

A talk and discussion on the Draft National Educational Policy

A talk and discussion on The Draft National Educational Policy 2019 was organized at our College on 11 July, 2019. **Dr. M. G. Sethuraman, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Gandhigram Rural Institute** was the resource person and speaker. He outlined the inevitability of such deliberations on National Educational Policy 2019 with the faculty members and students of the college as stakeholders. He mentioned that this was not the first time that the higher education in India had to undergo a radical transformation. It had already taken place in a similar situation once in 1968 and then in 1986. He continued, "However, the present draft becomes essential to re-align the course of Higher Education in the country to meet the global standards. India will become the 3rd largest economy in the world in a decade from now. India's knowledge base and manpower will be able to meet the global needs." The early educational policies laid emphasis on Access, Equity, Expansion and Excellence of the system through the years till now. He, then, elaborated on the new educational policy stated in two parts *viz* School and Higher education with restructurings on both parts at administrative and academic level. The first part of the presentation gave details on the school education system and its pedagogy including the 5+3+3+4 system. He went into detail about the plans for reformations in higher education through the classification of educational institutions as research universities, teaching universities and colleges, allocation of funds, introduction of new regulatory bodies such as Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog, Rajya Shiksha Aayog, National Higher Education Regulatory Authority, Higher Education Grants Commission, reassigning and restructuring the functions of the existing bodies such as NAAC and UGC and setting up a primary regulatory body for the governance of the whole system. The speaker clarified the plan to introduce 3 year and 4 year degree programmes with multiple entries and exits. He shared with the audience the challenges posed by the new educational policy to teachers and students who are the major stakeholders. The speaker and the faculty members presented their views, apprehensions regarding policy frame work, and questioned the practical feasibility of certain strategies outlined in the draft. The resource person motivated the faculty and invited them to communicate their apprehensions and comments through a mail to UGC since it has recently demanded for such deliberations to be organized in colleges and universities. The session came to an end with everyone returning well informed about

NEP 19 and promising their contributions to its refinement through communications to MHRD.