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Essential of Liberal Education in NEP 2020

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Abstract

Liberal education is a learning approach that teaches students how to think independently and develop broad academic and intellectual abilities. It rests on a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach. India's National Education Policy NEP, which had a revamp in 2020 has laid out a path for universities to adopt a liberal education, discussion based and discovery base mode of education. NEP 2020 encourages a multidisciplinary education system that helps develop the creative and analytical sides of the brain simultaneously. In present paper researcher has discussed about Liberal Education inculcates transferable skill set, ability to apply knowledge to practical real-world situations, connecting the dots through various mental models, habits of self-reflection, contextual learning, freedom of the mind and lifelong learning. India needs a liberal education because to enhance Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach to learning and Preparing students to become real-world person.

Key Words: NEP 2020, Liberal Education, Liberal Learning, multidisciplinary education

To make learning impactful, invitational, innovative and engaging our education needs reframing. We need new approach of learning. To empower students for learning and to make them enthusiastic for learning it should be connect with skills, values, ethics and employability. Learning should be free from dogma preconceptions and ideology. Liberating learning is a system for course of education suitable for the cultivation of free human being. It was advocated in 19th century by John Henry Newman and F.D. Maurice. Liberating learning can be defined as being education for its own sake and personal enrichment with the teaching of values. Liberating learning combines education in the classic, English literature, the Humanities and moral values. It is a philosophy of education which is empowers people with broad knowledge and transferable skills, strong sense of values ethics and civic engagement. Liberating

learning cultivates person's mind and the imagination, encourages person for seeking truth, meaning of life and beauty. It is awakening and appreciation of past traditions and present challenges. It enhances joy in learning and appreciates sharing that learning with others. It supports taking intellectual risk which is required to explore the unknown. It tests new ideas and motivate person for entering into construct a debate and builds the foundation for making judgement.

It also cultivates active citizenship through off-campus community services internship and research. A liberal education rests on the free exchange of ideas on conversation and questioning that thrives in the classrooms, lecture halls, laboratories and playing fields. A liberal education promotes independent thinking, individual action, social responsibility and proper civilization.

What is Liberal Education?

Liberal education is a learning approach that teaches students how to think independently and develop broad academic and intellectual abilities. It rests on a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach. Through liberal education, students get choices across streams, discover their true calling, and broaden their horizons. It provides a platform to learn how to connect and integrate knowledge and apply the learnings in real-world scenarios.

While the traditional education model in India has stressed memorizing and reproducing information, liberal education encourage creativity, critical thinking, good communication, and a love for learning.

India's National Education Policy NEP, which had a revamp in 2020 has laid out a path for universities to adopt a liberal education, discussion based and discovery base mode of education. NEP 2020 encourages a multidisciplinary education system that helps develop the creative and analytical sides of the brain simultaneously.

Robert, P (2006) noted that liberating education stands opposed to the shift, in many countries of the Western world, toward technocratic and 'market-driven' systems of education and assessment.

Gamson, Z. F. (1984) noted that liberal education is for educating students for critical awareness, preparing students to use what they learn and helping students make choices in their lives.

Bell, L., & Schniedewind, N. (1987) wrote that liberating education is proposed that incorporates the pedagogical skills of the humanists with the social analysis of the critical theorists.

According to **Street, R. (2005)** Liberal education outcomes can be described in general terms, in practice, competencies such as communication, critical inquiry, teamwork, or ethical reasoning take very different forms in different fields. Biologists use quite different inquiry methods than historians; engineers use different forms of teamwork and communication than teachers.

Liberal Education inculcates the following things

- Broad knowledge of multiple disciplines
- In-depth study of a chosen discipline
- Differential approach to interdisciplinary learning
- Transferable skill set
- Ability to apply knowledge to practical real-world situations
- Connecting the dots through various mental models
- Habits of self-reflection
- Contextual learning
- Freedom of the mind
- Lifelong learning

Liberal Education and Teachers Training

Teacher training is related to the development of teacher proficiency and competency that would enable and empower the teacher to meet the requirement of the profession and the challenges of the education. Teacher training encompasses teaching skill, sound pedagogical theory and professional skill. A liberal education provides the best possible training for teacher training college students of today and tomorrow. It fosters critical thinking and analytical skill that allow teacher trainees to adapt to a rapidly changing workforce. In the 21st century a liberal education offers foundation for teacher trainees to live and thrive as a citizens in a democracy, a knowledge intensive economy and society where new ideas and understandings are needed to progress by themselves. The success of today's teacher trainees in their communities, workplaces and across their lifetime depends of upon a complex and transferable set of skill and capacities. In their lives and in their career they must be prepared to grasp complex problems, develop a global perspective on the diversity of human experience and knowledge and respond to changing demand and situation. As they progress in their life their roles and responsibilities in their families and community is changed and evolved over the lifetime as well.

India needs a liberal education

1. Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach to learning

One of the main pillar of liberal education is integration of different areas of study and exposes students to multiple disciplines. In the liberal arts model science student can study a course in music and law student can study in humanities. This approach enhances the ability of students to understand issues from different perspective and get a holistic intellectual grounding.

2. Critical thinking capabilities

Those educational institutes which follow the liberal education approaches put critical thinking and fact-based problem solving at the core of learning. Teachers teach students problem solving and critical thinking skill through international exposure and active learning method so students can understand the core ideas of the subjects which increase their interest in the learning.

3. Proficiency in active learning

Liberal education comprises hybrid methods for teaching and learning with creativity as the cornerstone. team teaching, activity base learning and interactive classroom session are an integral part of liberal education that make student to take a lead in the classroom learning experience student evolve creative way of discussion.

4. Preparing students to become real-world person

In liberal education Institutions help students get ready for solving real-world problems. This model makes students lifelong learners. Dynamic nature of liberal education so students get well-prepared to tackle jobs related issues and challenges which come across his journey.

5. Enhancing social responsibilities

Students become proactive problem solver by Liberal education. It transforms them into well-rounded and curious. They become aware about their social responsibilities by liberal arts education. When students play their role as a leader they become empathic leaders who actively participate in community engagement and bring about positive change in the society.

Conclusion

Through broad-based learning and training to tackle problems through rational and critical thinking, liberal education prepares students to become intellectual leaders of tomorrow. They learn to evaluate problems from multiple perspectives and develop original stances. Liberal education students not only learn how to solve problems but also ask which questions and problems to solve and why. It also helps deal with changes, complexities, and uncertainties in our ever-changing world.

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