

Paradigm shift from Traditional Education to Digital Education: Past, Present & Future

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Abstract

Education does not mean not only in terms of economic advancement, but also in terms of social, moral, and spiritual development. This will not only improve human life but also realize the “higher truth”. The system of Education in India has passed through vast changes over the ages. The constant infiltration of different invaders has left a lasting imprint on the education system in India. The present paper tries to figure out the gap between traditional education and modern cum digital education and how to fill the gap by introducing the holistic approach to education.

Keywords: education, holistic approach, NEP, transformation.

Introduction:

“Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.”

As we all know that the ancient education system in India primarily comprised of the *Gurukul* system. This system continued for a thousand years before the Britishers came. The term ‘*Gurukul*’ means ‘*house of the guru*’. In the Gurukul System, children would be sent to live with their Guru till the completion of education to learn anything that might be applied to solve real-life problems. Students usually learnt Vedas, Epics, literatures, archery as well as yoga and meditation. The main thing to be noted that Princes as well as ordinary boys had to do every kind of work from ploughing to cleaning during their schooling period. At the end of their education, they would repay their Guru by giving ‘*Gurudakshina*’. Learning entailed not simply reading books but also relating them to nature and life. It wasn't as simple as memorising facts and statistics and answering questions on exams. (Ramanui Mukherjee (2013).

The modern system of education introduced by the British is mainly focussed on practicality, monetary gains and rote-learning. Students learn a wide range of subjects from languages,

science, Mathematics, computers to whatever skills a child may prefer to learn. Although this system has contributed immensely towards national development yet it leaves little space for moral and intellectual advancement.

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.

Aristotle

“असतो मा सद्गमय।

तमसो मा ज्योतर्गमय।

मृत्योर्मागमृतंमय ॥”

Swami Madhavananda offers the following translation:

“From evil lead me to good,

From darkness lead me to light,

From death lead me to immortality.”

Many issues and evils have accompanied many developments in Indian society, including modernization, industrialization, urbanisation, privatisation, globalisation, and the influence of western culture, resulting in a decline in ethical principles in the Indian school system. Irony is that the primary goal of Indian students has always been to obtain a degree, earn money, and advance in their careers without regard for ethical ideals or national pride.

Today's Indian society is facing new and persistent issues. We see rampant corruption and a loss of ethical principles, as well as illegal activities, inhumane behaviour, indiscipline, rule-breaking, a lack of self-awareness, and immoral consumption, all of which are steadily destroying the basic structure of Indian society, nation, and the world. Now It is the high time to determine the purpose of education as well as the fundamental causes of deteriorating social, moral, and spiritual values in the Indian educational system.

Transformation Required in current Education:

The greatest challenge that India faced during Pandemic is Confinement to four walls and nowhere to go; the anguished, depressed, fearful and sometimes optimistic minds paved the way for digital education. When the entire world is sitting in the same boat and is fighting with a common but unseen enemy, we found the alternative solution of on line classes through online platforms like Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Zoom etc. We must remember that 'If winter comes, can spring be far behind.' But This difficult time of pandemic has compelled us to think that only bookish knowledge which limits students only to their career is not the basic aim of our education system. Now the main focus is how the best principles of ancient education can be incorporated into current education. Instead of wealth, the goal of modern education is to develop character, spiritualism, and philosophy, and to live a happy life. Lets take the example of Artificial Intelligence. First of all, what is the role of AI in

altering our emotions? Is AI really giving you a happy home? You may already have heard the name of Siri, Cortana, Google or Alexa: voice-activated digital assistants. This relationship is getting more and more personal like that of a personal secretary to a company boss or a maid to a homemaker. A world in which the boundary between what and how we think of robots and of ourselves has become so blurred that most of us may soon treat robots as sensitive beings, capable of feeling and reciprocating love and affection. Indeed, in the face of the world getting increasingly driven by artificial intelligence, happiness is not a luxury; it is a question of survival. As we humans strive relentlessly in our pursuit of happiness, we are continuously using AIs and robots to bring positive changes to our world. Ultimately, it is the human will that will make of technology what it can.

Holistic Approach in Education:

Moving on for holistic development of students, Vocational subjects must be incorporated in the curriculum, but much work has to be done in order to attain the desired result. The Indian educational system, according to Rabindranath Tagore, needs to change. We live in a world where a youngster spends his or her parents' money but yet does not receive a good education and struggles to find work. Increased rivalry in the school sector has been known to kill millions of students' creativity and lead many to commit suicide. Education is viewed as a tool for accumulating riches (Agarwal, 2006). Many times, in the rush to finish the curriculum, the practical parts are overlooked. For a variety of reasons, the current educational system is afflicted and criticized. Fortunately, NEP 2020 has paid attention towards this.

The New Education Policy has been brought in keeping with the shortcomings of the previous education policy and the current and future needs, which can lead to large-scale transformative reforms in both the school and higher education sectors.

The new NEP is based on four pillars which are Access, Equity, Quality, and Accountability. After the old national education policy which was launched way back in 1986, this is the first education policy of the 21st century that has replaced 34 years old education policy.

Framing Mother Tongue / Regional Language as a means of instructions

It is a very humble sign to implement mother tongue in the New Education System. With this concept, the education system is aiming to not only promote the mother language but also giving importance to the different regional languages.

Various options for the students at the Undergraduate level

For the Undergraduate level, students can opt for their desired courses either for 1, 2, 3 or 4 years. They can aim at completing their desired courses in 1 year getting a certification over a

period of time, Diploma for completing any 2 year course and then degree courses of 3 or 4 years. It will also help the students to choose the best course on the basis of their capabilities.

Providing Equal Education to Every Gender and Category

This idea is to promote education to every gender, caste, category and disability. Everyone is equal in terms of getting proper education. Education is a right and power of every child in this world. This concept helps in providing education facilities to the different caste, category or gender. This concept always believes in providing education to those children who are neglected by the society because of their low caste, transgender and with any sort of disability.

Other changes implemented through the NEP 2020

- End number of Entrance examinations held for the students in order to get entry at different recognized universities.
- Producing different ways of Learning like online classes.
- Introducing digital education in an online platform.
- Teachers to be promoted or transferred on the basis of a merit-list.
- Transforming learning into a fun and entertaining concept.
- Implementation of skills, understanding and new learning methods in every child.
- More focus on practical learning rather than theoretical learning.
- Every student can get quality education no matter caste, gender or any disability.
- Different learning techniques and experiments used by the teachers.
- Freedom of choosing any subjects/streams with no boundations.
- Giving importance to the Indian Languages and Ethics.
- Equality in Caste, Gender and Category.
- Overall Development of the Education System.

1) Skill Based Education :

Exams administered by boards and universities are used to assess the modern educational system. Although the teaching method is primarily one-way, it must be assured that “Are they learning?” First we need to identify an individual's skills and the moulding of those skills into their preferred choice of interest. It's a famous

saying, "Give a man a fish, and he'll eat for a day; teach him how to catch a fish, and he'll eat for a lifetime." Similarly, teaching a skill to someone gives them the ability to use it for the rest of their lives (Cheney et al.,2005)

2)-Interactive Class-room:

The teacher gives pupils the opportunity to put what they've learned into practice and provides context for upcoming lecture topics. The teacher also feels enriched with students' participation and thinks upon the blend of interactive techniques for next class. The teacher serves as a companion, mentor, philosopher, facilitator, guardian, and role model in addition to being a teacher.

The goal of our new educational system is to place a strong emphasis on the body, heart, and mind, as well as soul cleansing and self-realization. We will be able to produce philosophers, scientists, entrepreneurs, innovators, artists, thinkers, and writers using these approaches, who will be able to build a foundation of knowledge based on economy and quality manpower imbuing moral, social, and civic values into society. (Chaube, 1990)

Conclusion:

Indian spirituality and meditation are extremely valuable learning techniques that should be included in the Indian educational system. These are one-of-a-kind in the world and should be taught in schools beginning in kindergarten. Ample opportunities for the development of the student's individuality should be provided. The new educational system aims for a high level of achievement in terms of character development, personality development, and contribution to knowledge in all fields of study, as well as social well-being and material prosperity. Let's see how the current Indian curriculum according to NEP evolves a unique style of education that establishes harmony between materialism and spiritualism, as well as human existence, so that it progresses toward higher perfection. As a result, social traditions and rituals are preserved. Only education has the potential to be a strong tool for moulding and reforming society.

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