

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020: THE ROLE OF TEACHER TRAINING IN VALUE-BASED EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Values form the very essence of Indian society. While modern man is making rapid strides of progress in every field, he often experiences a sense of deficiency, stress, frustration, or dissatisfaction in life. This stems from the fact that he has gradually lost sight of his values. Values serve as a pathway leading humans toward an elevated life; a society and culture grounded in such values establish a unique identity on the global stage. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 highlights three key categories of values: human and ethical values, constitutional values, and social-global values. Instilling these values in children from an early age paves the way for the creation of exemplary citizens. Teachers play a foundational role in this process of value formation, as they are often the first role models a child encounters in school. The NEP 2020 places significant emphasis on value-based education and the role of teacher training. To this end, a four-year integrated B.Ed. degree is set to become the minimum qualification for school teachers by 2030. In the modern era, teacher training is essential for acquiring new knowledge and diverse skills. Value-based education enables the new generation to integrate social values with technological advancement, making teacher training indispensable. The NEP 2020 places special emphasis on the holistic development of students and 360-degree assessment through innovative teaching methods. Only when teachers are personally grounded in values can they shape the character of children for the nation's bright future. Thus, a teacher acts as a guide, a mentor and a role model of life's ideals, leading the child toward success through education.

KEYWORDS: NEP-2020, Value Education, Teacher Training.

INTRODUCTION

‘Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself’. Based on this statement by John Dewey, it can be said that education begins at birth and is a lifelong process. In education, possessing knowledge of the subject matter is not the only requirement; imbibing life values is equally important. Since ancient times, the primary objective of education in Indian culture has been ‘सा विद्या या विमुक्तये’.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, announced on July 29, 2020, brought about a radical transformation in our Indian education system. The fundamental objective of this policy is to groom exemplary citizens who are Indian in their thought, intellect, and values, while simultaneously being equipped with global knowledge and skills. The NEP 2020 emphasizes that the purpose of education extends beyond mere cognitive development to encompass character building. Value-based education lies at the core of achieving this objective. Values are not a subject to be learned through rote memorization from a textbook; rather, they are realized and internalized through conduct. Teacher training plays a pivotal role in this educational endeavor; a teacher can instill morality in students by embodying these values themselves. To secure the nation's future, integrating teacher training at the school level and incorporating the Indian knowledge system into education have become the need of the hour. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 clearly emphasizes that only a teacher who is themselves grounded in values can effectively equip the future generation. In this context, the role of teacher training becomes crucial. Recognizing the significance of this concept, the researcher has chosen to present titled "National Education Policy 2020: The Role of Teacher Training in Value-Based Education."

The primary objective of this research paper is to examine the role of teacher training within the framework of the National Education Policy 2020, specifically regarding value-based education.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: Core Educational Values

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: Values refer to the ideals, principles or standards to which we attach great importance in our daily lives. Values serve as benchmarks for the finest aspects of life. The values outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 can be categorized into three main categories:

1. Human and Moral Values: Human values connect individuals with one another, while moral values shape a person's character. Human values include compassion, empathy,

tolerance, human rights, love and affection; whereas moral values encompass justice, honesty, kindness, discipline and responsibility.

2. Constitutional Values: These include values such as democracy, patriotism, liberty, a scientific temper, equality, fraternity and the spirit of sacrifice.

3. Social and Global Values: These include values such as social justice, public service, cooperation, forgiveness, environmental conservation, *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the world as one family), global citizenship, and the acceptance of cultural diversity.

The Necessity of Value Education

The primary objective of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is to mold citizens whose minds are thoroughly modern yet whose hearts beat with Indian values. In the modern era, the rising tide of selfishness and a lack of morality have created an urgent need for value education. Day by day, people in society are forsaking values in the pursuit of self-interest. In this highly competitive age, value education serves as a protective shield for survival. It instills self-confidence and inner strength in individuals, helping to prevent despair and stress. By enabling one to distinguish between right and wrong, value education acts as a guiding light in life. It is essential for fostering mutual love, brotherhood, and respect for the views of others within society. Furthermore, value education is crucial for preserving the nation's culture and heritage and for passing on the values of Indian culture to the next generation.

Meaning and Definition of Teacher Training

Education is a comprehensive process through which changes can be brought about in an individual's behavior. According to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the four-year integrated B.Ed. degree offered by institutions will become the minimum qualification for school teachers by 2030. The four-year integrated B.Ed. program will comprise two full degrees: a Bachelor of Education degree alongside a bachelor's degree in a specialized subject such as Language, History, Computer Science, Chemistry, Economics, Arts, Physical Education, etc. To maintain uniform standards in teacher training, admission to pre-service teacher training programs will be granted based on aptitude tests conducted by the National Testing Agency. These standards will be established with due regard for the country's linguistic and cultural diversity. A teacher's role extends beyond merely providing information to students; it involves instilling skills and values in them. Teacher training is the process of equipping teachers with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to foster the holistic development of students in the classroom. It is not limited to imparting subject

knowledge alone but also encompasses various teaching methodologies, child psychology, and values.

In simple terms, teacher training is a program designed to equip teachers for educational roles ranging from the primary to the higher education levels.

“Teacher training refers to all the formal and informal experiences and activities provided to an individual that impart the necessary competence for the teaching profession.” – C.V. Good.

“Teacher training encompasses all educational experiences that prepare an individual to teach in schools.” – Monroe.

Thus, based on the definitions above, it can be stated that teacher training is a process that purposefully prepares teachers to possess deep knowledge of their subject matter and pedagogy, effectively manage classrooms, utilize technology, and uphold values while demonstrating professional competence. The primary objective of teacher training is to successfully prepare teachers by providing training that fosters the development of social, cultural, ethical, and national values.

The Necessity of Teacher Training

In contemporary times, the scope of education has expanded, extending from the pre-primary level all the way to higher education. Various reforms are continuously taking place at every stage of the educational process. In this era of information technology, characterized by rapid changes and challenges, teacher training has become indispensable. Various committees also periodically make recommendations in their reports. In recent years, the government has placed special emphasis on the expansion and promotion of education, while also making necessary adjustments to educational goals. These changes significantly increase the responsibilities of educators. As the number of students in schools rises, so does the demand for new teachers, thereby heightening the need for teacher training. Trained teachers are essential to understand the individual differences and specific needs of the diverse students attending schools. Traditional concepts of education are evolving, and new curricula are replacing older ones; consequently, training is crucial to ensure teachers are adequately prepared. It has become essential for teachers to acquire an understanding of modern methods and techniques suited to classroom requirements. To effectively impart value-based education, teachers must move beyond traditional approaches and adopt new methodologies. Teachers undergoing training are taught subjects such as child psychology, the philosophy of education, the planning of educational activities, and 360-degree evaluation to help them

understand the child's mindset. Teacher training is essential for imparting value-based education in contemporary life and for molding ideal citizens who are conscious of their responsibilities toward the nation.

The need for teacher training in the current times can be highlighted in the following contexts:

- Efforts are currently underway in India to universalize primary education. In this context, teacher training is essential to understand children's individual differences and provide instruction tailored to their specific needs.
- In the current era of AI and technology, the expansion of knowledge has accelerated, creating a need to acquire new knowledge and skills. Curricula evolve rapidly with the addition of new units; therefore, teacher training is educationally necessary to enhance teachers' preparedness and expand their knowledge base.
- Nowadays, obtaining a professional qualification in teacher training has become mandatory to become a teacher. A PTC or D.El.Ed. qualification is required for primary education, while a B.Ed. degree is necessary for secondary education.
- Teachers require training to effectively use various educational tools in the classroom and to impart value-based education by linking subject matter with values.
- Training is crucial for understanding the new changes occurring in the field of education. Both teachers and students are integral parts of society. Education bears the responsibility of fulfilling social needs and driving positive societal change; teacher training is essential to enable teachers to contribute effectively to a child's socialization process.

Objectives of Teacher Training

1. The primary objective of teacher training is to make teachers proficient in multilingual teaching methods.
2. To familiarize teachers with various fields of knowledge and encourage them to strive for the creation of a better world by accepting their responsibilities towards society.
3. To develop subject-matter knowledge, teaching methodologies and classroom management skills in teachers.
4. To assist teachers in fostering self-analysis, creativity, adaptability, and innovation.
5. To act as an effective medium for bringing about social upliftment and transformation.
6. To develop the capacity for skill enhancement, value inculcation, and personality development in teachers.
7. To inspire the integration of a scientific perspective and mindset into the field of learning.

8. To foster the development of skills and arts—such as aesthetic appreciation and a love for nature—which aid in cultivating values like a sense of duty, commitment, and accountability.
9. To facilitate the holistic development of human resources.

Types of Teacher Training

Considering the education system of our country, teacher training is currently categorized into two types:

1. Pre-service Teacher Training

According to the National Education Policy, by the year 2030, a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree—which combines subject knowledge with pedagogy—will become the minimum qualification for becoming a teacher. The primary objective of this training is to cultivate sensitivity towards children in trainees teachers and to prepare them to facilitate children's physical, mental, social, emotional, aesthetic, and linguistic development.

2. In-service Teacher Training

Training provided to teachers during their tenure—aimed at keeping their knowledge up-to-date, enhancing their professional capabilities and skills, and enabling them to find practical solutions to problems while upholding values—is known as in-service teacher training. In the NEP 2020, this is referred to as 'Continuous Professional Development' (CPD). It is mandatory for teachers to complete at least 50 hours of CPD programs annually so that they remain abreast of modern teaching methods and technology. The objective of this training is to familiarize teachers with contemporary trends and enhance their preparedness, thereby making them successful and responsive educators.

The Role of Teacher Training in Value-Based Education

Value education is a crucial component of teacher training programs because these programs prepare teachers to effectively impart values to their students. A teacher acts as a "guide, philosopher, and friend" to their students. Teacher training programs emphasize values such as ethical conduct, professionalism, and personal integrity; they place special importance not only on teaching methodologies but also on professional ethics. If a teacher is honest and punctual, students will naturally adopt those values.

- The training places special emphasis on an integrated teaching approach, focusing on how to impart values inherent in subjects such as Language, Mathematics-Science, and Social Science.

- A core value emphasized during training is the teacher's ability to remain unbiased and provide equal opportunities to all students, irrespective of caste, religion, gender, or economic background.
- The training prioritizes the holistic development of students. Through Social-Emotional Learning, it equips teachers to foster values such as compassion, empathy, and resilience in the face of unexpected challenges.
- It prepares teachers for value-based education by prioritizing the noble values of Indian culture and the principles enshrined in the Constitution.
- The training teaches educators that values should not merely be taught didactically; instead, it encourages activities that allow students to internalize these values through lived experience.
- The prudent use of social media, awareness regarding cybercrime, and the responsible use of technology in the online world are also highlighted as significant values.
- The training equips teachers to address the child's needs across physical, mental, social, and intellectual dimensions, while also fostering a joyful learning environment.
- During teacher training, clear strategies are presented on how to integrate values with subject matter to effectively teach these values to children.
- Teacher training programs are designed to help educators understand the various stages of a child's developmental process. E.g. They are taught concepts such as 'Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development,' with an emphasis on training regarding which types of values can be imparted at specific stages of a child's development.
- In today's modern era—characterized by the rapid dissemination of information—teacher training emphasizes logical thinking and value-based education, enabling students to distinguish between right and wrong.
- Teacher training provides comprehensive instruction on assessment methods used to measure behavioral changes in students.
- During training, teachers learn about educational psychology, school management, and current trends in education; value-based education equips them to understand a child's behavior and help resolve their issues.
- Teacher training prepares educators to periodically update components of value education in alignment with the evolving nature of society.
- Teacher training programs organize workshops, seminars, and conferences specifically focused on value-based education.

- Emphasis is placed on value-based educational methods to ensure the holistic development of students.

The National Education Policy identifies the teaching-learning process as the heart of education. The National Education Policy 2020 empowers India's teachers and proposes various reforms regarding their recruitment, professional development, and service conditions. The policy recognizes that teachers require training alongside high-quality instructional materials. Furthermore, programs offering specialized short-term certificate courses are available at DIETs and school complexes. These courses promote local vocations, knowledge, and skills, focusing on subjects such as art, music, agriculture, commerce, sports, and various vocational crafts. Various pedagogical approaches used internationally are incorporated for specialized subject teaching. The National Education Policy 2020 makes teacher training more comprehensive and multidisciplinary.

CONCLUSION

Value-based education and the shaping of student character lie at the core of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The policy aims to cultivate citizens who possess global skills while also being grounded in Indian constitutional and ethical values. Teacher training plays a pivotal role in achieving this objective, as teachers themselves serve as living embodiments of values capable of bringing about transformation in students. In alignment with NEP 2020, the four-year integrated B.Ed. degree has been designated as the minimum qualification for teachers by 2030, and 'Continuous Professional Development' (CPD) training has been made mandatory for in-service teachers. Thus, the focus has shifted beyond mere subject-matter knowledge to emphasize the holistic development of students and 360-degree assessment, facilitated by technology and innovative pedagogical methods. Ultimately, only when teachers themselves are imbued with these values can they secure the nation's future and drive positive change in society.

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