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G20 Series # 77

India's G20 Presidency

G20 Education Ministers' Meeting
(Pune, Maharashtra– June 22, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

July 20, 2023

"Our objective has to be to provide quality education with better governance. In this, we have to adapt and use new e-learning innovatively."

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The G20 Education Ministers' meeting was held in Pune on June 22, 2023. The G20 Education Ministers' Meeting (EMM) was chaired by Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and was attended by over 150 delegates including 14 ministers from G20 members and Guest countries. The high-level participation from the G20 and Guest countries underlined the global focus on education as a transformative pathway to achieve the Presidency's goal of "One Earth, One Family, One Future".
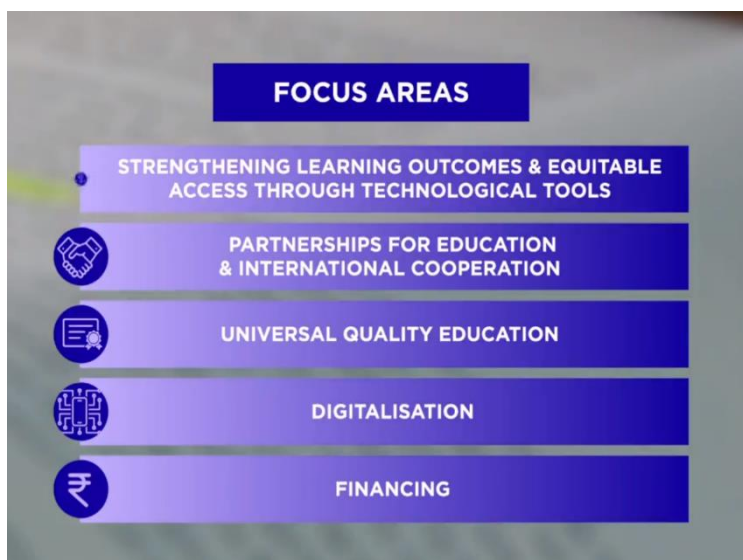

The EdWG track aligned emphasised 4 priority areas, namely,

- ❖ Ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy, especially in the context of blended learning;
- ❖ Making tech-enabled learning more inclusive, qualitative, and collaborative;
- ❖ Building capacities and promoting lifelong learning in the context of the future of work; and
- ❖ Strengthening research and fostering innovation through enhanced collaboration and partnerships. The Education Working Group also collaborates with employment and other Working groups to address issues like Skill Development, and school-to-work transition.

Prior to the G20 Ministers' Meeting, the Education Working Group held four meetings-

- ➢ 1st Education Working Group Meeting, held at Chennai, Tamil Nadu from January 31- February 2, 2023
- ➢ 2nd Education Working Group Meeting held in Amritsar, Punjab from March 15-17, 2023
- ➢ 3rd Education Working Group Meeting held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from April 26 – 28, 2023
- ➢ 4th EdWG meeting held in Pune from June 19-20, 2023

These meetings were an opportunity to collectively agree on actions for accelerating achievement of the SDGs and foster synergies between the G20 nations towards the above-mentioned priority areas. During the 4th EdWG, G20 delegates appreciated the sustained efforts of the Indian G20 presidency towards developing the EdWG report and Compendium. These outcome documents will serve as a roadmap for the international community, guiding coordinated actions to ensure inclusive and high-quality education for all learners.

The Ministers' meeting commenced with a virtual address by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi wherein he stated that education is not only the foundation upon which our civilization has been built, but it is also the architect of humanity's future. The Prime Minister emphasized that Education Ministers are leading mankind in its effort for development, peace, and prosperity for all.

Highlighting the significance of the G20 Education Ministers' Meet towards the future of our children and youth, the Prime Minister expressed delight that the group has identified green transition, digital transformations and women's empowerment as accelerators for achieving Sustainable Development Goals. "Education is at the root of all these efforts", the Prime Minister said, as he expressed confidence that the outcome of the meeting will be an inclusive, action-oriented and future-ready education agenda.

The Prime Minister emphasized the need to adapt and use new e-learning innovatively and said that the objective must be to provide quality education with better governance. He highlighted the several initiatives taken by the Government in this direction and mentioned 'Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds', or 'Swayam', an online platform that hosts all courses from Class 9 to the post-graduate level and enables students to learn remotely while focussing on access, equity and quality. "With over 34 million enrolments and more than 9000 courses, it has become a very effective learning tool", the Prime Minister added. He also mentioned the 'Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing' or 'Diksha Portal' which aims to deliver school education through distance learning. Shri

Modi informed that it supports learning in 29 Indian and 7 foreign languages and has witnessed over 137 million course completions so far. Shri Modi also pointed out that India would be happy to share these experiences and resources, particularly with those in the Global South.

The inaugural session also featured a special address by the Union Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. He stated that investing in education and skilling is investing in the progress of humanity. He expressed his happiness that G20 members and invited countries have come together collectively to bridge knowledge, skills and socio-economic gaps, empower citizens and foster a more equitable and prosperous world through lifelong learning opportunities.

He reiterated the Prime Minister's vision of humanity's welfare and quality education with better governance. Education must transcend geopolitical boundaries. We must collectively ensure that all the children and youth of the world benefit from holistic education and are equipped with 21st-century skills, he added.

Union Minister stated that the collaborative action under G20 India Presidency has transcended beyond the Ministerial engagement and has witnessed participation from 5.2 core stakeholders spread across school education, higher education & skill ecosystem. This truly embodies the spirit of One Earth, One Family, One Future, as emphasised by our theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', he added.

In his speech, Dr. Iwan Syahril, DG, Early Childhood Education, Primary Education and Secondary Education, Ministry of Culture and Education, Indonesia and Co-chair for the G-20 Education Working Group, congratulated India for exceptional facilitation and warm hospitality received in the course of the 4th Education Working Group. He spoke fondly of India's incredible cultural heritage, expressing his admiration for the rich and diverse traditions that make up the fabric of Indian society. Dr. Syahril extended his gratitude to the Indian Presidency for their proactive role in advancing the agenda for education transformation in the G-20 countries.

All the G20 members fully endorsed and adopted outcomes pertaining to the 4 priorities identified by the Indian Presidency for the Education Working Group, as all of them joined in consensus on all the technical issues and agreed to an "Outcome Document and Chair's Summary", which was adopted during the meeting. The G20 Ministers also unanimously adopted the G20 Education Working Group Report and the

[G20 Education Working Group Compendium](#) on Education Policies and Programmes in G20 Countries.

The key takeaways of the G20 Educational Ministerial under India's Presidency where all the G20 members agreed upon -

1. Education's critical role as an enabler of human dignity and empowerment globally.
2. The need to work together for a resilient, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future through education.
3. The need to ensure that everyone irrespective of age, gender, socio-economic or cultural background or those who are facing physical, mental or other learning difficulties or special needs have access to quality, inclusive and equitable education, and training.
4. Education is not only about academic learning but also about developing life, technical and vocational skills to make all learners future ready. They also underlined the need for lifelong learning.
5. Recognized the important role of digital transformations, women-led development, green transition and education for sustainable development and lifestyles (LiFE) as accelerators that can advance the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.
6. The need for immediate and collective action to ensure that all learners acquire foundational learning, so that, by 2030, the percentage of children, particularly girls and children with disabilities, not able to read and understand a simple text and do simple maths is reduced substantially.
7. The central role of all teachers and education staff all over the world in promoting education and the need to foster an environment including capacity building and exchange programmes that will enable teachers and staff to thrive in their profession.
8. The importance of investment in supporting human capital development and encouraging collaborative solutions and innovations to promote quality teaching, learning and skilling as well as foster academic collaborations among educational institutions through joint programmes, dual degrees, as wells as student and faculty exchange programs.

During the discussions at the Ministerial Meeting, all G20 members also reiterated their shared commitment to overcome the digital divide for all learners by addressing the barriers to technological infrastructure and working collectively to develop technology ecosystems and learning resources, including in local languages that are affordable and easily accessible.

Cultural programmes, exhibitions, and excursions were also organized to provide the ministers and delegates with a glimpse into the rich culture and traditions of Maharashtra. The ministers and delegates were also taken on a trip to the historic Agha Khan Palace, which is a monument of national importance and is closely linked to the Indian freedom movement.

References:

[G20 Education Ministers' Meeting Concludes Today](#)

[PM addresses G20 Education Ministers' Meet](#)

[Text of PM's video message during G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting](#)

Further Reading:

[G20 Education Ministerial Meeting: Outcome Document and Chair's Summary](#)

[Education Policies and Programmes in G20 Countries: Report](#)

[Education Policies and Programmes in G20 Countries: Compendium](#)

Twitter Links:

[PM @narendramodi's remarks at the G20 Education Ministers' Meeting](#)

[The #G20India Education Ministers' Meeting in #Pune concluded successfully](#)

[Prior to the upcoming Education Ministers' Meeting, here is an insight into the WG, its priorities & the Meetings held under #G20India](#)

Video Links:

[Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Video Message at the Education Ministers' Meeting in Pune](#)

[Inaugural Segment of the G20 Education Ministers' Meeting](#)

NR/HP/RK/KG