

‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ through NEP, 2020

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Abstract - NEP 2020 seeks to promote global citizenship and a strong sense of patriotism. In line with "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" ideals, the policy emphasizes the significance of cultivating critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and appreciation for variety. It promotes students to see education as a tool for making constructive contributions to society as well as a way of achieving personal achievement. NEP 2020 has a strong emphasis on transdisciplinary learning, which fosters an awareness of diverse cultures, languages, and global issues. In order to develop ideals of empathy, cooperation, and sustainability, the policy promotes the introduction of Indian knowledge systems and ethical traditions, such as "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," within the curriculum. The relevance of international collaborations in education is also acknowledged by the policy. In order to better prepare students for an increasingly linked society, NEP 2020 promotes partnerships between Indian academic institutions and international networks. This global perspective is further supported by the incorporation of technology and digital learning, which enables students to interact with classmates and teachers worldwide. NEP 2020 promotes a comprehensive, inclusive, and internationally relevant education system, which embraces the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". It seeks to develop students who are able to comprehend and contribute to the global world in addition to being knowledgeable about their own cultural heritage. NEP 2020 aspires to a future where education fosters both individual potential and collective growth through its reforms; this is consistent with the idea of a world united as one family.

Keywords: *NEP 2020, global issues, Viksit Bharat, empathy, sustainability*

Introduction to Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

The phrase itself appears in the Maha Upanishad, one of the ancient Hindu scriptures, and the philosophy is rooted in the Vedic tradition¹. The concept has been widely discussed and promoted in various forms of literature, including academic and non-academic sources, and is often referenced in discussions of Indian philosophy and spirituality. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is a Sanskrit phrase that translates to "the world is one family." It is a philosophy deeply rooted in Indian culture and spirituality, which emphasizes the unity and interconnectedness of all beings on the planet, regardless of race, religion, gender, or nationality². This ancient concept has gained renewed relevance in the modern world, where globalization and rapid

technological advancements have made the world more interconnected than ever before. In recent years, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has gained increasing attention as a guiding principle for international relations, diplomacy, and education. This principle has the potential to promote peace, mutual understanding, and respect for diversity, and it can serve as a foundation for a more harmonious and sustainable future for humanity.

ORIGIN AND MEANING OF VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM

The concept originates in the Vedic scripture Maha Upanishad (Chapter 6, Verse 72):

“ayam bandhurayam neti ganana laghuchetasam udaracharitanam tu vasudhaiva kutumbakam”

Only small men discriminate saying: One is a relative; the other is a stranger. For those who live magnanimously the entire world constitutes but a family³.

The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is deeply rooted in Indian culture and spirituality, and it emphasizes the interconnectedness of all beings on the planet. It suggests that all humans, regardless of their race, religion, gender, or nationality, are part of a larger family, and they should work together to promote peace, harmony, and mutual understanding.

The philosophy behind Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is based on the idea that the universe is interconnected and that everything is interdependent. This means that every action that one person takes can have an impact on others, and it is essential to recognize and respect this interconnectedness. The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is thus a call to transcend boundaries and work together towards a shared goal of creating a better world for all.

India, with its rich cultural heritage and diverse population, has the potential to lead the education sector by incorporating the principles of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam into its curriculum and educational policies. The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam can be integrated into the Indian Education System is through the promotion of intercultural and interfaith dialogue. By encouraging students to engage with people from different backgrounds and to learn about different cultures and religions, the hope is that they will develop a deeper appreciation for diversity and a greater sense of empathy towards others.

The integration of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam into the Indian education system is seen as a way to promote a more holistic, values-based approach to education that emphasizes the interconnectedness of all beings and fosters a sense of global citizenship. The principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam encourages individuals to see themselves as part of a global community.

VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM AND NEP 2020

The NEP 2020 is in line with the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, in that it aims to create a more inclusive and interconnected society. The policy recognizes the importance of intercultural education and the need to incorporate cultural values and traditions into the curriculum. The principles of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam align well with the goals of NEP 2020 and can be integrated into the education system to promote universal brotherhood, respect for diversity, and a more harmonious and inclusive society.⁴

When we talk about Education and Multiculturalism, one of the main challenges that arise is the management of different world views of people. Multiculturalism inherently comes with the differing

perspectives of people which we have to imbibe while imparting knowledge at the same time. It's a tight rope that needs to be walked upon to ensure the sector of education doesn't get marred by opinions that can cause conflicts because of their cultural affiliations. Therefore, the ideology of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ for Education comes into prime importance and has been highlighted all the more through the National Education Policy⁵. Sharma, A., & Joshi, R. (2021). "Integrating Indian Values into Modern Education: An Analysis of NEP 2020." *Journal of Indian Education*, 46(2), 45-60, offers a thorough examination of the ways in which NEP 2020 aims to incorporate ancient Indian ideals with contemporary teaching methods.

Linguistic Diversity among individuals is a very subjective aspect of Education and it is difficult to quantify it. That being said, linguistic diversity renders us categorizations like bilingual diversity and multilingual diversity. In this light, a concept like ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ becomes important to take into perspective since the usage of language while imparting education tends to bring us together on a common platform. The Ministry of Education constituted the ‘Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti’ in November of 2021 to promote Indian Languages. This committee has been given the task of preparing a plan of action for the growth of Indian Languages, as prescribed in NEP 2020. To implement this committee is working in tandem with the regulatory bodies, universities and professors to provide assistance in training and orientation programmes.⁶ The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has been working on publishing engineering books in 12 languages. Similarly, there are many other such linguistic efforts underway. On the same path, the Bar Council of India has constituted a committee under former CJI Sharad Bobde for preparing legal textbooks in Indian languages. It has been doing it in association with Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti and UGC.

In a way, NEP 2020 is a roadmap for India’s role in the education sector on a global platform. In terms of the National Education Policy, all the regional languages in our country have been identified as National languages. This will help in fostering communication and relationships on a national scale. It will subsequently pave the way for development of relationships on a global level. Such recognition has been done to infuse a sense of clarity of thought in the process of learning. Singh, P. (2020). "The Role of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in Global Education Policy." *International Journal of Education and Development*, 39(1), 34-48. An examination of the potential impact of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam's philosophy on international education policies, with particular attention to the Indian setting.

The Education Ministry has covered various aspects in its document that highlight the realm of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’. In addition to recognizing and promoting regional languages of the country, NEP also talks about teaching foreign languages. Korean, Japanese, Spanish, German, French, Thai, Portuguese and Russian languages will also be offered at the secondary level. This will help the students in learning about different cultures of the world as per their own interests and aspirations⁷.

CHALLENGES

However, implementing this philosophy in the education system presents several challenges, which are discussed below:

Diverse cultural backgrounds: India is a country with diverse cultures, languages, and religions. Implementing Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam requires creating a curriculum that acknowledges and respects this diversity, and promotes an understanding and appreciation of different cultures.

Limited resources: Implementing Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam requires providing students with access to quality education that emphasizes not only academic learning but also social, emotional, and cultural learning. However, limited resources make it difficult to provide such education.

Language barriers: Language is a significant barrier in India, with many students not speaking the language of instruction. Implementing Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam requires promoting multilingualism and creating a curriculum that is accessible to students from different linguistic backgrounds.

Teacher training: Implementing Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam requires teachers who are trained to promote the philosophy and values of the concept. However, many teachers in India lack training in social, emotional, and cultural learning. Providing training to teachers requires resources and infrastructure, which may not be readily available⁸.

With proper implementation and a collaborative effort, the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam can help build a brighter future for India and the world. In conclusion, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and NEP 2020 are both concepts that emphasize the interconnectedness of the world and the need for a more inclusive and tolerant society. While Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is an ancient Indian concept, the NEP 2020 is a modern policy document that seeks to transform the education system in India to promote these values. Together, they represent a shared vision for a more interconnected and harmonious world.

OPPORTUNITIES:

1. India can strengthen its cultural diplomacy and promote international peace and cooperation by educationally advancing Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
2. NEP 2020 offers a structure for developing novel approaches to education that can be copied in other nations, fostering international peace.

CONCLUSION:

An exceptional chance to incorporate Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam's ageless concept into contemporary education is presented by the National Education Policy 2020. NEP 2020 aspires to promote global citizenship, diversity, and holistic development in order to not only produce well-rounded individuals but also to make a positive impact on a world that is increasingly peaceful and linked. It will take the combined efforts of communities, legislators, and educators to successfully apply these ideas and make sure that Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam's values are not just taught but also lived.

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