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Department of English

Maharaja Ganga Singh University

Bikaner – 334004 (Rajasthan)



Newsletter

EDITORIAL

Embracing the Language Policy under NEP 2020 – A Path to Inclusive Education

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a transformative leap for India's education system, and one of its most crucial aspects is its language policy. In a diverse nation like India, where linguistic diversity is one of the most remarkable features of our cultural fabric, the NEP 2020's emphasis on multilingualism is both timely and visionary. The policy proposes an inclusive, flexible, and student-friendly approach to language learning that seeks to bridge the gap between tradition and modernity, local and global, and the academic and the practical.

Key Highlights of the Language Policy under NEP 2020

Mother Tongue/Regional Language as the Medium of Instruction: One of the most significant changes proposed by the NEP is the promotion of mother tongue or regional language as the medium of instruction, especially at the foundational stages of education (up to Grade 5, and preferably beyond). This move is grounded in research that shows how children learn best in a language they understand intimately. By building education on the foundation of one's native language, the policy aims to foster deeper understanding and cognitive development.

Multilingualism and Language Skills: NEP 2020 encourages the learning of multiple languages, aiming for proficiency in at least three languages – the mother tongue, a regional language, and a foreign language. By promoting multilingualism, the policy acknowledges

the growing importance of global communication and cross-cultural exchanges, while also celebrating the linguistic diversity that exists within the country. This approach aims to make students not only literate in a global context but also culturally aware and connected to their heritage.

Flexibility in Language Learning: The NEP ensures flexibility in language choices for students, enabling them to pick languages they feel most comfortable with and are likely to use in their day-to-day lives. This flexibility is intended to empower students to pursue language studies that will be relevant to their professional and personal aspirations. Whether it's a regional language for local engagement or an international language for career growth, the NEP seeks to tailor learning experiences to the needs and interests of every student.

Integration of Language and Literature: The policy encourages universities to introduce diverse language and literature courses that offer deep dives into regional, national, and global literatures. This would not only enhance students' linguistic proficiency but also their cultural and philosophical understanding of different traditions, helping create global citizens who can appreciate and engage with different ways of thinking.

The Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

While the vision behind NEP 2020's language policy is commendable, its successful implementation will require overcoming several challenges. At the foundational level, transitioning to mother tongue or regional language instruction may require the training of teachers and the creation of new textbooks and materials. Furthermore, for multilingualism to thrive, students and faculty alike will need to be open to learning and embracing new languages, often outside their comfort zones.

However, the opportunities are vast. By prioritizing multilingual education, we open doors for a deeper connection between students and their roots while simultaneously preparing them to engage confidently with a globalized world. Moreover, the integration of regional languages into mainstream education will play a pivotal role in preserving and celebrating India's diverse linguistic heritage. It will also foster inclusion, giving students from different linguistic backgrounds equal opportunities for academic success.

A New Era of Education

NEP 2020's language policy is an exciting step forward in making education more inclusive, equitable, and future-ready. It holds the potential to transform the learning experience, creating students who are not just academically proficient but also culturally aware and linguistically adept. As a department, we have a critical role to play in this transformation – by adapting our curricula, encouraging language diversity, and fostering an environment that respects and celebrates multilingualism. It is a challenge, but also an immense opportunity to help shape a generation of thinkers, creators, and leaders equipped to thrive in a complex, interconnected world.

Let's embrace this change together and work towards an education system that celebrates our diversity, bridges divides, and empowers every student to reach their full potential.

Dr. Santosh Kanwar Shekhawat

Literary and Cultural Activities

The Literary Forum organizes literary, dramatic, creative and other cultural events in the Department at regular intervals. The Forum conducts Classroom Seminars at weekends under the guidance of the Head of the Department and the Convenor, Literary Forum. Every year the Literary Forum organises Literary Fest under which the events such as Literary Quiz, Poetry Recital Sessions, and Poster Making Competition are organised. The following cultural and literary events were celebrated/ organized in the session 2023-24:

1. Book donation Campaign: The Department organised a book donation campaign and donated the books to the University library to facilitate the maximum circulation of these books amongst the students. Students and faculty members of the Department went to library on the 23 August, 2023 and donated nearly fifty books of English Literature which included books edited by the Assistant Professors of the Department.



2. Fresher's Party: Freshers' Party was organised on 6 September, 2023 by the seniors for the students of Semester I and PGDT to welcome them in the Department. Faculty members lighted the lamp before Goddess Saraswati. Newcomers introduced themselves and interacted with the faculty members and seniors and participated in the activities organised in their honour. The title of Mr. Fresher was awarded to Girijashankar and Ms. Fresher to Pooja Sharma. The party concluded with a vote of thanks by the convenor of the literary forum.



3. Celebration of Hindi Diwas: The Department of English celebrated Hindi Diwas on 14 September, 2023 to celebrate the linguistic diversity of the country. It was an effort to promote and appreciate the multilingual culture of the country. Students were enthusiastic about this step and participated with best of their abilities. The students of the Department recited self composed poems in Hindi. The audience were captivated by the poems recited by Prateek Yadav and Pawan Kumar. Winners were felicitated by the faculty members.



GPS Map
Nathusar Rural India
MESU Campus, Z7MB+Q0Q, Jaisolmer Rd.,
Anhyodaya Nagar, Nathusar Rural, Rajasthan
India
September 14, 2023
195 m
28.934171
Latitude
Longitude 73.2168702
GMT 07:26 am
Local Time 12:56 pm

4. Literary Quiz organised: A literary quiz was organised in Department on 15 September, 2023 under the aegis of Literary Forum to evoke enthusiasm in the students about literature, literary figures, and literary movements. This was an zeffort to make learning more joyful to the students. Prateek Yadav from M.A Semester II was the winner while Lavika Verma from M.A Semester I was the runner up.



5. Essay Writing Competition: An essay writing competition was organised in the Department of English on 11 October 2023 to improve the writing skills of the students. Students really appreciated this move as it helped them to improve their language skills. Twinkle Kansal from Semester IV was the winner and Tarushi from semester II was the runner up.



6. Visit to the Old-Age Home: A visit to the old age home was undertaken on 12 October, 2023 to sensitize the students about the importance of family relations, particularly the elderly members of the family. Students donated items according to the needs of the elderly people. The students interacted with old people and learned from their experiences of life. Students acknowledged their contribution to the society and thanked them for it. It was a heart changing and life changing experience for some students. A pool of items was donated to the old age home without anyone's name on it.



7. Farewell Party: A farewell party was organised by the juniors to bid farewell to the students of the outgoing Semester IV and PGDT on 4 November, 2023. The outgoing students shared their experiences with the junior's. Dance and singing performances were given by the juniors; seniors participated in the games and had a lot of fun. Faculty members gave blessings to the outgoing students for their bright and successful future. The party ended with a vote of thanks by the convenor of the Literary Forum.



8. Meditation and Yoga Seminar: A Meditation and Yoga seminar was organized in the Department on 12 December, 2023 to develop a calm and organised mindset in the students. Dr. Seema Sharma spoke about the benefits of meditation and how it can change the perspective on life. Dr. Rubal of Youth Unite Program shared her ideas about the initiative of the mission. Mr. Bhanwarlal conducted half an hour of Yoga Session.



9. Academic Tour: An academic tour was organised by the Department of English on 20th December, 2023 to Punrasar temple to sensitize the students about the cultural nuances and to acquaint them with the traditions of the village life. Students were asked to write a report on the ‘Culture and Traditions of the Local People’ by interacting with them and what temple meant for the local people and how it affects the local community in village. The temple priest and some old people shared their views on the significance of religion, culture, traditions in our day-to-day life.



10. National Youth Day: Swami Vivekananda’s birth anniversary was celebrated on 12 January, 2024 with great fervour and enthusiasm. Speaking on the occasion, the Head of the Department, Prof. A.K. Chhangani advised the students to read the literature written by Vivekananda. Pawan Kumar from Semester-II expressed his views on Swami Vivekanand’s message for the youth of the nation and its contemporary relevance.



11. Three Day Workshop on Personality Development and Communication Skills: A three days’ workshop on Personality Development and Communication Skills was organised by University Department of English in collaboration with Centre for Entrepreneurship and Skill Development on 24, 25 and 27 January, 2024. The main objective of the Workshop was to familiarize participants with the emerging trends on ‘how to develop personality in the Present Times’ and ‘how Communication Skills can help them to develop Personality.’ The program also aimed to develop an understanding of effective planning, time management, and implementation to set and achieve personal and professional goals. Additionally, it sought to enhance their academic language skills, specifically in writing and presenting, for academic purposes. Lastly, it aimed to teach participants how to evaluate themselves through self-appraisal and introspection, fostering



further personal growth. Prof. A.K Gahlot, Former Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Dr. Krishna Rathore, Former Principal, Govt.Dungar College, Bikaner Dr. Gaurav Bissa, Associate Professor Management Studies, Dr. Atul Goswami ,Govt. Engineering College, Dr. Tripti Soni, Assistant Professor, Department of English, RNB Global University, Bikaner and Dr. Manish Maharshi, Department of English, Government Dungar College gave valuable insights to the students in different technical sessions.



12. Basant Panchmi Celebration: Life becomes a festival when gaiety and culture blend together. Basant Panchami delivers the message of both. Festivals enhance creativity, give massive euphoric moments, and connect us to the culture. Hence, the celebration on 14 February, 2024 was to seek the blessings of the Goddess of Learning and Wisdom, Mother Saraswati. The students sang Saraswati Vandana in chorus. Students were given diaries and pens as gift by the teachers.



Creative Corner

Nature's Call

Beneath the sky, the earth so wide,
A tapestry of life, our world's true pride.
The rivers hum, the trees they sway,
A song of nature, calling us to stay.

But shadows fall where care is lost,
The soil once rich, now counts the cost.
The air grows thick with silent pleas,
The oceans whisper of their disease.

We take, we take, with selfish hands,
From desert dunes to shifting sands.
Yet nature's voice is ever near,
A gentle cry for us to hear.

To cherish what we hold so dear,
Protect the lands, the sky, the sphere.
A future bright, if we unite,
To honor earth, and set things right.

Let every step, each breath we take,
Reflect the care for earth's own sake.
For in the balance, we all stand,
Together as one, in nature's hand.

Lavika Verma (M.A. Semester I)

Associations and Systems

Mentoring System

The Department has a Mentoring System with all the Faculty Members acting as Mentors. The Mentors carry out the following tasks:

- Keep the mentees updated on the curricular and co-curricular matters.
- Acquaint the mentees with the current issues.
- Equip the mentees with the presentation and communication skills.
- Encourage and prepare them for participation in University/State/National/International level events.
- Guide the mentees in fulfilling the admission and examination related process such as filing of admission and examination forms.
- Report to the mentee's parents about his/her progress and further updates.
- Work for the improvement /betterment of the mentee's emotional intelligence.
- Equip the mentees for the forthcoming competitive examinations such as UGC NET and the examinations conducted by the UPSC, RPSC and other PSCs of the country.
- Acquaint the mentees with various fellowship and scholarship schemes.
- Motivate and prepare the mentees for participation in national/international level Seminars /Conferences/Workshops, etc.
- Involve them in one or the other Extension Activities or Activities/Events of Social Corporate Responsibility which contribute towards the growth of the nation and society at large.

Tutorial System

The Department has a Vibrant Tutorial System to guide the students on the academic issues related to the Courses and Programs that the students are engaged in. The Tutorial System performs the function of utilizing the students' strengths to eradicate their weaknesses. Under the Tutorial System, the whole Class of a Semester is divided into groups (a group of maximum 10 students) and each group is allocated a teacher to guide and supervise them. The Tutorial System remains functional even during the times of calamity such as pandemic or holidays. During such days of difficulty, the teacher guides the students Online and instills in them confidence so that the students may reach near perfection.

Alumni Association

The Alumni Association has been established in the Department to promote and foster mutually beneficial interaction between the Alumni and the current batch of Students. It provides a Forum to the Alumni for exchange of ideas on academic, cultural and social issues by organizing and coordinating reunion activities of the Alumni. Besides this, the Association keeps an updated record of all Alumni and their pertinent data. The Alumni Association regularly organizes get together events that enable students both old and new to connect with each other as well as the Faculty Members. Every year is organised an Alumni Meet. The Department in a shorter span of time has produced some significant alumni, to name a few Sarita Chouhan, former Pradhan of Khajuwala, Prafull Hatila, Ward Member, Bikaner and Shubham Ramawat, Translator and Interpreter, External Affairs Ministry of India.

Departmental Cells

Guidance Cell for Competitive Exams

Guidance for Competitive Exam is a regular feature of the Department. The current times are the times of competition when the students appear for a number of Competitive Examinations. The students are to be encouraged and guided to prepare for such challenging examinations. Taking into consideration the need of the day, the Department has established the Competitive Exam Guidance Cell. Through this Cell, the Department organizes various activities for the development of the students. The Cell conducts special lectures and different competitions for the students. A large number of students have been benefitted by the activities conducted by this Cell. They learn how to plan and prepare tactfully for the examinations. Through varied types of interaction, the students are made aware of their potentials so that they can get success in Competitive Examinations.

Remedial Coaching Cell

Remedial Coaching Cell functions with the spirit to bring teaching and learning to near perfection. The Coaching Cell becomes functional in the last one and a half month of every Semester. The objectives of the Cell are to conduct the diagnostic test to find out the strengths and weaknesses of teaching and learning, so as to utilize the strengths to make teaching learning process more effective and to evolve a process to eradicate the weaknesses of teaching and learning.

The Cell operates in a systematic way. Slow and advanced learners of every area are identified, and thereafter the advanced learners are asked to guide the slow learners. The faculty members concerned guides the slow learners and enable them identify their weaknesses and suggest the ways to eradicate them. All the Faculty Members are Office Bearers of this cell. The Head of the Department is the Director of the Cell and all the Faculty Members serve as Members. Owing to the vibrant functioning of the Remedial Coaching Cell, the Department has given cent percent results since its establishment.

Career Counselling Cell

To ensure the overall development of the students and to equip them with the information that helps them to be better placed, the Department has constituted a Career Counselling Cell. All the Faculty Members are the Members on the Cell with one Faculty Member serving as Co-ordinator. The objectives of the Cell are to educate the students on the current issues which are not the part of students' curriculum, to update them on the current vacant job positions, to suggest them the devices and ways which can make them good human beings and better citizens of the country, and to generate awareness about the socio-economic concerns amongst them which impact the society in some or the other way. The vibrant Career Counselling Cell holds collective as well as individual meeting with the students so as to find out the remedies of the problems the students have or are likely to face in near future. The micro and macro analysis of the problems is done, and solutions are arrived at.

Students Stories.....

Department's keen and consistent interest in organizing events that unfolds and introduces newer possibilities of world of English Language is truly motivational and inspiring.

Ankita Swami

M.A. Sem IV

The department has opened new knowledge windows which have posed challenges to us to explore new areas of research at local and global level.

Twinkle Kansal

M.A. Sem IV

Coming with the background of a mild, under confident student, I was not sure if I would fit into a new environment with the likes of other students I found superior to me, only to later be proven wrong and realise that it would be the best 2 years of my college life.

Parmesh

M.A. Sem IV

The University Department of English has given me wonderful exposure towards literature. The Umpteen number of activities conducted by the Department such as Excursions, extended lectures, workshops, seminars along with different extra-curricular activities not only facilitated my understanding but also enhanced my confidence.

Prateek Yadav

M.A. Sem II

The Department is an ideal place of learning. The teachers as well as the Non-teaching Staff helped us grow to a considerable extent.

Tarushi Nagal

M.A. Sem II

Our teachers have enabled us to imagine and visualise literature rather than simply read it, now the world has become our classroom.

Karisma Gahlot

P & G Diploma in Translation

Courses and Programs being run by the Department

**Master of Arts
Post Graduate Diploma in Translation
Ph. D.**

To,

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