

REPORT
ON
SEVEN DAY NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 AND GANDHIAN
EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY
25th February to 3rd March 2021

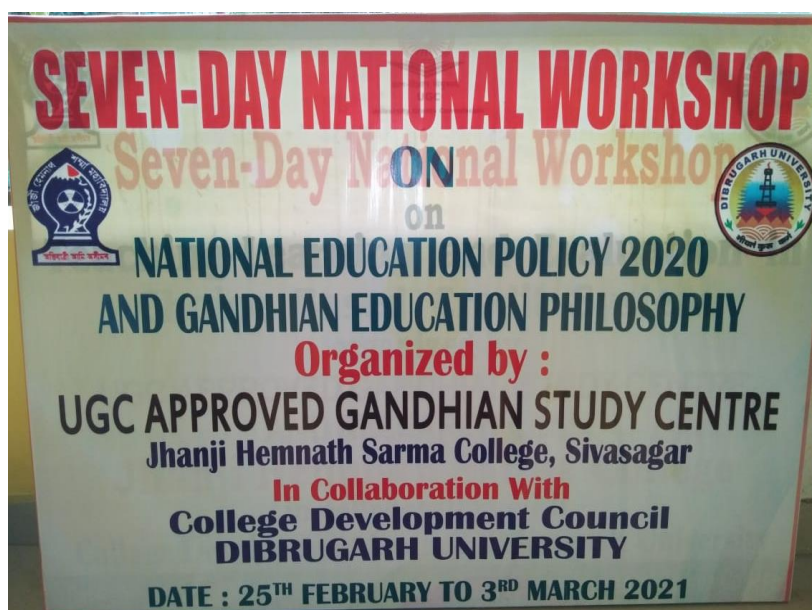
Organised by

UGC Approved Gandhian study Centre
Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College, Sivasagar, Assam-785683

In collaboration with

College Development Council
Dibrugarh University
Dibrugarh, Assam-786004

A seven day national workshop on “ ***National Education Policy 2020 and Gandhian Educational Philosophy***” was organized by UGC Approved Gandhian study Centre Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College, Sivasagar, Assam in collaboration with College Development Council, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam from 25th February to 3rd March, 2021. The main objective of the seven-day national workshop was to give a platform to the educationists, teachers and research scholars for detailed discussion and analysis of how Mahatma Gandhi’ s educational philosophy has been adopted in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) for overall development of the educational scenario ranging from elementary education to higher education in India. NEP 2020 reflects many elements of Gandhi’ s educational philosophy in its various provisions. Gandhi believed that the education system should give primacy to all round development of human mind, body and spirit. The NEP 2020 after almost three decades of wait has exhibited a similar shift in philosophy wherein it holds that education in its primitive form of rote-learning does not lead to the expected outcomes of human development. In order to alter this reality the NEP 2020 has put this kind of education at a backseat and has given prominence to the idea of learning which is holistic, integrated, inclusive, enjoyable and engaging. It is in this context the seven day national workshop was organized by the Gandhian Study Centre, Jhanji H.N.S. College to enrich our knowledge on Gandhi’ s educational philosophy and at the same time increase our efficiency in implementing the NEP 2020. The workshop adopted presentation/lecture-cum-discussion process.



The workshop started with an inaugural session and was inaugurated by the Principal of Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College Dr. Manjit Gogoi. It was followed by lightening of

ceremonial lamp by Dr. Anil Kumar Gogoi, retired Principal of Jhanji H.N.S. College. Dr. Kiran Hazarika, Principal, Tengakhat College & Member of UGC, graced the occasion as a guest of honour. The inaugural session was attended by Dr. Saumar Jyoti Mahanta, Principal, Sivasagar Commerce College, Mr. Pradip Hazarika, MLA, Amguri LAC, Mr. Bhabani Kumar Baruah, President, Governing Body, Jhanji H.N.S. College, all the faculty members of Jhanji H.N.S. College and participants from various colleges. In his welcome address Dr. Manjit Gogoi briefly mentioned the importance of the implementation of NEP 2020. He also appreciated the Gandhian Study Centre of the Jhanji H.N.S. College for this effort of organising the seven day national workshop on National Education Policy 2020 and he wished the college to success in course of time by conducting similar programmes in future. After the welcome address, an attractive deliberation was presented by Dr. Saumar Jyoti Mahanta in which he talked about education system of other countries like Finland and Switzerland. He emphasized the India-centric concept of NEP 2020. Mr. Pradip Hazarika also basically dealt with Gandhian education philosophy which according to him is universal. The chief guest of the inaugural session, Dr. Kiran Hazarika, in his speech beautifully described the NEP 2020 including all the newly introduced aspects in it. Finally the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Akashjyoti Saikia, Assistant Professor, Jhanji H.N.S. College and Joint Convener of the workshop. The programme was conducted from 10.00 A.M. to 3.30 P.M with two sessions each day.



Technical Session

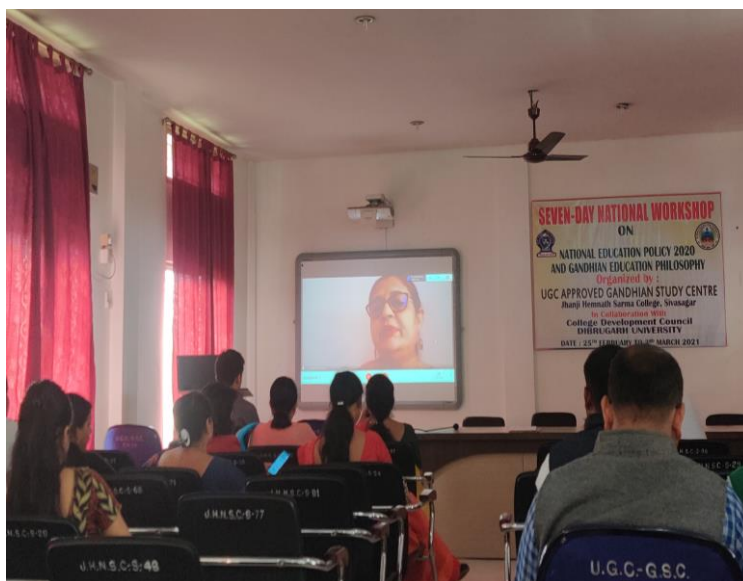
Day 1 (25-02-21)

Session 1: The first technical session began at 1.00 P.M. and the resource person of this session, Dr. Saumar Jyoti Mahanta, Principal, Sivasagar Commerce College delivered his energetic speech on NEP 2020 with special reference to heterogeneity of our state. He pointed out the link between the NEP and Gandhian educational philosophy. He highlighted Gandhi' s emphasis on cognitive learning which is reflected in NEP in terms of the use of mother tongue, education based on ethics and morality and synthesis between Gandhi' s educational philosophy and NEP 2020 regarding vocational education. The session was very interactive and many of our participants were actively interacted with the resource person. The session came to an end at 3.30 P.M.

Day 2 (26-02-21)

Session 2: The second day of the lecture workshop started with the talk by resource person, Dr. Rabi Kumar Jha, Head of Department, Department of English, S.M.D. College, Charing. He delivered his talk on “ Finding Gandhi in NEP 2020.” He spoke about Gandhian educational philosophy with reference to the NEP 2020. In his speech, he highlighted Gandhi' s educational policy of “ *Nai Talim*” – which principal idea is to impart the whole education of body, mind and soul through the handicraft that is taught to the children. NEP 2020 emphasizes on integration of body, mind and spirit for learning, including every aspect of the society and creating a joyful environment for learning. He also mentioned various aspects of the NEP including its aims and beliefs. The participants were highly impressed by the knowledge of the resource person and had a good interaction with him.

Session 3: In the post-lunch session, Prof. Neeta Kalita, Department of Education, Dibrugarh University, delivered her talk through virtual mode on the role of NEP 2020 in changing the present academic structure. She spoke about the changes to be brought about by NEP 2020 and the various outcomes of such changes. The major change is the replacement of current 10+2 system by 5+3+3+4 curriculum structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14 and 14-18 years respectively. The prescribed structure will help to cater the ability of the child-stages of cognitive development as well as social and physical awareness. The fellow participants had a good interaction with the resource person.



Day 3 (27-02-21)

Session 4: First session of third day was taken by Dr. Sabyashashi Mahanta, Principal, Gargaon College on “ NEP 2020: Hopes and Challenges” . He has given an elaborate lecture on the above topic and mentioned many crucial aspects of the NEP. He beautifully explained the key tenets of NEP 2020, i.e. access, quality, affordability, accountability and multidisciplinary approach. He also highlighted the problems faced by the present higher education system as well as the changes that NEP has about to bring to the system. He also discussed the challenges that NEP may face in the implementation process. The major problem is funding. Moreover, grouping of universities to achieve higher GER, the cultural shift that inter-disciplinary approach demands, use of technology and implementation of digital education are key challenges that NEP may face. This session was very much informative and many of our participants interacted with Dr. Sabyashashi Mahanta.

This session was also graced with the presence of Dr. Jyoti Prasad Saikia, Vice-Chancellor, Birangana Sati Sadhani State University.



Session 5: In the post-lunch session, Dr. Alak Kumar Buragohain, Chairperson-Academic, Royal global University, delivered his lecture on NEP 2020 and its various aspects. Present education system has failed to provide a path for earning livelihood to the students leading them to engage in act against one' s moral values and hence a change is necessary that is brought about by the NEP 2020 being India-centric. NEP tries to bring about a liberal aspect in the new education system. He also emphasized that success of implementation of NEP depends on the teachers. The teachers need to be well trained for fulfilling the purpose under NEP. This session was highly appreciated by the fellow participants.



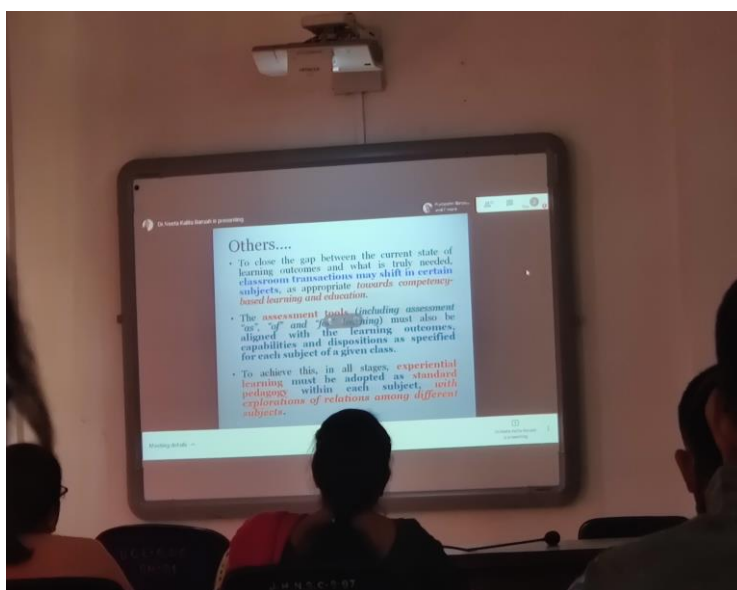
Day 4 (01-03-21)

Session 6: The fourth day started with the session on “ NEP 2020 and Gandhian Philosophy” and Prof. Rajib Handique, Department of History, Gauhati University delivered

his speech on India-centric aspect of NEP 2020. NEP aims at making India a global knowledge superpower. The new policy has room for Indian cultural values, art, science and knowledge. He highlighted that although in NEP 2020 there is no single mention of Mahatma Gandhi, the emphasis of NEP in vocationalization of education, use of mother tongue reflects Gandhian philosophy.



Session 7: The afternoon session began with lecture delivered by Prof. Alpana Buragohain Department of Women Studies, Gauhati University, on NEP 2020 and reforms it brings to the landscape of Indian learning. In her speech, she also highlighted that NEP 2020 has left out a crucial aspect i.e. women empowerment. The session was effective as many participants raised questions to the resource person.



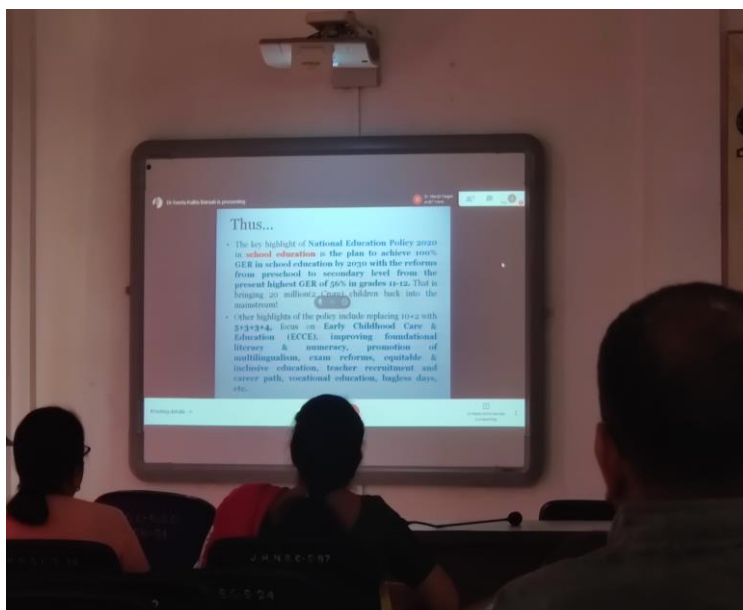
Day 5 (02-03-21)

Session 8: In the first session of the fifth day Prof. Bijoy Kumar Danta, Department of English, Tezpur University, delivered his lecture through virtual mode. The speaker

elaborately discussed the equitable and inclusive vision of NEP 2020. He praised the policy for recognizing the challenges faced by gendered categories, minorities and children with special needs. The proposal of NEP 2020 to set up Special Education Zones (SEZs) in regions with Socio Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) is another noteworthy step towards inclusive education. However he also pointed out that the policy may face some challenges at the time of implementation as it hasn't specified what the criterion for these zones would be and how they will be distinguished in urban and rural landscapes. The speaker critically pointed out many crucial aspects of inclusive vision of NEP 2020.



Session 9: The second session of the fifth day was taken by Dr. Pranjal Buragohain, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Dibrugarh University, on goals of NEP 2020 and how it is going to reform the present education system. The NEP 2020 intends to build a self-reliant society on the foundations of the great ancient Indian wisdom. It is an attempt to make pedagogy more experimental, holistic, integrated, learner-centered, flexible and enjoyable. It is focused on character building, inculcating rational thinking and compassionate care, and ensuring employment through skill development. This session was highly appreciated by the fellow participants.



Day 6 (03-03-21)

Session 10: The last day of workshop was feedback and valedictory session. This session was conducted at '*Mejangkari Bhawan*', Kamalabari Aranyam Kheta located at Geleky in the Sivasagar district. The valedictory session was graced by Prof. Jugen Kalita, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University. A plantation drive was carried out by the NSS Unit & Green Club, Jhanji H.N.S. College in association 'Jeepal' at Aranyam Kheta, Geleky-Kamalabari. The session officially started with the welcome address by Dr. Akashjyoti Saikia, Assistant Professor, Jhanji H.N.S. College and Joint Convener of the workshop and was followed by the felicitation of guests. It was then followed by the speech of Dr. Jugen Kalita. In his speech he talked about the role of higher education institutions (HEIs) in promoting value framework. He emphasized that the HEIs of the country promote the following core values: contributing to national development, fostering global competencies among students' inculcating a value system in students, promoting the use of technology and quest for excellence. The session was followed by participants' feedback and distribution of certificates by distinguished guests.



The report is prepared by Nirmali Borkakoty, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Jhanji H.N.S. College and Bidisha Sarmah, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Jhanji H.N.S. College.