



Study of Education System in India and National Policy on Education 2016 in India

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Introduction : The 2016 National Policy on Education, which is being formulated nearly three decades since the last Policy, recognizes the criticality of Education as the most important vehicle for social, economic and political transformation. It reiterates the role of education in inculcating values, and to

provide skills and competencies for the citizens, and in enabling him to contribute to the nation's well-being; strengthens democracy by empowering citizens; acts as an integrative force in society, and fosters social cohesion and national identity. One cannot over-emphasize the role of Education as the key catalyst for promoting socio-economic mobility in building an equitable and just society. It is an established fact that an education system built on the premises of quality and equity is central to sustainable success in the emerging knowledge economy. Education is a powerful tool for preparing our citizens in the knowledge society. Education will amalgamate globalization with localization, enabling our children and youth to become world citizens, with their roots deeply embedded in Indian culture and traditions.

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The Education System in India : The Education System which was evolved first in ancient India is known as the Vedic system. The importance of education was well recognized in India, 'Swadeshe pujiyate raja, vidwan sarvatra pujiyate' "A king is honoured only in his own country, but one who is learned is honoured throughout the world." The ultimate aim of education in



ancient India was not knowledge, as preparation for life in this world or for life beyond, but for complete realization of self. The Gurukul system fostered a bond between the Guru & the Shishya and established a teacher centric system in which the pupil was subjected to a rigid discipline and was under certain obligations towards his teacher. The world's first university was established in Takshila in 700 BC and the University of Nalanda was built in the 4th century BC, a great achievement and contribution of ancient India in the field of education. Science and technology in ancient and medieval India covered all the major branches of human knowledge and activities. Indian scholars like Charaka and Susruta, Aryabhata, Bhaskaracharya, Chanakya, Patanjali and Vatsayayna and numerous others made seminal contribution to world knowledge in such diverse fields as mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medical science and surgery, fine arts, mechanical and production technology, civil engineering and architecture, shipbuilding and navigation, sports and games. The Indian education system helped in preserving ancient culture and promoting cultural unity and infused a sense of responsibility and social values. The ancient Indian education system has been a source of inspiration to all educational systems of the world, particularly in Asia and Europe.

Empowering India through Quality Education : On the totem pole of the state management hierarchy, education comes relatively low both in status and recognition. This was part of the administrative ethos bestowed by colonial rulers who had no interest in imparting education to the bulk of Indians. This neglect should no longer be tolerated. Education must be given the highest priority. It is the duty of Central and State Governments to provide necessary resources and create conditions that are favourable for the process of teaching and learning to flourish. Every opportunity needs to be provided to young persons to get good quality education and acquire skills that lead to employment and entrepreneurship.



The basic education infrastructure already exists in India. The Indian child is as resourceful and intelligent as any in the world. New technologies are now available. Governments at the Centre and the States only need to understand the catalytic role they have to play in fostering an atmosphere that enables students to think, to learn, and contribute to the country's development. All that is required is a change in the mindset among stakeholders. Once the importance of ascribing the highest priority to education is recognized, the corresponding responsiveness and sense of accountability will inexorably emerge.

For two-thirds of mankind's history, India as one of the oldest and most glorious living civilizations in the world dominated the world scene in every respect –in philosophy, economics, trade, culture as well as in education. If India does the things now required to be done, in 15 to 20 years Indian Education can be transformed. The rest of the 21st century could then belong to India.

Proposed New National Policy : The focus of the proposed New National Policy on Education is on improving the quality of education and restoring its credibility. It seeks to create conditions to improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, and promote transparency in the management of education. The core objectives of education in the coming years should encompass four essential components – i.e. building values, awareness, knowledge and skills. While knowledge and skills are necessarily specific to the objectives of study and largely determined by factors like future employment or the pursuit of a vocation, awareness and values are universal in nature and should be shared by all. Education should aim to develop pride in India and in being an Indian. It should be seen as a powerful route to reduce regional and social disparities, and enabling choice and freedom to the individual to lead a productive life and participate in the country's development. Value orientation is an over-arching and



comprehensive area that needs conscious integration with general education at each stage. An acquaintance with the Indian tradition of acceptance of diversity of India's heritage, culture and history could lead to social cohesion and religious amity. The content and process of education, particularly school education has to be prepared accordingly. The New National Policy on Education has tried to address the deficiencies and challenges faced by our education system, particularly the urgent need to improve quality of learning across all sectors. It offers a framework for change, make education modern with use of technology, without compromising on India's traditions and heritage.

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