

REVOLUTIONARY JOURNEY OF EDUCATIONAL SECTOR IN INDIA DURING 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

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ABSTRACT

Education is the most powerful pillar to make progressive well-developed nation. Education is the essential tool to develop problem solving skills, build confidence, provide employability skills, develop moral values and critical thinking skills etc. among humans. Education is a supreme platform for the young generations that are trained with innovative skills and make them ready to handle upcoming situations. The Government of India takes major initiatives to uplift the status of education during 75 years of independence. Educational policy helps to promote active learning culture. Indian education policies updates on a regular basis that is necessary for the progress of nation. After independence to strengthen women empowerment, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Campaign gives new direction in the sphere of girl education. Digital India Mission proves revolutionary blessing especially in education sector during COVID-19 pandemic. It transforms the offline classes into online classes. The Budget 2022-23 mainly focus on digital education, to setup digital university, creation of job opportunities, agricultural universities, skill development & vocational learning etc. Revolutionary journey of Indian education system teaches us how to become 'Atmanirbhar' and build a successful nation.

Keywords: Atmanirbhar, Confidence, Digital Learning, Employability Skills, Women Empowerment.

Introduction

Education is the most powerful tool to build a prosperous nation. It helps us to learn novel things, face complex challenges, acquiring new knowledge, think critically, build confidence, create employability skills etc. among humans. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, Nationwide lockdown in India is enforced in four phases as Phase 1: 25 March 2020 – 14 April 2020; Phase 2: 15 April 2020 – 3 May 2020; Phase 3: 4 May 2020 – 17 May 2020; Phase 4: 18 May 2020 – 31 May 2020 that is changed the viewpoint of schools, colleges and universities learning system. The traditional class room learning in India is converted into digital learning suddenly due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. It is the

revolutionary outcome of Digital India Mission. Now the modern era of education system uses latest technology like computers, laptops, mobile phones, podcasts, audio & video platforms and e-books to educate the students. Budget 2022-23 have immense contribution in education sector of India towards digital push amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Objectives of The Study

1. To identify the status of education sector in India during 75 years of independence.
2. To know the educational reforms after the independence of India.
3. To study the role of education for women empowerment in India.

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4. To review the budget scenario in the path of Indian education sector.
5. To evaluate the Indian government initiatives under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Research Methodology

The research study is based on secondary data obtained from magazines, reports, thesis, newspapers, books and the like.

Discussion and Results

1. Long Journey of Educational Policies in Independent India

The Government of India formulates the National Policy on Education with the aim to regulate and promote education in India. Its scope is wide from elementary education to higher education and covers both rural as well as urban India. The educational policies of independent India are as:

Table 1: Details about Educational Policies of Independent India

Education Policy	Promulgated by	Description
First, National Policy on Education 1968	Prime Minister of India: Indira Gandhi in 1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bases of this policy - the recommendations of Kothari Commission (1964-1966). “Three language formula” to be implemented under secondary education. Famous for – radical restructuring and equal education opportunities. Target to give free and compulsory education for all children up to the 14 years of age. Emphasizes on the teaching of Sanskrit language.
Second, National Policy on Education 1986	Prime Minister of India: Rajiv Gandhi in 1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision to modernize the Indian education system and having an idea to shift the focus from enrolment to retention. It is called for “child-centered approach” in primary education and launches “Operation Blackboard” to improve the condition of primary schools nationwide. 10+2+3 pattern of education accepted for whole of India. Famous for “special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalise educational opportunity” especially – Education for Women’s Equality; Education of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Sections, Minorities Education; Education of the Handicapped; Adult Education; Vocationalisation of Education etc.
National Policy on Education 1986 modified in 1992	Prime Minister of India: P. V. Narasimha Rao in 1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme on Action (PoA) 1992, under the National Policy on Education 1986, All India basis common entrance examination for admission in all technical and professional programmes in the country to be conducted. Its main aim is to reduce mental, physical and financial burden on students as well as their parents due to multiplicity of entrance examinations.
Third, National Education Policy 2020	Prime Minister of India: Narendra Modi in 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main vision of NEP 2020: making “India a global knowledge superpower” Its main Target that try to achieve 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio from preschool to secondary level by 2030. The 10+2 structure will be modified with new curricular and pedagogical structure 5+3+3+4. Fundamental Principles of NEP 2020 – Flexibility; No hard separations between subjects, curricular and extra-curricular activities; Multidisciplinary education; Emphasis on conceptual understanding; Critical thinking to encourage logical decision-making and innovation; Ethical values; Teachers as the heart of the learning process; Substantial investment in a strong, vibrant public education system etc.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Policy_on_Education

https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf

The table 1 shows that Indian government from Independence to present takes lots of initiative through educational policies to provide better education facilities to uplift the status of society worldwide. Its main focus is to holistic development of the students to fulfill targets of succeed life.

2. Educational Reforms towards Women Empowerment during 75 Years of Independence

Women play a crucial role to lead a country towards growing path. Women's education is the fundamental way to change society's perspective. It is the best way to reduce inequalities. The literacy rate trends in India from 1951 to 2011 are as:

Table 2: Literacy Rate Trends in India after Independence from 1951 to 2011 (in Percentage)

Year	Persons	Males	Females	Male-Female Literacy Gap
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86	18.30
1961	28.3	40.40	15.35	25.05
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97	23.99
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	64.83	75.26	53.67	21.59
2011	74.04	82.14	65.46	16.68

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literacy_in_India

The table 2 shows the literacy rate trend in India from 1951 to 2011. According to Census of India, male literacy rate in India is 27.16 percent and female literacy rate in India is 8.86 percent in the year 1951. 'Education for all' is the key goal of Indian government which proves true in year 2011. In the year 2011, female literacy rate in India is 65.46 percent which is much higher from the year 1951 and male-female literacy gap in 2011 is 16.68 percent that is much lesser

than all the previous years from 1951-2001. Well educated women can manage her both personal and professional lives by taking relevant decisions. To improving the status of women's education in India, government takes crucial steps in the form of establishing various schemes to spread education among girl child such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao; Balika Samriddhi Yojana; CBSE Udaan Scheme; National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education etc.

3. Skill-Based Education: Revolutionary Outcome of Independent India

Skill-based education is the necessity to achieve the motto of Skill India Mission. It develops the employability skills among students that prepares them for make their future bright and becomes 'Atmanirbhar'. It plays a vital role in growth of country's GDP in terms of providing skilled workforce to the industry. NEP 2020 leads innovative change shifting the focus from learning-based education to skill-based education. Skill-based education prepares the students to choose right path that helps them to enhance more efficiency in work. A joint initiative of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Education going to implement the 'Skill Hub Initiative' under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0. Skill Hubs provides skill development and vocational training opportunities. Skill-based education places are as:

- Schools (Government and Private)
- Higher Education Institutions like Engineering, Technical and General Institutions including institutions offering Language courses
- Polytechnics
- Government Industrial Training Institutes
- Other Govt. Skilling Institutions like RSETI, NIELIT, etc.

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras
- Corporate Skill Institutions/Industry Bodies
- Institution under Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme
- Institutes under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise

4. **Digital Push in Indian Education Sector: Revolutionary Step of Digital India Mission**

Digital India Mission plays a vital role in Indian education sector. Nationwide lockdown in India due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, traditional education system replaces with online education system. It leads to digital revolution in the field of education. Now in modern era various e-learning platforms such as DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing); Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), SWAYAM PRABHA – TV Channels; National Digital Library of India (NDLI), E-Pathshala etc. uses by students to get knowledge at anytime and anywhere.

Budget 2022-23: Towards Education Growth through Digital Push

The Union Budget 2022-23 presented by India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2022 that relates to major pertinent steps for the education sector – from the establishment of a digital university to the expansion of the PM e-Vidya scheme. The budget 2022-23 has allocated Rs. 104278 crore for education sector as compared to budget 2021-2022 allocation of Rs. 93223 crore. It is increased by 11.86% from the previous year budget 2020-21 allocation. It leads to show that Indian Government takes major initiative to spread the education by allocating more funds and launching different-different schemes in every year to make 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

Major Steps taken in Budget 2022-23 towards Education Sector's Development in India

- Digital University that will provide world-class quality universal education with a personalized learning experience to be established.
- The syllabus of the Agricultural universities will be revised to meet the demands of modern-farming.
- 750 Virtual labs in science and mathematics and 75 skilling e-labs to be set up to promote critical thinking skills and a simulated learning environment.
- 'One Class-One TV channel' programme of PM e-Vidya to be expanded from 12 to 200 TV channels.

5. **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Department of School Education & Literacy and Department of Higher Education Initiatives**

'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative of the Indian Government to celebrate 75 glorious years of independence of progressive India and the history of its people, culture and achievements. The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on 12th March, 2021 by flagging off 'Padyatra' from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad. This mahotsav started 75 weeks before our 75th anniversary of independence and will continue till 15th August, 2023. Department of School Education & Literacy and Department of Higher Education have planned various activities under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. These activities are as:

- **Activities planned by Department of School Education & Literacy:** Shikshak Parv focusing on the evolving role of Teachers since independence will be organized, Essay Competitions/ Seminars/Cycle Rallies in every Schools, School Assemblies to focus on Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsava, Special

School Badge with logo of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsava, Webinar on India's freedom etc.

- **Activities planned by Department of Higher Education:** Mentoring Yuva Scheme, AKAM – Innovation Week Celebration (10 to 16 January, 2022), AKAM – Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Week in February, 2022, Indian Council of Social Science Research: Seminar/lectures; Actions@75; Achievements @75 (workshop); Resolve@75; Research study on freedom struggle etc.

The main motto of these activities are to motivate and aware the students about the 75 years of Indian education success. Numerous students of schools, colleges and universities participate in these events. The main purpose of these activities is to enhance the feeling of patriotism and respect for the nation among students.

Conclusion

Education plays an important role to inculcate moral values among students, teaches the lessons of humanity, develops a meaningful outlook about life, encourages them to take part in innovations and research activities, helps to think wisely, sharpen their critical skills etc. Skill-based education prepares the students to handle upcoming situations very actively and rationally. During 75 years of independence, many revolutionary reforms occur in the path of education sector in India.

Implications

Education helps the students to broaden their horizon about how to find effective solutions of the problem. 75 years of educational journey of India brings tremendous reforms in the form of digital education, skill-based education, women empowerment through education etc. This changes the whole scenario of education

sector. An educated person has enough ability to do every work efficiently.

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