

DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2019

The Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, in collaboration with the Society for the Perpetuation of Art, Culture and Education (SPACE), organised a one day brainstorming session to discuss the draft National Education Policy, 2019 on June 27, 2019 at the Conference room, University Guest House. The seminar was well attended with speakers from the university departments of education, NCERT, IGNOU, CBSE, members of legal fraternity and principals of well known schools. Along with the inaugural and the concluding sessions there were three technical sessions on school and higher education, higher education including professional education and school education including language related issues.



The inaugural session was chaired by Professor P.C. Joshi, Head, Department of Anthropology, Delhi University. In his Welcome address, Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, former Director (academics), NIOS and President SPACE (India) introduced the speakers and theme of the seminar. The policy according to Dr. Aggarwal envisages a India centric educational policy to bring about a sustainable transformation of our country with justice and equity so as to make our country into a knowledge society. Starting with educational for all in 1995 where emphases was on accessibility and enrolment, in 2005 our focus shifted to quality education for all. The present policy along with carrying forward the leftover task of the earlier policy also focuses on the integrated, holistic transformation of the educational system so as to

enable every citizen to play their part in sustainable development of our nation. The present policy emphasise the adoption of new technology for improving the governance, planning and management of education. It is felt that the demographic dividend is going to be on the side of the nation for another 20 years, therefore it is essential to train our youth with the knowledge, skills and values along with employable skills which will enable them to play their part in the social, economic and political transformation of the country.

The key note address in the seminar was delivered by Professor Ambast from NCERT, wherein he summarised the key points of policy chapter wise. In his chairperson remark Prof P.C. Joshi, head of the department of anthropology, university of Delhi looked at the issues of awareness, availability, accessibility and affordability of quality education which not only enable every learner to gain employable skills but also imbibe the best of our traditional values for a holistic individual transformation. Professor P.C. Joshi again empathised the significance of education for the both the national and individual's growth and development. He was critical of the blind copying of the American system of education and called for reviving many of important features of Takshila and Nalanda system of education, where the education was based learning of critical skills for logical thinking, reasoning and judgement. He called for the need of integration of the early child education with the primary, secondary and higher educational along with professional education. Dr. R.P. Mitra, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi took a critical view of the Early childhood care and the foundation of literacy and numeracy skills especially in rural and tribal areas and emphasised upon a more meaningful, cultural centric curriculum. In the higher education it was emphasised by Dr. Mitra to restructuring of disciplinary boundaries for greater multidisciplinary approach. Teachers education came in focus in the deliberation of Professor Manvendra Kishore Das, former Dean and Head of the education department of Kashi Vidyapeth energising and invigorating the faculties and teachers. He proposed with imparting skills of learning, reasoning, communication and practice all these skills in the real life. The seminar discussed upon the wide gap in the quality of education in rural and tribal areas compared to other parts of the country and ways to address this issue. The speakers emphasised upon the role of technology and training of human resources strategically only then could the goals of the policy can be achieved.