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Women Education and NEP 2020

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Abstract:-

Women education can play an important role in the development of country. Education is milestone of women empowerment as it enables them to respond challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. It is the most powerful tool to change the position in society and empowerment of women. Literacy alone cannot help women in self-dependence but higher education helps them to become more capable, makes them aware of their rights and duties and use their rights as per need.

The National Policy on Education 1986 recognizes education as the major tools that can help liberate the country from backwardness and lead it onwards to progressive nation. Free and compulsory education for all was initiated. After that there is a change in the education policy in India with the introduction of the New Education Policy 2020. This new policy aims at universalization of education in India with 100% gross enrolment ratio by 2030 for school education and 50% by 2035 at higher education. The first such move as the formation of a Gender Inclusion Fund toward equitable education for girls who are needy, poor and creating special education zones is included in the provision. It also aims to improve women leadership capacity through positive civil dialogues with women leaders involved in the education system. In this study

an attempt has been made to study the New Education policy 2020 along with Women Education.

Key words:- Education, Empowerment, Women, NEP, Universalization

Introduction:-

Education is a powerful tool that builds confident and ambitious women through which they become aware of their rights and raise their voice against exploitation, is crimination or any form of injustice meted out to them. Education is a foundation stone or milestone for the empowerment of women. Literacy alone cannot help women in self-dependence but higher education helps women to become more capable. Higher education means the education beyond the level of secondary education at the degree level and above. The UNESCO's World Conference on Higher education (1998) and the World Education Forum (2000) made a commitment to the attainment of many goals for women's education i. e. higher the level of education greater the empowerment of women. (Nand Kumar, 2014). A nation loses its goal of

integral and sustainable developments when women remain uneducated and unempowered. Education is the tool that can eliminate many social crimes and evils prevailing in the society. Social customs such as Sati, Dowry, Female infanticide, Flesh Trade and other harmful customary practices can be eradicated through female education. Women must be exposed to platforms with equal opportunities in order that the nation progress and achieve its goals.

Objectives of the study:-

Following are the objectives taken under study.

- To study the importance of women education
- To compare the provisions in NEP for women education
- To study the challenges of NEP for women education
- To put forth the suggestions towards women education as contained in NEP

Methodology:-

This research paper is basically descriptive and I have taken the help of secondary data like books, magazines, government reports etc.

Discussions:-

Women Education

Women's education will help to eradicate the discrimination and stigma that

women face today through realization of their rights. It will help to eliminate social evils as female infanticide, dowry, child marriage, harassment, etc. This will not just help the women of today but of the future generations who can live in a world where gender equality exists. Educated women can contribute to family's economy, social advancement of society and raise the standard of living.

Empowering women helps in the development of the nation. The government, over the years has introduced many schemes to promote women's education in India such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Mahila Shakti Kendra, etc.

Comparison in Provisions in NEP for women education

The National Policy of Education (NPE) 1986 - recognizes 'Education' as the major tools that can help liberate the country from backwardness and lead it onwards to progressive developed nation. Education will be used as an agent of basic change in the status of women. Also, National Education System will play a positive dominant role in the empowerment of women. It called for special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalize educational opportunities for women. "Free and Compulsory Education for All" was initiated.

The Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Five Year plans (1997-2002) focused on free education for girls in elementary to the higher level and to provide free vocational and professional training for girls, free school dress, books, scholarships to reinforce girl's education. After 34 years, there is a change in the education policy in India with the introduction of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 designed by a committee chaired by Scientist K. Kasturirangan known as Kasturirangan Committee.

This new policy aims at universalization of education in India with 100% gross enrolment ratio of girls by 2030 for school education and 50% by 2035 for higher education. The NEP 2020 aims at making 'India a global knowledge superpower'. It also proposes various steps to increase access of women into schools, which includes creating special education zones, gender inclusion fund toward equitable education for girls who are underprivileged, the targeted scholarships, and formula based and discretion funding of gender inclusionary projects in school levels.

Within the goal, it also intends to improve women leadership capacity through positive civil dialogues with women leading institutions, including principals, teachers, wardens, physical instructors and other staffs.

Challenges of NEP for women education

1. Funding becomes a big challenge specially in the COVID era. The policy gave a provision for public-private partnership in education where many schools will become privatized and can become expensive that will not be affordable for low income families, which may impact girl education.
2. Reflecting on the RTE Act, 2009, the policy does not lay any provisions for the extension to cover 15-18 years for free and compulsory education which is one major challenge for transition of girls from primary to secondary level.
3. The issue of sex education as well as health and nutritional concerns for the girl child has been neglected from being mentioned in the new policy which is a major concern.
4. Teachers need to be digitally trained to blend into the digital learning process.
5. Language is one factor that proves challenging for implementation as India has 22 active languages. Introducing of mother language and to bring out study material in academic institutions for each subject and finding a competent teacher is a big challenge.
6. The big challenge is establishing a digital infrastructure. A large number of students do not have access to such technology and gadgets. To access digital infrastructure such

as digital classrooms, remote expertise driven teaching models, AR/VR tools, etc need internet connectivity which proves a great challenge especially for rural areas that can affect more dropout rate for girl student.

7. NEP recommended vocational training inside the school campus to acquaint with the first-hand experience of the work place. But the challenge would be how many vocational subjects are chosen, infrastructural changes and teacher availability.

8. The internships under the policy would lead to child labour.

9. The problem of quality of teachers.

Suggestions

1. Career guidance and counselling courses for women are needed - Courses such as Computer Sciences, Electronics, Information Technology, Home Science, Law and Governance, etc should be included in the curriculum.

2. In certified courses - Fashion designing, Media careers, Advertising, Garment Technology etc can be offered.

Conclusion

Women play a very significant role in nation building. No nation can ever talk of

progress and development when half of its population is disabled. Women need to be empowered through education in order to equip her to face the challenges of the 21st century.

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Outcomes of the Seminar:

- The participants got more insight and knowledge regarding the National Education Policy 2020.
- They understood the major change in HEIs through NEP 2020 and how the stakeholders of HEI have ample opportunities in new education policy.
- Under the NEP 2020, the focus areas of the reforms seek to cultivate 21st century skills among students including critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and digital literacy.
- Proceedings have been published including the contributions received from various stakeholders.