



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

A Multidisciplinary approach



POONA UNIVERSITY PROJECT

Integrated programmes for teaching, research and development with rural bias.

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some extracts from the draft national policy on Education, 1979.

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PREFACE

The new educational policy just presented to Parliament has laid stress on the different aspects of education at all levels. Some of the interesting ideas are reproduced on the previous page. The question is how to implement these ideas. Autonomy is frequently advocated, but when it comes to the de-centralization of powers and authority, a number of difficulties, real and imaginary are put forth to shelve the issue. One begins to doubt the seriousness and sincerity of educational planners if the policy cannot be implemented. That is how education has suffered in India during the last 30 years of independence. "Keep politics out of education" is a slogan often repeated by political leaders in power. In actual practice, the game of politics has entered the educational system and is flowing through the arteries and veins of educational institutions in the country.

Universities are criticized for perpetuating the elitist pattern. We have in this booklet provided schemes through which modern Science and Technology can percolate down to the poorest among the poor. Can the University System be provided with the communication channels developed by Science and Technology in the modern world? Chapter VII of this booklet shows how the gap between elite and the poor can be reduced by using the modern techniques. Chapters III and IV provide a programme in which the University System can use its technological knowledge in providing new income sources and energy sources to the village systems. Chapters V and VI attempt to work out methods by which the health and the environment of the poor can be improved. Chapters I and II give the method of rural development through a system of Inter-disciplinary schools of study using the man-power in Colleges and Schools established in the rural areas. We are willing to be active partners in this grass-root development programme. Will the Government help us? Or only continue to criticize us?

A very large number of academic persons have helped me in bringing out this scientific program of Rural Development and the Poona University's contribution to this national objective. I owe them lots of thanks. They have treated the entire programme as a total venture of the University which is an entirely new concept unknown in the University System. With a cooperative effort, the three problems of the poor, namely, poverty, population, and pollution can be solved by an Inter-disciplinary approach of study and research in Physics, Philosophy and Psychology standing for Science and Technology, moral values, and human behaviour respectively. We are looking to the Government for help in implementing the national policy in Education 1979.

Why is India not yet affluent, inspite of the fact that we have been talking about Science and Technology?

This is because of the fact that we do not really use Science and Technology through education for national development.

Let us improve the situation now.

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