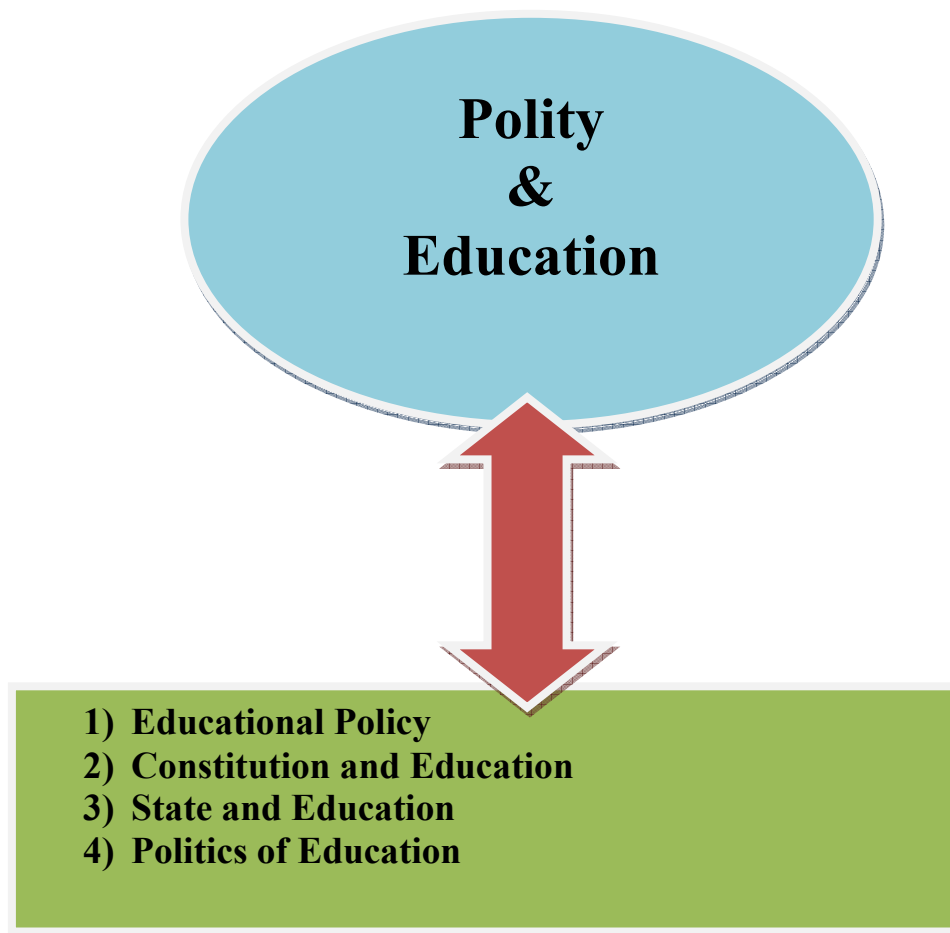


## Unit-2 (IV): Polities in Education Semester – II, Paper-8

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### Introduction (Polities in Education)

The term “polity” means a form or process of civil government or constitution. The **polity** refers to a government, a state, a country, or even a social group. The word ‘**polity**’ has been derived from the **Greek word ‘politeia’**, which means "citizenship" or "form of government."

**Polity is a noun word and its plural is polities. Policy means:**

- a particular form or system of government.
- government or administrative regulation
- a state or other organized community or body.

The word polity denotes the “form of government” in a country and includes its powers, functions and limitations. Different forms of government in the world are seen – Democratic or Autocratic or Monarchic, Presidential or Parliamentary. The term “form of government” indicates the following in Indian context:

- The source of government – whether it is elected by the people (**democratic form of government**) or whether it is decent based (monarchical form of government).
- India has a **democratic form of government** as the people of the country chose their government by voting in elections.
- The type of rule – whether it is centralised (**unitary form of government**) or **decentralised (federal form of government)**.
- India has a **federal form of government** as it has two governments – one in the Centre and the other in the states – indicating decentralised rule.
- India has a **Parliamentary form of government** as India has a majority party rule where people elect the members of Legislature and the party which gets majority seats in the legislature goes on to form the government.

The Polity of a country is based on its Constitution. A constitution can be defined as a body of fundamental principles according to which a State is constituted or governed. India has a democratic form of government because the Constitution of India provides for Universal Adult Franchise with periodic elections. Therefore, the Polity of a country is designed according to the Constitution of a country and any change to the Polity of the country is possible only when an amendment is made to the Constitution.

Three different tiers of government: central, State level and local government (*Panchayati Raj*) at the District level. Educational policy is implemented through bureaucratic administrative structures which typically employ a top-down approach.

Being a democratic country India aims to establish equity in accessing education by all the people of the country but even after 70 years of independence, there are various disparities like rural-urban disparity, gender disparity, occupational disparity etc. in the educational sector in India.

## **Policy/Policies & Educational Policy**

**Policy:** Policy is a definite course of action or plan of action agreed, pursued, adopted or chosen by a government, a ruler or a political party etc (For example: The present government has evolved a new national policy on education.

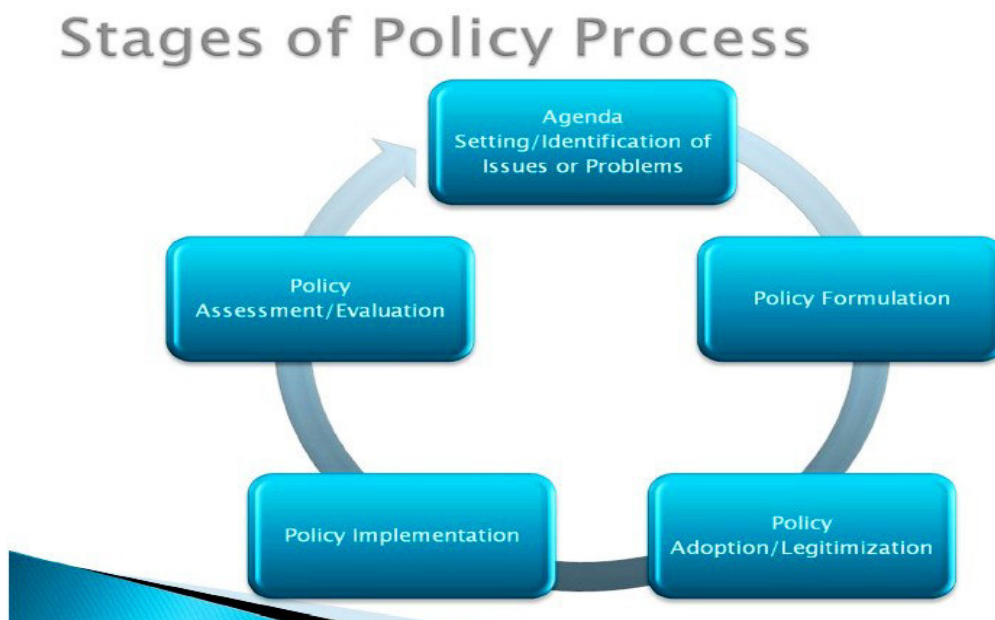
The policies are generally understood as a set of guidelines, which govern the action of a particular person, an institution or a nation. Policy is a decision-making framework or course of action to achieve a desired effect or change.

According to T. N. Dhar (2004), "a policy usually takes the Form of a general statement of intent. It is future oriented indicating the policy or policies that will be pursued to bring about much needed change in desired directions".

You must be familiar with the term 'Policy', which is used in various contexts such as various kinds of institutions, belief systems, governments and nations. The policies are generally understood as a set of guidelines, which govern the actions of a particular person, an institution or a nation.

A nation formulates policies in various critical sectors concerning national development such as education, health, commerce, industry, banking, social welfare, etc. In India, we have policies formulated by the Government of India for education sector.

**Policy-making** is the making of policies. It is the process of formulating policies. Policymaking is the act of creating laws or setting standards for a government or business. Public policy refers to the actions taken by government — its decisions that are intended to solve problems and improve the quality of life for its citizens.



Policy making involves certain basic steps laid down with an objective of meeting certain needs of the society. It involves recognizing and defining a problem, securing government attention to consider it together with the institutions concerned, effecting policy choices and finally assessing its impact on the society.

**Social problem** ➡ **government action** ➡ **impact on society**

Recognizing and defining a problem is a crucial stage in the policy making process. Implementation policy involves refining the general nature of policy into specific details giving shape and direction to policy. The specific details here may include need for new government organizations such as officers, offices and agencies to carry out policy.

**Education Policy:** An education policy may be defined as a process through which any society handles an educational problem. It includes a society's expectations and official enactments as well as its consistent patterns of activity in the area of education. It is a process by which government translates their educational vision into programmes and activities to deliver outcomes i.e. desired changes in the real world.

**According to T. N. Dhar (2004),** "in education, the policy should project a vision of the future, the human capacities and competencies that it will promote and the kind of social order that the tailoring of education will bring about. It reflects on the educational situation and proposes a change in it. The situation might need remedial action for removing an experienced deficiency or a drastic change to enhance its relevance, efficiency and effectiveness". An educational policy is –

- 1) It is futuristic in nature.
- 2) It projects the promotion of human capacities and competencies
- 3) It points out the role of education to bring the kind of social order; and
- 4) It reflects on the existing educational institutions and suggests measures to improve upon it.

Educational policy or legislation is directly related to an ideal educational standard or model such as that which suits manpower requirements of the economy. It can be easily noted that education policy is determined by various inherent factors such as socio-economic, political, population growth, globalization factors. A framework of educational policy analysis involves a process in which various stakeholders analyse, generate, implement, assess and redesign policies. This is referred to as **educational Policy cycle**. It is defined as a tool used in the analysis of a policy item development. It involves the following steps:

- 1) **Problem identification,**
- 2) **Policy formation to deal with the identified problem,**
- 3) **Decision-making targeting the identified problem,**
- 4) **Implementation i.e. the realization of an application, or execution of the plan,**
- 5) **Analysis and evaluation of a policy to continue or terminate.**

Policy may be defined as the framework for the accomplishment of intended objectives. Policy is very essential in administration for it gives a concrete shape to political and social objectives, which the government lays down in the form of law, rules, regulations, etc. The main agencies responsible for policy formulation are the legislature, cabinet and the concerned ministry. In the case of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and state departments of education are the main agencies. There are other statutory bodies working in the formulation of policy i.e. Planning Commission, National Development Council, National Council of Educational Research and Training, National Council for Teacher Education, Central Advisory Board of Education and the University Grants Commission, RCI. Besides, there are advisory committees at all levels. The basic characteristics of a democratic system are its egalitarian values, right to freedom and its decentralised structures operating from micro to macro institutions of governance.

## Politics of Education

Education is a social process of development of all capacities (physical, social, cognitive, emotional, moral etc.) in an individual which enables him to adjust in the society, control and improve the social environment. The global concept of education cannot be sustained without help of politics. According to the conceptual frame of 'Staff-line' theory of public administration, education acts as a line to implement the educational policy made by state authority which is governed by political ideology. Education is guided and shaped by politics in one hand and on the other hand politics can also be value-oriented by the influence of education. It is the general trend of the welfare political system that education and health – two core fields for transforming human-being to human resource – are served by the Government. If education is nourished by politics, education can also act as a main tool for governing society. Political ideology is playing a major role in the educational system of India. The forces, which shape the future of education in India, are political in nature.

**Political nature of education** means the influence of politics, political parties and their ideology, pressure of bureaucrats or people in power in formulating the various policies of education, recruitment of teachers, allocation of budget, framing syllabus/curriculum etc. The access, equity and reservation are the three things through which the political nature in education can be assessed.

Although education is expected to be free from politics, yet many times the educational policies followed by a government may be influenced by political ideology. You know that India was under the British rule for two hundred years. Modern education system in India was largely a contribution of the British rulers. But due to the long term of their colonial rule and the pressure of various political groups since then have influenced the educational policies in India from time to time. **For example, the Macaulay policy in introducing English language as medium of instruction in India in 1835 was a conscious effort of popularizing English and to use it for colonial purposes in India.** In this sense, an educational policy could be seen to be influenced by political consideration. After Independence, the National Government continued to follow the education system left behind by the British rulers. However, the form of the Government contributed to expand the base of education. Thus access, equity and reservation form the basis of the Government policies. The Constitutional framework and various provisions are the steps in that direction and the various Acts and provisions for education have been implemented accordingly. **There is a good number of Constitutional amendments in India like the 86<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of India through which Education became a Fundamental Right, the 93<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution by which a policy was adopted to provide for reservations for OBCs in all “educational institutions” including private, whether aided or unaided, excepting minority educational institutions. Such changes happened due to the particular ideology of political party or political considerations. These can also be cited as examples of political nature of education.**

Being a democratic country India aims to establish equity in accessing education by all the people of the country but even after 60 years of independence, there are various disparities

like rural-urban disparity, gender disparity, occupational disparity etc. in the educational sector in India. In the recruitment of teachers in educational institutions the political influences cannot be ruled out. Very often, due to political pressure and favouritism in the appointment of a teacher in an educational institution, the right candidate may not always be selected. This type of political interference in selection of teachers has a negative impact in the academic administration of an educational institution. Thus such kind of political nepotism should be avoided for ensuring quality education in our country.

In preparing a budget in general the political will of a particular party or its ideology plays a significant role. Budget is another important aspect in the functioning of education system. The bureaucrats, pressure groups and other forms of advocacy groups play the role in allocating the funds in each developmental sector of the country. But there is an asymmetry in allocation of funds within the stages of education in which politics may have a part to play. For example, in primary or elementary education the Government has given more focus whereas in higher stage of education the fund allocation is proportionately rather low. Therefore, equity in financing is another big issue of concern in education system in India as a whole.

Apart from these, whenever we talk about politics in education we must also consider the political influence in framing the syllabus and curriculum. Many times a particular political ideology is sought to be popularized through the apparently apolitical nature of the syllabus. But a syllabus should be designed on academic consideration in such a way that it can cater to the needs of the learners and make the learners nationally as well as internationally aware of various political systems of the world because politics and education cannot be separated. But the learners should not be influenced for or against any particular political system or belief. Rather they should be made politically conscious. This should be the role of politics in education.

## **State and Education**

The responsibility of education of child lies with both state and society. School is a unit of society; so mutual co-operation between these two institutions of society is necessary for smooth fulfilment of this responsibility. In democratic countries, the direct responsibility of education is with state. The basic characteristics of a democratic system are its egalitarian values, right to freedom and its decentralised structures operating from micro to macro institutions of governance.

Though society's influence is seen in many ways on the different aspects of education, ultimately it's a responsibility of the state because the state provides resources for the education of its citizens. So Socio-political ideology influences the process of policy formulation of education.

It is entirely the governments' responsibilities to decide what the total financial support to education should be at all the levels to achieve the objectives of national development.

Guidelines are formulated by the government for the distribution of funds for different levels and types of education.

The formulation of a national education plan and its successful conduct is the most important of duty all the classes of the state. The educational plan of society should be such as to employ the interests of all classes of society. Education begins in the family and continues through at the schooling of the child. It is the duty of the state to see that proper education of each. If the family and school do not fulfil their responsibility properly, it is the duty of state to m a .proper arrangements for the education of the child. For these it should make proper rules and regulations and create such circumstances that the family and schools are forced to fulfil their obligations in this regard.

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