



Improving School Effectiveness through Contributions of Ancient Scholars in the context of NEP (2020)

Dr. Satyajit Baral

Assistant Professor, UDTE, Utkal University, Vanivihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, sbaral311@gmail.com

Sachikanta Padhan

Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Rajendra University, Balangir, Odisha

Email:sachikantasbp@gmail.com

Bhagyalaxmi Parida

PG Student in Education, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20680735>

ARTICLE DETAILS

Research Paper

Accepted: 22-05-2026

Published: 10-06-2026

Keywords:

National Education Policy (2020), School Effectiveness, ancient scholars, 21st century

ABSTRACT

The National Education Policy (2020) heralds a transformative era in India's education, aiming for a comprehensive overhaul beyond traditional academic paradigms. Through a fusion of contemporary pedagogical approaches and insights from Indian luminaries, NEP 2020 endeavors to create an educational environment transcending mere knowledge transmission. Its goal is to nurture character, instill values, and foster a deep appreciation for India's rich cultural heritage. It's positioned as a forward-looking blueprint for the 21st century, the policy acknowledges the necessity of an education system that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and a holistic understanding of the world, departing from a narrow focus on academic achievement. This paper briefly explores the profound contributions of ancient scholars towards school effectiveness. It underscores the role of NEP 2020 in harmonizing heritage with progress in the Indian education system.



INTRODUCTION

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India is indeed a groundbreaking initiative that aims to revolutionize the country's educational system (Suman and Shanu, 2021). It represents a departure from the traditional emphasis solely on academic achievement, seeking to bring about a holistic transformation. One of the distinctive features of NEP 2020 is its focus on integrating the wisdom of ancient scholars into the modern education framework. The policy recognizes the value of ancient Indian knowledge systems and aims to incorporate them into contemporary pedagogical practices. By doing so, it envisions creating a school effectiveness that goes beyond the mere transmission of information and fosters a more profound and comprehensive development of students.

NEP 2020 acknowledges the enduring insights of Indian luminaries and aims to weave them into the fabric of the educational system (Mane, 2023). This integration is not just about adding historical perspectives to the curriculum but also about infusing the essence of character building, values, and a deep appreciation for the nation's rich cultural heritage. The emphasis on integrating ancient wisdom doesn't imply a rejection of modern advancements; instead, it seeks a harmonious blend of traditional and contemporary approaches to education. (Swargiary & Roy, 2023) the policy recognizes that a balanced education system should equip students with not only academic knowledge but also with a sense of ethics, values, and cultural identity.

By fostering a school effectiveness that embraces both the timeless wisdom of ancient scholars and modern pedagogical approaches, NEP 2020 aims to create an environment where students can develop into well-rounded individuals. The policy envisions an educational system that not only prepares students for the challenges of the modern world but also nurtures a strong sense of identity, cultural understanding, and ethical values.

Contextualizing NEP 2020: A Revolutionary Vision for 21st Century Education in India

The education landscape in India has undergone various reforms over the years, each attempting to address the evolving needs of society. However, the NEP 2020 emerges as a distinctive and forward-looking blueprint, reflecting a comprehensive approach to reshape the educational framework in the country. Unlike previous reforms, NEP 2020 is envisioned as a policy tailor-made for the 21st century, recognizing the necessity of an education system that transcends traditional rote memorization and examination-centric learning. One of the key distinguishing features of NEP 2020 is its departure from a narrow focus on academic success. While academic excellence remains important, the policy emphasizes



a broader set of skills and competencies to prepare students for the multifaceted challenges of contemporary life. NEP 2020 acknowledges the changing landscape of work and society, where success is not solely determined by memorizing information but also by the ability to think critically, solve problems creatively, and adapt to dynamic situations (Gyawali & Mehndroo, 2023).

The overarching goal of NEP 2020 is to foster an educational environment that nurtures holistic development (Khunyakari et al., 2022). It recognizes that students need more than just subject-specific knowledge to thrive in the 21st century. The policy aims to instill in students a capacity for critical thinking, encouraging them to question, analyze, and synthesize information (NEP, 2020). Moreover, NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on creativity, understanding that innovative thinking is a crucial skill in a rapidly changing global landscape. The policy also envisions a shift in the assessment and evaluation methods. While examinations are still relevant, NEP 2020 suggests a move towards a more holistic and continuous evaluation system that captures a student's overall development rather than just memorization ability. This approach is aligned with the idea that learning is a lifelong process and cannot be accurately measured through one-time, high-stakes examinations.

Furthermore, NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of integrating vocational education and practical skills into the curriculum, ensuring that students are not only academically proficient but also equipped with real-world skills that make them employable and adaptable in diverse professional settings.

Ancient Wisdom Integration: A Foundational Pillar in the Framework of NEP 2020

A standout characteristic of the NEP 2020 is its deliberate acknowledgment of the profound wisdom embedded in India's ancient heritage. This policy takes a proactive stance by explicitly emphasizing the integration of teachings from ancient scholars across a spectrum of subjects. Unlike a perfunctory nod to tradition, this is a strategic move aimed at infusing the educational curriculum with the timeless insights of luminaries who have contributed significantly to fields such as mathematics, science, philosophy, and literature throughout India's rich history. (Sharma & Gupta, 2023) stated that NEP 2020 recognizes that the inclusion of ancient wisdom is not merely an exercise in historical reference but a deliberate effort to provide students with a well-rounded and interconnected understanding of subjects. By incorporating the teachings of eminent figures from the past, the policy seeks to bridge the gap between the historical and the contemporary, fostering a sense of continuity and interconnectedness in the learning experience.

This integration is not confined to a specific subject but spans across various disciplines, creating a multidimensional approach to education. NEP 2020 envisions a curriculum where students encounter the



contributions of ancient scholars organically, allowing them to draw connections between different realms of knowledge (Sharma, 2023). For instance, students may explore the mathematical principles laid out in ancient treatises, understand the scientific methodologies employed by early scholars, delve into philosophical insights that continue to be relevant, and appreciate the literary masterpieces that have withstood the test of time.

Beyond the academic benefits, NEP 2020 sees the integration of ancient teachings as a powerful tool for instilling pride in students about their cultural heritage. By connecting students to the intellectual legacy of their ancestors, the policy aims to foster a sense of cultural identity and appreciation. This not only contributes to a more inclusive and diverse educational experience but also cultivates a deep sense of respect for the country's heritage.

Towards School Effectiveness vision of NEP 2020

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 outlines a visionary approach to school effectiveness, placing significant emphasis on curriculum, pedagogy, local language, and performing arts. In terms of curriculum, the NEP envisions a holistic and multidisciplinary framework that moves beyond traditional subject boundaries. It encourages a flexible and inclusive curriculum that incorporates diverse perspectives, life skills, and vocational education, providing students with a well-rounded education. Pedagogy is recognized as a key driver of effective learning, and the policy promotes interactive and experiential teaching methods. Teachers are encouraged to adopt innovative approaches that cater to diverse learning styles, fostering critical thinking and creativity. The NEP underscores the importance of promoting education in local languages, recognizing them as mediums for effective learning and cultural preservation. This inclusion of regional languages aims to create a more inclusive educational environment, ensuring that students can comprehend and engage with the curriculum more effectively. Furthermore, the policy acknowledges the pivotal role of performing arts in education, emphasizing their potential to enhance creativity, communication skills, and emotional intelligence. Schools are encouraged to integrate performing arts into the curriculum, providing students with opportunities to explore and express themselves through music, dance, drama, and other artistic forms. In summary, NEP 2020's holistic vision for school effectiveness intertwines curriculum, pedagogy, local languages, and performing arts to create a dynamic and inclusive educational experience that nurtures well-rounded individuals capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.



Legacy Builders: Exploring Contributions of Historical figures towards School Effectiveness

Aryabhata, a mathematician and astronomer from 5th-century India, significantly influenced mathematics and astronomy with his comprehensive work, the "Aryabhatiya." Similarly, Chanakya, a philosopher from the 4th century BCE, is renowned for the "Arthashastra," offering insights into statecraft, governance, and ethics. Integrating Chanakya into schools provides historical perspectives on leadership and societal organization. Panini, an ancient grammarian, contributed significantly to linguistics with the "Ashtadhyayi," valuable for language and grammar classes. Patanjali's impact in education lies in his "Yoga Sutras," guiding individuals on a path of well-being. Thiruvalluvar, a Tamil poet from the 1st century BCE or CE, contributed enduring wisdom through the "Thirukkural," enriching school culture with Tamil literature and moral philosophy. Integrating Sankardev involves exploring Assamese history, culture, and religion, fostering cultural appreciation and religious tolerance among students.

Aryabhata, an ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer, made significant contributions to the fields of mathematics and astronomy during the 5th century (Bag, 2005). His major work, the "Aryabhatiya," is a seminal text that covers a wide range of mathematical and astronomical concepts.

Transliteration

आर्यभटस्यकर्माणिगणितेखगोले च विशेषतः। पञ्चमेशतकेजातो, ज्ञानयोगेसमर्पितः॥	Āryabhaṭasyakarmāṇigāṇitekhaḡole ca viśeṣataḥ. Pañcameśatakejāto, jñānayogesamarpiṭaḥ.
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Translation

In mathematics and in the cosmic sea,

Aryabhata's brilliance, a legacy.

Born in the fifth century's embrace,

His wisdom journeyed time and space.

In the realm of mathematics, *Aryabhata* stands as a luminary whose contributions significantly advanced the field of trigonometry. His seminal work introduced the concept of sine, accompanied by detailed trigonometric tables, and delved into the intricate relationships between angles and sides of a triangle. Aryabhata's pioneering efforts laid a robust foundation for subsequent developments in trigonometry,



influencing mathematical thought and practice for generations to come (Divakaran, 2018). Beyond mathematics, Aryabhata's intellectual prowess extended into the realm of astronomy. His meticulous calculations led to the accurate determination of the value of pi (π), showcasing a remarkable precision that demonstrated the sophistication of ancient Indian mathematical achievements. Aryabhata's contributions to astronomy were not limited to numerical calculations; he made groundbreaking strides in understanding planetary motion and the length of the solar year. One of his most revolutionary ideas was the proposal of a heliocentric model of the solar system, positing that the Earth, along with other planets, orbits the Sun. Aryabhata's visionary insights in both mathematics and astronomy have left an indelible mark on the history of scientific thought.

Chanakya, also known as Kautilya or Vishnugupta, was an ancient Indian teacher, philosopher, economist, jurist, and royal advisor who lived during the 4th century BCE (Ballal and Bapat, 2022). His most famous work, the "Arthashastra," is an influential treatise on statecraft, governance, politics, economics, and ethics. Integrating Chanakya into school effectiveness can provide valuable insights into political philosophy and ethical governance. Here's an elaboration on his contributions and their potential integration into social studies classes

Transliteration

चाणक्योविष्णुगुप्तःकौटिल्यःचविद्याधरःसदा। अर्थशास्त्रस्यकर्तासधर्मप्रचारकःसदा॥	Chāṅakyoviṣṇuguptaḥkautilyaḥ ca vidyādharaḥsadā. Arthaśāstrasyakartāsadharmapracāraḥsadā.
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Translation

Chanakya, Vishnugupta, Kautilya revered,

A guardian of wisdom, his legacy preserved.

The architect of Arthashastra's lore,

A preacher of dharma, forevermore.

In social studies' realm, let his words resound,

A guide to governance, where knowledge is found.



Ethical principles, political might,

Chanakya's wisdom, a beacon bright.

Chanakya's masterpiece, the "Arthashastra," stands as an enduring testament to his profound understanding of statecraft and governance. This comprehensive treatise covers a spectrum of topics, offering insights into political strategy, economic policies, military tactics, diplomacy, and ethical considerations in governance. In the realm of political philosophy, Chanakya's Arthashastra delves into the foundational principles of governance, discussing the nature of the state, the role of the ruler, and the imperative of a well-organized and efficient government. His ideas have left an indelible mark on Indian political thought, shaping the discourse on governance and leadership. Addressing economic principles, the Arthashastra provides a nuanced perspective on taxation, trade, agriculture, and wealth management, reflecting Chanakya's astute understanding of economic policies and their impact on state prosperity. Furthermore, the treatise imparts strategic insights into military affairs, discussing the organization of the army, tactics in warfare, and the crucial role of intelligence in maintaining security. Chanakya's teachings on military strategy continue to hold historical significance and are applicable to broader principles of leadership (Jha, 2020). Perhaps most notably, the Arthashastra underscores the ethical dimension of governance, emphasizing the moral conduct of rulers, their duties, and the need for a just and virtuous administration focused on the welfare of the people.

Panini was an ancient Indian grammarian who is credited with composing the "Ashtadhyayi," a foundational text in Sanskrit grammar (Chakraborty, 2021). His work has had a profound impact on linguistic studies and has provided a comprehensive framework for understanding the structure of Sanskrit language. Here's an elaboration on Panini's contributions and their potential integration into language and grammar classes:

Transliteration

पाणिनेन्द्रस्यकर्माणि, व्याकरणस्यमूर्धनि। अष्टाध्यायीप्रवक्ष्यामि, भाषायाःसर्वशास्त्रदम्॥	Pāṇinendrasyakarmāṇi, vyākaraṇasyamūrdhani. Aṣṭādhyāyīpravakṣyāmi, bhāṣāyāḥsarvaśāstradam.
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Translation

In the realm of grammar, Panini's might,

Ashtadhyayi, a beacon bright.

On the crown of language, he did stand,

Bestowed upon us, wisdom grand.

For language classes, let it flow,

Panini's rules in minds shall grow.

In the tapestry of syntax and word,

A legacy in language, forever stirred.

Panini's "Ashtadhyayi," a masterful work in Sanskrit grammar composed around the 4th century BCE, stands as a testament to linguistic sophistication and systematic analysis (Raj, 2010). Organized into eight chapters, each dedicated to specific aspects of linguistic study, the Ashtadhyayi is celebrated for its precision in describing the grammatical structure of Sanskrit. Panini's comprehensive rules span phonetics, morphology, syntax, and semantics, laying the groundwork for the scientific study of language (Kurdi, 2016). Presented in the form of concise aphorisms or sutras, Panini's grammatical rules, though succinct, encapsulate intricate principles, providing a highly organized framework for understanding Sanskrit grammar. These rules are ingeniously designed to generate the entire spectrum of Sanskrit expressions. Notably, Panini's focus on morphological analysis extends to detailed studies of word internal structures, verb conjugations, and the formation of compound words, allowing for a profound exploration of Sanskrit morphology. The Ashtadhyayi remains an invaluable resource, showcasing Panini's linguistic expertise and contributing significantly to the understanding and preservation of Sanskrit grammar.

Patanjali is traditionally credited with compiling the "Yoga Sutras," a significant and foundational text in the philosophy and practice of yoga (Shearer, 2002). The Yoga Sutras consist of 196 aphorisms, or succinct statements, that outline the principles of classical yoga. Patanjali's work is divided into four chapters, or "Padas," each addressing different aspects of yoga. Let's delve deeper into Patanjali's contributions and the key concepts presented in the Yoga Sutras:

**Transliteration**

ॐ पतञ्जलयेनमः।	Om Patanjalye Namah
योगसूत्राणिसम्यक्प्रदातुशिक्षाम्।	Yoga Sutrani Samyak Pradatu Shiksham
आष्टाङ्गेयोगपथेसुदीर्घकृतेनमः।	Ashtange Yoga Pathe Sudirghakrite Namah
सत्यंनियमाःशौचम्प्रमोदमिष्टानुत्तमम्।	Satyam NiyamahShauchamPramodamishtanuttamam
आसनेध्यानेप्राणवितरागःपरमात्मनि।	Asane Dhyane PraneVitaragahParamatmani
कृयायोगेशान्तात्मनित्यमेकदेवे।	Kriya Yoga PrashantaatmaniNityamekadeve
सर्वज्ञायपतञ्जलयेनमोनमः।	Sarvajnaya Patanjalye Namonamah

Translation

Om, I bow to Patanjali, who imparts comprehensive teachings through the Yoga Sutras. Salutations to the one who has skillfully paved the extensive path of Ashtanga Yoga. Reverence to the truth, ethical principles, purity, supreme joy, steadfast postures, meditation, breath control, detachment, and the ultimate Self. In the practice of Kriya Yoga, dedicated to the tranquil self and the eternal divine, I offer my salutations to the all-knowing Patanjali, again and again.

May homage be offered to Patanjali, the bestower of complete wisdom through the Yoga Sutras on the extensive path of Ashtanga Yoga. Embracing truth, ethical principles, purity, and supreme joy in the seat, meditation, and breath, he who is free from attachment to the ultimate Self. In the path of action, with a tranquil mind perpetually devoted to the One Divine, to the all-knowing Patanjali, salutations again and again.

Thiruvalluvar, believed to have lived around the 1st century BCE or CE, was a Tamil poet and philosopher known for his significant contribution to Tamil literature and moral philosophy (Dharani, 2018). His work, the "Thirukkural," is a classic Tamil text consisting of 1330 couplets (kurals) that cover various aspects of life, ethics, and governance. Elaborating on Thiruvalluvar's contributions and their integration into school culture:

**Transliteration**

तिरुवल्लुवरोमहाकविः, तामिळसाहित्यमण्डितः। थिरुकुरल्समुद्बूतं, धर्मार्थकाममोक्षदम्॥	Tiruvalluvaromahākaviḥ, tāmiḷsāhityamaṇḍitaḥ. Tirukkural samudbūtaṁ, dharmārthakāmamokṣadam.
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Translation

Thiruvalluvar, a poet grand, in Tamil's literary sky,

The Tirukkural, a gem, ethics' guide on high.

Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha's embrace,

In school culture, let his wisdom find a place.

To weave his verses into the educational art,

In literature classes, where minds embark.

A nod to morals, governance, and life's reflection,

Thiruvalluvar's legacy, a timeless connection.

Thiruvalluvar's magnum opus, the Tirukkural, unfolds as a profound masterpiece divided into three books, each dedicated to addressing virtue (Aram), wealth (Porul), and love (Inbam). Every couplet within the Tirukkural encapsulates profound wisdom, serving as a timeless guide for ethical conduct and moral principles. What makes the Tirukkural universally revered is its embodiment of ethical principles that transcend cultural and temporal boundaries. Thiruvalluvar's teachings emphasize virtues like righteousness, justice, compassion, and integrity, laying the foundation for a moral philosophy applicable to various aspects of human life (Joshi, 2021). Beyond its universal ethics, the Tirukkural delves into moral philosophy, exploring the essence of goodness, the significance of virtuous living, and the consequences of ethical and unethical behavior. Thiruvalluvar's insights contribute to a deeper understanding of morality and human conduct, providing practical wisdom for navigating the complexities of life. His verses offer guidance on personal conduct, interpersonal relationships, and the pursuit of a virtuous and fulfilling life, establishing the Tirukkural as a timeless reservoir of ethical wisdom.



Sankardev, also known as Srimanta Sankardev, was a 15th-century Assamese polymath, saint, cultural icon, and the key figure in the Bhakti movement in Assam. His contributions had a profound impact on the religious, cultural, and artistic landscape of the region. Integrating Sankardev into school culture, particularly in history and cultural studies classes, can provide students with insights into regional history, culture, and the Bhakti movement (Bhuyan & Goswami, 2022). Here's an elaboration on his contributions and their potential integration:

Transliteration

संकरदेवोमहात्मा, असमस्यशाश्वतीस्थितिः। भक्तिसारथिराजस्य, सृष्टिकर्तासदाशिवः॥	Sankaradevomahātmā, asamasyaśāśvatīsthitiḥ. Bhaktisārathirājasya, sṛṣṭikartāsadāśivaḥ.
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Translation

Sankardev, a noble soul, in Assam's timeless abode,
A charioteer of devotion, a regal episode.
The creator of culture, in Bhakti's embrace,
A perpetual presence, the Eternal's grace.
To weave Sankardev into school culture's thread,
In history and culture class, where insights are spread.
Unlocking tales of devotion, art, and regional might,
His legacy empowers, in education's radiant light.

Sankardev, a pivotal figure in the Bhakti movement, played a transformative role by emphasizing devotion and the establishment of a personal connection with the divine. Focused on the worship of Lord Krishna, his teachings advocated a spiritual path rooted in love and devotion. Beyond his religious contributions, Sankardev initiated a cultural renaissance in Assam, actively working towards the revitalization of Assamese culture. He championed the use of the Assamese language, literature, and performing arts as means of religious expression and cultural enrichment. As a prolific writer and poet, Sankardev made significant literary contributions to the regional tradition with works like the



"Bhagavat," "Kirtan Ghosa," and the "Bargeet." Establishing the concept of Sattras (monastic institutions) and Namghars (prayer halls), he created vital centers for cultural and religious activities that fostered community engagement, cultural preservation, and religious education. Sankardev's artistic legacy extended to the development of Assamese performing arts, where he introduced classical dance forms such as the Sattriya dance and promoted traditional Assamese music, leaving an indelible mark on the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Implication for School Effectiveness

Curriculum and Pedagogy

Integrating *Aryabhata's* pioneering work into math and physics curricula provides historical perspectives on the foundations and evolution of key concepts. Exploring his contributions to trigonometry, astronomy and the heliocentric model gives insights into ancient Indian achievements, fostering national pride. Cross-disciplinary connections with history, philosophy enrich education. Exposure encourages careers in STEM, boosts scientific curiosity and appreciation for interconnected knowledge across subjects. Incorporating *Chanakya's* ARTHASHASTRA into social studies offers insights into ancient Indian political philosophy and governance. Analysis of his principles fosters critical thinking on the ruler's role, governmental structure, power dynamics and ethics. Comparative discussions with other thinkers broaden political perspectives. Connecting his ideas to modern governance scenarios develops appreciation for nuances of leadership, statecraft. Overall, exposes students to a unique viewpoint shaping ancient policies while honing valuable skills. Incorporating *Panini's* ASHTADHYAYI into linguistics and Sanskrit studies allows students to explore his systematic grammar framework governing word and sentence formation. Comparative analyses highlight universal language properties while reinforcing comprehension through applied exercises. Situating his contributions in historical context fosters appreciation of ancient Indian intellectual advancements in grammar. Overall, it enables deeper understanding of structured language principles and Sanskrit intricacies. Digital tools can further dynamically engage students.

Strategically embedding *Sankardev's* cultural contributions into Assam's curricula fosters immersive, cross-disciplinary learning for holistic development. Integrating his influential sociocultural legacy across HISTORY, ARTS, RELIGIOUS STUDIES provides engaging perspective into Assam's 15th century revival - enriching LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, PERFORMING ARTS and Bhakti movement. Comparative analyses promote interfaith dialogue. Experiential Sattriya workshops aid heritage preservation. Discussing Sattras & Namghar legacies bridges theory with practice via field trips. Overall,



this multifaceted approach aligns with NEP 2020 goals targeting comprehensive assimilation of traditions. Highlights Assamese intersections with India's composite identity to meet diverse academic capabilities for 21st century.

While Indian schools strive to deliver diverse curricula, we have much to gain by integrating our own rich academic heritage. Incorporating pioneering multilayered contributions from scholars like Aryabhata, Chanakya, Panini and Sankadeva can strengthen cross-disciplinary connections as envisioned in the NEP 2020. Drawing concepts from these intellectual giants through innovative pedagogies will spur appreciation for India's pluralistic achievements, nurturing culturally-rooted future citizens. Though these seminal figures specialised in distinct domains, their work resonates across subjects - from mathematics to political science, linguistics to performing arts - forging invaluable interlinkages. Exposing young impressionable minds to this synergistic worldview can inspire them to see education as an integrated means of holistic development rather than just fragmented information. Such a unifying outlook is imperative for India's youth to think creatively, act cohesively and advance national progress in today's complex globalised era. While adapting these historical contributions to contemporary classrooms has challenges, their lasting universal insights can undeniably catalyse the NEP's vision for transformative, ethical education. By learning from our ancestors' syncretic approach, India's next generation will be equipped to celebrate diversity while recognising the connective undercurrents that render variety into a harmonious whole.

Yoga Education

Patanjali's seminal "Yoga Sutras" comprehensively detail Ashtanga yoga's eightfold path for holistic wellbeing - codifying physical, mental, spiritual dimensions. Succinct aphorisms delineate ethical principles, postures, breath control, concentration, meditation for self-realization. Insights on mind's nature, Kriya yoga, Ishvara representation offer guidance for personal growth. Integrating this profound framework in education context can transform school curricula - fostering self-awareness, discipline and deeper grasp of body-mind-spirit interconnectedness. This shapes holistic development beyond academics, building student resilience and wellbeing.

The introduction of yoga in CBSE schools aligns with the NEP 2020's vision to transform education for holistic development, however the current narrow focus on asanas and pranayama is insufficient. Integrating Patanjali's Yoga Sutras can evolve yoga education to better achieve the NEP's cross-curricular, multidisciplinary emphasis. Beyond the physical practices, Patanjali's eight-limbed path encapsulates ethical, psycho-emotional, intellectual and spiritual dimensions for more comprehensive



growth. Incorporating this framework tailored for young learners will allow students to thrive not just physically but in all facets of life. The multi-layered sutras advance key NEP skills like critical thinking, creativity, citizenship and consciousness. While adaptation is needed, drawing core concepts from this timeless system will make school yoga transformative, shaping balanced, resilient leaders to drive national progress. Moving forward, the Ministry of Education must continue updating CBSE yoga curriculum to leverage India's own rich heritage through profound sources like Patanjali. This will empower the youth to attain the highest human potential, the ultimate aim of education itself.

Value Education and Ethics

Integrating *Thirukkural* into literature and ethics curricula provides insights into Tamil literary and philosophical wisdom. Thiruvalluvar's teachings emphasizing compassion, truth, justice can enrich character education. Comparative analyses with diverse traditions enhance critical thinking on moral philosophy. Discussing his ethical principles and their contemporary community application fosters cultural appreciation. Interactive classroom activities connecting his ancient insights to students' experiences inspire self-reflection and social contribution. Overall, showcases Tamil heritage while advancing cultural diversity and comprehensive values assimilation.

While value education, moral education and liberal education have become integral parts of schooling, there remains immense scope to enhance the literary curriculum by incorporating the versatile *Thirukkural*. The *Kural*'s universal themes and simplicity of Thiruvalluvar's couplets make it apt for students of all ages to imbibe moral virtues for life. Drawing lessons from this ancient Tamil classic aligns perfectly with the emphasis on ethics and human values outlined in the NEP 2020. By integrating select couplets across subjects and ages, the *Thirukkural* can foster well-rounded progress as envisioned by the policy - sharpening imagination and cultural awareness while cultivating wisdom. Creative adaptations into activities, discussions and experiential learning around couplets can aid immensely in shaping socially responsible, ethically grounded individuals. Educationists must collaborate to build an inspiring curriculum incorporating this ethical masterpiece that has withstood over two millennia. This will not only showcase homegrown literary genius to build national pride but equip students to fully realize their rich potential in line with the vision of NEP 2020. The universal appeal of Thiruvalluvar's verses makes the *Thirukkural* a ready resource to shape future global citizens grounded in Indian ethos.



Conclusion

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a transformative milestone in India's education system, aiming to go beyond traditional academic emphasis. This paper explores the policy's unique focus on integrating ancient wisdom into education, envisioning its role for school effectiveness. NEP 2020 stands out in the context of Indian education reforms, prioritizing a holistic approach to prepare students for life's challenges, emphasizing critical thinking and creativity. Departing from narrow academic goals, the policy embraces a paradigm shift, recognizing the multifaceted nature of intelligence. It strategically incorporates ancient scholars' insights into various subjects while endorsing modern pedagogical approaches, aiming for engaging and dynamic learning environments. At its core, NEP 2020 aspires to school effectiveness that transcends mere knowledge transmission, fostering character, values, and a deep appreciation for India's cultural heritage.

REFERENCE

- Bag, A. (2005). Aryabhata I's achievements in ancient Indian mathematics & Astronomy and their relevance in the Twenty-first century. *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 47(1), 14-26.
- Ballal, J., & Bapat, V. (2022). Unique Features of Indian Economic and Business System. In *Indigenous Indian Management: Conceptualization, Practical Applications and Pedagogical Initiatives* (pp. 271-305). Springer.
- Bhuyan, N., & Goswami, N. (2022). Of Sankardeva, Sanskrit and Saraswati: The Interplay of the Regional and the National Symbols in a School in Assam. *Contemporary Education Dialogue*, 19(1), 16-36.
- Chakraborty, S. (2021). The Role of Specific Grammar for Interpretation in Sanskrit. *Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Science*, 9 (2), 107-187.
- Dharani, D. (2018). MEDICINE IN THIRUKKURAL, THE UNIVERSAL VEDA OF TAMIL LITERATURE. Proceedings of the Indian History Congress,
- Divakaran, P. (2018). The Mathematics of India. *Sources and Studies in the History of Mathematics and Physical Sciences. [Versión de Springer]*. doi, 10, 978-981.
- Gyawali, Y. P., & Mehndroo, M. (2023). The 21st Century Model for Pedagogical Transformation: Exploring Teachers' Identity and Professional Responsibility. *Journal of NELTA Gandaki*, 6(1-2), 13-25.



- Jha, S. K. (2020). Aristotle and Kautilya A Comparative Account. *SOCIAL ENQUIRY*, 71.
- Joshi, D. K. (2021). Humanist but not radical: The educational philosophy of Thiruvalluvar Kural. *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, 40, 183-200.
- Khunyakari, R., Padalkar, S., Ara, F., & Singh, G. (2022). Strengthening Learning through Experiences Initiatives from the Indian Context. *Learning without Burden: Where are We a Quarter Century after the Yash Pal Committee Report*.
- Kurdi, M. Z. (2016). *Natural language processing and computational linguistics: speech, morphology and syntax* (Vol. 1). John Wiley & Sons.
- Mane, G. M. (2023). INDIAN CULTURAL VALUE SYSTEM BASED ON ANCIENT INDIAN KNOWLEDGE BASED ON IN THE PURSUIT OF PILLARS OF VALUES FOR HUMAN LIFE. *THE WISDOM OF BHARAT: AN EXPLORATION OF THE INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM*, 69.
- Raj, A. (2010). *The Life and Times of Baba Ramdev*. Hay House, Inc.
- Sharma, S. K. (2023). Decolonising Indian Education: National Education Policy 2020.
- Sharma, Y., & Gupta, P. (2023). Nurturing Creative Potential of All Children: Exploring the Possibilities of Realizing the Vision of NEP 2020 in Indian Classrooms. *Voices of Teachers and Teacher Educators*, 29.
- Shearer, A. (2002). *The yoga sutras of Patanjali*. Harmony.
- Suman, A. K., & Shanu, S. K. (2021). Gleaning Wisdom from Ancestral Heritage: Indigenous Knowledge Traditions and the National Education Policy. *International Journal of Early Childhood Special Education (INT-JECSE)*, 13(02), 2522-2532.
- Swargiary, K., & Roy, K. (2023). *Transforming Education: The National Education Policy of 2020*. LAP.