

Exploration of the Provisions in NEP 2020 for the Development of Sports Infrastructure in Schools

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Abstract: *National Education Policy (NEP-2020) is a comprehensive vision document launched by Government of India to bring transformative change in the educational landscape of India. The NEP 2020 encompassed all the factors which contributes for the promotion and development of education system in India. The policy documents covered wide ranges of factors ranging from curriculum reform, structural reform, financial implications, amendment & reform in the regulations and developments of infrastructures to fulfil the mission of the Hon'ble Prime minister of India to make India a global knowledge superpower (Vishwa Guru). The NEP-2020 document is divided into four parts and consist of 27 chapters. This paper will discuss and explore various provisions in the NEP-2020 for the development of sports infrastructure in schools.*

Keywords: National Education Policy

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is fundamental and play a pivotal role for the growth and progress of human society. Every society and civilization has evolved through various periods of the time and made progress and development thus, citizens are provided with better life and facilities. India had world greatest civilizations and produced renowned institutions like Nalanda, Takshila and Vikramashila, where students from all over the world used to visit and study diverse subjects like philosophy, metaphysics, astrology, and science etc. Unfortunately, we have lost these great institutions in human conflicts. However, many big and small institutions has carried the tradition of Indian Knowledge system alive over the period of time.

The modern education is introduced in India during the British Raj by making reforms in the British rules. Various commission were constituted and recommendations were submitted to then British Government and accordingly substantial number of schools and colleges were open in the British rules provinces of India.

Post- Independence, Government of India has proposed various education policies time to time keeping in view of the need of the time. The NEP-2020 is the latest policy document launched by Government of India which is prepared keeping in view of the rapid changing landscape in the world. This Policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulation and governance, to create a new system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century education, including SDG4, while building upon India's traditions and value systems. The NEP 2020 recognizes the integral role of sports in shaping a well-rounded individual and places emphasis on the need for a robust sports infrastructure in schools. Before delving into the specifics of the NEP 2020, it is essential to understand the role of sports in education. Physical activity and sports contribute not only to the physical well-being of students but also play a crucial role in fostering discipline, teamwork, and leadership skills. This paper aims to explore the specific provisions outlined in NEP 2020, highlighting their significance in promoting physical activity and overall health among students.

Provisions for Sports Infrastructure:

NEP 2020 underscores the importance of sports facilities and their integration into the educational framework. The policy envisions schools as hubs for comprehensive development, where students have access to quality sports infrastructure. This includes provisions for playgrounds, gymnasiums, sports equipment, and qualified instructors.

Creation of Sports Clusters:

A noteworthy provision in NEP 2020 is the concept of sports clusters. The policy encourages the creation of regional sports complexes, where multiple schools can share advanced sports facilities. This collaborative approach aims to optimize resource utilization and provide students with a diverse range of sporting opportunities.

Inclusivity in Sports Infrastructure:

NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on inclusivity, ensuring that sports infrastructure is accessible to students of all abilities. The policy encourages the development of facilities that accommodate individuals with disabilities, fostering an inclusive environment for sports participation.

Professional Development for Physical Education Instructors:

Recognizing the pivotal role of physical education instructors, NEP 2020 outlines provisions for their professional development. This includes training programs, workshops, and certifications to enhance the quality of sports education in schools.

Sharing of teachers across schools

The NEP 2020 does emphasize collaborative efforts and resource optimization in the education system. It encourages the sharing of resources, best practices, and expertise among schools. Collaboration may include the exchange of teachers for specific subjects, teacher training programs, and the creation of teacher clusters to promote professional development.

Public-Private Partnerships:

NEP 2020 promotes collaboration between educational institutions and private entities to bolster sports infrastructure. The policy encourages partnerships with sports organizations, local communities, and private enterprises to enhance the quality and reach of sports facilities in schools.

Impact on Student Well-being:

The development of sports infrastructure in schools, as outlined in NEP 2020, is anticipated to have a profound impact on student well-being. Increased access to sports facilities is expected to promote physical fitness, mental health, and discipline among students, contributing to their overall personal and academic development.

Challenges and Future Directions:

While NEP 2020 provides a comprehensive framework for the development of sports infrastructure in schools, however, India being very diverse and vast country it has its own challenges to implement the policy. India spend less than 4% of the GDP on Education, the NEP target to increase up 6% of the GDP on education. India is developing nation and budget constraints will be major challenges for the implementation of NEP 2020 at the ground level. Budget expenditure on various section like education, health, defence agriculture IT etc. need to be prioritised keeping in view of the NEP. Both Centre and states need to pull the resources collectively to make the successful implementation of the NEP-2020.

II. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the provisions made in NEP 2020 for the development of sports infrastructure in schools signify a paradigm shift towards a more holistic and inclusive education system. By fostering a culture of physical well-being, the policy aims to nurture students who are not only academically adept but also physically fit and socially aware.

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