

## MAHATMA GANDHIJI AND NEW EDUCATION POLICY

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### 1. Abstract:

Gandhiji believed that the medium of instruction should be the mother tongue till the primary level. His opinion was that no one should be deprived of education at least for fourteen years. Mahatma Gandhi envisioned an educational system that would help in the overall development of personality. He emphasized in additional basic education training in key skill such as farming, horticulture, cotton spinning, blacksmithy, pottery etc. According to him, the education system should not be a burden rather it should be accessible and acceptable. He also thought that the long term measures should be taken so that along with the development of science and technology, various regional languages could also be upgraded .

**Key Words:** Mother tongue, basic education to all, upgradation in regional language.

### 2. Introduction:

When we make study of New Education Policy 2020, we come to know that these principles of education system are similar to those of Mahatma Gandhi. In my opinion, New Education Policy focus on practical learning rather than theoretical learning. Every student can get quality education no matter caste, gender or any disability. This policy ensures early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years. Special emphasis is given on socially and economically disadvantaged groups. It also consist no hard separations between arts and science, between curricular and extra curricular activities. Thus, we come to know that the objective of New Education Policy is to give equal emphasis on all subjects with integration of vocational and academic streams in school.

### 3. Definition of New Education Policy 2020:

New Education Policy 2020 has been announced on 29.07.2020. This new policy proposes various reforms in school education as well as higher education including technical education. NEP 2020 aim to increase the GER to 100% in secondary school.

#### **Definition of Educational Policy by Mahatma Gandhi:**

According to Gandhiji, education is the realization of the best in man-body, soul and spirit. He maintained that education must be based on ethics and morality.

### 4. Perspective of New Education Policy 2020:

The objective is to give equal emphasis the importance of a flexible and multidisciplinary curriculum that prepare the students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As per my opinion, this New Education Policy, promotes the students to engage in learning methods and develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. I also think that this changed school structure will

reduce the stress of board exams and focus towards practical skills and vocational learning, which is very necessary in new century.

**The main perspective of New Education Policy in education is mother tongue:**

In this policy the education will be given in mother tongue at primary level for not to deprive the children from basic education.

**Basic education to all:** If we look into the New Education Policy, we will find that the efforts are being made to access basic education to all students not taking into account the caste, race or other national identities.

**Upgradation in Regional language:** When I look into New Education Policy, the medium of instruction must be in mother tongue or in regional/local language. This must be done until at the age of 5. This is necessary to give education to all students at all levels.

In this policy students will be required to learn three languages, including Hindi, English and regional language.

**5. Perspective of Education Policy Aimed by Mahatma Gandhi:**

Education system proposed by Mahatma Gandhi is called as ‘Basic Education’. Gandhiji aimed at the education in mother tongue and activity centered education to make the children skilled and independent.

His basic perspective of Education includes:

- A) From seven to fourteen years of age, education of child should be free, compulsory and universal.
- B) The medium of education should be mother tongue.
- C) Education should develop human values in child.
- D) Education should achieve the harmonious development of child’s body, mind, heart and soul.
- E) Education should be made self supporting and lead to economic independence.

**6. Gandhi’s Educational thoughts and its effect on New Education Policy:**

Gandhiji’s contribution to education is unique, because he made the first attempt to develop an indigenous scheme of education in British India. At the time of British Colonial rule in India, the education was in a contradiction with the age-old, unique and all inclusive holistic educational system in the long run. At that time, Gandhiji wrote many letters, gave speeches and also wrote books, in which he wrote his Philosophy of Education. According to him, his nation was ‘Education for life, Education through life’, it means that he would compromise everything that can be conceived under education. Besides learning of three R’s –Reading, Writing and Arithmetic in school, he insisted on development of three ‘H’ –Hand, Heart and Head, which means the aim of education should be of developing the integrated personality of child. He said that while learning it is necessary Head-on, Heart-on, and Hands-on.

Head-on means an inquiry and thinking mind, sharing knowledge and ideas.

Heart-on means motivation and recognition development of one’s greatness, strength and potential self-esteem.

Hands-on means thinking people positive living skill. Through repetition doing and practice leads to command of task and related generic skills.

While getting knowledge of New Education Policy, I came through that there was a big influence of Gandhi's educational thoughts, mainly three 'H' on New Educational Policy. The NEP is inspired by many great thinkers, one such is Gandhiji. The New Educational Policy is based on the main things-education to all, education must be mainly in mother tongue at primary level, education must be activity based. There is a link between education and vocational training which was a dream of our great leader Mahatma Gandhi. We can also see that the New Educational system will follow three 'H'- for getting a student as a good human being and trained in basic terms for his new life.

### **7. Finding Gandhi in the New Education Policy 2020:**

When I make comparative study of both principles of Gandhiji's Education system and the New Education Policy 2020, I come to know some points which are very similar to each other. It means that New Education Policy is mainly based on Gandhiji's principles, which are very important and necessary for the students for their future some principles of both NEP2020 and Mahatma Gandhi are

- A) The education should be in mother tongue at primary level.
- B) The education should involve the moral and character development.
- C) The education should be job centered, value based at job centered.
- D) The knowledge must be related to activity and practical experiences. The curriculum should be activity centered.
- E) The curriculum for boys and girls from classes 1 to 5 should be the same.
- F) The compulsory physical training should be there.

### **8. Conclusion:**

On the eve of Gandhiji's birth anniversary we recall his ideas of education, which are mostly related to New Education Policy 2020. The NEP 2020, includes artificial intelligence, robotics and machine learning. Though, the aim is machine learning, Gandhiji also aimed at education at objective system, which includes basic education which promotes India's social and cultural values.

I take into account many points of Mahatma Gandhi and NEP 2020 which are co-related. I can conclude from these points, that the New Education Policy 2020 is based on the Education Policy aimed by Mahatma Gandhi. When we apply this policy in our education, we will come to know many advantages of this system. Let us see the bright future of our students....!

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