



Ragini's Dilemma

Ragini, a science student, is unsure about her future due to her uncertain economic situation. She contacts a career adviser, Ms. Damayanti, who is known for guiding students with innovative yet feasible career options. During their session, Ms. Damayanti discussed Ragini's interests, hobbies, academic accomplishments, ambitions, and inhibitions. Ragini expressed her fear of discontinuing her education and starting to earn to support her family financially.

Ms. Damayanti administered standardized tests to determine Ragini's interest in specific career paths. She concluded that Ragini is a bright student with a curious mind and can examine and analyse information to understand issues. She believed Ragini might pursue a career as a journalist based on her standardized tests, but she would need a good understanding of statistics to analyse and interpret data.

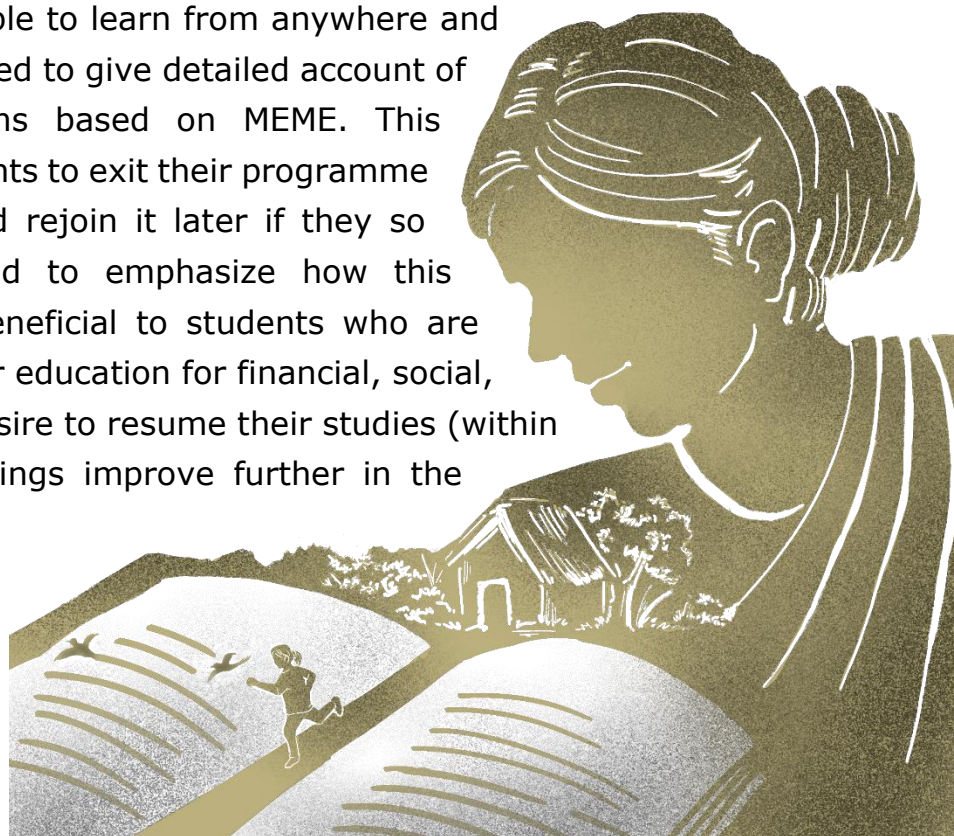
Ms. Damayanti arranged Ragini's next visit to suggest a better solution considering some of the constraints Ragini may face in the future.

Ms. Damayanti was aware that the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) will be implemented in the state by the time Ragini starts pursuing her further studies. NEP-2020, in her opinion, is an ambitious and comprehensive policy that aims to tear down barriers and open new channels for students to pick and choose the courses of their interest to get a full-fledged degree.

She further noted that due to NEP-2020, HEIs will now offer innovative curricular structures that allow for creative combinations of disciplines and the removal of restrictive boundaries. This will open new opportunities for students to select and learn courses of their choice while selecting educational institutions (HEIs) based on their preferences, convenience, or necessity.

While reading the NEP-2020, she realised that policy recognizes that some learners may need to give up their education mid-way due to family responsibilities, economical constraints, or for any other reason leading to discontinuing the programs. Some Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) allow learners to settle for lower certification levels. Such students who quit the programme in the middle, are stamped as dropouts, and they get no qualification certificate or diploma for the credits earned during their time in college. However, NEP-2020 caters to these needs of learners.

After checking revised programmes and curricula with colleges in the city, Ms. Damayanti decided to brief Ragini regarding a multiple entry and multiple exit system (MEME) recommended by NEP 2020. She decided to comfort Ragini with the thought that after implementation of NEP-2020 she will be able to learn from anywhere and anytime. She also decided to give detailed account of various learning options based on MEME. This approach permits students to exit their programme with credits earned and rejoin it later if they so wish. She also decided to emphasize how this arrangement will be beneficial to students who are unable to complete their education for financial, social, or other reasons and desire to resume their studies (within next 3 years) when things improve further in the future.



Thus, Ms. Damayanti decided to present few alternatives for Ragini to give her clear idea regarding pursuing career in Journalism.

So, at their next meeting, Ms. Damayanti presented Ragini with the following possibilities for an undergraduate degree of 3 or 4 years with a variety of entry and exit options within this time frame, along with the appropriate certification.

Options presented by Ms. Damayanti:

Option 1

(If Ragini needed to exit the programme after 1 year of successful completion and assessment):

'A certificate after completing 1 year in a Journalism Programme and a 4-credit course in vocational area'

Option 2

(If Ragini needed to exit the programme after 2 years of successful completion and assessment):

'A diploma after 2 years of study in Journalism programme and a 4-credit course in vocational area'

Option 3

(If Ragini completes basic graduation, she may like to study further for two years Masters programme in future):

For 'Bachelor's degree of 3-year duration in Journalism.' She will need to earn 60 Credits in Journalism (Major discipline) and 9 credits may be in Statistics (Multidisciplinary) which looks like a good option for her.

Option 4

(If Ragini would like to invest another year in Research and later pursue Masters in 1 Year):

If she gets 75% marks in 3 years assessment, she can study 4-year degree without research (Honours)

Option 5

Bachelor's degree with Honors and Research of 4-year duration in Journalism. She will need to have 80 Credits in Journalism (Major discipline) and 9 credits in Statistics (Multidisciplinary). In addition to this, she needs to complete rigorous research project (for 12 credits) in Journalism.

Ragini realised she could manage her own ambition and family obligations after going over the specifics of a three and four-year UG programmes. She was relieved and comforted to know that if she had to leave the programme in between, for whatever reason, she would not be losing everything. She will be able to complete her education or pursue a professional career at her own pace without jeopardising her other commitments.

