

RECONCEPTUALIZATION THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION: ENACTMENT OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020

Renuka Sharma

SGT University, Gurugram (Haryana), India

Satish Chander Sharma

SGT University, Gurugram (Haryana), India

Abstract

The New Education Policy, 2020 came into existence to revamp the age old education system of India into a new innovative and multidisciplinary system. It was approved by Indian cabinet in July, 2020. This research is exploratory in nature and data is collected through various secondary resources. The paper highlights the features of National Education Policy 2020, major thrust areas, innovative approaches introduced in NEP, its drawback, challenges etc. Further it has been concluded that NEP 2020 though provides a transformational agenda to give India a new paradigm of education but its success will entirely depend on its implementation. If implemented in the proper manner this policy has the ability to make India a global hub of education by 2030.

Keywords: New Education policy 2020, NEP 2020, National Education Policy, India, Higher education institutions, Sustainable Development.

Introduction

In the present era of globalization and paradigm shift from traditional to multidisciplinary education approach NEP 2020 is the need of the hour. The reforms in New Education policy will include access, equity, and integrity in the current education system. In this transformational era, India in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals has introduced New Education policy 2020 to make assure that quality education with equality has been imparted to all. For such revamping of educational system India needs New Education policy. After the education policy of 1984 this is the first policy of its kind that covers all the developmental aspects of the educational arena. The regulatory as well as the governance part of the education policy has been revamped to make it more holistic. NEP 2020 will bring out the intellectual and creative part of students and to develop that as an all inclusive individuals. It brings out cognitive, critical, social, ethical and emotional capabilities and dispositions of individuals. Most importantly our rich cultural heritage, languages will now is part of the education system. The New Education policy has inculcated drastic changes from traditional educational policy in terms of curriculum development, pedagogical techniques, evaluation, assessment etc.

Salient Features of New Education Policy 2020:

- Quality University and Colleges – the Higher educational institutions will now be moving towards multidisciplinary approach of education in local languages. It will include revamping of curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and student support.

- Institutional Restructuring and Consolidation- From now onwards emphasis will be on multidisciplinary higher educational institutions. There will be more focus on Vocational training, research based universities.
- More holistic and multidisciplinary education-MERUs (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities) will be established and efforts will be made to attain global benchmarks of education in India.
- Optimal learning environments and support for students- There will be a continuous assessment system and a paradigm shift from classroom to Institutional developmental programme.
- Internationalization- National Education Policy 2020 is all about globalization of education. In coming years higher educational institutions will have a separate office for welcoming and making foreign students comfortable in India. Moreover, Indian universities will be able to collaborate with foreign universities for research and to foster academic collaboration.
- Motivated, energized, and capable faculty – With the introduction of NEP 2020 designing of curriculum, teaching pedagogy techniques will remain in the hands of teachers. There will be clearly defined, structured method of recruiting faculty members.
- Equity and inclusion in higher education- The vision of NEP 2020 is that it provide access and equity to each and every student. Parity will be maintained by giving scholarships and financial assistance to students.
- National Research Foundation will be established under NEP 2020. It will act as a link between researcher's and government to conduct quality research and act as a catalyst in academic research.
- Curbing commercialization of Education- A transparent method of showcasing all the financial matters of higher education institutes has been adopted. No Increased fee can be charged from students during their enrollment years.
- Professional Education- Institutions whether related to agriculture, medicine should provide direct services to the local community. In all dimensions of healthcare education preventive healthcare and community medicine has been given the utmost importance.
- Promotion of Indian Languages, Arts and Culture- Indian arts of all forms will now be offered in higher educational institutions. The use of local language and Sanskrit has been encouraged. National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit will also be set up within a university campus.

Key Thrust areas of New Education Policy 2020

1. Early Childhood Care and Education and School Education

National Education Policy has introduced a new paradigm for education in school, giving although a much anticipated reforms in the system. It ensures that every child will have access to school and college education, skill based education.

2. Higher Education

One of the paradigm highlight of NEP 2020 is the establishment of Higher Education Commission of India for the whole higher education system. The ambitious task of NEP is to increase Gross Enrollment ratio from 26.3 %to 50% by 2035. For this we require quality universities and colleges, a higher education system that is reachable and inclusive, quality and well paid faculty.

3. Imparting Vocational education in schools and development of higher education pathways

In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4.4 NEP 2020 emphasis introduction of vocational training programmes at school level so that nation can get skilled manpower. In order to achieve this there is a need to integrate vocational education with higher education, creation of hybrid educational system.

4. Embracing the digital shift

NEP 2020 is the torch bearer of embracing the digitalization of education in India. With the introduction of new blended learning techniques such as storytelling, audio-video visuals, gamification etc. NEP 2020 will transform the students into global learners. But for this we require digital infrastructure, adoption of destructive technologies, use of online courses in syllabus.

Literature Review

Kalyani and Pawan (2020) stated that education plays a pivotal role in shaping one's personality. To revamp the Education policy after 34 years of gap from the prevalent policy is the need of the hour for India. There are many structural and infrastructural changes being introduced in the New Education policy, 2020 which ultimately affect all the stakeholders linked with education system. The objective of the National Education Policy is to make India a giant of multidisciplinary and liberal educational system.

Aithal, P.S. (2020) highlighted the points of difference between traditional education policy and New education policy. He further stated that NEP 2020 introduces various points of innovation and is supposed to have various implications on the educational system of India.

Mark, E.(2013) discussed about market or customer centric education system. He propounded that this type of education system though advantageous to students but will not add values, ethics, ethos, moral values to students. So, need is to develop liberal and progressive education system that must include research, innovation in the education system. Imparting values will be an add-on in NEP 2020. By amalgamating theories with practical new approach of entrepreneurship, innovation, research can be imparted to students.

Smorvik, K. K. and Vespestad, K. (2020) suggested that NEP 2020 has given due importance to skill based courses by inculcating entrepreneurship courses, value added courses in the curriculum. Such courses are important to develop student's personality as there is a need of globalised citizens and can be achieved only beyond four walls of classrooms.

Khoshtaria, T. (2020), Gale, T. and Trevor, G.(2011), Teichler, U.(1999) concluded that education should be imparted to each and every individual without the discrimination of underprivileged, social justice etc. NEP 2020 agenda is to impart education without any

discrimination to individuals.

Thakur, N. et al. (2021) NEP 2020 is based on the pillars of quality, autonomy, liability, fairness, economical, holistic, multidisciplinary approach. This policy has the ability to transform education system from conventional to more holistic view. Because of this a new culture of education and employment will arise in the country.

Suryavanshi, S. (2020) stated that India should follow Chinese universities model of education. Over their it is upon the discretion of faculty to design their own syllabi, teaching pedagogy, assessment and evaluation. Research should be the base of any faculty therefore encouraging them is giving incentives on publications. The proposal of operational and financial autonomy to Higher education institutions is a futuristic step ahead.

Kumar, K., et al (2020) discussed that National education policy is a paradigm shift from conventional learning to modern education. It is based on digitalization of education. In line with Sustainable Development Goals the thrust areas of NEP 2020 are accessibility, equality, affordability, responsibility of education. It should be implemented with utmost care to ensure quality education for all.

Objectives

1. To overview the New Education Policy 2020.
2. To outline the salient features of New Education policy.
3. To depict the opportunities and challenges of New Education Policy 2020.
4. To highlight the innovative strategies of the New Education Policy, 2020.

Methodology

It is a conceptual analysis study which highlights the salient features, challenges and opportunities of New Education Policy. Data is collected from various secondary sources viz. magazines, journals etc. The data was then analyzed and reviewed to arrive at the inferences and conclusion.

Opportunities of NEP 2020

NEP 2020 embarks the country to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Therefore, more liberal, inclusive, equitable education policy has been developed. Under NEP 2020 there is a provision of multiple entry and exit so individual can complete its education at any stage of his lifecycle. Under Right to Education there should be no discrimination of caste, creed, religion etc. in universities. The key focus area is to provide skillful manpower to government. More vocational and multiple disciplinary approach has been inculcated in the education system. To improve teaching quality in higher educational institutions teachers should be provided with training. One of the most important thrust areas of NEP 2020 is that it encourages research among students since first year of their enrollment. Medium of instruction has now been in local languages and more foreign languages should be offered to students such as Korean, Thai, Japanese etc. PARAKH has been formed to look at the learning gaps in assessments at the National and State level.

Challenges of NEP 2020

As it is visible from the documents that NEP 2020 is the flag bearer of private institutions. Only selected universities of India will be able to open their centers in foreign countries. It does not throw some light on the captivation fees accumulated by private big universities. The document is silent on the decision of multiple entry and exists, academic bank credit system. For deprived sections National Education Policy (2020) do not tell how to ensure Right to Education.

Innovations in New Education Policy, 2020

- Top 100 Indian universities can operate in foreign lands and Top 100 foreign universities will be allowed to operate in our nation.
- Within the set boundaries faculty members can get freedom in designing the curriculum and adoption of pedagogical techniques.
- There will be focus on retention of employees and there will be provision of fast track promotion of faculty members on the basis of research publications.
- The primary focus of NEP 2020 is to attain Sustainable Development Goals and increase Gross enrollment ratio by 50% till 2035.
- One of the most liberal forms of imparting education in NEP 2020 is that students can opt Moocs as the mode of teaching and their credits are countable.
- Skill based education is the need of the hour and NEP 2020 is promoting it by introducing Value added courses in the curriculum.
- Research has now be the part of under-graduate and post- graduate courses.
- Four pillars of Higher education i.e. Regulation, Accreditation, Funding/Grants, Academic standard setting are now be under the aegis of Higher Education Commission of India (HECI).
- There will be liberty to private higher education institutions to decide on their fee structure within the said rules and regulations.
- Information Communication and Computation Technology (ICCT) & Nontechnology (NT) will be introduced at undergraduate education to increase the employability of youths.
- Dual degree in education has been introduced such as a student can now complete undergraduate course in BCA as well as in BA.
- Setting up of virtual laboratories with the help of Swayam and Diksha in order to support Moocs.
- Focus will be on more continuous and comprehensive evaluation of students. The ratio for Internal and External exam will be 50 :50.
- Competency based credit system will replace credit choice based credit system.
- Primary goal is to build digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity building.

Findings and Discussion

The New Education policy is an amalgamation of conventional and modern education keeping in mid the Indian culture, ethos, tradition, values along with digitalization of education. Since NEP has

been introduced taking into consideration the valuable thoughts of all stakeholders it aims to provide multidisciplinary, holistic and skill based education to students.

NEP, 2020 will play a paramount role in revamping the old fashioned education system into a more elaborative way because it is based on the concepts of quality, autonomy, fairness, economical, holistic, multidisciplinary approach. It is further suggested to include that Ph.D should be a mandatory qualification for university and college level teachers. This is dually important because now research will be an important part of under-graduate and post-graduate as per National Education Policy, 2020. It is further discussed that annual publication and patent filing for faculty members is compulsory in order to increase their Intellectual property right and for annual appraisal. Indian universities can take due advantage of retired professors as research guides as there is scarcity of qualified guides for Ph.D scholars.

The real essence of NEP 2020 is to inculcate multidisciplinary approach in education so universities can transform themselves into multidisciplinary campuses. In NEP the brick and mortar classrooms are replaced by including Mooc's in the syllabus. It is further discussed that universities should have their own publication unit. They should start their own digital publication units for proper maintenance of publication work. Vocational and Entrepreneurship based papers should be part of the syllabi as Earn while Learn is the agenda of NEP 2020. Strengthening integrated National Digital library through issuance of National ISBN. For higher education institutions it is mandatory to be a part of National Digital Library.

Conclusion

A well structured, developed education system is the backbone of nation's building. In this context National education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) is a welcome step towards progressive education system. In the era of globalization education sector should be like each and every stakeholder should have access, liberty, equity. This policy will transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global superpower in terms of education. The actual transformation will start from 2021 and will continue until the year 2030. The drafting committee of NEP 2020 has taken into consideration the diverse viewpoint global best practices in education. India as the epicenter of youth in the world should have skilled and multitalented citizens and NEP encourages it. Now higher education institutions will adopt student centric approach towards education. Faculty will have the freedom to select pedagogical technique of imparting education, curriculum design, evaluation methods etc. Hence, higher educational system has been on a drastic shift from being teacher oriented, marks based , examination based , learning based , choice based to student centric, skill centric, experimental centric, research centric and competency based. The success of NEP 2020 depends upon the operationalisation of it by universities, schools, government. Because we can achieve its global perspective with proper implementation only. Effective and timely implementation is what will make it truly path-breaking.

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