

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.-515**  
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026

**Research based learning methodologies**

515 Dr. M. Dhanapal:

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has examined the importance of research-based learning methodologies and the development of soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving for students' employability, global readiness and personal growth;
- (b) if so, the details of policy initiatives and educational reforms introduced by Government to integrate research-oriented learning, experimental learning and soft skill development into school, college and higher education circuits to align academic outcomes with industry expectations; and
- (c) the strategic framework proposed by Government to ensure that students are better prepared for complex real-world challenges and employment opportunities in a competitive global environment?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (c): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 explicitly emphasizes inquiry-based, experiential and multidisciplinary learning and identifies 21st-century skills as core learning outcomes. Para 4.4 of the NEP states that “The aim of education will not only be cognitive development, but also building character and creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with the key 21st century skills”. Para 4.23 of NEP 2020 further highlights the soft skills such as scientific temper and evidence-based thinking; creativity and innovativeness; sense of aesthetics and art; oral and written communication; health and nutrition; physical education, fitness, wellness, and sports; collaboration and teamwork; problem solving and logical reasoning; vocational exposure and skills.

NEP 2020 reshapes the education system into a holistic, multidisciplinary and competence-oriented model where learners acquire deep disciplinary knowledge, soft skills, vocational skills and life skills. This holistic approach aims for students to be prepared not just for jobs, but as innovators, problem solvers, and adaptive contributors in diverse global contexts.

The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023 translates the vision of the NEP 2020 by providing stage specific, subject specific and learner development related guidance in terms of content, resources, pedagogical understanding and guidelines, school based and systems-based requirements, assessment mechanisms and so on. This Framework has given mechanism to enhance preparedness for real-world challenges and employment opportunities in a competitive global environment is multi-layered, anchored principally in the NEP 2020 and supported by cross-sector policies.

NCF-SE 2023 promotes research, inquiry and project-based learning at every level of schooling. It integrates vocational education, internships, industry linkages, and practical skills into mainstream academic pathways to improve relevance. It also encourages flexible learning pathways, multidisciplinary studies, and micro-credentials, allowing students to combine core academics with skills and soft competencies. Short-term certificate programmes in employability skills and soft competencies are being offered in colleges and universities.

The overarching frameworks for skill education, developed in alignment with the NEP 2020 across school to higher education, emphasises learner-centric, competency-based, experiential and research-oriented education that enhances soft skills. Employability skills curriculum, which include communication, self-management, ICT, entrepreneurship and green skills, is an integral part of all vocational subjects offered from Grades 9 to 12 under Samagra Shiksha. This shift is seen as essential to bridge the gap between academic outcomes and industry needs, boost employment potential, and foster individual adaptability in a rapidly evolving national and global marketplace.

The National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS), implemented by Department of Higher Education, aims at providing on-the-job training and skilling of Indian youth through four regional Boards of Apprenticeship Training/Practical Training (BoATs/ BoPT) located at Mumbai, Kanpur, Chennai and Kolkata.

Under NATS apprenticeship training is provided to recent graduates, diploma holders, and students of Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDP) for a period of 6 months to 1 year in various sectors, by providing them with high quality on-the-job training in the form of apprenticeships, thereby bridging the skill gap, along with a monthly stipend. The scheme's primary objective is to bridge the skills gap between students and industry demands by delivering high-quality on-the-job training, thereby improving their employability.

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