

Press Release

Conference on 'New Education for New India' Held

*Value Education & Spirituality will be part of India's New Education Policy:
Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal*

New Delhi, July 29:

A National Conference on 'New Education for New India' was held under the Education Wing of the Brahma Kumaris Organization in association with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre here today.

Inaugurating the Conference, HRD Minister Mr Ramesh Pokhriyal said "Under PM's inspiration, the proposed New Education will form the roadmap for a new, healthy, wealthy, happy and developed India with integration of India's rich culture, heritage, universal values and spirituality into country's education system and curriculum."

He said that education being the backbone of our society, the education ministry has asked for public suggestions to make this policy wholesome and full proof. Out of over one lakh suggestions received from public till date, about 60% of suggestions on integration of value education and spirituality are already incorporated in the proposed education policy. On public demand, the last date of receiving suggestions has been advanced to two weeks more.

The draft policy received an overwhelming response from all the stakeholders. He added now is time to add new thought process which would help empowerment of India's youth and creation of healthy India. This kind of approach would help in building a society which is peaceful, happy and healthy. He appreciated the efforts of Brahma Kumaris towards this direction.

He also added the importance of environment in education system for which the government is planning to introduce plantation drives which would carry the responsibility of plantation but also nurturing the plants. He said India has rich and culture, *vasudhava katumbakam*, we consider this world as our family.

Shri DP Singh, Chairman of UGC said that India is a value based society. Our values form the foundation of our society and we envision new India as one which is giving hope, direction and blessed with morals and values in our youth.

He said our approach should not be limited to sustainable development but would include enlightenment, enrichment with indigenous knowledge, traditional wisdom and strength and this is possible if we focus on implementation of new education policy at an individual level.

Adding new programs, he stated UGC has started student induction program and faculty induction programs. These programs would help in trainings of faculty for ideas generation and thought provocation, and inculcation of life skills.

BK Mruthyunjaya, Chairperson, Education Wing of Brahma Kumaris from Mount Abu said, "Value-Based Education is the need of the hour and purpose of the education is not only employment but enlightenment and enrichment. He stressed that education system is now commercialized which should be granted free of cost as a fundamental right.

He added that Brahma Kumaris is conducting projects, which are *Clean the mind*, *Green the Earth* which educates the people on importance of thoughts and a clean mind in observation of society and its impact on green India and a program is being conducted nation wide in schools on *Clean India and Green India* for sensitizing the students on importance on environment and taking steps towards environment.

He presented some suggestions which include formation of global spiritual university, building a thought laboratory in every university and dedicating a time period in every university for self introspection, introduction and teachings of values in school curriculum and spiritual sessions in universities. He also stressed importance of Hindi policy in new education policy.

B K Shivani, Motivational TV icon presented the key note address and said that today emotional health of students is not being catered at homes and as well at schools. She said the emotional health of students is significant in today's times. She said that we not only want skilled professionals or economic development of the country but at the same time we want a nation which happy, healthy and wealthy. She added stressed the importance of emotional health and meditation in teachers, parents and students.

Shri SP Singh, Vice Chancellor of Gulbarga University, said there is a need for quality value education in schools and colleges. Right education is granted when right understanding and right thought and right action. It is of utmost importance to gain clarity in minds of students.

Mr. Ashwin Fernandes, Regional Director for QS Intelligence Unit for Middle East, North Africa and South Asia said education holds significance for greater

tomorrow. Today education is available in different forms as flexible education, affordable education. Life skills should be added for continuous improvement. He stressed that touch of a spiritual angle would connect the missing dots in today's education system as India is bestowed with rich spiritual wisdom

Other dignitaries addressing the Conference, Dr. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman AICTE;. Major Harsh Kumar, Secretary, NCERT; Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, VC, JNU, Delhi; Prof. SP Singh, VC, Lucknow University, Lucknow (UP); Prof. Ramesh Goyal, VC, Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences & Research University, Delhi; Prof. Prafulla Kumar Mishra, Chancellor, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Samastipur (Bihar); Prof. S.P. Melkeri, VC, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga (KT); Dr. Madhukar Maruti Waware, Deputy Director, AICTE and others.

Spiritual Leaders and senior Rajyogis like BK Shukla Didi, BK Chakradhari and BK Pushpa also shared their spiritual wisdom and suggested plan for New Education Policy.