

Vikasana NEP 2020

Vikasana, NEP 2020 : vision to action, concluding event of the year long national webinar series on National Education Policy 2020, jointly organized by Disha Bharat, an NGO, Bangalore University in association with Government of Karnataka was held at the Janan Jyoti auditorium on 29th October 2021.

The program began with a formal welcome, invocation and lighting of lamp ceremony.

Dr. Gururaj Karajagi, Chairman of ACT, Guiding Council member of Disha Bharat in his keynote address “NEP 2020: redesigning Education paradigm shift in mindsets of stakeholders” outlined the revolutionary restructuring of education through NEP “NEP is a paradigm shift in the education system which is not a cosmetic change but a complete revitalization of the education system, a revolutionary step in Indian Education”. Dr. Karajagi, debriefed the policy though drawing attention to Higher Educational Institutions(HEI) becoming more autonomous, research oriented , imparting flexible and holistic education through MEME (multiple entry multiple exit), and by academic bank of credit that will change the stigma attached to failure and allow students to pursue education from any university of their choice to complete any academic year at any stage in life, there by getting not just one certificate but 4 certificates in total for a 4 year academic course.

Referring to the NRF (National Research Foundation) for HEIs as a step to develop research in University taking it to industries/ public sector but NRF would not be governed by bureaucrats instead by the best researchers and educators in the respective field, thereby focusing on improving the research quality in Universities, he said the “funding for research through NRF would be based on quality that will liaison between research and industry.”

Drawing audience attention to vocational development through NEP, he envisioned a growth of vocational education from the current 5% to 50% in future in India, a direct contribution to NCIVE (National Committee for Integration of Vocational Education) and specified that NEP will help curb the commercialization of education, thereby a change in our mind-set will help convert NEP into a positive framework for the future of Education in India.

Prof. Gopalkrishna Joshi, Executive Director, Karnataka State Higher Education Council, in his opening remarks to the Panel discussion on ‘NEP 2020 : restructuring processes challenges and the way forward’, delineated on NEP being transformative in the space of HEI for the State of Karnataka, envisions autonomous governance in Universities by replacing affiliation and revamp colleges to multidisciplinary education. Highlighting the Karnataka Education Bill draft that covers NEP, focuses on curriculum transformation by intertwining holistic and multidisciplinary perspective, and emphasised on nurturing responsible learners through project based learning (PPL), service learning, experiential learning etc. thus enabling all knowledge form to stays as branches of the same tree of knowledge ,

Teaching saw a massive shift in pedagogical training after COVID, thereby dawning towards faculty empowerment program and need to benchmark ourselves with knowledge enriching with quality of education, equity & inclusiveness in HEIs in Karnataka. NEP will engage in optimal utilization of resources, creating learning that’s close to real life situation through cooperation, collaboration and understanding among all stakeholders: transform the mind-set of educators to transform education!

Speaking on occasion of releasing the book titled “Vikasana : NEP 2020 vision to action summary of speeches of the National webinar series” , Prof. KR Venugopal, Vice Chancellor, Bangalore University quoted Swami Vivekananda ‘Education is the manifestation of perfection already there in man’ and said NEP seeks to reform education, enabling Bharat to reclaim the position of being the Global Guru and become powerful by developing rootedness and ‘ Education is the corner stone & back bone of the four pillars namely the Executive, Legislative, Judiciary and the Press’. Stressing upon the need for learning to be blended, collaborative, experiential, social and inter-disciplinary, the VC pointed that the ancient education system of India practiced in Nalanda University engrained in students multi-disciplinary, trans disciplinary, inter-disciplinary learning and living, a holistic personality able to solve any problem, for a better life. The VC called for Educators to change their mindset because NEP is not new but a rejuvenation of the old Educational policy which will be flexible and holistic.

In the Panel Discussion that followed, Panellists Prof. KR Venugopal, Dr. Gururaj Karajagi and Prof. Gopalkrishna Joshi answered questions pertaining to the implementation of NEP, leverage technology through NEP, PPLs, capacity building for implementation of NEP, the introduction of education through native language and syllabus formation. The highlights of the PD were to educators to engage in creative teaching by matching learning style of students (Visual/auditory/ reading/ kinaesthetic) with teaching style of teachers through activity, project management with equal emphasis on the quotients, namely, physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual and only when the values are integrated can the teaching and learning be mesmerizing!

Answering a question on Languages, the VC said ‘it is always best to learn in the native language. A kannadiga who has studied kannada from 1 to 12 standard can go through the core subject in the same language (1 to 4 semester) but can either change or continues for the next 2semester (5 & 6 semester) and again change or continues the same language for the last two semester (7 & 8 semester), thereby will be studying a compulsory 2 language during their higher education level. A non-kannadiga will still have the option to study kannada or other language but has to go through working/functional kannada in the 1st semester and the rest remains the same. English as core language is eligible for one honour only.

Dr. B Mahadevan, Prof. Production & Operations, Management, IIM Bangalore, in his concluding remarks ‘NEP 202 : reshaping the future towards building 21st century Bharat’ emphasized that NEP is both brand new and contemporary breaking the existing silos in the departments and minds, an honest attempt to help students discover their purpose in life! Speaking about the rootedness in Indian knowledge system, which is also the title to his book, he said ‘The ancient knowledge system gives algorithm beyond the Binary system by Pingala in Chandrasashtra scripture. Brihat Samhitha shlokas cover 16835 permutation for perfume creation followed by vajra lepa and also five possible standards for male and female robots”, an opportunity to revive the Indian education system through NEP. Damascus steel or wootz steel produced in Karnataka & Tamil Nadu was exported world around till the 1790s only to rediscover a basic method in the 1950s whose making is still not known, hence Bharatiyas should regain the lost glory for which rootedness in the Indian culture is important. Referring Mahatma Gandhi’s phrase ‘The beautiful tree: indigenous Indian education’ later taken as the title for the book by Dharampal, he said that ‘NEP will open the gold & diamond box of knowledge that we are sitting upon for generations’. Prof. Mahadevan applauded Disha Bharat for the work done over a year on NEP and congratulated everyone at Disha Bharat.

Also present on the occasion were Smt. Rekha Ramachandran, Founder & Secretary, Disha Bharat; Dr. Sushma Bavle, Convenor for Vikasana NEP 2020 program; Prof. Shobha Sundareshan, Trustee, Disha Bharath, Mr. Rajesh Padmar, Trustee, Disha Bharath; Smt. Rupa Vasudevan Trustee, Disha Bharath;

Deans, Principals, Heads of Department, Professors, Teaching staff, Disha volunteers and many more eminent personalities.