

ENCOURAGING THE ADAPTABILITY OF TEACHERS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF EDUCATION FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF NEP 2020 BY DEVELOPING THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS

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Abstract:

‘Investing in education & providing 21st century skills for students are fundamental components to the nation's continued growth & prosperity.’ - Craig Barret

Education system in India under the guidance of NEP 2020 is now in the era of modifying the national curriculum. NEP 2020 has provided the great opportunity for the teachers at all stages of education to imbibe in their learners the 21st century learning skills termed as the ‘4 Cs’ of 21st century learning. It includes Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity. When teachers make use of 21st century learning skills in their teaching-learning process not only it provides a foundation for fruitful learning, but also will help to ensure that the students are successful in real-world scenarios and also in their future lives.

It is, indeed, the responsibility of the teachers at all stages of education to inculcate and implement the vision of NEP 2020. Hence, the present study aims in exploring teachers’ adaptability for implementing NEP 2020. In this descriptive study 105 teachers were surveyed. Analyses shows that 80.18% teachers at different stages of education are willing to adapt as per the NEP 2020. The paper also discusses about the role of teachers to develop 21st century learning skills and the pedagogical approaches to be used by the teachers at different stages of education as per NEP 2020 that will help in developing the 4 C’s of learning in the learners.

Key Words: *NEP 2020, 21st Century Learning Skills, Teachers*

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Introduction:

According to National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), ‘Teachers truly shape the future of our children - and, therefore, the future of our nation’. Thus, one can’t deny the fact that the teachers play the most important role in nation-building by providing the best quality education to their learners. And for this the teachers at all stages of education have to be ready to adapt the new pedagogical and curricular structure i.e., 5+3+3+4 given by NEP 2020. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 proposes the revision and revamping teaching-learning process. And for implementing NEP 2020, its necessary that the teachers develop the readiness to work on the guidelines of 21st century learning skills that includes Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity. Thus, the present study was carried out with the following broad objectives;

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the awareness of the teachers at different stages of education for NEP 2020.
2. To study the readiness of the teachers at different stages of education for implementation of NEP 2020 with the 21st century skills.
3. To suggest the role of teachers to develop 4 C's the 21st century learning skills in the learners.
4. To discuss the **pedagogical approaches to be used by the teachers at different stages of education as per NEP 2020 that will help in developing the 4 C's of learning in the learners**

Methodology of the study:

For the present study the method used is survey method and the data analysis method was percentage.

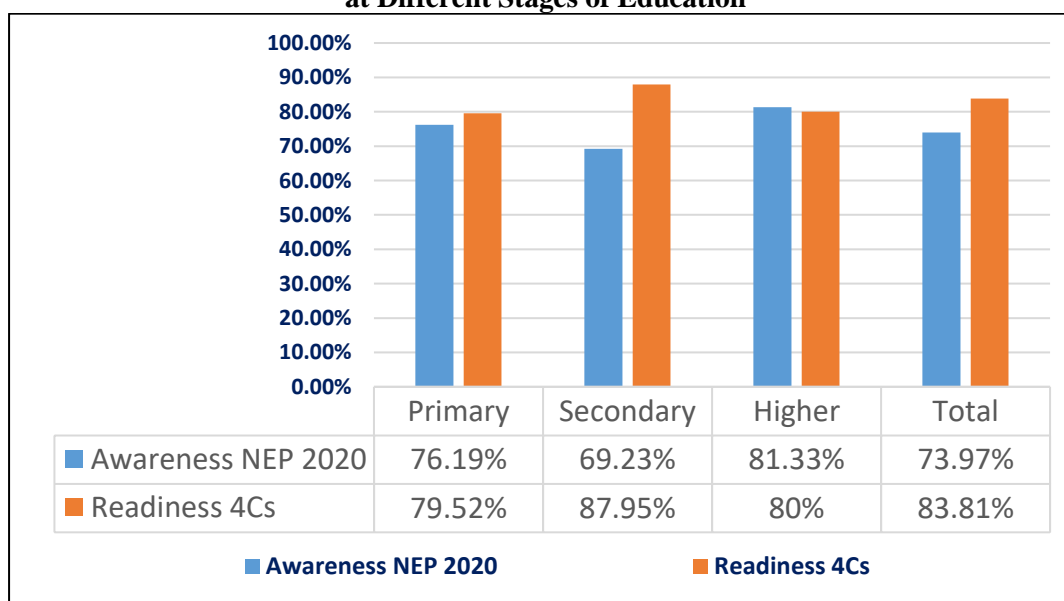
Tools of the Study: The tool for the study was the questionnaire that was prepared by the researcher on awareness of NEP 2020 and readiness of teachers for using 4C's in their teaching-learning.

Sample of the Study: Total sample size of the study is of 105 in-service school teachers; 28 primary school teachers, 52 secondary school teachers and 25 higher secondary school teachers. Stratified random sampling technique was used for collecting the samples from Mumbai.

Percentage of Awareness and Readiness of Teachers at Different Stages of Education

Teachers Stages of Education	Awareness of NEP 2020 percentage	Readiness for using 4 Cs percentage	Total Percentage	Mean Scores
Primary	76.19%	79.52%	80.61%	16.92
Secondary	69.23%	87.95%	80.40%	16.88
Higher	81.33%	80%	79.23%	16.64
Total	73.97%	83.81%	80.18%	

Percentage of Awareness and Readiness of Teachers at Different Stages of Education



Major findings and discussions:

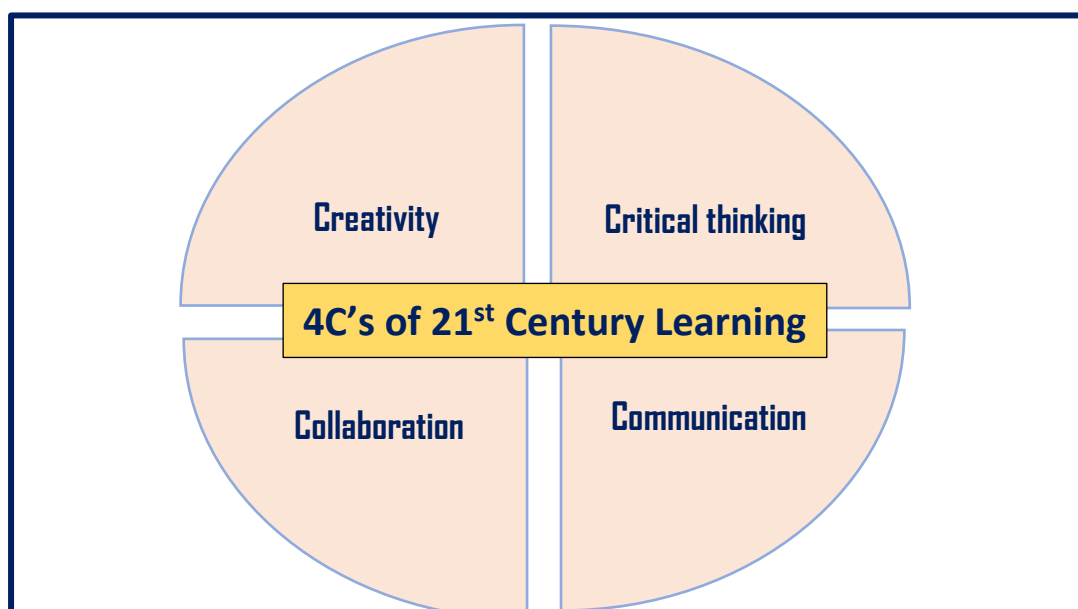
From the above table it can be seen that teachers of higher educational stage shows 81.33% awareness about NEP 2020 and 83.81% readiness in implementing NEP 2020 with the 21st century skills. Teachers of secondary education stage shows 87.95% readiness which is highest though their awareness about NEP 2020 is the lowest 69.23%. Teachers of primary educational stage shows 76.19% awareness and 79.52% readiness to implement 4C's or 21st century learning skills in their teaching-learning.

From the study it can be concluded that for NEP 2020 there is 73.97% of awareness and 83.81% of readiness of the teachers at all stages of education. Also, the almost equal mean scores of all the teachers at all stages of education shows that the teachers at different levels of education are willing to adapt as per the NEP 2020.

As Benjamin Disraeli rightly said, *'The secret of success is to be ready when your opportunity comes!'* and for the teachers' time has come to seize the opportunity provided by NEP 2020 to make use of the 21st century learning skills and develop themselves as well as their learners.

The role of a teacher to develop 21st century learning skills in the learners:

The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) have placed the teacher at the centre of the fundamental reforms in the education system. It is the teacher who will be successfully implementing this planned reform. The NEP 2020 aims to re-establish teachers in quality content, effective pedagogical knowledge, rational thinking, inclusive mind-set and strong Indian value system. Following points discusses about the **role of a teacher to develop 21st century learning skills in the learners;**



21st Century Learning skills

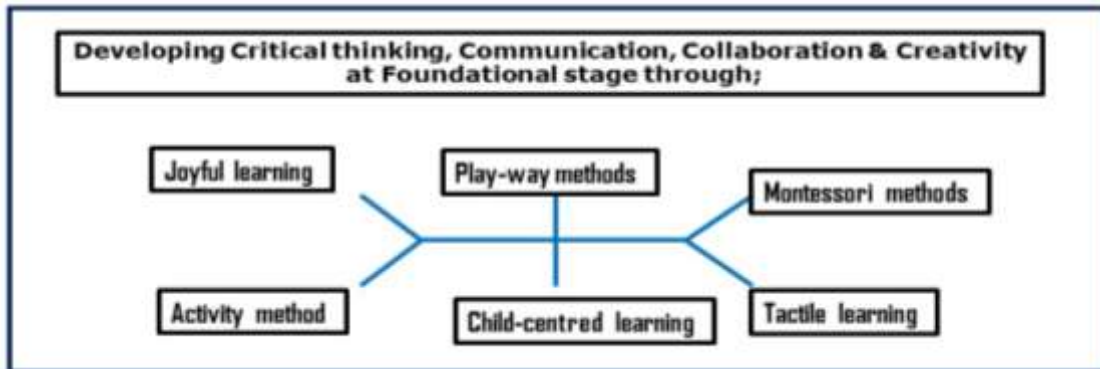
<i>21st Century Learning Skills (4C's)</i>	Meaning	Importance	Role of the teacher to develop the 21st century learning skills in the learner
<i>1. Critical Thinking</i>	It is the process of solving problems, verifying accurate information, discovering truth, question claims.	Critical thinking skill prepare learners for a life of independence and purposeful thought.	solving puzzles, STEM Learning, Coding, constructivism, inquiry-based learning, etc.
<i>2. Creativity</i>	Creativity is the process of thinking in a unique manner. It is thinking outside the box.	Creativity motivates the learners to just try something they haven't tried before in all the areas. Teacher should encourage students to think differently than convention demands.	providing situations that assists in solving problems in innovative manner by looking at multiple perspectives, discovery-learning method, design-thinking, art & drama, etc.
<i>3. Collaboration</i>	It is the practice of working together to achieve a common goal.	Practicing teamwork helps students to address a problem, pitch solutions, accept others' ideas, and decide the best course of action. It develops an understanding that together they can create something bigger and better than on their own.	Co-operative learning, Group projects, play-way methods, learner-centered methods, etc.
<i>4. Communication</i>	The fourth 21st century learning skills is Communication. It is the process of conveying ideas clearly and efficiently.	It's important for students to learn how to convey their thoughts in a way that others can understand them.	activities for learning text-based formal communications (SMS, emails, etc.), visits, reading the audience, dialogue method, soft-skills, etc.

To really succeed, the teachers should provide the opportunities to the learners to use all four of these skills i.e., critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication together.

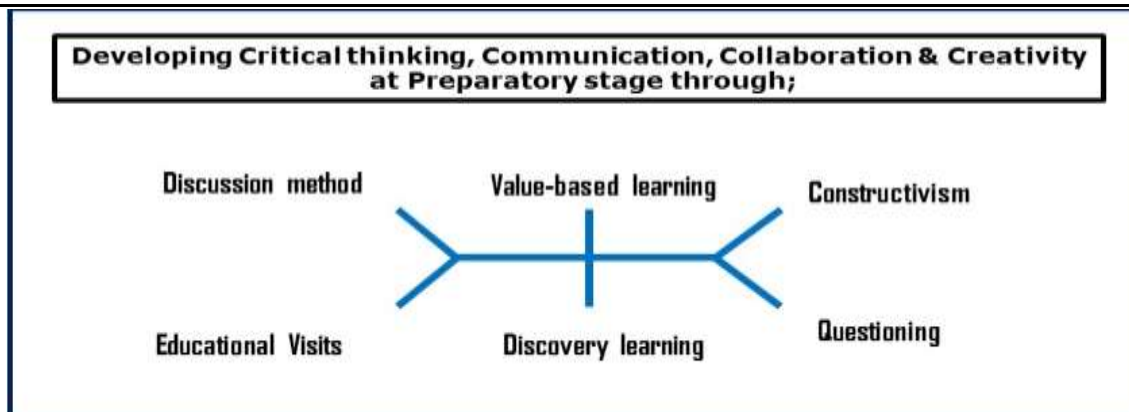
Working together of 4C's at different stages of Education

The students at all the stages of education as per NEP 2020 need the four C's of 21st Century skills. The teachers at different stages of education should make use of following pedagogical approaches that assists in developing all the 4 C's in the learners;

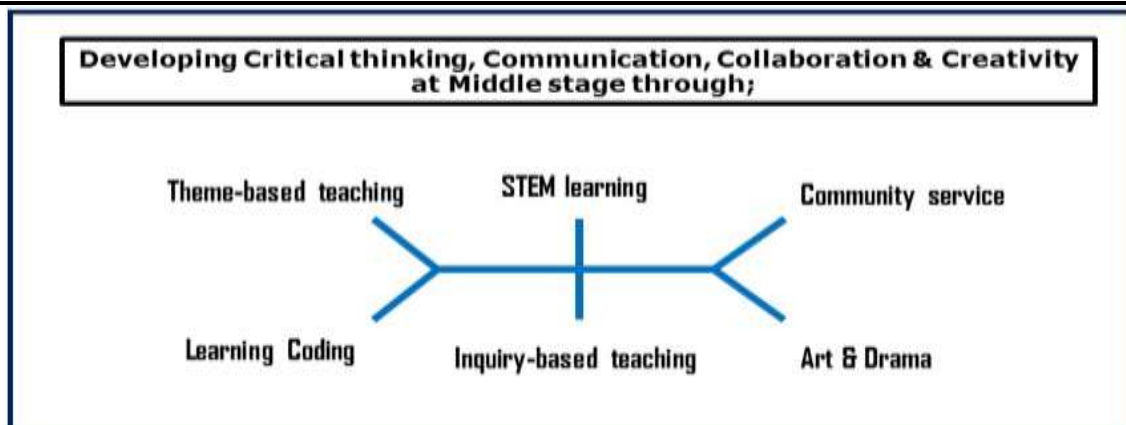
1. Foundational stage; The teachers who will be teaching the learners at preschool or anganwadi as well as for grade 1 and grade 2 students can develop **four C's of 21st Century skills in their learners through;**



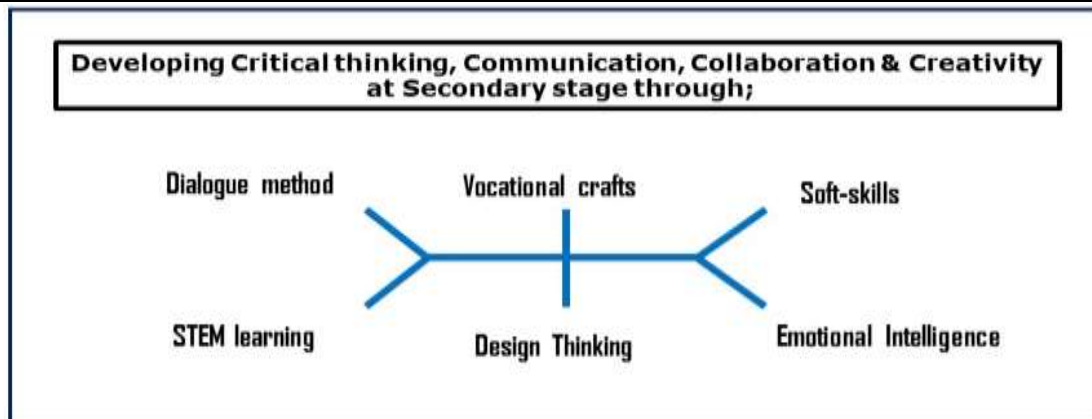
2. Preparatory stage; Teacher teaching grade 3 to grade 5 learners should develop the **four C's of 21st Century skills in their learners through;**



3. Middle stage; Developing the **four C's of 21st Century skills in the learners of grade 6 to 8 by the teachers through;**



4. Secondary stage; The secondary stage teachers should develop the four C's of 21st Century skills learners of grade 9 to 12 through;



Conclusion:

According to Kothari Commission, ‘of all the different factors which influence the quality of education and its contribution to national development, the **quality and the competencies** of the teachers are undoubtedly the most significant.’ Thus, the concerted efforts in the guidelines of NEP 2020 and imparting four C’s by the teachers will assist the nation in achieving the status of ‘Vishwa Guru’.

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