



राजीव गांधी राष्ट्रीय युवा विकास संस्थान
RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, चंडीगढ़/Regional Centre, Chandigarh
राष्ट्रीय महत्व का सांस्थान/Institution of National Importance
युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार/ Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India

THREE-DAYS ORIENTATION WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL POLICY

23 - 25 November 2022

Programme Report

Organized by

Department of Development Studies

RGNIYD Regional Centre, Chandigarh

Programme Coordinators: Dr. P. Sivakumar, Dr. Niyathi R. Krishna and Ms. Keerat Pal Kaur

ORIENTATION WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL POLICY

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PROGRAMME REPORT

Introduction

Public policy is an important instrument which determines the development course in a country. Social policy examines the ways societies around the world meet people's basic needs for security, work, education, health, and well-being. Understanding, who benefits from social policy, who suffers from it, and when political actors are most likely to provide it, is critical to comprehending the various patterns of social policy, its causes, and consequences.

Keeping this in view, the Department of Development Studies, RGNIYD Regional Centre, Chandigarh, organised three-days 'Orientation Workshop on Social Policy' during 23-25 November 2022, where various aspects of social policy were deliberated to understand how Government has been responding to various social, economic and demographic challenges.

Summary of the Programme

The first day of the workshop commenced with inaugural programme and lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest, Ms. Urvashi Prasad, Director, DMEO, NITI Aayog. Dr. P. Sivakumar, Head, Department of Development Studies and; Convenor of the workshop welcomed the gathering and facilitated the chief guest. Ms. Urvashi Prasad, in the key note address, deliberated on changing policy landscape and need of involvement of states in policy process in a diverse country like India. She discussed how NITI Aayog as a premier policy think tank is developing itself as a State-of-the-art Resource Centre by collaborating with NGOs, experts, private organisations and other stakeholders. She also delved into the role of

DMEO in monitoring and evaluation of various policies with purpose of framing evidence based and data-driven policies.

The workshop had various interactive sessions and panels with eminent speakers like Shri. Sanjay Awasthi, Head of Office, IOM UN India; Ms. Ammaarah Martinus, Senior Program Officer, UNESCO-MGIEP, Ms. Priya Sadhu, Senior Monitoring Evaluation Lead, SDGs, UNDP India; Dr. Malika Basu, Former Gender Specialist of UN Solutions Exchange & founder of Development Initiatives for Change; Ms. Nini Mehrotra, Associate Director- Girls Education Program, Room to Read India; Ms. Renjini Rajagopalan, Senior Program Manager, Circle In; Professor Ashutosh Kumar, Department of Political Science, Panjab University; Mr. Akshit Jain, Co-Lead, Innovations and Ecosystems, Commutiny – The Youth Collective; Dr. Mohammad Sohail, Head Department of Public Administration, Government Mohindra College, Patiala; Mr. Mayank Lodha, Former teach for India fellow; and Ms. Bhagyalakshami Balaji, Associate Director Literacy Program, Room to Read, India.

The Valedictory function was inaugurated by Ms. Kanta Singh, Deputy Country Representative - UN Women India, with an inspirational inaugural address where she has narrated how dreams translate into passion from her own experience. Prof. Sibnath Deb, Director of RGNIID graced the occasion online and delivered the Presidential Address, stressing on the significance of contextualizing social policies. Shri Sanjay Awasthi, in his special address mentioned the importance of the delivery of quality outputs in evidence based research. Ms. Keerat Pal Kaur, Guest Faculty and Co-convener of the workshop, presented the programme report, followed by feedback from participants. The workshop came to an end with Dr. Niyathi R Krishna, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Studies and Co-convener of the workshop proposing vote of thanks.

DETAILED REPORT

INAUGURAL SESSION

On November 23, 2022, the workshop commenced with inaugural session wherein Dr. P. Sivakumar, Head of Department of Development Studies & Convenor of the Programme welcomed all the dignitaries and participants and facilitated the chief guest. He also apprised about the intent and objectives of the workshop. After the welcome address, Dr. P. Sahoo, Associate Professor, Department of Development Studies gave introductory remarks in which he highlighted the intricate fundamentals of social policies and their role in achieving SDGs for inclusive development. The welcome address was followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest, Ms. Urvashi Prasad, Director, DMEO, NITI Aayog, Prof. Inderjeet Singh Sodhi, Head, Department of Public Administration, RGNIYD, Dr. P. Sivakumar Head, Department of Development Studies, Dr. P. Sahoo, Associate Professor, Department of Development Studies, Dr. Niyathi R. Krishna, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Studies and student representatives of Development Studies Department.



Key Note Address

Ms. Urvashi Prasad, Director, DMEO, NITI Aayog deliberated on the change from planning era under erstwhile Planning Commission and how the mandate of NITI Aayog differs from that of Planning Commission. She highlighted the changing policy landscape and need of

involvement of states in policy process in a vast and diverse country like India. NITI Aayog provides the platform for States and UTs to actively participate in policy deliberations, thus operationalizing Cooperative Federalism. She discussed how NITI Aayog as a premier policy think tank is developing itself as a State-of-the-art Resource Centre by collaborating with NGOs, experts, private organisations and other



stakeholders. Giving example of Aspirational District Programme, she also talked about the focus of NITI Aayog on development of the areas where the fruits of development has not reached and making them models of development. She also delved into the role of DMEO in monitoring and evaluation of various policies with purpose of framing evidence based and data-driven policies.

Session – I

Foundations of Public Policy and its ramifications in present day context

Dr. Ashutosh Kumar, Professor, Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh, began the session by referring to the concept of welfare and justice embedded in the Constitution and their impact of public policies in India. He referred to two types of policies i.e. protective discriminating policies and affirmative action oriented policies. Classifying the social and welfare policies of Government of India since Independence in these two types, he discussed the evolution of reservation policies, poverty alleviation and other social welfare programmes. Highlighting the social responsibility of the state, he also discussed the impact of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization on various social and economic policies of the Government. While critising the centralized planning model of development adopted by India,

he provided critical insights into how trickle down model of development, contributed in reducing the poverty but increased the gap between rich and poor.



He concluded the session by pointing out three reasons for regional disparity among states with respect to overall development i.e. ideology of the regional parties, social movements and organizational structure of mainstream political parties. Regional parties with strong support of working class have been able to bring more development to their states as compared to others. Similarly, states having experience of social movements like self-respect movement in Tamil Nadu are more developed.

Session – 2

National Education Policy: Sectoral Perspectives (Panel Discussion)

Session 2 was a panel discussion on New Education Policy: Sectoral Perspectives. Dr. P. Sivakumar, Head, Department of Development Studies, RGNIYD RC Chandigarh was the moderator of the panel discussion. Other Panellists were **Dr. Mohammad Sohail**, Head Department of Public Administration, Government Mohindra College Patiala, Punjab, **Mr.**

Mayank Lodha, Former Teach for India Fellow, and **Ms. Bhagyalakshmi Balaji**, Associate Director, Literacy Programme, Room to Read, New Delhi.



The discussion began with **Mr. Mayank Lodha** pointing out the importance of policy design and policy implementation in the success of a policy. He apprised the participants about the ambitious objectives and provisions for School Education in the New Education Policy 2020 and expressed concern about its implementation. The sheer size and diversity of India's education sector makes implementation an uphill task. He further talked about the limitations of the current heavily bureaucratised implementation system. He concluded that a shift from a rigid content-driven rote learning system, toward experiential learning and critical thinking would necessitate nothing short of a complete transformation not only in the attitudes of teachers, students, and parents but also in the attitudes of those in charge of the education system. **Ms. Bhagyalakshmi Balaji**, discussed the state of primary schools in India. Poor infrastructure and high teacher-student ratio in schools are still the major hurdles in effective

education at primary level. She also discussed how the primary education was not given due importance in previous education policies and its only NEP 202 that school system has been given more importance. She discussed ambitious provisions of NEP 2020 for improving primary education system and also raised concern on its implementation. **Dr. Mohammad Sohail** discussed the NEP 2020 from higher education perspective and explained the areas and issues that the policy aims to address. While referring education as a medium of socio-economic development of a country, he explained the evolution of education system in India since independence. He also discussed the evolution of education policies and pointing out the differences in these policies with respect to details, deadlines and priority areas. The major goals and ambitious targets of NEP 2020 with respect to higher education were highlighted. At the end of the session he pointed out that poor quality of education as one of the major issues faced by higher education in India which is resulting in increasing number of unemployable youth. Lack of budgetary support was another major hurdle in revamping of higher education system in India.

Session – 3

Policy Landscape in the context of SDGs: Lessons from India

Ms. Priya Sadhu, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Lead, - SDGs, UNDP India, in an interactive session discussed the origin, need and importance of sustainable development by highlighting the 3 pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environment) and 17 SDGs. She discussed how various social policies (Ayushman Bharat Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Jan Yojna, Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Jan Dhan Aahar Mobile and Poshan Abhiyan) in India are well designed and aligned with expected outcomes of SDGs. She further deliberated on various monitoring mechanisms that have evolved to map the progress of SDGs across various social policy interventions in India. She concluded her session by highlighting India's measures and progress in monitoring of SDGs at the local level.



Day – 2: 24th December 2022

Session – 4 National Youth Policy: Directions for Future

The second day of the workshop began with the session on National Youth Policy by **Mr. Akshit Jain**, Co-Lead, Innovations and Ecosystems, Commutiny – The Youth Collective. He began his session by pointing out declining representation of youth in Lok Sabha since Independence. He pointed out how youth are not given space in decision making arenas like Cabinet which are dominated by ‘elders’ who treat youth as children who lack decision making and leadership skills and need guidance in all walks of life. He emphasized how engagement of youth in policy making is



not simply for the sake of participation but also to integrate youth oriented ideas in policy area. He discussed the five priority areas - education; employment & entrepreneurship; youth leadership & development; health, fitness & sports; and social justice; identified in the draft NYP 2021 to catalyze widespread action on youth development. He also points out the needs of young people and migration related problems being faced the youth community. He concluded the session by emphasizing the need to keep youth-oriented dialogues alive and creating spaces for youth development.

Session – 5

Education and Gender: What Worked and What Didn't

Ms.Nini Mehrotra, Associate Director, Girls Education Programme, Room to Read, New Delhi, began the session by presenting a series of comic strips and an informative video reflecting the pre conceived notions of gender stereotypes prevalent in the society. She



critically brought forth the impact of this gender stereotyping on both young girls and boys. She further shed light on the discriminatory practices in present schooling system causing mental pressure on both girls and boys alike and how it adversely affects the future aspirations of these young minds. During the interactive session the issue of power relations between men and women was

also brought up. It resulted in interesting examples being shared from personal experiences by the participants. She concluded the session with brief description of the organisation Room to Read and its role in the upliftment of girls/women by teaching them about self-awareness,

social- awareness, and self- efficiency through a series of programs including an efficient mentorship programme.

Session – 6

Reframing Welfare Policies in the Context of Post-Pandemic Scenario

Ms. Renjini Rajagopal, Senior Program Manager, Circle In, explained how social protection is embedded in various SDGs. She elaborated the concept of social welfare and its relevance at global level and in India. She discussed how Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution reflects the welfare nature of Indian State. She further explained the role of Government of India in providing social protection and promoting the welfare of its citizen under various schemes like ICDS, NSAP, MGNREGA, RSBY, NFSA, NRLM and so on. She discussed the challenges (leakages, corruption, coverage) being faced in the effective implementation of these social welfare schemes. She further delved into the key issues emerged after the pandemic i.e. poor and inadequate health infrastructure, excessive burden on women, unemployment, migrant influx etc. While discussing the problems being faced by women, she highlighted that women in India spend significant time on unpaid work resulting in their poor participation in the labour workforce. She discussed the impact of Covid-19 on jobs and employment in India and stated that those in the informal economy deal with uncertainty, vulnerability and lack of



social protection. She concluded the session by shedding light on various social protection measures being taken by Government of India and challenges in their effective implementation.

Session – 7

Mainstreaming Socio-Emotional Learning into Education: Policy Lesson from India

Ms. Ammaarah Martinus, Senior Programme Officer, UNESCO- MGIEP, gave momentum to the session by underlining the importance of emotional agencies for socio-emotional learning. She discussed EMC² (Empathy, Mindfulness, Critical Inquiry and Compassion) as the four key components of socio emotional learning.



She highlighted the proportion of youth population in India along with the rate of unemployment among youth. She further pointed out high rate of youth poverty, and discussed the toxic stress that affects the brain development as the one of the causes. She pointed out the need of socio-emotional learning skills at the school level and how these skills lay the foundation for developing literacy, numeracy and other cognitive abilities that are critical for success in school and life. She explained how the current education system does not focus on

the socio-emotional learning. She further highlighted the important features of NEP 2020 and National Youth Policy (draft) 2021 and their relevance for youth development. She concluded her session by suggesting that SEL should not only be made part of the curriculum at the school level but should also be promoted as a way of life.

Session – 8

Framing Policies for Inclusion

Dr. Malika Basu, Founder, Development Initiatives for Change, began her session by elaborating the reasons for the need of inclusive policies. While looking at policies as framework of public action discussed the meaning and pre-requisite of an inclusive policies.



She suggested that for developing an inclusive policy, the policy framework should include interrelated dimensions of inclusion - social, political, cultural and economic. She highlighted inclusion as means to bring transformative change. She emphasized on bringing inclusivity not only in the means but also the ends or outcomes

of a policy. She concluded that the characteristic of inclusiveness needs to be maintained and nurtured throughout the policy process.

Day – 3: 25th December 2022

Session – 9

Relevance of Labour Migration Policies in a Post-Pandemic Era

Mr. Sanjay Awasthi, Head of Office, IOM India discussed how migration being a source of remittance, investment, human and social capital and strategic support, is an agent of change

and development for both destination and origin countries. He further discussed that migration landscape in India is dynamic, heterogeneous and complex. He stated that migration is also a cross-cutting issue in 2030 agenda, and the SDG's motto to "leave no one behind" is a clear call for sustainable development to be inclusive, including for migrants. He also talked about the impact of pandemic on migration and



discussed the need for rethinking the design of labour migration policies as well as wider public policies, and the framework for evaluating the impact of migrant labour. He highlighted the robust initiatives of the Central and State Governments to protect the internal and returning international immigrants and suggested that greater attention to medium and long-term effects of labour migration is the need of the hour. He concluded his session by highlighting the role of IOM in India in prioritizing and protecting the rights and well-being of migrants and their communities in their places of origin, transit, and destination.

VALEDICTORY SESSION

The Valedictory function was inaugurated by Ms. Kanta Singh, Deputy Country Representative - UN Women India, with an inspirational inaugural address where she has narrated how dreams translate into passion from her own experience. Prof. Sibnath Deb, Director of RGNIYD graced the occasion online and delivered the Presidential Address, stressing on the significance of contextualizing social policies. HeShri Sanjay Awasthi, in his special address mentioned the importance of the delivery of quality outputs in evidence based

research. Ms. Keerat Pal Kaur, Guest Faculty (on contract) and Co-convener of the workshop, presented the programme report, followed by feedback from participants. The workshop came to an end with Dr. Niyathi R Krishna, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Studies and Co-convener of the workshop proposing vote of thanks. The programme was attended by around 70 participants.

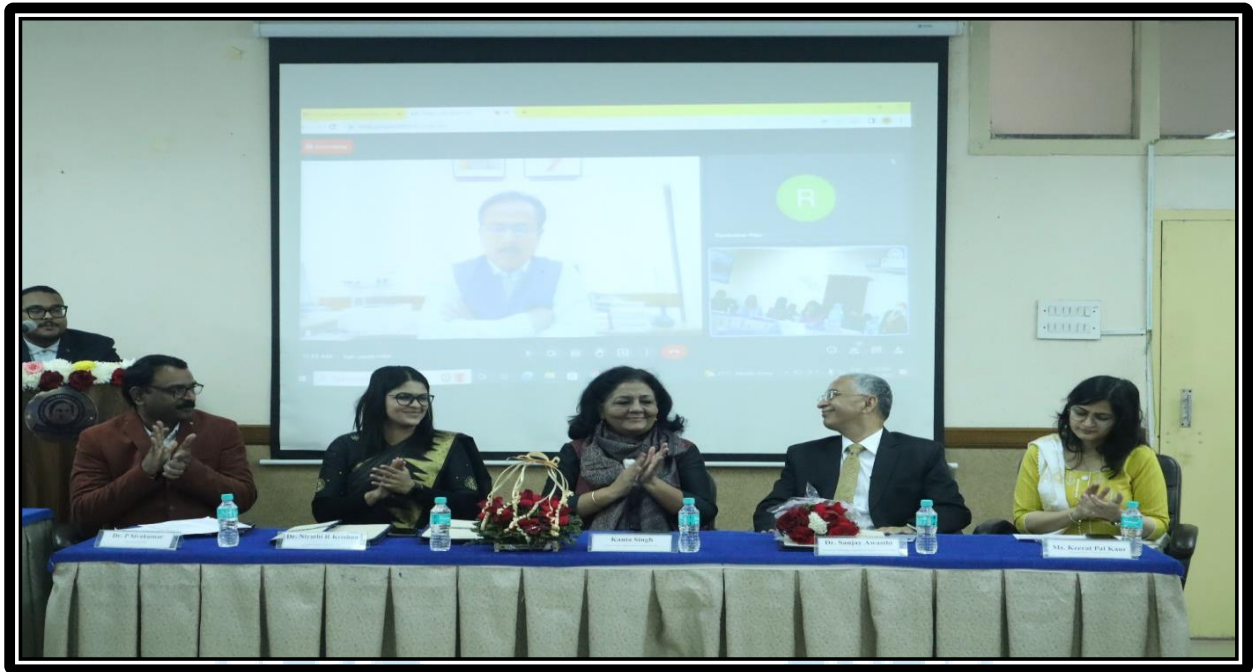


PHOTO GALLERY















PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

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Department of Development Studies, RGNIYD Regional Centre, Chandigarh

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23rd to 25th November 2022

Date and Time	Theme	Speaker	
Day 1 23 rd November 2022			
9:30 – 10:00 AM	Registration		
10:00 -11:15 AM	Introductory Session & Inauguration	Welcome Address & Introductory Remarks about the Programme	Dr. P Sivakumar HoD, Department of Development Studies, RGNIYD
		Inauguration of the Programme	
		Keynote Address: Changing Policy landscape of India: Role of NITI Aayog	Ms. Urvashi Prasad, Director, DMEO, Public Health & Policy Specialist, NITI Aayog
		Vote of Thanks	Dr. Niyathi R Krishna, Assistant Professor Department of Development Studies, RGNIYD
11:15 – 11:30 AM	Tea Break		
11:30 – 01:00 PM	Foundations of Public Policy and its ramifications in present day context	Prof. Ashutosh Kumar, Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh	
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch Break		
2:00 – 3:30 PM	National Education Policy: Sectoral Perspectives	Panel Discussion 1. Dr. Mohammad Sohail, Head, Department of Public Administration, Government Mohindra College, Patiala 2. Mayank Lodha, Teach For India 3. Bhagyalakshmi Balaji, Associate Director Literacy Program, Room to Read India	
03:30 – 03:45 PM	Tea Break		
3:45 – 5:15 PM	Policy Landscape in the context of SDG: Lessons from India	Ms. Priya Sadhu, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Lead, – SDGs, UNDP India	

Day 2 24 ^h November 2022			
09:30 – 11:00 AM	<i>National Youth Policy: Direction for future</i>	Mr Akshit Jain, Co-Lead Innovations and Ecosystems, ComMutiny - The Youth Collective	
11:00 – 11:15 AM	Tea Break		
11:15 – 12:15 PM	<i>Education and Gender: What has worked and what Doesn't</i>	Ms. Nini Mehrotra, Associate Director - Girls Education Program, Room To Read, India	
12:15-01:30 PM	<i>'Reframing welfare policies in the context of Post-Pandemic Scenario</i>	Ms.Renjini Rajagopal, Senior Program Manager, Circle In	
1:30 – 2:15 PM	Lunch Break		
2:15 – 3:45 PM	<i>Mainstreaming Socio-Emotional Learning into Education: Policy Lessons for India</i>	Ms. Ammaarah Martinus, Senior Programme Officer, UNESCO-MGIEP	
03:45 – 04:00PM	Tea Break		
04:00 – 5:30 PM	<i>Framing policies for Inclusion</i>	Dr. Malika Basu, Founder, Development Initiatives for Change (Di4C), New Delhi	
Day 3 25 th November 2022			
09:45 – 11:15 AM	<i>Relevance of Labour Migration Policies in a post pandemic era</i>	Mr. Sanjay Awasthi, Head of Office International Organisation for Migration (IOM) UN, India	
11:15 – 11:30 AM	Tea Break		
11:30 – 01:00 PM	Valedictory Session	Welcome Address	Dr. P Sivakumar HoD, Department of Development Studies, RGNIYD
		Presidential Address	Prof. Sibnath Deb, Director, RGNIYD
		Valedictory Address	Kanta Singh, Deputy Country Representative - UN Women India
		Report Presentation	Ms.Keerat Pal Kaur, Assistant Professor Department of Development Studies, RGNIYD
		Feedback from the participants	Participants
		Vote of Thanks	Dr. Niyathi R Krishna, Assistant Professor Department of Development Studies, RGNIYD



Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)
Regional Centre, Chandigarh

(Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament)
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India

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