All India People’s Science Network (AIPSN)

Alternate Proposal Points

For National Education Policy

School Education

- Neighborhood creche for 0-3 absorbing anganwadi workers as regular employees as feeders into neighborhood early childhood education 3 to 6 schools;

- Neighborhood common school based free and compulsory quality public education for 7 to 18 years;

- Provide freshly cooked breakfast and lunch to all children in all schools using common kitchen and dining arrangements and with regularized mid-day meal workers recruited locally as part of the national school nutrition service and ban all packaged and pre-cooked food;

- Ensure all the employees of organizations receiving public aid irrespective of their affiliations (public servants, government offices, institutions and professions, public and private organizations in the business sector, non-governmental organizations, public representatives, etc., send their children to neighborhood common schools;

- National Tutor programme to be replaced by full time state level teacher recruitment to serve in neighborhood common schools;

- Common norms for all schools whether aided or otherwise;

- Expand the formal schooling system on the basis of the guidelines of the RTE Act and do not dilute the Act;

- Elected school management committees with members from all the diverse sections including disadvantaged groups;

- Education for advancement of secular Indian traditions, transformative and cosmopolitan human values integrated from around the world with the emphasis on incorporation of respect for linguistic ethnic and religious minorities;

- No change in NCF 2005 without consulting the school teachers and parent associations;

- Create a national education fund with a view to pool the contributions from philanthropic and corporate sources, tax corporate profits and make allocations and do not ask individual organization to mobilize funds separately on their own on the basis of projects to be submitted to the sources, be they are for profit or not for profit;

- Implement the formula of local language and English. No imposition of Hindi on any state. Leave the choice to the states;

- Emphasize on basic education in mother tongue; implement the provision of deprivation points to give preference to girls in schools and young women in higher education;

- National translation service for exchange of text books and resource materials between different state school boards and CBSE;
➢ National Library Network with a target of library in each village, school and college in all parts of the country with the Central and State funds allocated for the programme;

➢ Physical education needs to be strengthened with sports and games;

➢ Rethink testing and examination schemes; give states autonomy and provide reasonable scope for students to make their choices to suit their own considerations for livelihood and employment options.

Higher education

➢ Ensure all higher education institutions create facilities and resources for the integration of research, teaching and outreach; provide public funding and strengthen affiliated colleges and state universities;

➢ Do not widen the gap and strengthen linkages between state and central universities; do not run after global rankings; achieve excellence and relevance in an organic way;

➢ Scrap all the national entrance examinations for the next level of higher studies at the state level. Give autonomy to the states. Continue with national testing in the case of only central universities, Institutes of National Importance, world-class institutions, IITs, IISERs and other similar institutions;

➢ Take steps to democratize all existing systems of regulation and funding through provision for elected representation and through ensuring adequate women’s representation in all committees for governing higher education;

➢ Provide low cost and affordable higher education as a right to all without diluting its scope and content; equal opportunity to women in technical, professional, higher and vocation education;

➢ Work within the framework of the Central Universities Acts and the system of Reservation. All relevant Acts should be strengthened to ensure the policy of reservation is even followed by private players and their fee structure is regulated through legislation;

➢ Bring all the existing assets and facilities of private higher education institutions under public control and link them with the existing university system, rather than disinvesting in the university system and separating regulation from funding;

➢ Instead of opening Indic studies, HEIs can provide the space for linguistics studies and each State can be encouraged to have Central Institute of Indian languages;

➢ No to FDI in education; collaboration with foreign universities through only collaborative programmes in education and research;

➢ Support foreign students from only developing countries of Asia, Africa, Central and Latin America and Europe.