

## Issues of Centralised Model of Education

### Why in News?

This year, September 5 was marked as Student-Teacher Solidarity Day by many students and teachers wearing black badges to protest against the present education crisis in the country.

*September 5 is celebrated as Teachers' Day to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, scholar, philosopher and former president of our country. He chaired the first Education Commission (1948-49).*

### How India is pushing for centralised model of education?

*Despite the "concurrent" status of education in the Constitution, the government seems to be bulldozing the best-performing States to succumb and conform.*

- The last decade has witnessed an unprecedented trend of increasing centralisation and control by the Union government.
- **Centralised model** – It requires states to
  - Be in conformity with [NEP](#).
  - Contribute 40% of a much larger sum for centrally sponsored schemes
  - Implement the CBSE curriculum in case of PM-Shri Schools
- *Both Kerala and Tamil Nadu* States have been under *implicit pressure to sign a MoU* to implement the scheme of selected PM-SHRI schools.

*[Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India \(PM SHRI\)](#) schemes, a centrally sponsored scheme was launched in 2022 to transform selected existing schools into model institutions to achieve the objectives of National Education Policy 2020.*

- Schools from States which are being brought under this exclusive centralised model will be *taken away from the State Boards*.
- These selected schools along with disproportionately generous funding, can be *used to showcase as the "better performing" exemplars than the poor 'others'* under the state system.
- The impact of such discrimination within the State system can be damaging, to say the least.

## What are the funding issues faced by state education?

- **Delays in funding** - Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been facing protracted delays with respect to centrally funded schemes.
- They have *not received pending instalments* of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

*Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan aims to ensure equitable access to quality education for all children, including the 6-14 year old under the Right to Education Act.*

- **Disproportionate funding** - The current budget allocates a *large portion of its funds to PM-SHRI*, while substantially reducing funding to SSA.
- According to the 'Centre for Budget Governance and Accountability', the central budget allocations to the Department of School Education budget between the years 2019-20 and 2024-25
  - **Funding to PM-SHRI** - It increased from 19% to 29%
  - **Funding share of SSA** - It dropped from 62% to 51%
- The PM-SHRI schools selected are 8,108 in number and constitute less than 1% of the 11.6 lakh schools that get funding under the SSA.

### Undemocratic Focus of Funds

- Central funding is leveraged to push through its agenda of
- Commercialisation
- Gross stratification of the public system
- Early vocationalisation (which can be caste-based) for the proletariat
- Distortion and communalisation of curricula

## Why Tamil Nadu opposes NEP?

- **Disadvantageous provisions** - The state has *already achieved a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)* higher than the target of 50% proposed by NEP to be attained by 2035.
- **Deprives formal education** - It critiqued that vocational education beginning from Class 6, would alienate and *exclude vulnerable sections from formal education* and the formal economy.
- **Impact of external assessments** - It critiqued that NEP mandated external tests can have an adverse impact on children being failed and *forced to drop out*.
- It also insisted that continuous internal assessment, as per the original RTE mandate, is most appropriate for young students.

## What lies ahead?

- Higher education is, undoubtedly, an obligation of the State but State aid is not to be confused with State control over academic policies and practices.

*As per Dr. Zakir Hussain, chairperson of the Basic Education Committee (1938), and co-founder of Jamia Millia Islamia, the exclusive control of education by the State has been an important factor in facilitating the maintenance of totalitarian tyrannies.*

## Reference

[The Hindu| Impact of Centralised Model of Education in State Education](#)

