

Programme Report

One-Day National Webinar on

National Education Policy 2020:
A Pathway to Uniform and Universal Education

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submitted by

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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 member architect of NEP 2020 as well as a renowned academician, Prof. Ram Shankar Kureel, Vice-Chancellor of Birsa Agri University, Ranchi also a Former Vice-Chancellor of Acharya ND University of Agriculture and Technology, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh as well as Baba Saheb Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh 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. About the 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).

Vision

Rajiv Gandhi University aspires to be India's most vibrant, energetic, responsive and acclaimed University, to be recognized for excellence in teaching, research and providing the highest quality educational opportunities for the learners of all communities. The University aims at nurturing their talent by promoting intellectual growth to shape their personality and serve humanity as multi-skilled, socially responsible, creative, adaptable, contributing and morally sound global citizens.

Mission

Our mission is to provide opportunities and support students from diverse background and assist them to become well-informed global citizens by developing their intellectual, moral, civic and creative capacities to the fullest through multi-faceted education and sustained engagement with local, national and global communities. The University also aims to carry out academic process for achieving excellence through active and dynamic student-teacher participation and inculcate high moral, ethical and professional standards among students which will enable them to develop knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their professional goals so as to improve the performance and also provide leadership and service to the community.

2. About the 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. Background of the Programme

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-imagination 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 on finding the path way to Uniform and Universal Education.

4. Objectives

The proposed webinar intends to explore the pathway to Uniform and Universal Education through NEP 2020. The precise objectives are specified as below:

1. To explore the immediate as well as long term vision and plan of NEP, 2020 aimed at revolutionising Education in India;
2. To deliberate and engage the key stakeholders in realizing the salient features of NEP, 2020; and
3. To discuss the roadmap as suggested by NEP, 2020 envisioning universal and uniform Educational infrastructure for a New India.

5. Programme Outcomes

The learning outcomes of the current webinar are specified below:

1. Enhanced understanding about the immediate as well as long term vision and plan of NEP, 2020 for revolutionising Education in India;
2. Engaging and establishing a meaningful dialogue among the key stakeholders including academia, scholars, students, development practitioners and community leaders in realizing the vision of NEP, 2020; and
3. Assessing the roadmap as suggested by NEP, 2020 to ensure universal and uniform educational infrastructure for a New India.

6. Resource Person

Prof. Ram Shankar Kureel, Vice-Chancellor of Birsa Agri University. The day long national webinar explored the pathway to Uniform and Universal Education 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 aimed 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.

7. Programme Beneficiaries

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

There was be no registration fee for the participants. Live web sessions will be conducted through Google Meet Platform. **A Total of 75 participants attended the programme through online mode.**

8. Session Deliberations

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. On the occasion, the member architects of NEP 2020 and a renowned academician, Prof. Ram Shankar Kureel, Vice-Chancellor of Birsa Agri University, Ranchi also a Former Vice-Chancellor of Acharya ND University of Agriculture and Technology, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh as well as Baba Saheb Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh enlightened on various areas of the policy including its aims and objectives.

As the topic of discussion was, “National Education Policy 2020: A Pathway to Uniform and Universal Education”. 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. Kureel talked very insightfully on the role of NEP 2020 to address such issues from his own experience over the years.

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. Kaushalendra Pratap Singh, Head, Department of Social Work and the Convenor for the webinars during his welcome address briefly emphasized on the aims and objective of the session as well as the significance of the chosen topics.

The deliberative sessions were followed by a doubt clearance session during the webinar which was kept to assure better understanding and to build a meaningful dialogue between the key stakeholders.

The Resource Person highlighted the need of a concerted effort for realising the vision of NEP 2020. Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work coordinated and proposed the Vote of Thanks along with important insights related to the discussion for the webinar. Ms. Dikshita Mahanta, MASW III Semester student was the moderator of the webinar.

9. Organizing 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

<p>Dr. N T Rikam Registrar, RGU</p>
<p>Organizing Committee</p>
<p>CONVENORS</p> <p>Dr. Kaushalendra Pratap Singh Head i/c, Assistant Professor Department of Social Work, RGU</p> <p>Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar Assistant Professor Department of Social Work, RGU</p>
<p>MEMBERS</p> <p>Ms. Chaphiak Lowang Assistant Professor Department of Social Work, RGU</p> <p>Mr. John G. Gangmei Assistant Professor Department of Social Work, RGU</p>

Annexure



