Role of Research in School Education

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Abstract: *The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions a transformative shift in school education by integrating research-based learning to develop critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and creativity among students. Traditional rote-based learning methods often hinder deep conceptual understanding, whereas research-driven pedagogies encourage curiosity, analytical reasoning, and lifelong learning. This paper explores the significance of research-oriented education in schools and its potential to foster holistic development, aligning with the NEP 2020 framework.*

The study highlights various approaches to implementing research-based learning, including inquiry-based learning, project-based learning, experiential learning, and interdisciplinary studies. These methodologies enable students to explore real-world problems, develop independent thinking, and collaborate effectively. Additionally, the paper discusses the role of teachers as facilitators of research-driven learning and the need for their professional development to integrate inquiry-based methods into the curriculum.

Despite its potential benefits, the implementation of research-based learning in Indian schools faces several challenges, such as limited resources, rigid curriculum structures, teacher training gaps, and assessment constraints. The paper examines these obstacles while drawing insights from successful national and international models of research-integrated education. Through an extensive literature review and case study analysis, it proposes strategies for overcoming these barriers, including curriculum flexibility, investment in teacher training, digital resources, and policy reforms.

The findings suggest that incorporating research-based learning at the school level can significantly enhance conceptual understanding, engagement, and innovation among students. To ensure successful execution, a collaborative effort between policymakers, educators, and institutions is essential. This paper advocates for a systemic shift in pedagogy that fosters inquiry, innovation, and holistic growth in young learners, in alignment with the NEP 2020 vision for a dynamic and research-driven education system.

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