

**IKN: 31 School of Education and Teaching Learning Enhancement Cell
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)**

Panel Discussion on Draft National Education Policy 2019

Part I: School Education

Panelists: Greta D'Souza, Jacqueline Kareem, Sumita Rao K, Jose Cherian M

July 23, 2019, C 911, Central Block, Main campus

The School of Education in collaboration with the Teaching Learning and Enhancement Cell, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) organized a panel discussion on the draft National Education Policy (NEP) draft, on July 23, 2019, between 2 and 4.30 pm. This was in keeping with the directions by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to educational institutions to generate dialogue and encourage a review of the draft. The audience comprised of faculty members from different schools across the city including Carmel Academy, Chavara School, St. Johns, St. Josephs, and St. Francis, MPhil, and PhD Scholars across disciplines, and students from the School of Education.



The discussion focused on Part 1 of the draft and began with a review of the first part of the NEP draft on school education followed by recommendations. Greta

D'Souza, Sumita Rao, Jacqueline Kareem, and Jose Cherian were the panelists. This was followed by a discussion on all the chapters in the draft report.

Greta D'Souza began with the vision statement of the draft, 'The National Education Policy 2019 envisions an India centred education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high quality education to all.' She drew attention to how implementing what the policy asks for would be hampered by the lack of sufficient infrastructure and other resources. This was a concern echoed by all the speakers. Sumita Rao focussed on inclusive and equitable education. Jacqueline Kareem discussed school complexes and regulation and accreditation.

The entire discussion was summarized by Jose Cherian. He focused on challenges in the path towards the implementation of the exhaustive revisions being suggested. He also pointed towards a contradiction between 'no detention' and 'all promotion' policies and the centralized exams being conceptualized. There was also concern about extending free and compulsory education from 3-18 years through the Right to Education (RTE). How do we ensure that we address the existing issues with the implementation of the RTE first before we expand its scope? The proposal to shift stand alone teacher training institutes to multidisciplinary colleges and universities by 2030 may pose challenges to existing institutions and also raise concerns for the stakeholders in the existing institutions. He raised these and other concerns with the proposal for School education in the Draft National Education Policy. This was followed by an interaction between the panelists and the audience where the audience members shared their recommendations and feedback.

