

CBCI EDUCATION NEWS LETTER

CBCI Office for Education & Culture

CBCI Centre, 1 Ashok Place New Delhi 110001

Ph.: 011-23747290, 9733021677

Email: cbcieducation@gmail.com, joemanipadam@gmail.com



His Grace Archbishop Thomas D'Souza,
Chairperson, CBCI Office for Education & Culture
& Archbishop of Calcutta



His Grace Archbishop Mar Andrews Thazhath
Member CBCI Office for Edu. & Culture
& Archbishop of Thrissur



His Grace Archbishop John Moolachira
Member CBCI Office for Edu. & Culture
& Archbishop of Guwahati



Your Eminences, Graces, Excellencies, dear Fathers, sisters, Brothers,

Greetings from the CBCI Office for education and Culture!

I am presenting to you another of the e-news letters from the CBCI Office for Education and Culture! It will keep you informed of all the events and activities connected with this office. In this issue of the newsletter, apart from the usual timeline narrative of the activities of the Office, I have also included an abridged version of the 28 page response to the Draft NEP 2019 presented to the Education Minister. I want to thank the team that came along with me to present it personally to the Minister and all others who have helped me to compile the response as well as all those who organized meetings in your own regions and congregations to study and respond to the NEP 2019 and the copy of the same sent to me.

Definitely challenging days are ahead and we need to have all the options open and be well prepared to meet the challenges as it comes. Catholic Education is nothing but reaching out to the young the love and compassion of Christ and that is a mission indispensable to us.

Have a nice day,

Much love

Fr. Joseph Manipadam SDB
National Secretary, CBCI Office for Education and Culture
CBCI Centre, New Delhi





Programme conducted by CBCI Office for Education & Culture

“Programme in Siliguri to create awareness & responds to the Draft NEP 2019:

Programme was held by Fr. J. Manipadam, Secretary, CBCI Office for Education and Culture for 450 teachers and sisters and Fathers from all Catholic Schools in and around Siliguri in W. Bengal. Bishop Vincent Aind of Bagdogra presided at the meeting. It was an interactive one day session making a critical study on the Draft NEP 2019. The programme was held on 6th July 2019



Programme in Namchi to create awareness & respond to the Draft NEP 2019:

On 8th July 2019, Programme was held by Fr. J. Manipadam, Secretary, CBCI Office for Education and Culture for 30 teachers and sisters and Fathers from Sikkim schools and colleges. It was an interactive one day session making a critical study on the Draft NEP 2019. The meeting was attended by the Rector, Principal and Vice Principal of Namchi's Loyola College of Education





Programme in Malbassey to create awareness & respond to the NEP 2019:

Programme was held by Fr. J. Manipadam, Secretary, CBCI Office for Education and Culture for 35 teachers and sisters and Fathers from Don Bosco Malbassey, Sikkim. It was an interactive one day session making a critical study on the Draft NEP 2019. The meeting was attended by the staff and it also dealt with various aspects of Primary and Pre Primary Education and Positive disciplining of students without the use of any punishments. The programme was a day long one on the 9th July 2019.



Programme in Jalpaiguri to create awareness & respond to the Draft NEP:

Programme was held by Fr. J. Manipadam, Secretary, CBCI Office for Education and Culture for 60 teachers and sisters and Fathers from all Catholic Schools in and around Jalpaiguri in W. Benngal. Bishop Clement Tirkey of Jalpaiguri diocese presided at the meeting. It was an interactive one day session making a critical study on the Draft NEP 2019. The programme was on 10th July 2019





Programme at Auxilium College Katpady to create awareness & initiate response regarding the Draft NEP and other matters of Urgent concerns regarding Education:

On 18th July a programme regarding the Draft NEP 2019 and Other Educational Concerns including the importance of taking a different approach regarding pre-primary and primary education and positive disciplining without the use of punishments was held at Auxilium College, Katpady for all the Youth Ministry Delegates of the Salesian Sisters in India. Major superiors from Rome were also present along with the National Delegates for Youth Ministry and Education viz. Sr. Molly Kaniampady and Sr. Clara Swaminathan. The day's programme was animated by Fr. J. Manipadam, National Secretary, CBCI Office for Education and Culture.



Programme at POC, Cochin to create awareness & respond to the Draft NEP:

On 20th July 2019 a day long session was conducted by Fr. J. Manipadam for about 55 fathers, Sisters, Principals, managers and Staff members of schools and colleges of Kerala regarding the the Draft NEP 2019 and its consequences so as to evoke response to be send to the ministry of Education, Government of India so that a critical awareness is created and changes in the Policy can be requested to the Government. The session was animated by Fr. J. Manipadam from the Education Office of the CBCI.





Programme at Idukki Cathedral to create awareness & respond to the Draft NEP:

On 22nd July 2019 a day long session was conducted by Fr. J. Manipadam for about 150 fathers, Sisters, Principals, managers and Staff members of schools and colleges and Teachers' Guild office bearers and members of Idukki diocese in Kerala, regarding the Draft NEP 2019 and its consequences so as to evoke response to be send to the ministry of Education, Government of India so that a critical awareness is created and changes in the Policy can be requested to the Government. The session was animated by Fr. J. Manipadam from the Education Office of the CBCI. It was noted that Idukki diocese has some 88 schools and all of them aided and would come under the "School Complex" concept and that raised a lot of concern.





Category 1
(Classes VI to VIII)



St. George High School
Malad, Mumbai
VIKRAM Patkar & MANN Shaikh



St. Xavier's School
Purulia, West Bengal
ANURAG Singh Deo & SAURAV Jyoti



Category 2
(Classes IX to XII)

After the Successful First Season of "CBCI Education MasterMinds" National Quiz, the Season Two of "CBCI Education MasterMinds" is already launched!
Have you registered? If not
please contact : 📞 9205670567
Email : contact@cbcieducationmasterminds.com



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)
OFFICE FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE



Presents

CBCI EDUCATION MASTERMINDS 2
SEASON
A GRAND NATIONAL LEVEL QUIZ PROGRAMME

SPONSORED BY



Launched on July 30, 2019, by
His Eminence **Oswald Cardinal Gracias**, President, CBCI & Archbishop of Bombay

CO-SPONSORED BY



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



QUIZCRAFT GLOBAL
KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS



CBCI Office for Education and Culture responds to the MHRD regarding the Draft NEP 2019 on behalf of the Catholic Church

Delhi, 28th July, 2019: A delegation of 6 persons led by Fr. J. Manipadam, National Secretary, CBCI Office of Education met the Honourable Minister for Human Resource Development in his chamber at Shastri Bhavan at 9.00 P.M. on 25th July and submitted a collated response regarding the draft NEP 2019 on behalf of the numerous Church run educational institutions across the country. The Catholic Church has some 30000 formal educational institutions which include Universities, Medical Colleges, Colleges and Schools not counting the thousands of educational services being rendered to the poor, the marginalized and rural youth by way of Special schools, Vocational training institutes, technical schools, institutes for street children and skill development institutes and start-up programmes and empowerment programmes towards self employment etc. The team felicitated Mr. Ramesh Pokriyal 'Nishank', the new Education Minister and handed over to him in person the collated response, along with the good wishes from the Christian community. The Minister received the delegation most cordially glanced through the 28 pages of responses, and assured that he would look into the suggestions received.

The responses submitted complimented the Drafting Committee headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan, for attempting to give a holistic outlook to the needs and challenges and proposing a vision to make school education responsive to the modern times touching every aspect of education needing urgent action; for considering the UN General Assembly -1948 declaration that "everyone has the right to education; for taking into account the past National Education Policy, The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, and the sustainable development goal 4 (SDG4); for proposing for greater funding, holistic education and bringing complete school education (from age 3+ to class 12) under RTE, providing also breakfast to children in addition to mid-day meals and ensuring that teachers are not involved in non-academic activities. The responses submitted also complimented the drafting team for proposing to make learning and assessment stress free with semester system of assessment at the secondary stage and targeting towards having everyone between the age of 3 and 18 in school by 2030. The proposals regarding higher education that receive much applause are the move to improve and encourage research, establishing the National Research Foundation with much bigger funding towards it; giving great stress on the quality of teacher education making it into a four year integrated course with graduation and proposals to revamp / simplify graduation courses and Accreditation process.



(Sr. A.V.Celine, Sr. Gracy Paul, Fr. X. Vedam, Fr. J. Manipadam, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Mr. A.C. Michael, Fr. J. Puthenpura)



However some of the major internal contradictions pointed out and disapproval expressed were as follows:

- **Minority rights guaranteed in the Constitutions and the facilities guaranteed to the Minority communities to establish and administer educational institutions are very much overlooked and seemingly brushed aside** when the Draft NEP 2019 deals with appointments of staff, fee fixation, inclusion of Aided Minority (private) institutions into “public category” in the School Complex concept, formation of SMCs and other administrative and regulatory details.
- The outstanding and dedicated **contribution by the Christian Community** (not just Christian Missionaries), could have been much better referred to and acknowledged and supportive measures mentioned and provided towards their continued services in education in this Draft NEP 2019, instead of making just a passing reference.
- No Stakeholders have been involved in drafting this draft NEP 2019. Students and Teachers, education providers and associations and organizations and those in the active service of education should have been involved in drawing up this draft. Then this would have been a more academic policy and not an administrative one.
- Why double qualification is called for: integrated B.Ed and TET for teachers; MBBS and an EXIT Examination on completion of MBBS?
- Total control and centralization by Ministry of Education, National Higher Education Regulating Authority (NHERA) and on top of that another powerful body Rajya Siksha Ayog and reducing other institutions like AICTE, NCTVE, UGC, MCI etc to the level of Public Standard Setting Bodies (PSSBs) is absolute controlling and centralising which leaves the States with little say in the matter and it offends the Federal nature of the nation. **Imposing any specific language or even a three language policy on States is offensive to the Federal nature of the country as we are a union of states. This would have been best left to the States to decide.**
- The concept of School Complex is applicable to Public schools only and not to the non government / private schools as is clearly stated in ch.7 (page 160) of the present draft NEP 2019 as problems like lack of students, teachers and infrastructure and facilities are challenges in Public schools. Though the concept of school complex was originated from the report of the Kothari Commission (1964-66), and is also mentioned in the Programme of Action of 1992 document of the NPE 1986/92, it has faltered in its implementation because schools to survive and to get more students tend to be competitive rather than work cooperatively for the improvement of their educational standards. Often a large group stands in the way of successful functioning of the school complex. Use of facilities also involve some payment. Small schools would prefer gradually building their facilities rather than make payment to other schools. **Further, bringing Aided Minority Schools into school complex is first of unnecessary as they have enough students and qualified teachers and infrastructure and all facilities which is not the case in government schools. Bringing Minority Aided institutions into the schools complex would be a serious violation of their administrative right guaranteed in the Constitution of the country (Art.30.(i)).**



- **Regarding the 5+3+3+4 system to replace the existing 10+2+3 system the suggestion is that Primary education be separate from school education. This will allow lateral entry into class 1 at age 6. So the division could be: 1. Foundation Stage (age 3+to completion of age 5); 2. Primary Stage (Class one to class5); 3. Middle school (class 6 to 8) and 4. Secondary Stage (Classes 9,10,11,12)**
- **Regarding the suggestion in the draft NEP to have teaching and learning in vernacular at least up to class 5, Whether we admit it or not, English has helped Indians a lot and so for the future generation we have to give importance to English learning from the primary classes with good communicative ability. Besides, for Computer literacy, science and technology, entrance to higher education and other developments we have to depend on English. **We have to be objective and must not close our doors for the future generation having a global outlook.****
- **The issue of School Managing Committees (SMCs): (p174; P7.7.4)**
Response: SMCs in Minority schools, with only the Principal being part of it and all others not being part of the Founder Body or the organization owning the school, becomes a clear violation of the Constitutional provisions granted to the Minority Community. It is a gross violation of a number of past Supreme court orders including the Supreme Court's Constitutional Bench's verdict of 6th May 2014 which exempts the Minorities from the provisions of RTE leave alone the formation of SMCs. So this provision is a serious violation of the Minority rights (art.30,31). Here it is to be also noted that this current Policy draft overlooks many provisions of the Minority rights. If these SMC regulations are applied, the Minority Community is only establishing and not any more administering the institutions seriously compromising legal and constitutional provisions.





- **Regarding Higher Education**, regarding revamping Teacher Education, 4 year integrated degree for Teachers is welcome for specialized faculty. Since all students cannot opt for teaching immediately after class XII, lateral entry after degree also should be encouraged, especially for science and engineering students who may excel in teaching. **Hence, one year B.Ed., followed by one year M.Ed. and lateral entry in the fourth year are to be encouraged in special training colleges.**
- Teacher student ratio is inadequate, 50 students in a teacher training college is uneconomic, school teaching practice is a mockery. B.Ed and M.Ed. courses are to be brought back to one year courses after degree and B.Ed. 4 year integrated course is good but to be supported by lateral entry at the fourth year for degree students. Curriculum should be useful for teaching at school and college levels. Teaching career has to be made attractive for the highly talented and intelligent.
- Regarding Multiple regulatory Bodies and replacing UGC with HEGC, Unless the academic performance is evaluated properly, funding will not function objectively. Hence, funding authority, auditing authority and academic supervising authority should be the same. It is high time that in the higher education, many supervising authorities will only create uncertainties and complications. In this respect of academic freedom, one authority is good. Only visionaries should be appointed as the members of supervising bodies. How can scholarships be ensured for weaker sections and economically backward students by HEGC?
- Bringing in Industries, corporate houses, NGOS and foreign Universities should not make higher education very costly and above reach of the common people and the rural and tribal and dalit students. There is no road map in this policy regarding the eradication of discriminations and social evils or promotion of constitutional values and democratic ideals, national integration and peace and solidarity.
- **When the Government invites suggestions for educational promotion, CBCI Office of Education, AIACHE, Xavier Board and Catholic Church representatives from CBCI and NCCI should be invited and they should be given representations in National Monitoring Committee for Minorities' Education (NMCME) and National Commission for Minority Education Institutions(NCMEI) and Rasjya Siksha Ayog (RSA).**

Could mean Possible Compromises on the Constitution/ Supreme Court Order:

- India is a Union of States. So imposing of languages on States by Centre, excessive centralization and control (RSA), not involving the States in making the policy and reducing the Autonomous Institutions to mere PSSBs under RSA would compromise the Federal nature of the Nation.
- Imposing an SMC and that with excessive powers, Fee Fixation, interference into the administration and inclusion of Aided Minority Institutions into School Complexes would compromise the Constitutional provision (Art. 30(i)) given to the Minorities.



- Exemption given to the Minorities regarding the "Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill 2009" by the supreme court (6th May 2014) would also be compromised if such exemption is reconsidered or if undue interference is done through the drafted SMC concept, Fee regulation, admission matters etc.

Concluding thoughts:

- *Is the Government abdicating its responsibility of educating the children of this nation say with a concept like School Complex and unbridled corporatisation and use of Volunteer services? Why such excessive centralisation? Is it a fairy tale NEP that bites more than what it can chew? Why is this draft silent on removal of caste system and other social evils? Why are all the Constitutional provisions overlooked regarding Minority Rights (SMCs, Fee fixation, Aided Minority schools in school complex...)? Are we succumbing to the demands of WTO-GATS and falling for excessive commercialization of education? Why is centuries of Christian contribution in education once again ignored? Why the drafting team did not include education providers from Minority Communities and Private School trusts and teachers who are in touch with the ground realities in education? What is the take away in this draft for the poor and the marginalised, the Tribals and Dalits and the differently abled? Is this Draft NEP compatible with the Constitutional Mandate of Federalism as the legal name of the country is Union of India? Is this draft NEP a pedagogical Policy or an administrative Policy?*
- *As Dr. B.R.Ambedkar stated, "Education is something which ought to be brought within the reach of everyone, the policy therefore, ought to be to make higher education as cheap to the lower classes as it can possibly be made. If all these communities are to be brought to the level of equality, then the only remedy is to adopt the principle of inequality and give favoured treatment to those who are below level".*
- *The call of Jothiba Phule, Savithriba Phule, Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, Maulana A.K. Azad and Thanthai Periyar is, "Education must be made Accessible to All and Affordable to All". Can the National Education Policy 2019 get closer to this clarion call?*

26th July 2019: Programme on Draft NEP 2019 for Salesian Education Coordinators of India:

- *Some 25 Salesian Education Coordinators from all the salesian Provinces of India were given a two hour long session by Fr. Manipadam on the Draft NEP 2019 at the SPCSA Don Bosco House at Dwaraka. It was the first session of their two days annual meeting that was being organized by the Education wing of the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia.*





27th July 2019: Programme on Draft NEP 2019 Chandigarh:

150 Principals of schools, Managers and teachers attended the day's programme on 27th July at the Pastoral Centre in Chandigarh, by Fr. Joseph Manipadam on the draft National Education Policy 2019. It was chaired by Bishop Ignatius of Shimla Chandigarh diocese. The programme was basically meant to create awareness about the intricacies of the new Draft NEP and help the educators to respond to the Ministry of Education before the end of the month. The interactive sessions were well appreciated and found to be very useful.



Catholic Schools in Krishnagar and Bandel in W. Bengal study the Draft NEP 2019

Some 150 heads of schools and teachers from the various schools of the Krishnagar diocese had a day's programme studying the Draft NEP 2019 on 23rd August 2019 at the Bishop Morrow School, Krishnagar. The programme was organized by Fr. Sanjoy and Sr. Reena, Principal of BMS school. The interactive session dealt with the content of the NEP draft and a critical review of the same. The programme was animated by FR. Joseph Manipadam SDB, Secretary, CBCI Office for Education and Culture. Fr. K.J. Raphael SDB, the Vicar General of Krishnagar diocese was present presiding over the day long programme.



DIOCESAN EDUCATION COMMISSION
KRISHNAGAR DIOCESE

Seminar on
"Draft National Education Policy - 2019"

Rev. Fr. Joseph Manipadam SDB
National Secretary - CBCI Office for Education & Culture

Friday, 23rd August 2019
Time: 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Venue: Bishop Morrow School, Krishnagar



25 heads of schools from the Salesian Province of Kolkata, presided over by Fr. Nirmol Gomes, Provincial had a day's programme studying the Draft NEP 2019 on 24th August 2019 at the Don Bosco School, in Bandel. The programme was organized by Fr. Bikash Mondol and Fr. George Thadathil looking after the Education ministry of the province. The interactive session dealt with the content of the NEP draft and a critical review of the same considering also the impact it will have on the education mission of the Church in India. The programme was animated by FR. Joseph Manipadam SDB, Secretary, CBCI Office for Education and Culture.



125 heads of schools from the Auxilium Schools of Bengal both sisters and teachers attended the programme to study the Draft NEP 2019 The day's programme was held in the afternoon of the 24th of August 2019 at the Auxilium Convent School, in Bandel. The programme was organized by Sr. Stella and Sr. Clara looking after the Education ministry of the province. The interactive session dealt with the content of the NEP draft and a critical review of the same considering also the impact it will have on the education mission of the Church in India. The programme was animated by FR. Joseph Manipadam SDB, Secretary, CBCI Office for Education and Culture

