

IMPLEMENTATION OF PILGRIMAGE APPROACH NEW EDUCATION POLICY IN THE VISION OF SREE NARAYAN GURU

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Abstract:

A child's future depends upon the structure of schooling he or she receive, which is pretty significant. Education begins at home however additionally requires at school as it is essential for the child's career, psyche, mental fitness and social quotient. A well-executed planned education policy will help for the growth of the nation as well as the individual level. Country adopts an education policy that depends on the culture, tradition and societal view. 'Ahar, Nidra, Bhay and Maithuna are common between human-being and other animals, just one difference between them is Dharma. Man has a thinking power to distinguish between good and bad and has an intellect to educate himself. Dr. Narayana Gadade, in his books "Socio-religious philosophical thought" has mentioned that Swami Vivekanand, "education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man" Western Philosopher, Plato said "Philosophy is the acquisition of Knowledge" Thus education must help to manifest infinite knowledge with in us to result in man making, character-building, assimilation of ideas, one must be able to solve problems constructively and make our nation proud. As a philosophical student, I would like to incorporate Sree Narayan Guru's idea of pilgrimage as a method to educate the people at large.

Keywords: School, Education Policy, Tradition, Pilgrimage, Acquisition, Character Building, Sree Narayan Guru, Swami Vivekananda.

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Motivation:

For as long as I can remember I never had a doubt on God's existence and Pilgrimage visits done by my grand-mother. It is true that in my earlier days this belief was formal and traditional. But when I came in acquaintance with the Sree Narayan Guru's philosophy on Pilgrimage, it shook me out of a mere religious acceptance and started to visualize the God and the Pilgrimage concept beyond traditional thinking. And I began to see God from a Philosophical point of view. My new understanding helped me to think beyond layman's thinking. I was mesmerized by Guru's concept of educational pilgrimage.

Introduction:

While quantitatively India is moving certainly closer to universal education. India has approximately 900 universities, 40,000 colleges and 1.5 lakhs schools. Just increasing the enrollment of students each year won't help to increase the quality of the education. The quality of education the students receive has to be examined. India had made over changes in education policy under the Ministry of Human Resource after 34 years, in 2020 New Education Policy was launched to revamped the education system of our country. (After 1986 NEP was revised in 1992-1998).

So, it's a need of an hour to change the education policy with a new concept, our education should not be just money making. We all know that change is the eternal and unwavering rule of the universe. Even Gautam Buddha has said "Change is only the constant". So, we need to accept the change in a positive way and to make our life meaningful. Change in the education system is inevitable. So, the education policy too needs to be changed by applying innovative ideas to strengthen the society economically and ethically too.

New Education Policy should be able to expand the vision to determine the world. It should develop the potential in the student to find out injustice, violence, corruption and other vices. Students should have all round development social, spiritual, ethical, economic development. It means one must be enabled to be ethical, rational, compassionate, caring and also at same time gainfully satisfying economic needs through employment or business. In Rigveda, education has been defined as something, which makes a man self-reliant and selfless.

Objectives:

1. New Education Policy, to apply Axiological approach to Education.
2. To cater to the need of knowledge-based economy in the changing global scenario.
3. The purpose of the study of New Education Policy, to develop good human being capable of rational thoughts and action, possessing compassion, empathy, courage, scientific temper with ethical values.
4. To analyze the education contribution of Sivagiri pilgrimage.
5. Focus of Education in present century: learning to know, learning to do, learning to be and learning to live together.

Ancient Education System:

The 'Education' comes from the Latin word "educō", which means to draw out. The main motive of education is to acquire knowledge and transform the personality of a man. India has always given prompt importance to education. India had been a major education hub from the pre-historic period. Universities like Taxila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Vallabi give testimony of our rich educational heritage.

But there seems to be a fault with the earliest system of education. The main problem that faced by the society was classification of education, it was given as per the class distinction -Kingship for the son of the king, Vedic knowledge for Brahmins and so on. There was no justice done to the downtrodden class. Ancient Education proved to be a failure, The adverse effect of ancient education was felt on the society, specialization was not seen. India lacked the skilled workers and intellectuals that required for the development of any nation. Thus, faced many social injustice- social sins came up into existence prominently such as untouchability, animal sacrifice, racism and corruption.

Modern Education System:

The Modern Education System does not only focus on formal knowledge but also on overall development of the personality of an individual. The main goal of modern education is to empower students with knowledge and train them for life. A student acquiring education would be able to face the challenges in practical life more efficiently and also can contribute towards the nation's development. Dr. Radhakrishnan said that, "Modern education- the aim of education has been conceived not merely as means of earning a living but a preparation for life". In the words of Swami Vivekanand, " We want that education by which character is formed, strength of minds increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's feet."

Introducing ‘PILGRIMAGE’ as an innovative policy to get liberation from illiteracy. The word ‘Pilgrimage’ comes from the Latin word ‘Peregrinus’, across the field. Around the world today millions go on journey sites and these sites have deep significance for both an individual and the group. It totally depended on the ‘Faith’ of an individual. The main aim of the pilgrimage is to get liberated. There is an urge for moral perfection over time.

The Sivagiri pilgrimage is the brainchild of Sree Narayana Guru, he gave permission to arrange educational pilgrimage on 15th January 1928. The first pilgrimage was conducted in 1933. Guru’s words ‘ Let the pilgrims congregate at the beginning of the European New year, In Malayalam, in the month Dhanu. According to Sree Narayana Guru, Reformatory Pilgrimage will bring liberation from illiteracy, unemployment, and social sins. Devotional visit with modern conception of pilgrimage, he named it as ‘secular’ pilgrimage for social development. Guru’s pioneering step in an exciting intellectual journey, asked to arrange debates, expansion of academic interest. Guru gave a neo-liberal educational practice. Which is relation-oriented, community-oriented and academic oriented and ethical oriented. Once Babasaheb Ambedkar rightly said, “Knowledge without character is dangerous and man of knowledge without character is more dangerous than a wild beast.” Sree Narayana Guru proved that indigenous practice is not obsolete or something in the past but can be relevant even today, as gracious ever before and as beneficial ever before. Radical reformation of tradition and customs were foremost in the mind of the Guru. But mere reformation was not enough for the upliftment of the society. Guru created awareness among the people that education is an important and integral part of life. Transformation is an elevated potential to alter the route of once existing nature of one’s self, through the unfettered setting of priorities and goals.

Sree Narayana Guru propagated activities that would enlighten people. Guru insisted scholars to take lectures on relevant eight topics on traveling places. The first four topics are related to Character building. Hence, we say ‘*silamparam bhushanam*’ ‘*vidya vinayena shobate*’ means righteous conduct and intellectual modesty are the fruits of learning and the last four topics are related to skill development, a man making process. Education is a value-laden enterprise, as such values abound everywhere in educational practice. Education by inculcating faith in change, changing outlook and attitude of people, developing rational thinking, removing superstition, enabling and accelerating social mobility, emphasizing technological development, conserving and transforming culture, introducing various educational policies, promoting unity and integration, helps in maintaining social relationship and pressing social change through modern technology. These all changes can be brought by considering the following eight topics prescribed by Guru in pilgrimage.

- ❖ EDUCATION,
- ❖ CLEANLINESS,
- ❖ PIETY,
- ❖ ORGANIZED ENDEAVOUR,
- ❖ AGRICULTURE,
- ❖ TRADE,
- ❖ HANDICRAFT,
- ❖ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

Dr. S. G. Nigal in his book, ‘An introduction to Philosophy of Dharma’ has mentioned that the initial age of childhood is to be constructive in physical, mental, intellectual and moral growth. It is the period of education, training and self-discipline.

Conclusion:

Sree Narayana Guru gave a multidisciplinary approach to the curriculum by considering social and cultural upliftment with the addition of vocational course, arts, with the inclusion of aesthetics as a part of curriculum. To enhance the life of youth. The uniqueness of the personality of Shree Narayan Guru and the leadership provided has the ingenious combination has socially transformer action as well as mystically oriented philosophical perception.

As we know people are responsible for their own actions, if we create a sin, then it is against the law. Hence, philosophy of Guru is based on liberation theology that focus on the idea of liberation from social sins, attitudes like racism, sexism, class-discrimination. In true sense Guru had proved the meaning of ‘EDUCO’ means to *draw out all social sins*. It means society as a whole is responsible for the social sins and no one individual would be held responsible. It is Guru’s philosophy that if an individual wants to get enlightened, he or she should educate themselves in the phase of modern education. Similarly, illiteracy is the curse to the society and we can say pilgrimage as a liberation theology to get freedom from illiteracy.

Sree Narayan Guru as praxis, encouraged to start a pilgrimage to make people educate and we can see the result of his action philosophy that Kerala is the one of the top most literate state in India. According to Govind Pillai “Gurudeva was the master craftsman of this revolutionary liberation.” Guru being ‘Central Pillar’ of renaissance in Kerala gave a vision to the people to upgrade themselves through education.

Once Swami Vivekananda referred Kerala as a place of mental asylum. The shift from ‘mental asylum Kerala’ to ‘most literate Kerala’. Is brought by Sree Narayan Guru. So, we can say that Guru’s philosophy is not an armchair philosophy but a practical philosophy. (*KRUTISHIL TATWAJNANA*) So, we can say pilgrimage is the liberal theology to empower self and the nation.

We can apply the mantra of the ‘*Sabka saath, saab ka vikas , sabka vishvas and sabka prayas.*’

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Cite This Article:

Beena Jaiprakash More, (2022) Implementation of Pilgrimage Approach New Education Policy in the Vision of Sree Narayan Guru, *Electronic International Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, Volume No XI (Special Issue-I), 122-126.