

Report on international online lecture series on the topic
“Understanding NEP 2020: An Evening with the Intellectuals”
Conducted by Department of English, Netaji Subhas Mahavidyalaya, Udaipur, in
collaboration with IQAC of the same college held on 19th August, 2020

On 19th August, 2020, an international lecture series on web was conducted by the Department of English, Netaji Subhas Mahavidyalaya, Udaipur, in collaboration with IQAC of the same college. After the declaration of National Education Policy (NEP) by the union government, NSM, Udaipur is the first educational institute in the whole country of India to conduct such a lecture-series comprising academicians, politicians and administrative heads from home and abroad. The Academic Council of the college had passed a resolution to conduct this programme and accordingly, the organizing secretary of the webinar, Dr. Surajit Sen who is also the HoD of the department of English, anchored the programme throughout along with the joint organizing secretary, Mrs. Patriot Debbarma.

The principal-in-charge of the college, Dr. Rita Das Nayak gave the welcome speech where she touched upon the important issues of NEP. It was followed by a candid and wonderful discussion by the minister of education of the state of Tripura, Ratan Lal Nath. In his speech, the minister was frank enough to observe the challenges pertaining to NEP. Terming the policy as revolutionary, the minister talked about the preparedness of the state of Tripura to embrace the radical changes to be brought about by NEP. He briefed on the vocational courses introduced in the state, the setting up of Sainik school here and the formation of a task force to oversee the planning of NEP. The veteran politician thanked the college and the organizing committee profusely for conducting such a resourceful webinar.

The next speaker was Prof. Kiran Hazarika, member, UGC. The executive member of the apex educational commission hailed the new educational policy and discussed at length the making of NEP. Prof. Hazarika opined that there was no threat to the fostering of mother-tongue in this policy rather there would be comprehensive development of a student.

How would the schools in the states cope up with the ensuing changes? The probable suggestions came from Mrs. Swapna Shome, the principal of Bhavan’s Tripura Vidyamandir, Agartala. She strongly felt that the schools needed to overhaul the prevalent system in order to ignite the potential of the students. There has to be a change not only in the mindset of the teachers but also in the students and in the guardians as well.

Dr. Anup kumar Dey, Associate Professor in English, Assam University, Diphu campus was the next speaker. He highlighted the basic principles regulating NEP. He thought that after so many decades of our independence, this education policy is going to take us back to our roots-our Upanishads, Vedas, our rich ancient culture and tradition. We must derive strength and ways of life from our heritage, not from slavish imitation of western culture, Dr. Dey added.

These were all insiders’ views. How would an outsider who has been an insider react to NEP? Dr. Sourit Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor in the department of English at University of

Glasgow, Scotland welcomed NEP because it was scientific and progressive. But he was sceptical about the proper implementation of NEP. The famous professor had earlier taught in West Bengal and therefore, he has knowledge of infrastructural shortcomings in Indian colleges. He expressed his deep concern over the autonomy of lesser-known new colleges, scarcity of teachers and adaptability of faculty-members in new system. Dr. Bhattacharya felt that the transition would be tough and central government has to be liberal in releasing fund for colleges and schools. Academic institutions must be run by academicians, not by bureaucrats. Otherwise, NEP will fail to bring desired results, he alerted.

The lecture-series then was profusely praised by the IQAC Coordinator, Debashis Roy Chowdhury. He told that such a timely and erudite discussion would add to the gravity of the college. Then the Joint organizing secretary, Mrs. Patriot Debbarma thanked all and drew curtains over the webinar which had a viewership of over a thousand participants and free registration.

Some Screenshots of the programme

