



EDITORIAL

Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man

– Swami Vivekananda

The last decade has witnessed new paradigms in education, changing the way students engage with courses and content. While the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) seeks to address the challenges of: (i) access, (ii) equity, (iii) quality, (iv) affordability, and (v) accountability faced by the current education system; it has also attempted to bring in a more equitable education system. Many EdTech companies are operating in the education sector and providing useful content and courses through online channels. Government initiatives like SWAYAM, e-basta, MOOCs, Digital India have built an initial base for more comprehensive future plans. On the other hand, skilling and entrepreneurship have become the buzzwords of education and infused into the school curriculum and HEIs. The overall focus is on strengthening the innovation ecosystem and making education learner-centric.

NEP 2019 can play a pivotal role in the transformation of the Indian education system. It is expected to help India in reaping its demographic dividend. The policy aims to universalize pre-primary education by 2025 and provide foundational literacy. It proposes new Curricular and Pedagogical Structure covering the children in the age group 3-18 years. It aims at equitable and inclusive education for every child in the country, with a special focus on under-represented groups (URGs).

NEP proposes to create a new independent State School Regulatory Authority (SSRA). NEP also aims to consolidate 800 universities and 40,000 colleges into around 15,000 large, multidisciplinary institutions. The policy proposes three types of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs): Research Universities, Teaching Universities and Autonomous degree-granting colleges. It aims to provide autonomy to all higher education institutions HEIs to be governed by Independent Boards with complete academic and administrative autonomy. An autonomous body called the National

Research Foundation (NRF) is to be set up through an Act of Parliament. Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog or the National Education Commission, an apex body is to be constituted and MHRD to be re-designated as the Ministry of Education (MoE). Increase in public investment by the Central and State Governments to 20% of overall public expenditure over a 10 year period is also proposed.

The draft National Policy on Education has laid emphasis on the digitization and technology in education. It calls for appropriate integration of technology into all levels of education - to support teacher preparation and development; improve teaching, learning and evaluation processes; enhance educational access to disadvantaged groups; and streamline educational planning, administration and management. It can be impactful in the classroom processes of teaching, learning and evaluation and also to reach disadvantaged groups, including differently-abled students, girls and women, and students living in remote areas.

The National Educational Policy 2019 once implemented, proper guidance and support will be required and the professionals especially CMAs would be able to extend full-fledged support to the regulators, educational administrators and stakeholders at large. CMAs being specialized in the value creation, wealth management, business process re-engineering and cost management knowledge can carry out the role of advisors and consultants to the educational institutions also.

This issue presents a good number of articles on the cover story “**National Education Policy – Changing Contour of Indian Education Eco-System**” written by distinguished experts and few interviews from eminent Vice Chancellors. To make the issue more informative and contemporary we have included a good number of **Special Articles** related to **COVID-19**, which was declared a pandemic by the WHO and has collapsed the building blocks of economic, social and political systems of various nations around the world. We look forward to constructive feedback from our readers on the articles and overall development of the Journal. Please send your emails at editor@icmai.in. We thank all the contributors to this important issue and hope our readers would enjoy the articles.