

## **NURTURING TEACHERS WITH INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY – AN EXPLORATIVE STUDY**

\* *Dr. Bhakti M. Jaisinghani,*

\* Associate Professor, Seva Sadan's College of Education, Ulhasnagar.

### **Abstract:**

*The year 2020 has been an exceptional year for countries across the globe. Apart from Covid -19, one of the important changes that took place was the development of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP 2020 is a futuristic proposal framed with the objective to provide a quality school education and higher education. The key principles of NEP 2020 are; Respect for diversity & local context, Equity and Inclusion, Community participation, Emphasizing conceptual understanding, Building unique capabilities, Imparting critical thinking and creativity, Use of Technology, and Continuous review.*

*The National Education Policy 2020 focuses on the development of the creative potential of each individual. According to NEP 2020, the curricular and pedagogical structure of school education will be restructured to make it responsive and relevant to the developmental needs and interests of learners at different stages of their development. School Education will comprise of 5+3+3+4 design having four stages. This paper throws light on Innovative Pedagogy and it's stage wise implication in schools. It is qualitative research study for which data is collected from Secondary source i.e., NEP 2020 draft document, NEP 2020 published articles, etc.*

*Innovative Pedagogy is the process of proactively introducing new teaching strategies and methods in the classroom to improve academic outcomes. The main purpose of innovative pedagogy is to make teaching more experiential, holistic, integrated, inquiry-driven, discovery oriented, learner-centered, discussion based, flexible and enjoyable. Use of relevant pedagogy is necessary to achieve the objectives of the curricula successfully. Therefore teachers should be provided with requisite training on pedagogical approaches for capacity building to achieve the desired learning outcomes for students.*

**Key Words:** *NEP 2020, Innovative Pedagogy, Stages of School Education.*

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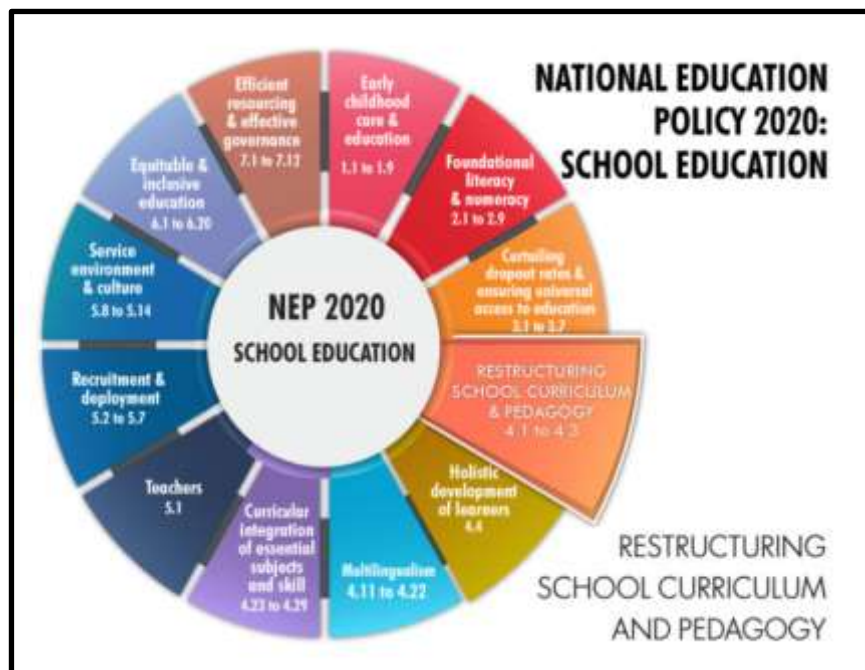
### **Introduction:**

The year 2020 has been an exceptional year for countries across the globe. Apart from Covid -19, one of the important changes that took place was the development of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP 2020 is a futuristic proposal framed with the objective to provide a quality school education and higher education. The key principles of NEP 2020 are; Respect for diversity & local context, Equity and Inclusion, Community participation, Emphasizing conceptual understanding, Building unique capabilities, Imparting critical thinking and creativity, Use of Technology, and Continuous review.

The National Education Policy 2020 focuses on the development of the creative potential of each individual. According to NEP 2020, the curricular and pedagogical structure of school education will be restructured to

make it responsive and relevant to the developmental needs and interests of learners at different stages of their development. School Education will comprise of 5+3+3+4 design having four stages consisting of;

1. **Foundational Stage** covering age 3-8 years (in two parts-3 to 6 years of Anganwadi and Pre-school of 2 years in primary school in Grades 1-2),
2. **Preparatory Stage** covering age 8-11years (Grades 3-5),
3. **Middle Stage** covering age 11-14 years (Grades 6-8) and
4. **Secondary Stage** covering age 14-18 years (Grades 9-12 in two phases, Grade 9 and 10 in the first and 11 and 12 in the second phase).



Curriculum frameworks and transaction mechanisms will be developed for ensuring that 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and values are imbibed through an engaging process of teaching and learning. There are six pillars under which specific actions can be taken at each stage of learning, from pre-school to higher education to promote Ideation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in school education;

- 1) Mindset change, Awareness and Training
- 2) Infrastructure and Mentoring to nurture innovation
- 3) Incentivizing and Encouraging Teachers
- 4) Pedagogical Innovations
- 5) Collaborative Partnership- School and Community
- 6) Managing Intellectual Property and Handholding School Entrepreneurs

The present study is based on Innovative Pedagogy and it's stage wise implication in schools. It is qualitative research study for which data is collected from Secondary source i.e., NEP 2020 draft document, NEP 2020 published articles, etc.

### **Significance of Innovative Pedagogy in Schools:**

Innovative Pedagogy practices in teaching will increase motivation level of students by developing self-confidence and curiosity among them. It will help teachers to promote interest among the students towards self learning. Innovative teaching is helpful in developing problem solving approach within the students and makes them able to face different problems and find out their solutions. Innovative teaching practices will make the classroom more interactive. Therefore, the use of relevant pedagogy is necessary to achieve the objectives of the curricula successfully. Therefore it is desired for teachers to know innovative pedagogy in classroom situation as per stage of school education in order to provide appropriate and enriched learning experiences to the students.

### **Objectives of the study:**

- 1) To study the concept of Innovative Pedagogy for school education
- 2) To study recommendations of NEP 2020 for Pedagogical innovations in classroom
- 3) To study stage wise innovative pedagogy for school education as suggested by NEP 2020

### **Objective wise Analysis:**

#### **Objective 1: To study the concept of Innovative Pedagogy for school education**

#### **Innovative Pedagogy:**

The word “Innovation” is derived from the Latin word “Innovate” which means something new or the practice of developing and introducing new things or the introduction of something new. It is the ability of thinking beyond and creates something new which is different from already existing knowledge or information. Teaching – Learning Process includes Teacher, Learner, Learning Environment, Pedagogy, Resources and Organisational aspect. Pedagogy is a method of transacting a theme or conducting an activity to make every learner learn in stress- free environment. It is an art of sharing knowledge which is dynamic in nature and may vary from teacher to teacher and classroom to classroom. Effective Pedagogy involves following points;

- Pedagogies are constantly evolving processes; every pedagogy is different and may be modified as per 21st Century learning.
- Pedagogy must fit the targeted students and focus on helping students to develop an understanding of the taught concepts and relate with real life scenarios.
- Various tools or methods are to be integrated to enhance level of interaction and discussion within the class to provide rich classroom experiences.
- Different assessment tools need to be explored for higher and inclusive productivity of the learners. Integrating ICT into assessment and evaluation processes may provide self-assessment opportunity to learners.

Innovative Pedagogy is the process of proactively introducing new teaching strategies and methods in the classroom to improve academic outcomes. **The main purpose of innovative pedagogy is to make teaching more experiential, holistic, integrated, inquiry-driven, discovery oriented, learner-centered, discussion based, flexible and enjoyable.** In other words innovative pedagogy is usage of appropriate means (tools) and methods (ways) in a new and creative ways and in varied combinations in order to make the teaching-learning



process more effective by enabling the learners to attain the expected learning outcomes, develop students' capabilities in problem-solving, teamwork, learning to learn, reflective thinking, to be creative, adapt to changes, manage and analyze information, and work with knowledge.

Innovative pedagogical approaches have a positive impact on student learning, behaviour and attitudes. Teachers are major contributors in bringing about the change in this new pedagogical structure. Para 13.4 of NEP 2020 recognises flexibility for teachers to adopt innovative pedagogies to ensure a motivated and creative teacher. There are four broad categories of pedagogical approaches, namely - Behaviourism, Constructivism, Social Constructivism, and Liberationist.

### **Objective 2: To study recommendations of NEP 2020 for Pedagogical innovations in classroom**

#### **Pedagogical Innovations in Classrooms:**

NEP 2020 suggests inclusion of below given pedagogy innovations in the classroom;

- + Using Experiential learning in place of Lecture based methods
- + Flipped classroom Pedagogy or Blended learning experiments
- + Encouraging Peer learning through projects and discussions between senior and junior students
- + Promoting problem-solving, reflection and resilience
- + Use of digital technologies in pedagogy
- + Providing opportunities to think differently and work independently
- + Accommodate and accept multiple perspectives and diverse opinions
- + Using varied pedagogies like co-operative learning strategies, collaborative learning, story-telling, integrating art and music to interact and teach the students
- + Creating an element of curiosity
- + Using Stimulus activities
- + Encouraging students to ask questions and search for the answers collaboratively.
- + Providing ample time to the students to think, act, repeat and innovate
- + Starting from what the students already know and make the entire teaching learning process enjoyable
- + Talks and Presentations
- + Motivating the students continuously

Another pedagogy which is much needed to be cultivated is “Gratitude” as pedagogy. When it is applied in an academic context, gratitude can help students to improve student-teacher and student-student relationships; it can help them to be more aware of their learning environment and increase understanding and focus on their studies. Gratitude Journal or Personal diary can be maintained in order to record teaching – learning experiences by doing self introspection.

As per NEP 2020, following key points must be considered in today’s Classroom;

- ⊙ Barriers to creativity and innovation must be overcome.
- ⊙ Innovating new ways to nurture the creativity of children must be a regular practice at All levels of school education.

- ⦿ Students must be provided opportunities to experiment and reflect in the entire subject Areas.
- ⦿ Respect the diversity of ideas and nurture them, creating an enabling atmosphere in the classroom to innovate.
- ⦿ Develop the capacity of teachers in this area, to various resources for supporting students and help in creating an enabling environment.
- ⦿ Encourage flexibility in the classroom process.
- ⦿ Ensuring respect and care.
- ⦿ Building positive Teacher-student relationships.
- ⦿ Providing scaffolding.
- ⦿ Using differentiated instruction.
- ⦿ Providing opportunities for independent and collaborative work.
- ⦿ Using varied resources.
- ⦿ Helping students develop appropriate work habits and responsibility.
- ⦿ Giving prompt and meaningful feedback.

**Objective 3: To study stage wise innovative pedagogy for school education as suggested by NEP 2020**

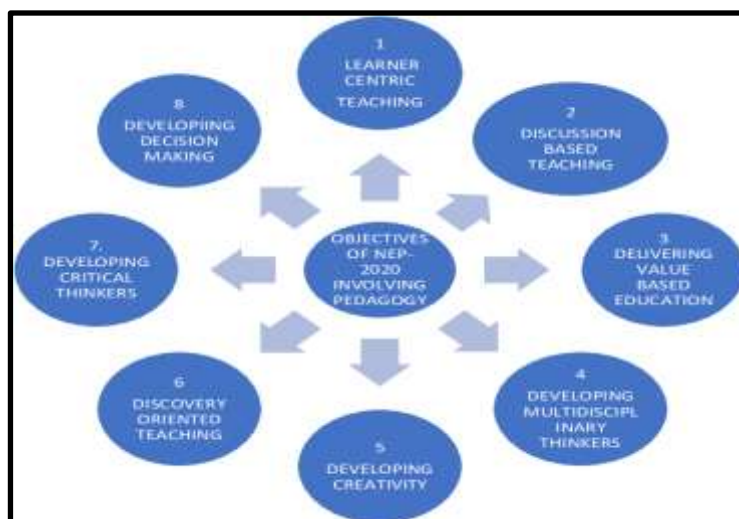
**Stage wise Innovative Pedagogy**

Following table represents stage wise innovative pedagogy recommended in NEP 2020;

Stage, Age, Grade	Pedagogy
<b>Foundational Stage, 3 to 8 Years, Pre School and Grade 1 &amp; 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Joyful and experiential learning through art, stories, poetry, rhymes, games, toys, songs,</li> <li>▪ Activity-based in-Home Language/Mother tongue focusing on rich local traditions.</li> <li>▪ Integrating art, sport, ICT, storytelling, toys, games, puzzles, etc.</li> <li>▪ Activity-based teaching-learning exercises</li> <li>▪ Integrating real-life situations keeping in view inter/ multi-disciplinary learning</li> <li>▪ Child-friendly components such as poem corners, message boards, theme boards, various charts like class responsibility chart, midday meal chart, chart of stories etc.,</li> <li>▪ Display boards (children’s writings, drawings, collections, variety of texts, pictures with captions, instructional material developed by teacher etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>Preparatory Stage, 8 to 11 Years, Grade 3 to 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduction of topic-centered and project-based clubs</li> <li>▪ Gamification</li> <li>▪ Case studies</li> <li>▪ Integration of content related to innovation</li> <li>▪ Design thinking, Critical thinking, and entrepreneurship to capture students’ interest while enhancing their capacity to handle complex situations.</li> <li>▪ Create posters, stickers, or signs</li> <li>▪ Hands on experiences</li> </ul>

<p><b>Middle Stage, 11 to 14 Years, Grade 6 to 8</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tinkering activities</li> <li>▪ Experiential learning activities</li> <li>▪ Foster innovation and creativity</li> <li>▪ Collaborative and Cooperative learning</li> <li>▪ Hands-on experiences</li> <li>▪ Additional activities – Participation in Competitions, Solving real life problems</li> <li>▪ Use of ICT equipments</li> <li>▪ Visits to places/ monuments of historical, cultural and tourist importance, meeting local artists and craftsmen and visits higher educational institutions in their village/Tehsil/District/State</li> <li>▪ Financial Literacy (FL) &amp; Legal Literacy (LL)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Secondary Stage, 14 to 18 Years, Grade 9 to 12</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tinkering activities</li> <li>▪ Collaborative and Cooperative learning</li> <li>▪ Entrepreneurship and innovation courses</li> <li>▪ Summer-Winter internships/live-projects</li> <li>▪ Engage in entrepreneurship related activities</li> <li>▪ Use of ICT equipments</li> <li>▪ Innovation community Activities</li> <li>▪ Conducting activities to promote creativity, design thinking and critical thinking</li> <li>▪ Financial Literacy (FL) &amp; Legal Literacy (LL)</li> <li>▪ Skill development, design thinking and innovation-related courses</li> </ul>

**Reflection:** The recent National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) is the outcome of massive exercise to integrate Indian value-based traditional education with the present technology dominated teaching and learning process. The policy emphasises holistic development of the learners, which requires using innovative pedagogical approaches. Creating a conducive and congenial environment for innovation and not merely sticking to the traditional method of teaching is the need of the hour. Combining various disciplines, moving beyond the basics, reaching out of the classroom and achieving altogether a new and different outcome will help in developing innovation in students right from the start. The Government of India's approval of the New National Education Policy 2020 is a significant step in this direction.



### **Innovative Pedagogies as per NEP 2020:**

There are multiple methods of learning which can be used for bringing desired learning outcomes in the teaching-learning process both within and outside the classroom. Each learning method may have an appropriate pedagogy for delivering to the learners what is to be learnt. Thus, determining the appropriate pedagogy for a chosen learning method is an essential step toward effective teaching-learning. NEP 2020 gives Teachers autonomy in selecting appropriate pedagogy and encourages them to also ensure socio-emotional learning of their students. On the other side it can be seen that still there are some obstacles during the usage of innovative practices, so by reducing them or overcoming them the concept of holistic development can be thought. For making the dream of holistic development to come true Teachers should be provided with requisite training on pedagogical approaches for capacity building to achieve the desired learning outcomes for students. It is imperative that the teachers should accept change with positive outlook for a better tomorrow in education field.

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