

About MSFDA:

The Department of Higher and Technical Education has established Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy (MSFDA) under Section 8 of Companies Act, 2013 to impart training to the faculty of Higher and Technical Education Institutions of Maharashtra.

The Vision of MSFDA is “Transforming higher educational landscape, through continuous professional development of teachers in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) of Maharashtra”.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 specifies:

“13.1. The most important factor in the success of higher education institutions is the quality and engagement of its faculty.”

“15.1.1 - Teacher education is vital in creating a pool of teachers that will shape the next generation. Teacher preparation is an activity that requires multidisciplinary perspectives and knowledge, formation of dispositions and values, and development of practice under the best mentors. Teachers must be grounded in Indian values, languages, knowledge, ethos, and traditions including tribal traditions, while also being well-versed in the latest advances in education and pedagogy.”

MSFDA is in a unique position to influence reforms in the higher education as envisaged by the NEP 2020 by engaging with and motivating the faculty. The focus of trainings and the USP of MSFDA will be development of holistic learning and overall development as a human being. This will be critical for societal change.

USP and Approach of MSFDA

MSFDA will focus on training, incorporating the following key principles and approaches emanating from NEP 2020.

- i. **Experiential learning, creativity and innovation:** The faculty will be encouraged to adopt pedagogies that promote discovery, questioning and experiential learning by the students. This approach, which is also being focused in school education, will enable development of creative individuals who are intelligent, confident, sensitive and are able to address problems.
- ii. **Learning beyond knowledge:** Besides academic excellence and knowledge of latest advancement in respective disciplines, the trainings will underline that the purpose of higher education is much beyond accumulation of knowledge and employability. Knowledge can lead to intelligence, but by itself is not intelligence. The

educators will be nudged towards appreciating this fact, so that they assume the right roles within the overarching purpose of ‘learning’. The HEIs will be encouraged to promote a congenial learning environment, which is free from fear and promotes critical thinking, discussion and co- learning among teachers and students.

iii. **Multidisciplinary Education:** A multidisciplinary approach will be promoted. The HEIs will be encouraged to recognize and promote creative arts at par with science and management subjects. Also, the training will promote integration with vocational education as envisaged in the NEP 2020 and work towards correcting the social status hierarchy associated with vocational education.

iv. **Scientific and rational thinking:** The NEP 2020 envisions discovery-based style of learning with emphasis on scientific method and critical thinking. Article 51 of the Constitution *inter alia* mentions that it shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to develop scientific temper, humanism and spirit of enquiry and reform. MSFDA will promote training which is focused on rational thinking.

v. **Networking with practitioners, expert institutions, HEIs:** Recognizing the strength and importance of experiential and hands-on learning, the MSFDA will work as a collaborative institute that will not only provide training to faculty, but will also serve as a facilitative platform to connect the HEIs with best practicing individuals, practitioners, institutions, and resources.

vi. **Diversity and inclusion:** The NEP 2020 has identified limited access and limited teaching in local language as a constraint to achieving the purpose of higher education. It envisions increased access, equity and inclusion in higher education by creating greater opportunities. The MSFDA will promote diversity and inclusion as a non-negotiable fundamental principle in all aspects of higher education. The training accordingly, will focus on sensitising faculty towards this aspect and skilling them with comprehensive understanding of diversity and inclusion and also providing them with appropriate frameworks to implement in their respective institutions.

There will be six Centres in MSFDA to carry out trainings/work in their respective areas. Each Centre will be managed by a **Centre Coordinator** assisted by an Administrative Assistant. The six Centres are:

(a) **Centre for Multi-disciplinary curriculum & pedagogy:** This Centre will carry out trainings in learning opportunities with a multi-disciplinary approach. In line with the NEP, 2020, the Centre will enable institutions and faculty to provide open, creative, and critical

learning opportunities by inter-connecting various streams of arts and science. It will plan and execute trainings and modules in multi-disciplinary curriculum & pedagogy and build capacity of the faculty and institutions to be able to conduct such courses and adopt such pedagogy in their institution. The Centre will focus on development and promotion of creative IT based tools to promote experiential learning as part of pedagogy.

(b) **Centre for Leadership Development:** This Centre will focus on training of senior faculty of HEIs who are in leadership positions or are likely to assume leadership positions. The various aspects of NEP, 2020 will be discussed with them and they will be motivated to translate the policy features into actuality within their institutions. Modules on ethical leadership will be held in collaboration with expert organizations. The Centre will also work towards development of leadership traits in students.

(c) **Centre for Inclusion & Diversity:** The Centre will sensitize the faculty, students and HEIs to diversity and inclusion as a non-negotiable value. It will operate as a cross-cutting theme and design and plan training programmes to encourage HEIs to build a conducive environment for students from diverse backgrounds to be able to access and enroll in their courses. It will also network with specialized organisations/individuals to enrich the trainings in this field.

(d) **Centre for Innovation & Cutting-edge technology:** The Centre will foster innovation culture in HEIs. It will develop tools and methodologies to nurture innovation, incubation and entrepreneurial ecosystem and impart trainings in this field. It will focus on research and analysis and strengthen the participant's understanding as an entrepreneur, leader and/or explorer in new fields and ideas. It will also focus on contemporary development in the various subject domains. In the disruptive age the shelf life of skills is reduced drastically. The Centre will develop creative interventions to impart future ready skills for bridging the skill gap.

(e) **Centre for Resources:** The Centre will be developed as a studio hosting a library, an audio-visual room, a performance space with required technical and other resources and provision for regular updating of resources like books, journals, periodicals, films, audio files, etc. It will endeavor to become a one-stop Centre for information pertaining to best online/offline resources. It will tie up and compile the existing resources/ online platforms for guidance of trainees/students who will visit the Centre. It will be an active space that will hosts events, debates/discussions, shows, film screenings, musicals, readings, exhibitions etc.

for not only the faculty but also the students, thus also becoming a hub for traditional, modern, digital and other forms of creative expression.

(f) **Centre for Networking:** The Centre will build a strong network of academicians, practitioners, organizations and institutions that can bring in expertise that is best desired for education of young people. It will act as a platform to allow sharing and exchange of latest development in terms of thought, skill, technology in various arts and science streams as well as learning pedagogy. The Centre will, thus, support other Centres as well as HEIs for designing of appropriate modules and courses. It will take lead in creating opportunities and avenues for student internships, fellowships, apprenticeship, placements and any other form of association to learn and practice by-hand on the field.