



National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education : Education for Understanding the Self and the World Around

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Abstract

The core idea behind Adult Education is that 'Age is No Bar for Education'. In a developing country like India, in past, many people had to leave their education aside due to various reasons. But along with the progress of our nation and new National Education Policy about to be implemented, there will be resource and opportunities available for all the Adults also to attain basic education, financial and numerical literacy and professional competency. Adult Education is one of the important areas in the ideology and aim of Education for All. It is a facture associated with the progress of any nation and well - being of citizens. Discussion, deliberation and efforts in the area of adult education will help the personal and professional development as basic literacy, numeracy, financial and professional education will open up a whole new world for personal, civic, economic and lifelong learning opportunities. The present paper is written with the objective to discuss the proposed approach for Adult Education and suggest some elements which also needs attention in dealing with Adult Education while implementing National Education Policy. This paper proposes, urges and advocates some more thinking and efforts to address the scope of more curriculum aspects to deal with the 'World within the adults' to be incorporated in National Curriculum Framework.

Introduction :

"The abilities to attain foundational literacy, obtain an education, and pursue a livelihood must be viewed as fundamental rights of every citizen" - DNEP : 2019.

World nowadays has become an economical engine that is driven by well educated, well trained and well skilled individuals. Humanity is the very essential spare part of this engine. Therefore, it is very essential that each and every human spare part is contributing to this wide national economical engine. Adult Education in Indian context, extends educational option to those adults, who have lost the opportunity of formal education and transcended the age of formal education,

and now feel a need for learning of any type, including, literacy, basic education, vocational education (skill development), equivalency, physical and emotional development, practical arts, applied science, or recreation. The main focus of Adult Education has been on its very bottom tier, which is, "basic literacy". Reason being that at the time of Independence in 1947, 86% of India's population was illiterate.

Present Scenario :

As per Census 2011, the absolute number of illiterates of the country in 15+ age group is 25.76 crore (20% of total Indian Population) (Male 9.08 crore, Female 16.68 crore), whereas Census 2001 had reported 25.95 crore (25% of total Indian Population) (Male 9.13 crore, Female

16.82 crore) illiterates. Thus, in a decade we could only reduce the level of illiterate adults in India to only 5%. This speed needs to be accelerated drastically.

The percentage of adult illiterates in India is around 35% of the world's total adult illiterates. **“Global Education Monitoring Report 2017-18: Accountability in Education: Meeting our Commitments”** published by UNESCO has provided adult literacy details of different countries compiled during 2010-2016. As per the report, the adult literacy rate (15 & above age group) in South Asian and neighboring countries is Afghanistan 32%, Bangladesh 73%, Bhutan 57%, India 69%, Iran 85%, China 95%, Maldives 99%, Nepal 60%, Pakistan 57% and Sri Lanka 91%.

Education nowadays has become a strategic issue because it is the most critical criteria for judging the potential growth and development of a country. Therefore, basic literacy and numeracy is and should be the most primary goal of the government or administration for which Padhana Likhana Abhiyan is functioning with a time bound and well defined targets.

National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education :

This for the first time that a very structured, comprehensive and multi-faceted National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education will be developed as an implementation plan for NEP 2020. Scope of the National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education : “The curriculum framework for adult education will include at least five types of programmes, each with clearly defined outcomes: (a) foundational literacy and numeracy; (b) critical life skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy,

commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare); (c) vocational skills development (with a view towards obtaining local employment); (d) basic education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency); and (e) continuing education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills)”. [NEP 2020, 21.5]

Education is a means for any individual to understand the world around them and to understand the world within themselves. Education for adults should serve both the purposes, to make them understand world around them and to make them understand world within them. Let's check the five main points of the proposed NCF for Adult Education in both these aspects.

To Understand World Around Themselves :

a) Basic literacy and numeracy, b) critical life skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare), c) vocational skills development (with a view towards obtaining local employment), d) basic education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency);

To Understand World Within Themselves :

This type of education should be to address inner aspects of an adults like their hopes, aspirations, talents, anxieties etc. Education that Adults require must also needs to deal with the problems that they have regarding their inner world because most of the problems that adults encounter are concerned with their inner world.

In this regard NEP - 2020 proposes a curriculum framework for adult education in form of continuing education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills)". The continuing education should be given need based and age appropriately as the age group of Adult Education is very wide and varied in their needs and interests. Therefore, various age groups should be prepared and these age groups may be given variety of continuing education courses as per their needs, i.e. psychological needs, social needs, spiritual needs, emotional needs, recreational needs etc.

Some suggestions for courses to understand the world within

- Self Management through Gita
- Mental Health and Hygiene through Various Indian Scripts
- Management Principals through Various Indian Scripts - Gita / Mahabharata / Ramayana / Chanakya Niti / Manusmriti
- Sanskrit through Gita and Gita through Sanskrit
- Understanding of the self
- Understanding of the whole through understanding of the self

Conclusion :

This paper proposes, urges and advocates some more thinking and efforts to address the scope of more curriculum aspects to deal with the 'World within the adults' to be incorporated in National Curriculum Framework. We often here that in Indian culture God has taken forms of a man so that man can be developed / uplifted to the level of a God. Indian culture has many elements and themes which can be

included in the NCFAE to satisfy the need to understand the world within of an individual. A lot of deliberation and discussion is needed in this regard for which this paper is a very humble and miniature attempt.

References :

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