

Programme Report
One Day National Webinar
On

**Employability and Multidisciplinary Education through NEP
2020: Implications for Learners and Educators**



submitted by:

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Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

10th August, 2021

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of RGU, Prof. Saket Kushwaha for his enthusiastic support and endless motivation without whom planning of this programme, would not have been possible. The moral support received from the Vice Chancellor has been more than encouraging and acknowledges the highest contribution of his highest office in successful organization of this programme.

Grateful acknowledgements are also due to esteemed Pro- Vice Chancellor, Prof. Amitava Mitra for his continuous guidance and insightful motivation in hours of need and esteemed Registrar, RGU Dr. NT Rikam as well, for his ever so welcoming gesture, guidance, affection and support along with his enormous cooperation in the organization of this programme. Prof. Otem Padung, Finance Officer, RGU deserves due acknowledgement who delivered the keynote address on the occasion. The RESOURCE PERSON and also the Deputy Director of TISS, Guwahati Prof. Kalpana Sarathy as well as a renowned academician, deserves our acknowledgements

We acknowledge the support extended by all the members of Department of Social Work and other colleagues, research scholars, and students. I am thankful to all the participants who have enriched our programme through their lively and active participation. In the end, a big thanks to each one of you going through this report.

Organizing Committee

1. Background

As we mark the completion of India's 75th year of independence, it is necessary to reflect on the vision that has been laid out for this independent and sovereign nation. Equality, in education, would be a cornerstone of such a vision, for a prosperous, harmonious, equitable and ever-evolving society. The National Education Policy 2020 is a welcome and ambitious re-imagining of India's education system into a modern, progressive and equitable one. Successful execution of this policy calls for dramatic simplification of decision-making structures and re-prioritization of budgetary resources in months and years to come.

Given that there are around 350 million Indians today in school-going or college-going age groups, the NEP calls for a large-scale implementation of a magnitude never before attempted anywhere in the world. The NEP 2020 advocates three key thematic developments: One, a move from content-driven pedagogy that inspired rote learning to conceptual testing; two, a 360-degree assessment covering educational, mental, and physical well-being of the students, and; three, an experiential approach through vocational skills, mathematical and computational thinking, and new-age skills such as coding and data science. The motivation is to make Indian learners truly future-ready and global citizens.

The objective is noble, and the policy is timely. However, the success and pace of implementation will depend on how successfully the government can scale challenges in implementation. The challenges are deep rooted at Higher Education front.

The long-term plan as per the policy is to do away with the current system of colleges affiliated to universities. Each college would become either fully integrated into a university or converted into an autonomous and independent degree giving institution. An independent board would come to govern each higher education institution (HEI), whether college or university. In Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), NEP 2020 proposes to set up a super-regulator to address the current issue of multiple regulators to deal with accreditation, funding, and standard setting. HECI will function as the single overarching body for all higher education, excluding medical and legal studies, and replace all other regulatory bodies like the University Grants Commission (UGC) or the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Its four independent verticals will also be responsible for all grants,

funding, standards and accreditation, making it one of the most streamlined regulatory institutions in the country.

It is important to point out that these policies have all been proposed, and there is a long way to go before the implementation rolls out. The policies and the suggested changes look great on paper, and they would change the face of the Indian education system in the years to come, but that would depend on how they are approached and implemented. In this regard, the proposed national webinar commemorating the One Year of NEP 2020 through a discussion focusing on employability and multidisciplinary education through NEP 2020 for learners and educators.

2. About the organising institution

2.1 Rajiv Gandhi University

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the University on 4th February 1984 at Rono Hills. Subsequently, the postgraduate teaching programme was introduced in the University, starting from the academic session of 1988-89. The University was converted into a Central University by an Act of the Parliament of India which came into force on 9 April 2007, as per the notification of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India. Ever since its inception, the university has been trying to achieve academic excellence in the fulfillment of the objectives envisaged in the University Act. In this endeavour, the University has successfully elevated itself in the higher rung of the Indian University system. The campus at Rono Hills is located on a picturesque tableland in the outskirts of Itanagar, the capital city of Arunachal Pradesh. The University offers Post-graduate /graduate / PG Diploma / Certificate and research programmes. At present, there are more than Thirty (30) Departments and Two (02) Institutes functioning under Nine (09) Academic Faculties. The affiliating jurisdiction of the University encompasses all the existing colleges in the state.

The university has expanded vertically and horizontally by creating and augmenting departments and facilities to cater to the demands of the native communities of the state, the

marginalized and the disempowered, while serving the needs of the nation. The students of the University have found placements in State and Central Government Services and in various institutions, industries and organizations across the country. Maintaining its academic excellence ever since inception and years of concerted efforts has resulted in qualitative as well as quantitative progress in the overall standards of teaching and research in the University. The students from the University are contributing at significant positions not only in State and Central Government Services but also in various Institutions, Industries and Organizations. The University has been Ranked Second Best among all the Central Universities in the country during 2020 by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. University has also been awarded with the title of Best Central University of the Year 2020 during the 3rd Himalayan Educators Summit-2020 & 3rd Divya Himgiri Himalayan State Education Excellence Award-2020 to recognize the efforts of leading educational institutes of the Himalayan States that are substantially contributing to the Education sector. The University has been recognized as a Centre with Potential for Excellence in biodiversity by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

2.2 Department of Social Work

The Department of Social Work (DSW) at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) was established in 2015 with the vision of providing quality Social Work Education. The Department started with offering face-to-face Master of Arts in Social Work (MASW) Program during the academic session 2015-16. The MASW students/trainees are exposed to carefully crafted skill building and personality development programs and are provided with opportunities to participate in workshops, seminars and lectures from external experts on regular basis. The Doctoral Program in Social Work (PhDSW) was introduced in June 2018 to focus on strengthening the research component with an emphasis on ‘evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence’. In our pursuit to extend our horizons in serving diverse categories of student community the Certificate Program in Environmental Sanitation (CPES) was conceptualized and introduced with the academic session 2019-20 for an integrated understanding to the learners about the issues involved in Health, Hygiene and Sustainable Development.

The mandates of the social work course curriculum also include students led initiatives in the department and the community with varied clientele groups. The department has strived and established a strong foothold in the field of social work education by means of continuous engagement in both academic and outreach activities. In a relatively short span of time, the Department has established meaningful and sustainable engagement with more than fifty field work partner agencies located across the country.

The department is thereby committed in enabling and equipping the students to realize their full potential and acquire the knowledge, skills, values and techniques essential for a professional social worker leading to personal and professional development and country at large. Currently the Department offers three regular academic programs as below:

- a. Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work (PhDSW)
- b. Master of Arts in Social Work (MASW)
- c. Certification Program in Environmental Sanitation (CPES)

3. Objectives

The precise objectives of the webinar are specified as below:

1. To highlight the exclusive focus of National Education Policy 2020 on Employability and Multidisciplinary;
2. To draw attention of learners and educators towards their evolving roles and responsibility as per NEP 2020; and
3. To engage the key stakeholders essentially including the learners and educators in constructive deliberations for effective implementation of NEP 2020.

4. Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes of the current webinar are specified below:

1. Greater awareness on focus of National Education Policy 2020 on Employability and Multidisciplinary;
2. Pro-active, informed and motivated participation of learners and educators towards their evolving roles and responsibility as per NEP 2020; and
3. Constructive engagement of key stakeholders including the learners and educators in informed deliberations for effective implementation of NEP 2020.

5. Beneficiaries

The intended target audience includes every person who is directly or indirectly concerned and interested in improving the condition of Higher Education in India. The online national level webinar aims to directly benefit students, research scholars, academicians, social scientists, social workers, government and non-government functionaries.

There was no registration fee for the participants. Live web sessions were conducted through Google Meet Platform. **Number of seats were limited to only 100 participants which was found full during online deliberations.**

6. Program Dates

The programme was organised on 10th August, 2021 (Tuesday) from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm.

7. Total Budget

The total budget incurred for organizing of the programme was Rs. 2,000/- which includes honorarium to the Resource Person.

8. Resource Person

The day long national webinar was going to focus on employability and multidisciplinary through NEP 2020 by the eminent national scholars and practitioners in the pursuit of realizing the vision of NEP 2020 towards a Holistic, Flexible and Inclusive Higher Education in the country. Carefully crafted theme aims to cover different dimensions of the NEP 2020 with special reference to charting the strategies and roadmaps to realize the larger vision of the long-awaited value based national policy on education in the country.

9. Session Proceedings

The sessions were conducted under the patronage of Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice-Chancellor, RGU. Dr. N.T Rikam, Registrar, RGU also extended his support towards the program as conducted by the Department.

Prof. Kalpana Sarathy, Deputy Director, TISS, Guwahati Campus was invited as the esteemed keynote Speaker. The topic of discussion was, “Focus on Employability and Multidisciplinary Education through NEP 2020: Implications for Learners and Educators”. For this session, the renowned academician and pioneer social worker, Prof Sarathy, shared some important and insightful remarks that were really empowering and enlightening to the participants. She emphasized on creation of model public universities for holistic and multidisciplinary education and the abolition of single-stream Universities in a phased manner, meant to make Indian universities more competitive with the best universities in the world. She added that NEP 2020 focuses on value-based education and Global Citizenship Education (GCED) to help develop students who are aware of global issues, as well as increase the employability of Indian graduates and create independent-thinking ethical citizens. The discussion focused on the various inequalities and disparities in the educational sectors, in terms of language, syllabus or curriculum or even in terms of the nature of class divisions. Prof. Sarathy talked very insightfully on the role of NEP 2020 to address such issues.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Saket Kushwaha emphasized during his presidential remarks that the onus to carve a niche in increasingly competitive world lies on the learners and education as well as educators should be readily available, accessible and affordable to facilitate their ways.

Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work and the Convenor for the webinar briefly emphasized on the aims and objective of the session as well as the significance of the chosen topics. A doubt clearance session was kept as a part of the webinar to assure better understanding and to build a meaningful dialogue between the key stakeholders.

Together with the Resource Person, the Vice Chancellor too contributed towards the end in taking the doubts and clarifications of participants. Dr. Kaushalendra Pratap Singh, Assistant Professor and HoD I/C, Department of Social Work proposed the Vote of Thanks. Ms. Dikshita Mahanta, MASW III Semester student was the moderator of the webinar.

Around hundred (100) plus participants who attended the sessions belonged across the length and breadth of the nation. The participants were evenly divided in terms of gender and ranged from various domains while their active participation marked the success of the webinars.

10. Organising Committee

Chief Patron
Prof. Saket Kushwaha Vice Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi University
Patrons
Prof. Amitava Mitra, Pro-Vice Chancellor, RGU
Prof. Tana Showren, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences
Dr. N T Rikam Registrar, RGU
Organizing Committee
CONVENORS
Dr. Kaushalendra Pratap Singh Head i/c, Assistant Professor Department of Social Work, RGU
Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar Assistant Professor Department of Social Work, RGU

Coordinator

Ms. Chaphiak Lowang
Assistant Professor Department of Social Work, RGU

Member

Mr. John G. Gangmei
Assistant Professor Department of Social Work, RGU

Annexure



Report: Employability and Multidisciplinary Education through NEP 2020

