

Date: 27/07/2016

New Delhi

To:

**Hon'ble Shri Prakash Javadekar,**

Union Minister, MHRD, Govt. Of India,  
New Delhi.

From:

The Federal Coordinator,  
Campaign for Language Equality and Rights (CLEAR),  
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**Subject: Draft of the New National Education Policy - Suggestions on language issues.**

Respected sir,

We would like to extend our congratulations to you on taking charge of the most vital ministry for Union of India's development. We, the members of CLEAR (Campaign for Language Equality and Rights), hereby, would like to provide our inputs on the New Education Policy draft report.

The draft has rightly identified the importance of mother-tongue based education. However, the draft has limited the mother-tongue based education only till Class V. We sincerely believe that higher education also must be in mother-tongue or state language. The draft doesn't mention anything regarding higher education in people's language, this is a serious shortcoming of the draft of national importance. We would like to add here that Dr. S Radhakrishnan commission proposed in the year 1948 that higher education be in mother-tongue of the people.

It is a known fact that no country in the world has achieved long term growth and prosperity with a foreign language as medium of instruction. We would like to bring to your notice that only the former colonies have set up and continue to run higher education institutions in foreign languages, while the entire developed world has higher education institutions operating in people's languages. It is not surprising that the universities of India lag behind in

the worldwide rankings.

The draft identifies English as an important language for national and international mobility. While it is true that a foreign language skill is an added advantage in an increasingly globalized world, the reality is different than what meets the eye. We would like to bring to your notice that inter-state migration in the union of India is a mere 4% (as per the 2001 census data). The migration out of India is a much smaller percentage of the entire population. Hence, it would be prudent to introduce English as an optional subject in schools rather than giving the English language a very special place in the National Education Policy.

We would like to bring to your kind notice that all international data show an inverse relation between teaching in a foreign language and success in education, development of science and technology, success in international trade and commerce, development in general and, strangely but truly, between foreign language medium of education and the learning of that very foreign language. Along with the heavy costs India is suffering in all these fields due to the undue and unattested emphasis on the English language, the neglect of mother tongue is leading to a perpetual death of hundreds of Indian languages, which is a loss of civilizational proportions. Even the scheduled languages, including Hindi, are facing fast erosion from the education domain, the most consequential domain not only for the development in any human field but also for the very life and existence of a language.

The draft makes a special mention of the Sanskrit language. At CLEAR, we stand for Language Equality, and we would like to stress that Sanskrit and Hindi languages should be treated as equals to the numerous other languages of the Indian Union. Nothing more and nothing less. As history has repeatedly shown us, linguistic equality is a prerequisite to the unity of a nation. Whenever and wherever the linguistic equality is violated, it is the unity that is threatened. Hence, it is important to not make a special mention of any language in the draft. It is also equally important to highlight the concept of linguistic equality for a nation as diverse as the Indian Union.

Please allow us to bring to your notice that much of the entrance examinations conducted by the union government of India, for both admissions to higher education institutes as well as for jobs, do not allow the aspirants to take the exams in their own language. The only allowed languages are Hindi and English, thereby the language rights of millions of Indians are being dishonored. The draft doesn't discuss this glaring violation of language rights, and is a serious shortcoming of this draft. No student or aspirant should be denied the right to appear for the exams in his/her own language.

**In the light of stated above, we suggest that the NEP draft must include the following:**

**1. Medium of education at all levels of education should be the mother tongue of the child;**

- 2. Particular attention be paid to the non-scheduled languages, which are facing a perpetual death due to their exit from education and other domains;**
- 3. Admission tests for all courses be conducted in all mother tongues/scheduled languages;**
- 4. Competitive exams for all central government jobs should be conducted in all scheduled languages;**
- 5. The principles of linguistic equality and linguistic rights should be ensured in all matters of educational policy.**

We would like to seek an appointment with you to talk and discuss the issues in person. We shall be immensely grateful if you could grant us a parlance. We are enclosing herewith a few documents which provide relevant scholarly opinion on the language and education issue in detail and substantiate the points being posited herein.

Awaiting a positive response from you,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

**Mr. Senthil Nathan**

*Federal Coordinator*

**Dr. Deepak Pawar**

*Founder Member*

**Dr. Garga Chatterjee**

*Founder Member*

**Dr. Joga Singh**

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