

REIMAGINING SCHOOL EDUCATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY



**POLICIES
TO
PRACTICES**

Editors

Dr. Bushra Jafri

Dr. Pratima Sahu

Dr. Divya R. Panjwani

REIMAGINING SCHOOL EDUCATION IN 21ST CENTURY : Policies to Practices



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FOREWORD

The 21st century presents us with an unprecedented challenge and opportunity to rethink the very foundations of education in schools. In a world driven by digital transformation, artificial intelligence, climate concerns, and global interconnectedness, it is no longer sufficient for education to merely transmit knowledge. Instead, it must equip learners with the tools to navigate complexity, embrace diversity, and solve real-world problems with creativity, empathy, and resilience.

It is in this compelling context that the volume *Reimagining School Education in the 21st Century: Policies to Practices* assumes critical importance. This scholarly work, curated by Dr. Bushra Jafri, Dr. Pratima Sahu, and Dr. Divya R. Panjwani, is not just a response to the shifts in global education; it is a roadmap for systemic reform in the Indian context. With twenty-one rigorously developed chapters, the book traverses the landscape of policy analysis, pedagogical innovation, inclusive practices, curriculum redesign, Ed.Tech. integration, and psychosocial support, all grounded in research and enriched by field experiences.

What sets this volume apart is its unwavering focus on bridging the gap between vision and implementation, between what we aspire to achieve in policy and what actually happens in classrooms, especially in under-resourced settings. By aligning itself with the spirit of the National Education Policy 2020, this book reaffirms the centrality of equity, flexibility, and learner-centricity in modern education.

I commend the editors and contributors for their insightful work and their commitment to educational transformation. I believe this book will inspire policymakers, educators, researchers, and school leaders alike to create learning environments that are adaptive, ethical, and future-ready. Let this be a clarion call for collective action to transform our schools into spaces where every child can learn, grow, and thrive.

Prof. Javed Musarrat
Vice Chancellor

FOREWORD



Professor R.V. Anuradha

Schooling is a very important stage in everyone's life. School education molds an individual's life into a perfect one where he is ready for higher education on one hand and facing the life on the other. However there is a need to reimage the school education to enable the students to become global citizens. The book 'Reimagining School Education in the 21st Century: Policies to Practices' comes handy in understanding the policies and practices needed to improvise school education.

In my opinion this book acquaints the teacher trainees, the teacher educators and also all the stake holders of school education, with everything that is needed to understand the school education, its history, its current scenario and the why and how of developing the school education. Write from giving information on concerns of government schools in India, to discussing the role of skill development in shaping tomorrow's workforce, this book leaves no stone unturned in understanding the policies and practices related to school education.

An important aspect of this book is that it gives a bird's eye view of all the aspects related to school education. The book gives excellent ideas on so many aspects related to school education like challenges faced in educational administration, an analytical overview of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, transforming pedagogy in government

schools, post-covid challenges faced by teachers, to name a few. The authors have made an untiring effort to present information and provide insights on various issues which help in reimagining the school education.

Language used in the book is lucid, simple, clear and precise. The paper quality is icing on the cake, and adds a special flavor to this book. As a professional in the field of Teacher Education I have seen many books on school education, but this book stands ahead of them due to its simple language and appealing nature. This is going to be of immense help to the young men and women in the field of teacher education.

I congratulate the publishers, editors and the authors for bringing this book. This book definitely added another colour feather in the success cap of Book Rivers. I hope they will bring in some more books related to teacher education which is the need of the hour.

All the best and congratulations



Professor R.V. Anuradha

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Hyderabad

FOREWORD



Dr. Naila Ahmad Suhail

Education has always been a powerful force for shaping the future, but today it feels more urgent than ever. With the world changing around us, socially, economically, and technologically, our schools must do more than keep up. They must lead. That's exactly what this book sets out to explore.

'Reimagining School Education in the 21st Century Policies to Practices' is not just another academic volume. It's a collection of ideas, experiences, and research from people who are deeply engaged with real classrooms, real students, and the real challenges of education in India today. The editors, Dr. Bushra Jafri, Dr. Pratima Sahu, and Dr. Divya R. Panjwani have brought together voices that are grounded, thoughtful, and deeply committed to making change possible.

What sets this work apart is its balance between thoughtful analysis and actionable insight. It is grounded in local realities while speaking to universal concerns in education. From rural government schools to emerging technology in the classroom, the book offers a comprehensive picture of what school education can and should look like in the 21st century.

This is a valuable resource for educators, policymakers, academic leaders, and all those invested in educational reform. It invites us not only to reflect but to act. I believe readers will find in these pages both inspiration and direction.

Naila Suhail

Dr. Naila Ahmad Suhail

Assistant Professor

Karamat Hussain Muslim Girl's PG College

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Professor Balu is a globally respected academic and business strategist with over a decade of experience helping entrepreneurs turn vision into results. Backed by multiple advanced degrees in fields like Psychology, Economics, and International Business, he combines deep academic knowledge with practical, real-world insights. His performance-driven frameworks are designed to guide business owners through growth, clarity, and smart decision-making in a fast-evolving marketplace.

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Satish Kumar Maths lecturer in Department of Education in Haryana since April 2021 but he joined the department as Maths Master in April 2011. Also he has teaching experience of private schools from 2004 to 2011 as a Maths Lecturer. He has attended Four days Modual Writing Program of Science & Maths held At SCERT HARYANA, Gurugram under SAMAGRA. He has participated in 02 days training Programme For Trainer Under Nishtha 2.0 organised by DIET Beeswanmeel, Sonipat. He has attended the workshop held by CENTER FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING (CCRT) on "role of schools in conservation of the natural & cultural heritage" organised at Hyderabad. He published one paper in international journal. He has attended E-Content Development Workshop organised by DIET Beeswanmeel, Sonipat. He has work is guided by commitment to creating engaging and relevant learning experience for students and supports teachers in their efforts to promote meaningful Mathematical Education.

Dr. Smita Srivastava is working as Associate Professor in Faculty of Education, Integral University, Lucknow. She has over 20 years of teaching Experience. She has published 8 Text books, 5 Edited Books , 11 chapters in edited books and 23 research papers in reputed National and International Journals. 5 Theses have been awarded in her supervision. She has been awarded by Global Excellence Award in 2023 for her Achievement in Innovative Technological Pedagogy.

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Laxmi Kant is an accomplished educationist with extensive experience across teaching, administration, and academic research. He holds multiple postgraduate degrees—M.A. in English, History, Sociology, and Psychology, along with M.Ed., M.Phil., and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Education. With a career spanning over two decades, he has served in

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Dr. Kalpana. K, Academic consultant at CIET, NCERT an NCERT Doctoral fellow. She has 4 years of experience in the field of Education. Also she has published on the subjects of Education, Special education and Mathematics Education. Dr. Kalpana has an interest in Educational Technology and ICT. She had developed an Mobile App on Playstore for the students with hearing and vocal impairment to achieve their learning outcomes in mathematics.

Mr. Haribhau Sama Kharat is an accomplished academician with over 12 years of experience in the field of Economics. He is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at Janardan Bhagat Shikshan Prasarak Sanstha's Changu Kana Thakur Arts, Commerce & Science College, New Panvel (Autonomous). His teaching is rooted in strong theoretical foundations and a deep understanding of applied economic issues. Mr. Kharat is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Mumbai, having successfully qualified the PET examination. His academic credentials include the completion of the Diploma in Banking and Co-operative Management (DCM-B) from YCMOU. He is well-versed in areas such as microeconomics, macroeconomics, and development studies, and has a passion for integrating research with classroom learning. He has authored and co-authored several research papers. Mr. Kharat has also written multiple academic books and contributed to curriculum development and educational innovation. Known for his student-centered teaching and commitment to academic excellence, Mr. Kharat remains actively involved in departmental activities and seminars. He communicates fluently in Marathi, Hindi, and English, and continues to contribute meaningfully to the institution's academic growth and to the larger field of economic education and research.

Dr. Harshita Sharma is a committed academician with a Ph.D. in Political Science and UGC-NET qualification, currently serving at Vivekananda

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Deepak is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur, currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Mathematics. He holds a M.Sc. from MNIT Jaipur and a B.Ed. from MDU Rohtak, with strong academic credentials including IIT JAM and GATE qualifications. He has experience teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels across multiple disciplines and actively contributes to student mentoring, NSS coordination, and academic events. Deepak has presented several research papers at national and international conferences and has published in peer-reviewed journals. He has also completed numerous FDPs and workshops, demonstrating commitment to professional development. His technical skills include LaTeX, MATLAB, Python, and MS Excel, and he is known for his team spirit, dedication, and eagerness to learn.

Ms. Deeksha Sharma is a dedicated educator with a Master's degree in Commerce (EAFM) from the University of Rajasthan and over five years of teaching experience. She is currently working at Vivekananda Global University, where she teaches undergraduate courses and serves as the Student Welfare In-Charge. Previously, she taught both undergraduate and postgraduate commerce subjects at Khandelwal Vaish Girls Institute of Technology and Gyandeeep PG College. She has qualified the UGC NET (2018) and contributed a chapter to a book on socio-economic challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her technical skills include MS Office, TALLY ERP.9, and RS-CIT. Deeksha is known for her enthusiasm, problem-solving ability, and positive attitude.

Chapter 2

The Ideal School: A Comprehensive Framework Inspired by Modern and Vedic Educational Principles

DR. DIVYA R. PANJWANI, DR. NAZIA AKHLAQ and HENNA PUNJABI

In the contemporary era, it is more essential to contemplate the notion of the "ideal school," since the global educational landscape is in a state of perpetual evolution. Given that educational systems face the challenge of equipping students for a future characterized by swift technological advancements, environmental issues, and social disparities, it is imperative to develop an educational framework that nurtures the potential of all students while adapting to the demands of the 21st century. The optimal school would integrate essential ideas that cultivate responsible and compassionate persons. The ideal school goes beyond the mere transmission of information and focuses on holistic development, including cognitive growth, emotional intelligence, moral integrity, and practical knowledge. Education must foster creativity, critical thinking, ethical awareness, and spiritual consciousness, ensuring students are well-prepared to navigate an ever-changing world. This chapter proposes a comprehensive framework for the ideal school by integrating modern pedagogical methods, sustainable learning environments, technological innovations, and traditional Indian wisdom from the Vedic system of education.

The Definition of an Ideal Educational Institution

An ideal educational institution transcends the limitations of textbooks and standardized assessments in its classroom instruction. This place simultaneously promotes intellectual, emotional,



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Dr. Pratima Sahu (M.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.) is an educator, researcher, and academic consultant specializing in teacher education, multilingual pedagogy, and digital transformation in schools. She holds a Ph.D. in Education from The English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad. With teaching experience at NCERT, IGNOU, and Indus Training and Research Institute, she has contributed to policy-driven research, curriculum development, and teacher training. She has also been a research associate for British Council projects and has served as a resource person for multiple workshops on multilingual pedagogy, AI, and EdTech integration in education. A strong advocate for school reforms, multilingual pedagogy, and technology-driven teaching, Dr. Sahu actively participates in national and international academic programs. This book reflects her vision for transforming school education through policy, innovation, and digital advancements.



Dr. Divya R. Panjwani is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Education at Integral University, Lucknow. She holds an impressive academic portfolio with degrees including B.Ed., M.Ed., M.Com., M.B.A., M.A. (Sociology), M.A. (Economics), and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. With over 15 years of teaching experience in higher secondary schools and higher education institutions, and six years of experience as a Team Leader and Manager, Dr. Panjwani has built a well-rounded professional profile. Her research contributions include 10 papers published in national and international journals, 16 book chapters, and 11 edited volumes. She has actively participated in over 15 national and international conferences and served as Convenor for more than 15 Faculty Development Programs and workshops. She currently serves as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in Education for Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and is associated with SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Chennai (DDE) in various academic roles. From 2019 to 2022, she was appointed as a member of the Flying Squad for the ISC Board Examinations for four consecutive years. In addition, she has published the Academic Buoyancy Scale and holds one Indian patent. Her core areas of expertise include Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Positive Psychology, Statistical Analysis, Educational Research, Teaching Methodologies, Career Counselling, Commerce, and Accountancy. She currently serves as an Academic Consultant with SCERT, Patna, contributing to curriculum development and teacher training.



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