



IMPACT OF NEW EDUCATIONAL POLICY 2020 ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The New Educational policy (NEP) 2020 has announced by the Government of India to bring about a change in quality in the sector of higher education. Higher education plays a great role in promoting the nation as well as individuals who can take lead for development of all aspect according to their potentialities. Higher education significantly contributes towards economic development and sustainable livelihoods. In the modern age India is becoming towards knowledge economy and society and the demand for higher education is also being noticed. So, NEP has recommended some significant initiative to the development higher education. The NEP has impacted all the sectors of education equally; the article mainly focuses on its impact on higher education.

Keywords: *NEP, Higher Education, Holistic education, Regulatory system*

INTRODUCTION

India makes the completion of India's 74th year of Independence, still unable to reach 100% literacy in the nation. This shows the need for improvement in educational system in India. In the light of this, in the year 2020 the new National Educational Policy has come into force under the chairmanship of Dr. K Kasturirangam. National Education Policy 2020 visualizes an India-centric education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all. Quality higher education must aim to develop individuals who are excellent, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative. It must enable a person to study one or more specialized areas of interest at an in-depth level and develop character, ethical and constitutional values, intellectual curiosity, scientific temper, creativity, service spirit, and the skills of the 21st century across a range of fields, including sciences, social sciences, the arts, humanities, languages, personal, technological the vocational subjects. Quality higher education must aim to develop good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals. It must enable an individual to study one or more specialized areas of interest at a deeper level,

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and also develop character, ethical and constitutional values, intellectual curiosity, scientific temper, character development inculcation of constitutional values and ethical, creativity, spirit of service and modern capabilities across a range of disciplines including sciences, social sciences, arts , humanities, languages, as well as professional, technical and vocational subjects.

The NEP 2020 has outlined an aspiring task of nearly doubling the GER in higher education from 26.3 per cent, 2018 to 50 per cent by 2035 while improving quality of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and positioning India as a global education hub. NEP 2020 also focus on providing a flexible curriculum through an interdisciplinary approach, creating multiple exit points in what would be a four-year undergraduate programme, catalysing research, improving faculty support and encouraging internationalisation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To know the key visions of NEP in relation to Higher Education.
2. To study the impact of National Education Policy 2020 on Higher Education.

METHODOLOGY:

This research paper is a descriptive study on National Educational Policy 2020. The necessary secondary data was collected from various websites including those of the Government of India, NEP 2020 draft, magazines, journals, other publications, etc.

THE KEY VISIONS OF NEP IN RELATION TO HIGHER EDUCATION:

In order to meet the challenges of providing high-quality education with equity and inclusion, the NEP 2020 visualize a total reform and re-energising of the higher education system. The main vision of the NEP 2020 is as follows:

1. To moving towards a higher educational system consisting of large, multidisciplinary universities and colleges at least one in every district for the quality development of higher education. It also emphasis on establishing more HEIs across India that offer instruction and programme in local or Indian languages. To establish more HEIs in underserved regions to ensure full access, equity and inclusion. The aim will help to



increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education and vocational education from 26.3 %(2018) to 50% by 2035.

2. To emphasise on more multidisciplinary undergraduate education. And also moving towards provide flexible curriculum structure that will offer multiple entry and exit points to create new possibilities for lifelong learning.
3. To moving towards faculty and institutional autonomy.
4. Reforming curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and student support for enhanced student experience. Curriculum should be updated and made relevant to align with the latest knowledge for fulfilment of specified learning outcomes. Updated curriculum and continuous and comprehensive assessment and proper student support system such as quality libraries, classrooms, labs, technology, and space for development of modern methods of learning must be implemented for the quality development of higher education.
5. Reaffirming the integrity of faculty and institutional leadership positions through merit appointments and career progression based on teaching, research and services.
6. Governance of HEIs by high qualified independent boards having academic and administrative autonomy. The creation of a culture of excellence and innovation in higher education demand a strong and effective governance and leadership in the sector of higher education. The NEP focused on establishment of a Board of Governors (BoG) which shall be consisting a group of highly qualified, competent and dedicated individuals who have a strong sense of commitment to the quality development of the institution with equity and inclusion.
7. To establish National Research Foundation to fund outstanding peer-reviewed research and to actively seed research in universities and colleges. A robust ecosystem of research is more important to adjust with rapid changes in the world. The NEP 2020 envisioned providing more fund for developing the research fields including teaching-learning, social science, humanities, medical, technology, agriculture etc.
8. To greater focus on online education and open distance learning (ODL) as a key means to improve access equity and inclusion. And also focus on public education, scholarships by private universities for disadvantaged groups and all infrastructure and learning resources should be accessible and available for physically and intellectually challenged learners. It helps to provide opportunities for lifelong learning to the citizen of the nation.



IMPACT OF NEP 2020 ON HIGHER EDUCATION:

Despite the impact of NEP 2020 on several sectors of higher education this study will only discuss about the impact on holistic and multidisciplinary education, structure and duration of higher education and regulatory system of higher education.

On More Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education:

The NEP 2020 laid great importance on making education more holistic and multidisciplinary. The NEP 2020 claimed that a holistic and multidisciplinary education can develop all capacities of human beings- intellectual, aesthetic, social, moral, emotional, physical in an integral manner. It will help develop well rounded individuals that possess critical 21st century capacities in fields across the arts, humanities, languages, sciences, social sciences, and professional, technical, and vocational fields; an ethic of social engagement; soft skills, such as communication, discussion and debate; and rigorous specialization in a chosen field or fields.

Towards the attainment of such a holistic and multidisciplinary education, the flexible and innovative curricula of all HEIs shall include credit-based courses and projects in the areas of community engagement and service, environmental education, and value-based education. The NEP 2020 also gave importance to environment education including areas such as climate change, pollution, waste management, sanitation, conservation of biological diversity, management of biological resources and biodiversity, forest and wildlife conservation, and sustainable development and living. It envisioned to develop value-based education include the development of humanistic, ethical, Constitutional, and universal human values of truth (satya), righteous conduct (dharma), peace (shanti), love (prem), nonviolence (ahimsa), scientific temper, citizenship values, and also life-skills; lessons in seva/service and participation in community service programmes will be considered an integral part of a holistic education.

As the world is becoming increasingly interconnected, Global Citizenship Education (GCED), a response to contemporary global challenges, will be provided to empower



learners to become aware of and understand global issues and to become active promoters of more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure, and sustainable societies.

For the holistic education, students at all HEIs should be provided with opportunities for internships with local industry, businesses, artists, crafts persons, etc. as well as research internships with faculty and researchers at their own or other HEIs institutions so that may engage with the practical knowledge and improve their employability.

On Structure and Duration of Degree Programmes:

NEP 2020 has brought changes to the structure of degree programme and its duration. The NEP 2020 suggested that undergraduate degree should be of either three- or four-year duration. It has brought a great change in the sector of HE with multiple exit options. It suggested that students can be awarded diploma, certificate, degree according to their exit option from the higher education. Those who completed 1 year in a discipline or field including vocational and professional areas are awarded a certificate, or a diploma after 2 years of study, or a Bachelor's degree after a 3-year programme. It also envisioned on establishment of an Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) which would digitally store the academic credits earned from various recognized HEIs so that the degrees from an HEI can be awarded taking into account credits earned. This can be helpful for those individuals who might have to leave the course mid-time. They can start the course later on from where they left off and not start from the beginning once again.

HEIs should be flexible to offer different designs of Master's programmes: -

- a) 2-year programme with the second year devoted entirely to research for those who have completed the 3-year Bachelor 's programme;
- b) for students completing a 4-year Bachelor 's programme with Research, there could be a 1-year Master's programme; and
- c) there may be an integrated 5-year Bachelor's/Master's programme. Undertaking a Ph.D. shall require either a Master's degree or a 4-year Bachelor's degree with Research. The NEP 2020 discontinued the M.Phil. Programme.



On Regulatory System of Higher Education:

The quality of a system always depends on their smooth functioning of their regulatory system. The NEP has brought significantly recommended for reforming the regulatory system of higher education to re-energize it. Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set as a single umbrella body for the entire education, excluding medical and legal education. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.

Also, HECI will be having four independent verticals namely-

1. National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for Regulation,
2. General Education Council (GEC) for Standard Setting,
3. Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for Funding,
4. National Accreditation Council (NAC) for Accreditation.

CONCLUSION

The new national education policy 2020 is a dynamic policy as it aims at making the education system more holistic, flexible, multi-disciplinary aligned to the needs of the 21st century and the 2030 sustainable development goals. It has brought more updated changes in to the sector of higher education. The recommendation of digital era and skill development will lead to the development of the nation as well as the individual. Also, it helps to improve the employability capabilities of an individual. Certification is another remarkable recommendation of NEP 2020. It can add value to the system of education allowing whoever left from mid-way of higher education due to any reasons. And the establishment of the independent body or regulatory system will be more effective for the smooth functioning of higher education which can develop the entire higher education system in an effective manner.



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