

PROSPECTS OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020 ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

The national policy of Education was framed 1986 and modified in 1992. Since then several changes have taken place that calls for a revision of the policy. The NEP 2020 is the first Education policy of the 21st century and replaces the thirty – four year old National policy on Education, 1986. Built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equality, quality, affordability and accountability. This policy is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development and aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge. NEP 2020 recommend about primary, secondary and Higher education. It aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in the higher education including vocational education from 26.3%(2018) to 50% 2030. 3.5 crore new seat will be added to Higher education institutions. In this paper all the aspect related to higher Education will be discussed. Secondary data are used for collect data.

Keywords: NEP 2020, Higher education.

Introduction:

The Indian education system noticed a historical decision made by the union cabinet, New Education policy, on 29th July, 2020. On this day, the Ministry of Education announced the major reforms in the educational structure under the newly laid National Education policy (NEP) 2020.

NEP is the first inclusive, participatory and holistic approach that reforms the existing educational structure. This new Education policy 2020 takes into consideration different fields like experience, empirical research, stakeholders feedback and lessons from best practices. NEP 2020 is brought for the learning to learn approach.

In January 2015, a committee under former cabinet secretary T.S.R. Subramanian started the constitution process for the New Education policy. Based on the committee report, In June 2017, the draft NEP was submitted in 2019 by a panel led by former Indian space research organisation (ISRO) chief Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan.

The Draft New Education policy (DNEP) 2019, was later released by Ministry of Human Resources Development, followed by a number of public consultation. The Draft had 484 pages. The Ministry undertook a rigorous consultation process in formulating the draft policy: “Over two lakh suggestions from 2.5 lakh gram panchayat, 6,600 blocks, 6000 urban local bodies, 676 districts were received.”

The vision of the National Education policy is “National Education policy 2020 envisions an India centric education system that contributes directly to transforming our national sustainability into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all.”

Salient Features of NEP 2020:

1. Recognizing, identifying and fostering the unique capabilities of each student's by sensitizing teachers as well as parents to promote each student's holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres.
2. Emphasis on conceptual understanding rather rote learning and learning for exams.
3. Creativity and critical thinking to encourage logical decision- making and innovation.
4. Ethics and human & constitutional values like empathy, respect for others, cleanliness, scientific temper etc;

5. Promoting multilingualism and the power of language in teaching and learning.
6. Extensive use of technology in teaching and learning, removing language barriers.

Objectives of the Study:

The main objectives of the study are given below:-

1. To study about the New Education policy 2020.
2. To study about the prospects of New Education policy on higher education.

Methodology of the Study:

In this paper secondary data are used to collect data .Internet, Facebook and websites are used for collect information.

Findings and Discussion:

The main problems faced by the Indian higher education system includes enforced separation of qualifications, early specialization and student steaming into restricted research areas, less focus on research at most universities and schools , lack of competitive peer- reviewed academic research funding and large affiliated universities leading to low level of undergraduate education.

The new Education policy brings some fundamental changes to the current system, and the key highlights are multidisciplinary universities and colleges, with at least one in or near every district, revamping student curricula, pedagogy, establishing a national Research Foundation to support excellent peer-reviewed work and effectively study at universities and colleges.

Salient Features of NEP 2020: Higher Education:

- 1) Recognizing, identifying and fostering the unique capabilities of each students by sensitizing teachers as well as parents to promote each students holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres.
- 2) Flexibility, so that learners have the ability to choose their learning programmes, and thereby choose their own paths in life according to their talents and interests.
- 3) No hard separation between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra – curricular activities, vocational and academic stream etc,
- 4) Multidisciplinary and a holistic Education across the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities and sports for a multidisciplinary world in order to ensure the unity and integrity of all knowledge.
- 5) Emphasis on conceptual understanding rather rote learning and learning for learner.
- 6) Creativity and critical thinking to encourage logical decision– making and innovation.
- 7) Ethics and human and constitutional values like empathy, respect for others, cleanliness, courtesy, democratic, scientific temper.
- 8) Promoting multilingualism and the power of language in teaching and learning.

Quality University and College: A New and Forward Looking Vision for India's Higher Education System:

1. Quality higher education must aim to develop good, thoughtful, well- rounded and creative individual.
2. A quality higher education must enable personal accomplishment and enlightenment.
3. It must prepare students for more meaningful and satisfying lives.

Some problems currently faced by the higher education system in India includes:-

- a. A severely fragmented higher educational system.
- b. Less emphasis on the development of cognitive skills and learning outcomes.
- c. Limited teacher and institutional autonomy.

d. Lesser emphasis on research at most universities and colleges, and lack of competitive peer-reviewed research funding across disciplines.

The policy envisions the following key changes in current Education system:-

- 1) Moving towards multi-disciplinary Universities and colleges, with more HEIs across India that offer medium of instruction in local/ Indian languages.
- 2) Moving towards a more multidisciplinary undergraduate education.
- 3) Revamping curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and student support.
- 4) Establishment of a National Research Foundation
- 5) Increased access, equality, and inclusions.

Institutional Reconstructing and Consolidation:

- 1) By 2040, all higher education institutions shall aim to become multidisciplinary institution, each of which will aim to have 3000 or more students.
- 2) There shall by, 2030, be at least one large multidisciplinary higher education India in or near every district.
- 3) A university will mean a multidisciplinary institution of higher learning that offers undergraduate and graduate programmes, with high quality teaching, research and community engagement.
- 4) Institutions will have the option to run open and distance learning and online programmes provided they are accredited to do so.
- 5) Single stream higher education India will be phased out over time, and all will move towards becoming vibrant multidisciplinary institutions or parts of vibrant multidisciplinary Higher Education India clusters.
- 6) The overall higher education sector will be integrated higher education system, including professional and vocational education.

Towards A More Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education:

- a) A holistic and multidisciplinary Education would aim to develop all capacities of human beings – intellectual, aesthetic social,
- b) Such a holistic Education shall be, in the long term, the approach of all undergraduate programmes, including those in professional, technical and vocational disciplines.
- c) Curricular of all Higher education India shall include credit – based courses and projects in the areas of community engagement and service, environmental education, and value – based Education.
- d) An Academic Bank of credit (ABC) shall be established which would digitally store the academic credit earned from various recognized HEIs .So that degrees from an HEIs can be awarded taking into account credit.

Optimal Learning Environments and Sports for Students:

- 1) All assessment system shall also be decided by the HEI, including those that lead to final certification. The CBCS will be revised for instilling innovation and flexibility.
- 2) HEIs shall move to a criterion – based grading system that assessor student achievement based on the learning goals for each programme
- 3) HEIs shall also move away from high – stakes examinations towards more continuous and comprehensive evaluation.
- 4) High quality support centres and professional academic and career counseling will be made available to all students.

Internationalisation:

- a) Large number of international students studying in India, and greater mobility to students in India visit, study at transfer credit to, or carry out research at institutions abroad and vice- versa.

- b) India will be promoted as a global study destination providing premium Education at affordable costs.
- c) Research/ teaching collaboration and faculty / student exchanges with high quality foreign institutions will be facilitated.
- d) High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries.

Student Activity and Participation:

- 1) Plenty of opportunities for participation in sports, culture/ arts , eco- club, activity clubs
- 2) In every Education institutions, there shall be counseling system for handling stress and emotional adjustment.

Financial Support for Students:

- 1) Efforts will be made to incentives the merit of students belonging to SC, ST, OBC and other SEDGs.
- 2) Private HEIs will be encouraged to offer large number of free ships and scholarship to their students.

Equality and Inclusion in Higher Education:

Actions that are specific to higher education shall be adopted by all government and HEIs.

Steps to be taken by Government:-

- 1) Earmark suitable Government for the Education of SEDGs.
- 2) Set clear largest for higher GER for SEDGs.
- 3) Enhance gender balance in admission to HEIs
- 4) Developed and support high – quality HEI that teach in local/ Indian languages or bilingually
- 5) Provide more financial assistance and scholarship to SEDGs in both public and private HEIs.

Steps to be taken by all HEIs:-

- 1) Mitigate opportunity costs and fees for pursuing higher education.
- 2) Provide more financial assistance and scholarship.
- 3) Make admission process more inclusive.

Reimagining Vocational Education:

- 1) Vocational education will be integrated into all school and higher education institutions in a phased manner over the next decade.
- 2) By 2025, at least 50% of learners through school and higher education system shall have exposure to vocational education, for which a clear action plan with targets and timelines will be developed.
- 3) The possibility of offering vocational education through ODL mode will also be explored.

Effective Governance and Leadership for Higher Education Institutions:

Through a suitable system of graded accreditation and graded autonomy, and a phased manner over a period of 15 years, all HEIs in India will aim to become independent self – governing institutions pursuing innovation and excellence.

NEP 2020 also recommended professional education, Indian languages arts and culture, adult education.

Conclusion:

The policy introduces a whole gamut of changes and reads largely as a very progressive document, with a firm grasp on the current socio – economic landscape and prospects of future uncertainty.

NEP 2020 addresses the need to develop professional in a variety of fields ranging from agriculture to artificial intelligence. And the NEP 2020 paves the way ahead for many young aspiring students to be equipped with the right skilled.

The new Education policy has a laudable vision, but its strength will depend on whether it is able to effectively integrate with the other policy initiatives of government like digital India. The NEP 2020 is a defining moment for higher education on effective and time – bound implementation is when will make it truly path breaking.

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