

Editorial

Changes in Education System

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E D I T O R I A L

Indian education system has been one of the oldest of its types. Initially, education was open to all and seen as one of the methods to achieve “Moksha” in those days, or enlightenment. However, it has undergone changes ever since its inception. It has changed with the changing times and changing needs of the society. The need to reform and restructure our education system has been felt several times. Hence, the vision of India’s new education system is to ensure that it touches the life of each and every citizen, consistent with their ability to contribute to many growing needs of this country on the one hand, and towards creating a just and equitable society on the other.

The National Education Policy 2019 provides a framework for the transformation of the education system in order to meet the requirements of fast-changing, knowledge-based societies while taking into account the diversity of the Indian people, their traditions, cultures, and languages. The National Education Policy 2019 has proposed the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, its regulation and governance.

One such initiative put forward in the Draft of National Education Policy 2019 is to provide graduates from other medical disciplines such as nursing, dental and even AYUSH lateral entry into the MBBS course.

Further, to empower nurses and to bridge the demand and supply gap of doctors, the Ministry has also introduced the concept of nurse practitioners. This means, nurse practitioners can examine patients, diagnose illness, prescribe medication just like regular physicians.

The new draft education policy also recommends that B.Sc. Nursing should be made the sole entry-level qualification for nurses in the long term. “However, given the current shortage of nursing staff, a careful decision of when the GNM (General Nursing and Midwifery) course can begin to be phased out, will be made,” it said.

The education policy also highlights about the need to create professional development pathways for nurses with different levels of qualifications. Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) and renewal of licence guidelines will be framed by the Indian Nursing Council (INC) for all nurses.

To further improve quality of nursing education, the health policy recommended the formation of a National Accreditation Body for nursing education and issue nursing colleges accreditation for five years, which has to be renewed after undergoing inspections.

Apart from nursing graduates, the Education Policy also highlighted in detail the need to mainstream Indian medicine AYUSH practitioners. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), AYUSH physicians would be appointed in Primary Health Centres (PHC) and Community Health Centres (CHC).

Although it is too early to comment whether these changes will be good or bad, it is the time to understand the importance of changing the old system for the better future of the young generation as well as the nation as a whole.

I would like to conclude by stating the famous quote by Sir Nelson Mandela – *‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.’*

Wishing all a happy reading!