

## ***Department of English***

### **Report**

### **ICSSR WRC Mumbai sponsored one-day national conference on NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020: ADAPTABILITY & CHALLENGES (17<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2024)**

The department of English of Toshniwal Arts, Commerce & Science College, Sengaon has organised a one-day national conference sponsored by **Indian Council for Social Science Research, Western Regional Centre, Mumbai** entitled **National Education Policy 2020: Adaptability & Challenges on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2024** in Sant Namdev Auditorium. The conference was divided into five sections: inaugural function, keynote address, plenary session, paper presentation session and valedictory function.

#### **Inaugural Function:**

The conference began with inaugural ceremony including garlanding the image of the freedom fighter Swami Ramanand Teerth, lighting the lamp and felicitation of guests on the stage. The chairman of the inaugural function was **Mr. B.R. Toshniwal**, Chairman, Shri Gajanan Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Yeldari Camp; chief inaugurator **Dr. Shailendra Deolankar**, Director, Higher Education, Government of Maharashtra, Pune; both were virtually present through Google Meet conferencing app. Chief Guests **Dr. D.M. Netke**, Director, Board of Examination and Evaluation, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded; **Dr. D.N. More**, Professor of English, People's College, Nanded and Member, Management Council, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded; Keynote speaker **Dr. Bhimrao Bhosale**, Professor in Centre for Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies, University of Hyderabad (Retd.), Hyderabad and Visiting Professor, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburgi; **Mr. R.G. Toshniwal**, Chairman, College Development Committee, Toshniwal Arts, Commerce & Science College, Sengaon; **Prof. Dr. S.G. Talnikar**, Principal, Toshniwal Arts, Commerce & Science College, Sengaon; were present on the stage. **Dr. R.A. Joshi**, Coordinator, Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Toshniwal Arts, Commerce & Science College, Sengaon; **Mr. R.M. Shelke**, Member, Senate, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded; **Dr. Rajesh Gore**, Organising Secretary and **Dr. Datta Sawant**, Convener of the conference were present for the function.

**Dr. Shailendra Deolankar**, officially inaugurated the conference through online mode using Google Meet. In his inaugural address, he spoke on the implementation of the NEP 2020 that in Maharashtra the policy has been already implemented for PG programmes. In Maharashtra, there are 72 universities, out of which 13 public universities, 25 private universities, 25 deemed to be universities, 3 cluster universities, 3 deemed universities supported by the state of Maharashtra and unitary university

like J.J. School of Arts, Mumbai. He mentioned the AISHE report, and according to the report, Maharashtra has second largest student population i.e. 45 lakh students in higher education in the state and we have second largest number of colleges in Maharashtra. The reforms in the higher education in Maharashtra have been initiated in the last one and half years. And its result is that there are 1900 colleges which have been accredited by NAAC with good grades. In the last year more than 600 colleges accredited by NAAC. In research, Maharashtra has contributed and tops the list in the entire country. Maharashtra tops in the creation of ABC (Academic Bank of Credits) ids in India. We have 164 autonomous colleges in the state. It is a large system of higher education in Maharashtra as per the expansion is concerned. So the NEP becomes obligatory and mandatory to implement from the academic year 2024-2025 in the state. NEP is a drastic change in the overall education system as compared to the previous policies. India went ahead to the policy of liberalisation in 1992 and reformed the education system. Now, we have 64 crore people between the age group of 25-35, our most valued asset. Hence NEP emphasises on the skill component in the higher education.

Further, he asserted that it is a collective responsibility of universities and colleges to implement the policy and bring about the positive changes in the sector of education. At the end of his speech, he said, "I personally, the conferences like this which organised by Toshniwal College on the theme of National Education Policy: Adaptability and Challenges will definitely contribute in the discourse, in ongoing discourse on National Education Policy and the second highest system of education state government to make some important changes in their course of reforms in higher education". He congratulated the college, coordinators, and ICSSR for funding the conference.

After the Inaugural address, **Dr. Talnikar** provided the introductory remarks. In it, he shared the achievements of various departments including English, History, Geology and Microbiology that have organised one-day national conferences in their respective subjects. He shed light on the historical background of the college, its faculty, departments and programmes run by the college. He also explained the various activities conducted by the college and various departments. He congratulated the conveners, co-conveners and organising secretaries of the conferences on this occasion.

Then **Dr. Y.S. Nalwar** introduced the chief guest Dr. D.M. Netke. While introducing Dr. Netke, he shed light on his career and problem solving skills in examination department. It is followed the address of chief guest. In his speech, **Dr. Netke** elaborated on the conferences organised, especially on NEP 2020. According to him, the real stakeholder of NEP i.e. the students, till this time are not involved in the process of NEP, students are ignorant about NEP. No proper and authentic discussions and deliberations have been held in the field. At various levels we are talking about NEP but the actual implementation is difficult. No one is going in the depth of NEP and talking about it except a few scholars likes Dr. D.N. More. No one is talking about the beneficiaries or students, what they are thinking about or what kind of difficulties they are facing? He questioned on the seriousness of teachers about the work. What are the solutions of the difficulties faced in rural areas? The government is asking to open various Ids like digilocker, ABC Id, and APAR (Automatic Permanent Audit Registration). Implementation of

NEP is mandatory from the coming academic session as said by Hon. Chandrakant Patil, Minister, Higher Education, Government of Maharashtra. All these deliberations must reach to the students.

It was followed by the publication of Volume of Abstracts received for the conference and the book authored by Dr. Rajesh Gore entitled English: NTA-UGC, NET, JRF, SET, SLET and Other Competitive Exams. The soft copy of the volume of abstract unveiled by clicking on the link on college website where the volume published. The hard copies of the book English: NTA-UGC... unveiled by the hands of dignitaries present on the stage.

The publication ceremony followed by the address of **Mr. Ramanji Toshniwal**. In his address, he focused on the conferences organised by the various departments of the college. Through the platform of this conference, he requested the government that the difficulties faced by rural students and urban students are totally different, in rural colleges, we do not have basic infrastructure to cope with the NEP and hence the government should pay special attention on the needs of rural students. It is the responsibility of government to strengthen such colleges in rural areas.

At the end of the inaugural function, **Mr. Brijgopalji Toshniwal** addressed the gathering emphasising on the implementation and challenges before the NEP. According to him, the policy is very good but the challenges on ground level must be solved by the government. The government should recruit the teachers as early as possible so that the implementation would be smooth. He congratulated all the organisers and participants who took part in the conference.

The inaugural function was concluded with offering of vote of thanks. The programme was coordinated by **Dr. D.G. Sawant** and vote of thanks offered by **Dr. R.S. Gore**.

#### **Keynote Address:**

In the second session, the convener of the conference, **Dr. Datta Sawant** shared his views. He conveyed the objectives behind organisation of the conference: to discuss and deliberate on the policy, find out the issues in implementation and difficult spots in the policy, to show the reformative measures taken in the policy, tackle the opportunities through the policy, to present and publish the research proposals and papers related to the policy, and further extend the research horizon regarding the implementation and outcome or results of the policy. He also explained why the theme of conference i.e. National Education Policy 2020: Adaptability and Challenges chosen. Because from the coming academic year, the policy will be implemented and it is crucial to discuss its adaptability and challenges ahead.

It was immediately followed by the keynote address. Before that **Mr. Vijay Kolhe** introduced the keynote speaker Dr. Bhimrao Bhosale and his career in linguistics and translation studies. **Dr. Bhimrao Bhosale** elaborated the place of languages in National Education Policy 2020. At the beginning of his speech, he put the general framework of the policy. NEP 2020 claims that holistic approach and interdisciplinarity is the soul of this policy. There is interconnectedness between major and minor subjects and disciplines. To make it successful, we have to explore all the available resources and also adopt a triangular methodology including qualitative, quantitative and the combination of qualitative and quantitative as well. The object of study is important and it should not be excluded. It should be top-down, bottom-up, within and around.

Whatever recommendations and provisions made in the policy are not new. The interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary is old one e.g. the history of epistemology and knowledge production has begun with philosophy and philology and knowledge production both are interdisciplinary. The separation of the branches of knowledge took place in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. He referred the social semiotic systems and technology as a new approach that should be adopted in the implementation of the policy. According to him, the real challenge is how are we going to use social semiotics, system and process connecting with technology. The policy very strongly advocates interdisciplinarity and multilingualism which is a correction over earlier policies. But the major challenge in implementation is the scarcity of resources. What about systems and institutions? Right now we are facing the problem of medium of instruction in higher education. The three language formula which strongly supported by the state is failed. Now it should be multilingualism starting with bilingualism. He advocated the bilingual method with some strong observations. He adhered the importance given to languages in NEP as a paradigm shift for a language is not only a means of communication but viewed as knowledge, perception, behaviour, cognition, interaction, exchange, system, art and creative. Interdisciplinarity is inherent in the nature of a language. There is an issue of applying the framework of a discipline to another, e.g. applying the framework of Psychology to English or vice-versa. But the work of interdisciplinarity can be carried only through language. He referred to some linguists in this regard.

“Language needs to be studied holistically, comprehensively with trinocular perspective, bottom-up, top-down and within-around”. -M.A.K. Halliday.

“Language is a system and process”. -Elam Slive.

“Language is system of systems and text is always a process, a continuous instantiation”. -J.R. Firth.

According to him, “Central core of culture is institution and language is most important institution, especially social institution”.

“Growth of a child simultaneously takes place with the growth of the language”. M.A.K. Halliday.

“Language and literature cannot be separated”. –Roman Jakobson.

The first and foremost challenge before NEP in implementation of language policy is lack of trained teachers. The pre-condition of language interdisciplinarity is to train teachers to make them linguist. There is unity, integrity and continuity in language, literature and culture and it is possible only through language. Languages are the source of multiple things in the society. For the effective implementation of the policy, it is very important to start with two languages in Indian states. One native language and other English. According to Halliday, “Language is a probabilistic system of choices”.

Language influences our worldview, our ideologies, our thoughts. Sapir says, language proficiency is a key in education. It determines the power of advancement. Teachers capacity must be developed in multilingualism to begin with bilingualism. In Maharashtra, it is very crucial to develop the capacity of faculty. Firstly, and fore mostly, the teachers must be given training in bilingualism. It is also important to note how infrastructure is available in our state. Languages are resources hence it is used so. We have many issues in implementation of the policy like infrastructure, training to teachers, not opening

our minds, not deviating from traditional methods, not applying the formula of bilingualism as a method, not using technology effectively, no coordination, research funding or promotion, student-faculty ratio, dropout ratio, enrolment, etc. One cannot blame to faculty, students or government, it is a collective endeavour.

The keynote address session was over with vote of thanks expressed by **Dr. Tukaram Hapgunde**. The session was coordinated by **Dr. Rajesh Gore**.

### **Plenary Session:**

After lunch, the plenary session took place with the formal felicitation of the guests on the stage including plenary speaker Dr. D.N. More, session chairs Dr. Bhagwan Gunjalwad and Dr. Sandu Paigawan. **Mr. Arvind Naik** introduced the plenary speaker in detail adhering his achievements in the field of education and recent mastery and strong hold on the NEP 2020, the policy and challenges in implementation.

**Dr. D.N. More** elaborated on the theme of his plenary talk National Education Policy 2020: Opportunities and Challenges in detail. According to him, there are less opportunities and more challenges in the implementation of the policy. At the beginning he started with the challenges in implementation of NEP 2020 as follows:

**Consolidation and Restructuring of HEIs:** as per the AISHE (2018, 2020-2021) survey of Ministry of Education, there are 1168 universities and 45473 colleges in India. In the NEP, these HEIs need to be consolidated and restructured. There are three basic parameters to restructure these institutions: one the single faculty colleges/ institutions will be phased out in the coming days. There are 61% single faculty colleges in India. If these colleges will be phased out, there will be negative implications on higher education spread in hilly, rural and backward regions. The second parameter is those colleges which have not the student strength of 3000 will be phased out and merged, consolidated in the institutions which are centrally located called multidisciplinary institutions. The third parameter is affiliation system will be completely phased out, colleges will be de-affiliated and given autonomous status. This is a serious concern, challenge before all the stakeholders of HEIs.

The government of Maharashtra passed a resolution in the assembly regarding the cluster universities in which 5 crore rupees need to be deposited by the management for the establishment of such university. Only seven positions are allowed and one crore rupees will be provided as the salary of these positions per annum. This will be provided for five years and later, the university must raise its own resources.

**Foreign HEIs in India:** permission will be given to foreign universities in India. The capitalists can establish such universities in India. If so happens, the condition of higher education will be like English schools of today. It is the privatisation and commercialization of higher education. There is no control on design of curriculum and appointment of teachers or any staff in these universities. Full autonomy will be given to them. Free-ship and scholarship will not be provided to the needy or backward students. Reservation policy will not be implemented in these institutions. It is serious challenge before the public funded institutions in India. The private universities have power to decide their fee structure and no interference will be made in that.

**Online and Digital Education:** teaching and learning will be in blended mode. 60% delivery will be in physical mode and 40% delivery will be in online mode. There is grave concern regarding the availability of resources, technology, infrastructure and gadgets. Will the government provide all these things? Is there any provision of funds or financial assistance? The answer is negative. UGC released a draft in May 2020 called A Concept Note on Blended Mode of Teaching Learning, on the page no. 33, it is said “the financial support required to develop infrastructure and technological gadgets must be taken care of”, in this regard who is going to take care of: the students, principal, teachers or management or citizens? He says, “the draft is dumb and tongue tight so far as the financial assistance is concerned”.

**Financial Assistance:** in the article 21(A) of Indian Constitution it is stated that the education is the fundamental right of the citizens. The government should provide free and affordable education to one and all. In 1966, the Kothari Commission recommended 6% of the GDP should be spent on education. Still we are spending only 2.5% of GDP on education. The government is not ready to fund the education. This is a serious challenge before Indian education system.

In the later part of his address, he explained a few opportunities in the new policy.

**Multidisciplinary HEIs:** through the establishment of multidisciplinary institutions, the holistic development of students is possible. The students can take part in the newly designed curriculum including major and minor courses, co-curricular courses, cultural activities, NSS, Yoga, NCC, etc. This can be a golden opportunity for students if implemented well and properly. Such institution will be centrally funded.

**Research and Innovation:** it is the foundation and core of development of any nation. The policy will establish research and innovation universities or institutions at par IIMs, IITs, IISc, etc. It will provide the opportunities to researchers. Ratio of research and innovation will be increased in forthcoming years. National Research Foundation (NRF) will be established to promote research in India. The private providers will provide financial assistance to the NRF.

**Gross Enrolment Ratio:** as per the survey conducted by Ministry of Education in 2020-2021, the GER is only 28.4%. Almost 72% of students are out of higher education. The policy document envisions that the GER will be increased up to 50% in 2035.

**Redesigning of Curriculum and Restructuring of Pedagogical Practices:** it is the urgent need of the hour to redesign the curriculum as per local needs, regional needs and global needs. Practical knowledge should be provided to the students. At the same time, the pedagogical practices should be evolved and developed. It should be two way practices on the part of students and teachers. Students will be the centre of education, active involvement of students will provide more and more knowledge and opportunities to the students. This provision is really appreciable.

**Autonomy to Students:** the freedom is given to students to choose their subjects or courses. This is important on the part of students. The students must utilise this autonomy for their development.

In the next part, **Mr. Sandu Paigawan** made a few random observations. He said that Dr. Manmohan Singh should be considered as the father of 1990 Policy of privatization and liberalization. In this policy, the role of languages is curtailed on the basis of vocational or skill education. There is another

problem in implementing the online or blended mode in rural areas that there is no adequate infrastructure. The process of saffronization of education has been began and the minority ideologies are suppressed. He supported his views by providing the references of Laxman Yadav, Romila Thapar, etc.

After that **Dr. Bhagwan Gunjalwad** offered comments on the plenary address. He agreed with the views expressed by Dr. More. According to him, issues and challenges expressed by Dr. More are really serious and grave concerns in the higher education system.

The plenary session was coordinated by **Dr. Kumar Wani** and vote of thanks expressed by **Dr. Pandit Nirmal**.

#### **Paper Presentation Session:**

The plenary session followed by paper presentation session. The chairman of the session was Dr. Pandit Nirmal and Dr. S. Marithai. The first paper was presented by **Dr. Nagnath Phad** entitled “Importance & Work-Procedure of Academic Bank of Credits in NEP 2020”. He elaborated on the ABC and its importance, how it works, the process, triangular system, transfer of credits, etc. The second paper was presented by **Dr. B.B. Chincholkar** entitled “An Insight into the Challenges of Implementing the New Education Policy (NEP)” in which he presented the challenges at various levels in the implementation of the policy. The next paper was presented by **Deepshikha Chaudhari** on the theme of “NEP 2020: Promotion of Indian Art”. She spoke on the various Indian arts that need to be focused in the policy and should be given rejuvenation like classical dance, paintings, sculpture, regional literatures, etc. It is followed by the presentation of **Durva Mandrekar** on “Tech-Driven Transformation: Exploring the Intersection of National Education Policy and English Language Teaching for Inclusive and Innovative Learning Experiences” which highlights the use of technology in NEP in relation to English language teaching and learning. Next, **Jyothi Gedela** spoke on “The Influence of AI on English Language Teaching”. In her paper, she emphasised on the use and functioning of AI in language teaching and learning, especially English language. **Mr. Arup Kumar Bag** presented the paper “The Implementation of NEP 2020 at the Tertiary and Post-Tertiary Level in the West Bengal Education System: Problems and Disadvantages”. The focus of the paper is on the broad system of education in the state like West Bengal and it demonstrates the issues pertaining in rural and urban parts of the state. **Mr. Vikram Sharma** delivered his paper on “Indian Knowledge System: A Way of Learning” with special mention of ancient Indian traditions in all the spheres of life. He presented the examples of great sages like Maharshi Kanad, Aryabhatta, Charakha, Bhaskaracharya, Sushrut, Brahmagupta, Panini, Gautama, Maitri, etc. India had a great traditions of teaching and learning that need to be reviewed and rejuvenated. The last paper on the theme “Transforming Education in the Digital Age: The Imperative of Technology Integration under India’s National Education Policy 2020” was presented by **Mr. Vikrant Madnure** where he shed light on the technology and education, the duo of the system that can change the face of entire education in India.

**Dr. Pandit Nirmal** commented on all the papers presented in brief and accepted all the papers for publication. Then, **Dr. S. Marithai** also provided her important comments on the papers and suggested a few changes that to be made in some papers while publishing. She congratulated all the presenters and



wished them all the best for future. The session was coordinated by **Dr. Rajesh Gore** and vote of thanks presented by **Dr. Datta Sawant**.

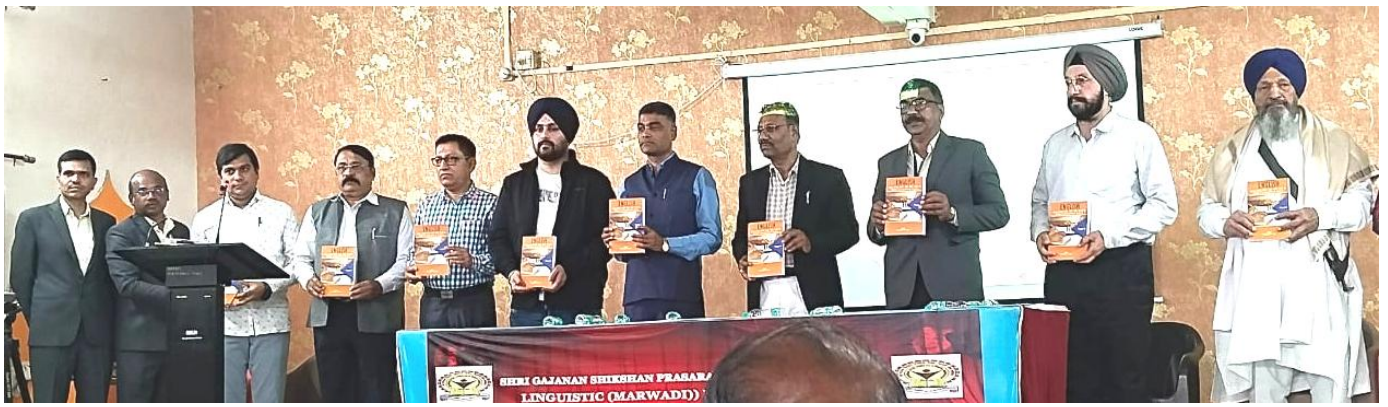
### **Valedictory Function:**

It was the last session of the day. The chairman of the function was Dr. S.G. Talnikar, Principal of the college, chief guest Dr. Pandit Nirmal, Head, Department of English, Sant Tukaram College, Parbhani and Dr. Rajesh Gore, Organizing Secretary were on the stage. The session was coordinated by **Mr. T.U. Kendre** and vote of thanks presented by himself. The session was over with reciting the national song.

### **Snapshots of the Conference**















## तोष्णीवाल मध्ये राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक धोरण या विषयावर चर्चा

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