

# Experts say no to 4-year honours course under NEP

## Multiple exit-entry points unviable, they feel

BENGALURU, DHNS

Several experts present in the meeting called by the SEP drafting committee here on Wednesday opined that four years' honours degree and multiple entry exit option provided in the New Education Policy (NEP) were impractical.

As many as 68 experts from various fields across the state and some from national level were invited for the discussion.

During the discussion, a majority of them said it was not viable to offer four years' honours course. They said

multiple entry exit points would not serve the purpose of higher education.

"When I was the head of the department at Bangalore University, we tried five years' integrated/honours course long back and it was a failure. Of the 38 students who got admissions, no student remained for the fifth year. Hence, the course was closed," explained one retired professor.

"How can we give a certificate after first year, diploma after second year and degree after third year? It is impractical and unscientific in engineering education. This would lead to more unemployment,"

the principal of an engineering college said.

Students who have joined higher education under NEP 2020 are in the third year now and the government has to take a decision on scrapping or continuing four-year honours course.

"This is the reason we have asked for interim report from a commission on four-year honours course. The government will decide on it as soon as the commission submits its report," said a senior official of the higher education department.

The SEP drafting committee headed by former UGC chairperson Sukhdeo Thorat has called another meeting on January 18. It will submit an interim report by the end of this month.

Some of the experts invited for Wednesday's discussion were educationist G Ramakrishna, writers K

Marulsasiddappa, S G Sidaramaiah, Baraguru Ramachandrappa, N V Varghese, director of the Centre for Public Policy Research in Higher Education, IMI Kolkata economics associate professor Sahana Roy Chowdhury and S Madheswaran of Centre for Economic Studies & Policy.

### Survey

A survey conducted by the All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) showed that 94.5% of the stakeholders were not happy with the four-year honours course and 92.32% opined that multiple entry-exit would not help in getting jobs.

The committee, which released the report on Wednesday, submitted the findings to the SEP drafting committee. There were 2,536 respondents from 24 districts, 18 universities and 83 colleges.