



HIGHER EDUCATIONAL POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF STUDENTS: A CRITICAL STUDY

G. S. DESHMUKH

Assistant Professor (CHB)

Dept. of English

J. E. S. College, Jalna 431 203

(MS) INDIA

ABSTRACT

Education is an endless and constant process. It is really satisfied thing that the govt., parents as well as students are becoming more conscious about education and educational policies. To make an ideal generation is one of the main objectives of education. No-one should underestimate the importance of education in human life. After getting freedom, due to the limitations, old education system which was formed and framed by Lord Macaulay, Indian Govt. had to continue. Many times it is criticized harshly that present education system adopted by Indians is not Indian Education system. It is not 100% wrong. Of course as per the demand of time and period we change it. But compare with old changes, standing govt. is taking one step-ahead decisions related with education. Yes the challenges have changed and education system must be able to make our students stronger to face it. When we observe some decisions of HRD Ministry then it is assured that education is being made more students centred and skills oriented. In fact it will be helpful to empower and enhance the abilities of students. Present research paper has tried to study and analyze the different policies of government related to higher education which will empower the students.

Key-words: Empowerment, Education, Educational Policies, Students.

INTRODUCTION

Human beings ought not to forget that 'Education' is a very important investment. Each and every country tries to provide quality education to their young generations. It also happens in India. After getting independence the government of India tried to pay much attention towards education and educational policies. If it is observed carefully that time it is

G. S. DESHMUKH

1Page



understood that most of the brilliant students used to go out of country for advanced education. No doubt at present some students also go but now there are available many courses and facilities in higher-education in India which were not in the past. It is really prideful thing for us. India is the biggest democratic country in the world. There are many languages, cultures, religions, sects, castes and tribes which live together. That's why Indian Govt. has to take much care before making any policy. And of course it also happens with education and educational policies because India is world's third largest in terms of students. Younis Ahmad Sheikh remarks about this:

India's higher education system is the world's third largest in terms of students, next to China and the United States. In future, India will be one of the largest education hubs. India's Higher Education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of Universities/University level Institutions & Colleges since independence. (39)

So it is not easy task to form single educational policies for whole nation. Compare with primary education, it is much complicated in Higher Education though the government is trying the best. Just providing education is not mere a motto, that education and educational policies should empower coming generations and present policies prefer it.

Characterization:

Knowledge is the power. APJ Abdul Kalam dreamt that India would be a world power in 2020. It is the prophecy of a scientist. And its base is our youth. To use the maximum capacity of this group, proper and job oriented education to be provided to this youth only then Kalam's dream will come in true.

If we observe one decision carefully that time it may be thought it is trifle but no doubt this is very important. There is not any gender discrimination related with sexual harassment. Now male students have the right to file sexual harassment complaints against men, women and trans-genders. For them '**UGC – Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of sexual harassment of women employees and Students**' in higher education institutions which was passed in May 2016 is helpful. Concerned institution has to take the legal actions on complaints. Before this only girls and women had the right to complain against sexual harassment.

Before this learners used to take admissions for more than one degrees in the same academic year. Anyone can say it is good but such students' condition was 'Jack of all, Master of nothing'. They could not complete any degree satisfactorily and it affected their carrier. Now



there is no permission to pursue two regular degrees together UGC Secretary Jaspal S. Sandhu says:

Therefore, the universities shall conduct their programmes in accordance with the First Degree and Master Degree Regulations, 2003 prescribed by the UGC and also follow the normal parameters prescribed by the Statutory Council concerned wherever relevant. (India Today)

Its result is learners focus on their favourite degree and get proper knowledge of it and are ready to prove their qualities.

By amending the Indian Constitution, Modi Government offered 10% reservation for **Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs)** in direct recruitment in civil posts and services in the Government of India who do not cover under the reservation scheme for SCs, STs and OBCs. It will help to those students who do not come under present policy of reservation. These students avail this opportunity to get admission for medical, IITs and other reputed courses. This policy of reservation has come in effect from Feb 01, 2019.

We accepted English as a link language. It should link our nation with the world but even in the states instead of Hindi or any Indian language mostly English is used. It is not good for our native languages and dialects. Before British Rule Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu these Indian Languages were in the use all over the country. It is really good decision of standing government to give preference Sanskrit and Indian Languages to get a boost under New Education Policy. About this HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar says:

The policy of the Indian government is that there should be development of all Indian languages. Sometimes I feel, that more than the British we have anglicised our country in the last 50-60 years. However, English too is a good language. (India Today)

It will empower all classes' students to enhance their abilities. They bloom because they will get an opportunity to learn through their favourite languages.

Women have to face a lot of humiliations in male dominated society. They do not get enough chances to develop their qualities and contribute towards the nation. Traditionally women had been rejected to get education. Although some social activists convinced the society to offer education for women yet there is not good ratio of women's education. Standing government started Mahila Samakhya Project to improve their plight condition. It will be really beneficial for girl students. About it Ravi Rajan Kumar and Dhaneswar Behera comments:



Complementary to this strategy, media campaigns and parental awareness programmes for generating a positive climate for girl's education were also started. Mobilization of women's groups and projects like Mahila Samakhya (Education for Women's Equality) with focus on the constraints that had so far prevented women and alter societal perception about them in the present context of empowerment that especially was focusing the National Policy for Women in 2016. It describes the Mission, Vision and major objectives of this policy. (134)

It is really satisfactory thing that now the government pays sufficient attention towards education and educational policies. Before implementing any new policy, the govt. takes the opinions and suggestions from the citizens. It will make more accurate and useful the new policy. Regarding this Nayak Manmath tells:

For the first time, the Government of India embarked on a time-bound grassroots consultative process to enable the MHRD to reach out to individuals across the country through over 2.75 lakh direct consultations while also taking input from citizens online. ("New edu.")

One revolutionary decision of Modi government is to form 'HEERA'. It will prove the landmark. Definitely it will help to improve the quality of education and try to make it skill based. It will give the preference to the result of learning. Of course the learners will be empowered due to it. Anubhuti Vishnoi informs:

The HEERA Bill says that the new authority will focus on setting quality standards for institutions, specify learning outcomes, lay down standards of teaching assessment and research and evaluate the yearly academic performance of the institutes on clearly laid criteria. ("Modi govt.")

CONCLUSION:

There is no doubt that in the progress of any nation 'Higher Education' plays very crucial role. These students are fit mentally as well as physically and ready to be used in the service of nation. Compare with foreign education of course Indian Education is affordable. Besides it present education is being made more skill-oriented and useful in day to day life. New educational policies are focusing on students and trying to enhance their abilities. Of course it will be really beneficial to make India a world power.



WORKS-CITED:

1. India Today, Web Desk, Jan 3, 2017 updated Jan 6, 2017
2. Kumar, Ravi Rajan and Behera, Dhaneswar. *Women Empowerment in Higher Education: Policies, Participants and Issues*. RJPSS 2017, Vol. 42, No. 2, pp. 134 http://anubooks.com/?page_id=442
3. Nayak, Manmath. *New Education Policy 2017: Key changes and developments you should know*. Buddy4Study, Dec 18, 2017
4. Sheikh, Younis Ahmad. *Higher Education in India: Challenges and Opportunities*. Journal of Education and Practice Vol. 8, No. 1, 2017 ISSN 2222-288X (Online) pp. 39 www.iiste.org
5. Vishnoi, Anubhuti. *Modi government prepares to change higher education forever in one sweeping strike*. Economic Times Bureau, May 04, 2018.