and innovation.
- (xi) There should be awards and rewards for research and innovation.
- (xii) Sports, Yoga and value Education must be the areas of focus in the NEP.
- (xiii) Indian Universities should be assessed for quality based on their Global rankings.
- (xiv) NEP should be in line with 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments.
- (xv) There must be convergence in schemes which will address the different kinds of regulation at school, secondary and college level.
- (xvi) 'KG to PG Scheme' should find suitable place in NEP.
- (xvii) Mid Day Meal facility should be extended upto X class.
- (xviii) In higher education, gender gap in Gross Enrolment Ratio needs to be further bridged.
- (xix) Since most of the states have paucity of funds, state controlled schools, colleges and universities, must be funded to a greater extent by the Centre so as to create a quality change in infrastructure, faculty and other facilities.
- (xx) The Report on Higher Education submitted to the President one year back should be referred to for formulation of NEP.
- (xxi) Different states have different problems. Accordingly, it is desirable that problems of schools, colleges and institutions in tribal, hilly, difficult terrains and backward areas be given differential treatment.

- (xxii) More financial support for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) and Mid Day Meal (MDM) through budgetary funding by MHRD is necessary, in view of the financial constraints faced by the State Governments.
- (xxiii) Equal and uniform certification should be given in general and vocational training.
- (xxiv) Exchange Programme of visiting faculty needs to be done at regional and state level in colleges and higher institutions for adequate exposure to students.
- (xxv) Adequate attention for ensuring well equipped schools in border areas of North-East region is required, given their proximity to neighboring countries and the sensitivities involved.
- (xxvi) Best practices of apex institutes must flow to schools and colleges in the States.
- (xxvii) Multi-pronged strategy for 100 percent literacy in the country needs to be followed through a dynamic New Education Policy.
- (xxviii) Teaching should be promoted in local/indigenous regional languages and dialects.
- (xxix) Books of NCERT with uniform syllabus could be made applicable to all schools in the States.
- (xxx) There should be an effort to have a uniform fee structure for both Government and privately controlled schools, colleges and universities.
- (xxxi) There is a need for more residential schools with hostel facilities especially for SCs, STs, minorities and OBCs for their educational mainstreaming.
- (xxxii) More Hindi teachers from Hindi belt states to be posted in Nagaland to promote Hindi among students.
- (xxxiii) Engineering colleges, agricultural universities, higher research institutions and one Regional office/unit of UGC to be opened in Nagaland.
- (xxxiv) Overseas Indians may be requested to adopt schools and extend their cooperation in the field of education.
- (xxxv) Land Bank Scheme should be launched to utilize unused land for opening new schools, colleges and universities.
- (xxxvi) It should be made mandatory for higher education institutes to adopt nearby villages.

(xxxvii) Study of historical/iconic personalities with their motivated life story can be made a part of the curriculum to inspire students.

9. During the course of interaction with different State Education Ministers, Hon'ble HRM intervened to reiterate that that this meeting aims to discuss the consultation process for formulation of NEP and other issues either relating to general implementation, financial problems of different states may be raised at a different platform. She clarified that State Governments are free to twin any education programme with MNREGA keeping in view their specific requirements.

10. Hon'ble HRM requested the State Governments to take action on the following:

- (i) Appoint two Nodal officers in the State, one each for School Education and Higher Education, to ensure proper and time-bound implementation in the grassroots level consultation process in the State.
- (ii) Nodal officers of State Government should coordinate with village, block/local bodies, district level meetings, for the NEP in their States. They will keep their counterpart Nodal Officers of MHRD apprised of the progress in the consultations at different levels.
- (iii) MHRD Nodal Officers could participate in a few consultation meetings within their designated States as part of overseeing the consultation activities.
- (iv) The State administration/ Nodal Officers will train the functionaries at different levels on the grassroot level consultation process.
- (v) The Nodal Officers of different states must also be trained on the consultation process of the NEP.
- (vi) State Governments may like to supplement and /or revise the identified 33 themes on School Education and Higher Education.

11. In her concluding remarks, the Hon'ble Union HRD Minister thanked the Hon'ble Ministers and the State Governments for their valuable inputs, active participation and hoped that over the months ahead a fruitful and engaging exercise will be carried out.

This participatory exercise would pave the way for a holistic education policy that will empower our youth and children to meet the challenges of a global economy.

12. In the post-lunch period, a technical session was conducted by CEO, MyGov on the ICT enablement that has been put in place to make this process work at the grassroots level through the state machinery. The State Government officials including SIOs and Directors/ Deputy Secretary level officers of MHRD actively participated. State Government officials were informed that MHRD has appointed two Nodal officers for each State to oversee the consultation process and coordinate with them in respect of School Education and Higher Education respectively. SIOs of different states were requested to update the Directory of local bodies and related functionaries for proper coordination. The aggregation of suggestions at Gram Panchayat, Block Level and Local Bodies available for viewing the consultation document would be translated in local languages to tide over the problem of linguistic barriers. A training manual would be brought by MyGov team to facilitate smooth implementation of the proposed online workflow for the village to State level consultation process.

11. The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

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