

INDIGENEOUS KNOWLEDGE IN EDUCATION AND PEDAGOGY

Mrs. Manjiri Atul Raspaile*Principal, Jajoo International School, Yavatmal (M.S.), India
jis.manjiriraspaile@gmail.com***Abstract**

As British invaded India, Macaulay's Education System brought deployment in the true intention behind factual education in India. After independence Indian politicians and educationists were continuously taking efforts to bring reforms in the same Macaulay's education policies. National Education Policy, 2020 is based on IKS, an Indian knowledge System with which India will certainly become an destination of higher education in the world. The policy is based on the pillars of "Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, Accountability" and has the potential to transform India into a vibrant knowledge hub. In this world of immediate profit and material pleasure how our children can find the right way to live? IKS guides the right way to develop individuals who can prepare shelter for self as we can not change the world at one stroke. NEP 2020 adopts a multidisciplinary approach to bring institutional improvements to regulation, governance, and promotion of academics and research in Indian higher education. Our body is the composition of 5 elements of nature. Training those five elements is only the gist of life. Panchakosh (Five fold) personality development by seeking energy from the Sun is the research oriented approach which resulted into developed focus, concentration and great achievement level of students at school. Along with this the practice of Experiential learning, Multidisciplinary approach and Multilingual approach in teaching and learning should be the successful pedagogical approach in this era.

Keywords: Indian Knowledge System, Body consists of five elements, Panchakoash personality development, Multidisciplinary approach in education, Experiential learning approach of pedagogy, Fostering multilingualism at school.

**“धर्मस्य तत्त्वं निहीतं गुह्यम्,
महाजनो येन गतः स पंथः॥”**

With this Vedic Principle, we can prove that Bharat is known for her eternal culture, which has imbibed values through spiritual pathways and instilled a sense of intuitive wisdom for thousands of years. We are spiritually, mentally, and emotionally sensitive people. But in this century awareness regarding physical, intellectual, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness has become a Global Mission.

Indian Education System is the pillar of all education systems existed in the countries of the world. But as British invaded India, Macaulay's Education System brought deployment in the true intention behind factual education in India. After independence Indian politicians and educationists were continuously taking efforts to bring reforms in the same Macaulay's education policies.

India's First Education Policy was implemented in 1986. And after the vast gap of thirty-four years Bharat again brought reforms in our education system by composing a new song with old composition that is National Education Policy, 2020 which has been updated, revised and approved on July 29th, 2020.

In the light of National Education Policy, 2020 it becomes important to understand the fountain of the thought process behind the creation and

establishment of the principles of NEP. The Policy is based on IKS, an Indian knowledge System with which India will certainly become an attractive destination of higher education in the whole world. The policy is based on the pillars of "Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, Accountability" and has the potential to transform India into a vibrant knowledge hub.

As mentioned by Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj, 'वसुधैव कुटुंबकम्', Bharat always adapts the sustainable way of mass welfare ultimately the welfare of the world. Knowledge-rich Bharat adopts a comprehensive way towards enhancement of knowledge through real-life experiences and through the attainment of spiritual practices. The 'Indian Way' of performing educational practice has capability to bring order in the whole world's education and consequently the economic system. But bringing reforms is not an easy task and everyone's cup of tea. It needs to train the body, mind, and soul of every individual for generations through Panchkoshatmak Vikas which is also accepted by the designers of NEP as the root-level remedial system of education that will demonstrate and exemplify to the world a way of life so unique and intellectually strengthening part of our flourished civilization.

Bharat is ultimately the oldest living civilization in the world. A largest manufacturing powerhouse of

knowledge that contains a dharmic culture that emphasizes the development of all dimensions of humanity and harmony in life with the shelter created by own to save self from all the adversities created due to disastrous impacts of so-called modern lifestyle and declining ethical, moral and spiritual aptitude in society. The misinterpretation of the concept of development creates confusion among young minds throughout the world. We only can bring sustainability in the lifestyle based on the ethos of Panchkoshatmak Vyaktimatwa Vikas.

As mentioned in the Annual Report-2021-22 presented by the Government of India, Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education and Department of School Education and Literacy, "The grand vision for the IKS Division of Ministry of Education at AICTE is to initiate a process of training generations of scholars who will show the 'Indian way' to the world. If we want to become the Knowledge Leaders in this century and be the 'Visvaguru', it is imperative that we regain a comprehensive knowledge of our heritage and demonstrate the 'Indian way' of doing things to the entire world. Therefore, the IKS Division of the Ministry of Education at AICTE has been established with a vision to promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on all aspects of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), update and disseminate IKS Knowledge for further innovations and societal applications."

The NEP, 2020 gives prominence to the Indian Knowledge System which comprises of Jnan, Vignan, and Jeevan Darshan who have evolved out of the experience, observation, experimentation, and rigorous analysis. The tradition mentioned in various cultural evidence like different Puranas and epics like 'Mahabharata' the validation of experiential learning, art, administration, law, justice, health, manufacturing, foreign policies, diplomacy, and commerce is embossed. This all is depicted in different languages of India through textual, oral and artistic traditions. 'Knowledge of India' hence includes ancient knowledge which comprises of challenges to various situations, success, and the sense of India's future aspirations specific to education, health, environment and indeed all aspects of life. In light of this, we can search the remedies for the above-mentioned worldwide disastrous problems and consequently the need of the hour for the holistic well-being of an individual.

NEP 2020 adopts a multidisciplinary approach to bring institutional improvements to regulation, governance, and promotion of academics and research in Indian higher education. Several aspects of policy may create new opportunities like

changes in the basic education system by inculcating the concept of Balwatika and National Curriculum Framework which will transform Indian schools into a nationwide academic credit system that will simplify credit recognition partnerships between foreign and Indian Universities, and legislation will soon be submitted to allow leading overseas universities (institutions ranked in the top 100 worldwide) to open branch campuses in India. At the same time there may be consultancy opportunities related to the quality focus of the new education policy.

Key highlights of the National Education Policy-2020

The NEP brings about a range of changes in the system of higher education aiming to improve it with the goal of "creation of greater opportunities for individual employment."

The key highlights from the new policy aim at:

- a. Creating an HE system consisting of large, multidisciplinary universities and colleges, with at least one in or near every district, and more HEIs across India which offer their programmes in local/Indian languages.
- b. Shifting from a rigid HE curriculum to a multidisciplinary undergraduate education.
- c. Offering faculty and institutional autonomy.
- d. Revamping the curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and student support for enhanced student experiences.
- e. Reaffirming the integrity of faculty and institutional leadership positions through merit appointments and career progression based on teaching, research and service.
- f. Establishing the National Research Foundation to fund the brightest, peer-reviewed research and to actively seed research in universities and colleges.
- g. Improved Governance of HEIs by high qualified independent boards having academic and administrative autonomy.
- h. "Light but tight" regulation by a single regulator for higher education;
- i. Giving increased access, equity, and inclusion through a range of measures such as offering scholarships by private/ philanthropic universities for underprivileged students.
- j. Giving access to education to all learners (disadvantaged/ learners with special needs) through online education, and Open Distance Learning (ODL)

Challenges in front of the Current Education System:

Indian Education System is responsibly striving to elevate the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of every individual. But

globally we can not keep ourselves aloof from present conditions which are worrisome for the whole world.

The pandemic and increasing loss of lives, scarcity of food and water, increasing number of crimes, and increasing number of drug addicts are the alarming signs that are making the world think about HEALTH comprising all dimensions mentioned above.

Even the WHO Constitution states, "Health is a state of complete, physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." An important implication of this definition is that mental health is more than just the absence of mental disorders or disabilities. Hence Spiritual Science is the right medicine for Mental Health.

Indian Spiritual Science and Gurukul Education System has the potential to work as the right solution for the above mentioned alarming signs. This is admitted by the whole world, today.

When I listen to and read about the Global awareness process about Health and Wellness I always get guidance from Dr. Pradeep ji Taraneekar (Param Pujya Babamaharaj) a Divine Scientist who guides in his book 'Pancha-Koshatmak Vyktimatva Vikas, Samuday Vikas, Chikitsa and Tripadi Pariwar' about the necessity of Panchkosha Vikas. In his book, he explains that as the Universal law of nature says, "Survival of the fittest" but the question that arises here is how to make self fit in present uncertainty. He believes in building a shelter for ourselves. He writes in his book, "So if we cannot control the increasing temperatures, if we cannot control the untimely rains, then at least we can build a shelter or an umbrella for us, which can save us, our families, and people near us."

In this world of immediate profit and material pleasure how our children can find the right way to live?

Indian knowledge system guides the right way to develop such individuals who can prepare shelter for self as we can not change the world at one stroke.

Discussion on this point has become the need of the hour. In this regard he guides us that our body is the composition of 5 elements of nature.

Earth- muscles, bones, skin and other physical elements

Water – blood, water and other fluids

Air – respiratory system, muscular movements, expansion and contraction tendency, etc.

Fire – body heat, bio-chemical, bio-electric energy generated from different enzymes and digestive system

Space- existing space in the molecular level to the muscular level and different body systems within.

He emphasizes balancing these five elements through Indian Vedic science and philosophy which states the importance of balancing Five Energy Centers to create balance and to bring harmony in the life of an individual. The Panchkosha are-

1. **Annamy kosha**
2. **Pranmay Kosha**
3. **Manomay Kosha**
4. **Vidnyanmay Kosha**
5. **Aanandmay Kosha**

1. **Annamy Kosha** signifies our physical body which either in a good or bad way is nourished by the food we eat, the liquids we drink, the way we live and move around, and mostly the actions and physical work we do.
2. **Pranmay Kosha** signifies refinement and stability of physical body. It transforms the adverse effects caused by the impurities in food we eat and the surrounding where we live. It also works as a remedy on side effects of noise pollution and other spoiled elements in the environment.
3. **Manomay Kosha** comprises cultural, educational, social, religious, and spiritual health. Cultural health includes the opportunity to develop different forms of talent and skills. Educational health means a scope and access for learning in new academic and educational streams and getting the right guidance to excel in our aspirations for knowledge. Social health comprises of access to grow and develop a social circle and be a part of a group with an inspiring mindset with like-minded people. Religious health means not only just having an opportunity to perform religious activities apart from the level of confusion, fears and doubts.
4. **Vidnyanmay Kosha** is a special state of knowledge in which the person after achieving physical, psychological and social stability and favourable conditions, deeply desires and develops a thirst for a different kind of intellectual satisfaction and he develops an attraction for a different state of subtle and special knowledge to experience the inherent joy arising from within, the joy of creating value out of things to make the world a better place to live.
5. **Aanadmay Kosha** is associated with nature. As and when the spiritual inclination of one's soul starts harmonizing with a pure form of nature and piety, this is the state when he starts experiencing the everlasting and natural joy within. The sentiment of affection towards nature as said by Sri Tukaram Maharaj in "वृक्षवल्ली आम्हा सोयरे, वनचरे" is one of the

states in the process of refinement of Anandmay Kosha.

In the light of this we can compare and analyse Panchkoshatmak Vyaktimatw Vikas and three main domains of the holistic personality of an individual proposed by National Education Policy.

- a. **Cognitive domain** - This domain emphasizes Vidnyanmay Kosha where the school can practice experiential learning and panchpadi based lesson plans.
- b. **Affective domain** - This domain prominently refers to Anandmay Kosha and manomay kosha where the behavioural changes impact positively. Empathy, sensitivity towards society and environment activities are inculcated through curriculum. This domain helps an individual while dealing with intrapersonal and interpersonal relationship.
- c. **Psychomotor domain**- This domain is prominently based upon the development of Annamy, Pranmay and Vidnyanmay Kosha . The development activity of these kosha mainly is possible with the practical and experiential learning with which Kinesthetic students also can get help to develop two other domains of their personality.

Conclusion On Research On Pedagogical Approaches Which Are Utilized In School For Better Outcome

1. Practice of 'Martanda Gaytri' in morning assembly resulted into high focus in every activity they perform. Achievement level of students in external competitions and exams also found increasing.
2. Interdisciplinary way of imparting knowledge in class room.
3. Organization of interdisciplinary projects and events.
4. Fostering Experiential learning.

5. Giving exposure to students through model making competitions in Science and Maths.
6. Multilingual approach, organizing exhibition of words in different languages.

Afterall National Education Policy is nothing but a part of extract of Indian living civilization where spiritual science is the way of life ultimately the 'Dharma'.

An education system based on principles of dharma is really a new song with an old composition. It will definitely be beneficial to develop and imbibe sustainable education in India as well as in the whole world to make a better place.

As Michel Jackson sings:-

And the dream we were conceived in will

Reveal a joyful face

And the world we once believed in will

Shine again in grace

Then why do we keep strangling life

Wound this earth, crucify its soul?

Though it's plain to see, this world is heavenly

Be God's glow

Heal the world

Make it a better place

For you and for me, and the entire human race!!

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