



Views on New Education Policy framework-2016 with Regard to Restoration of Detention Policy between Class Six to Nine, Merger and Consolidation of Schools

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Abstract:

This paper provides views on the inputs of draft-New Indian Education Policy framework-2016 with regard to restoration of Detention Policy between Class Six to Nine, Merger and consolidation of Schools. Now a day's such kind of detention policy cannot be worked out. The Class Teacher, or the Head master cannot detain a student, the student, and the parent also will not accept their decision. If merger is taken place, that will give room only for private schools to establish its root further strongly. This policy can be viewed as a indirect motivation towards privatisation.

Keywords: Education, Examinations, New education policy (NPE)

1. Introduction

The New Education Policy framework-2016 has spelled about the amendment of 'No Detention Policy'. Presently till the Ninth Standard there is no detention of students. The Examinations are conducted and their performances are valued, but they are just kept for awareness about the status of the students and not used for detention even if poor performance recorded as in the case of 1990s. The New Education policy makers recommended that the present provisions of no-detention policy will be amended, as it has seriously affected the academic performance of students. The no detention policy will be limited up to class V and the system of detention will be restored at the upper primary stage.

2. Views on restoration of Detention Policy between Class Six and Nine

Till the 1990s, detention was with the sole discretion of the class teacher and the Headmaster of the particular school. There were system for continuous assessment as of now, and at the end of each academic year, by consolidating the students' whole year performance, the teachers used to give results. Almost, there were no major problems recorded from the side of the detained students as well as from the parents.

By those times, there were strong belief over the teachers that they won't make detention on any of biased ground and also the Teachers even with limited clear cut rules and regulations or monitoring system, they perform their duty sincerely. Parents also cooperate with the School system, if they got negative results, they almost accept and wait for positive results in the next year. Further, that kind of detention also did not make any major hurdle for the students' future indeed helps for them.

3. Present scenario

Now a day's such kind of detention policy cannot be worked out. The Class Teacher, or the Head master cannot detain a student, the student, and the parent also will not accept their decision. If they do so, they cannot run the school, lot threats will be imposed.

Further for the Private schools, the parents are paying the fee, and expect the school should take all the responsibility of their children's growth, if they detain a student, the questions form the parents can not be answered by the School administrators. That kind of activity will propagate negative add towards the particular school and the people will start leaving that school. These are the practical situation prevailing in the secondary level education system.

Above all, even in 10th standard and in 12th standard, government, the respective boards also wanted to pass all the students and are giving boosted results, and even for failed students they are conducting immediate examinations to get passed and to join with the stream without loss of the year. Then, how and why do we go for restoration of Detention Policy between Class Six to Nine? In this fast moving era, stopping a student in a particular year for quality concern or in any ground may not be acceptable, if there is a situation arises, then the methodology of teaching only has to be modified to cover those slow learners and should not go for detention.

Even, after this kind of practical observation, if we want to go for restoration of Detention Policy between Class Six to Nine, then a separate board should be created to conduct examinations as in the case of 10th and 12th standard. Then only the school can escape from the parents and students' anger. Further, this will made the schooling a restless and fear full period and may lead to major drop outs. Hence, the restoration of Detention Policy between Class Six to Nine should be given up and other ways to establish quality should be addressed.

4. Merger and consolidation of Schools

As an effort to reform school education system, the New education policy framework has noted about merger and consolidation of Schools. It is informed the following policy initiation will be taken: "Each State will undertake a detailed exercise of school mapping to identify schools with low enrolment and inadequate infrastructure. Wherever possible, efforts will be made to convert existing non-viable schools into composite schools for optimum utilization of human, physical and infrastructural resources, better academic performance and cost effective management. When schools are merged they could be located in a single campus. In consultation with the states, common guidelines for merger and consolidation would be evolved, without diluting the provisions of the RTE Act. The consolidation will enable the country to achieve one class- one teacher norm in a foreseeable future."

In this regard, it is vivid that the government is taking this policy to decide the fate of the government schools and not thinking about the existence of private schools. Poor enrolment in the government school is only because of the mushrooming private schools and the due to the poor management of government schools with regard to its infrastructure, teachers and administrators. Even, if such merger is taken place, that will give room only for private schools to establish its root further strongly. This policy can be viewed as a indirect motivation towards privatisation.

One of the major emerging problems now a days is the distance of the schools from the residential places. To access the schools private schools are coming with their own vehicles and add additional fare for that.

To avoid this kind of burden, schools should be created within a particular radius. All the activities of the schools should be monitored lively and quality concerns should be addressed immediately. Keeping the government schools within the short radius of the residential area will cut short many unwanted expenditure, traffic and students' safety related issues too.

5. Open schooling for working children

Another notable policy matter discussed in the draft is about the open schooling. That states as "Open schooling facilities will be expanded to enable dropouts and working children to pursue education without attending full time formal schools".

These expectations of "dropouts and working children" itself is not admirable. Governments' new policy should be keen on these issues of drop outs and child labour. A massive programmes to bring all those drop outs and working children are to be carried out and that kind of efforts too were taken in the past, that kind of effort should be implemented in a sustainable manner. The new policy should keep the children in schools and should not give any room for child labour.

Open schooling concept should be merged with the regular schools dropping and working in the age of schooling. If it is so, what will be the meaning of existence of the RTE act? This kind of controversial policy should be taken for intensive examination. Detention and drop outs are interrelated and used to give direct impact too.

Another policy initiative with regard to school education is establishing Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs). This is a positive effort, and should be established in plenty.

While establishing such central schools more chances should be given to the local students and exchange of students between the states also may implemented for cultural cohesion as prevailing in the Navodhaya vidyalaya schools.

Same time the privatisation through a back door entry. That is, permitting the CBSE private schools should be abandoned as they are not in a control of State government and also not obeying the CBSE whole heartedly.

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