

NEP 2020: A Roadmap for India's New Education Policy

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Abstract

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) is a blueprint for a new India that aims to reform the educational system. On July 29, 2020, the Indian cabinet gave their approval. This essay is a first attempt to highlight NEP 2020 and examine India's vision for a comprehensive education system change to meet 21st-century learning difficulties. This study is exploratory in nature and is based on secondary data. Results are based on a thorough evaluation of the body of literature. It was discovered that one of NEP 2020's key goals is to boost student enrollment by 2030 throughout all educational institutions, including elementary, secondary, and higher education. It has proposed gradual reforms to the current educational and governmental structures in order to accomplish that. This research is a preliminary analysis of a policy document and can be used as a starting point for future studies using empirical data to examine the effects of the NEP once it has been put into place. India's higher education is anticipated to make significant strides under NEP 2020. The goal is to build India for the twenty-first century, which will undoubtedly assume a leadership position on the world stage. The majority of NEP 2020 is a fairly forward-thinking text, with a clear understanding of the existing socioeconomic landscape and the potential to tackle future difficulties. If successfully executed, it has all the makings of making India a global hub for education by 2030.

Introduction

In light of the negative news and recent developments encircling the world due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the New Education Policy (NEP 2020) published by the Government of India is heartening. India established the first NEP in 1968, the second one in 1986 after a long hiatus, and the most current one in 2020 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On July 29, 2020, India's National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) was approved. It was created with the intention of reforming the educational system and outlining a course for a nation with an advanced educational system. The previous ISRO director K Kasturirangan served as the chair of the committee that created the NEP 2020 strategy document. The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), which is now in power, has pledged to completely overhaul the Indian educational system (Saha Mushkan, 2020). With NEP 2020, they kept their commitment to the country.

Background of NEP 2020

Indian higher education is already being impacted by international trends and circumstances. Since a few years ago, India has drawn a sizable number of international students, many of whom are NRIs. These students enrol in a variety of academic, tutoring, and professional programmes. Additionally, a lot of foreign colleges provide students the chance to earn their degrees without ever leaving India. The gap between public and

private institutions has been reduced thanks to tendencies toward liberalising educational systems. Massive changes have been made to the kind of programmes that HEIs provide, and they have acquired mastery-level skills and capabilities that are in more demand. Future college students are more likely to choose degrees that will open up career chances.

Objective

The objective of present paper is to study the NEP 2020 recently announced by Government of India. The study reviewed the policy document NEP 2020 discusses its guidelines and proposals. It also highlights the policy maker's vision for India.

Methods & Limitation

This paper is a maiden attempt to study NEP 2020 and subject to certain limitations as the research is based on the secondary data. The results are highlighted through literature review and recommendations have been made. This study can act as a base for future research based on empirical investigations and the impacts of NEP 2020 after its implementation can be found. However, this research can be taken as base for further study on different aspect of NEP 2020.

Review of Literature

The future of the country and the fate of its citizens are determined by education, which is a key factor in the construction of a nation. In terms of the

state's and the topic's growth and development, the impact will be long-lasting. In the current environment, the relevance and role of education cannot be disregarded. If we contrast the pre-independence and post-independence eras, the expansion and progress are evident. This is the third time in 34 years that the Indian government has changed the method that India will be taught. The new National Education Policy 2020 includes various reforms that could have an impact on all stakeholders¹. NEP 2020 emphasized to promote innovations and expected to have varied implications on the Indian teaching system. It has also laid down framework for its effective implementation. The present NEP is third in its series which India is going to implement. It took thirty four years to formulate it since the last one in 1986. The policy has number of relevant considerations regarding how to provide quality education of global standard, bring equality in education and increase participation of private players. Although the NEP has flaws, it has a thorough understanding of the world situation. When implementing it, extreme caution should be used to address the obstacles that must be overcome in order to promote high-quality education for all.²

Features of NEP-2020

(A) Scope for Higher Education

The Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), a single regulator for HEIs in India, would consolidate several higher education (HE) regulatory bodies. A strong National Certification Council (NAC) will be established in place of the existing certification organisations (NAAC and NBA). The National Research Foundation would provide support for the funding of research and innovation in higher education. Multidisciplinary education models are required by NEP for institutions of higher learning. These universities ought to have a campus with at least 3000 students. They have a 2030 target to become multidisciplinary, and by 2040, they hope to have 3000 students enrolled. Additionally, these multidisciplinary universities might specialise in one of them and should either concentrate on research or teaching. The colleges have the choice of becoming independent and issuing their own degrees or joining an already-existing university. The NEP discusses strategies for boosting student enrollment in various kinds of educational institutions. The current education policy places a special emphasis on GER because it is an issue of concern in India. The NEP places a strong emphasis on a multidisciplinary, holistic approach to education, and it only encourages research at the UG level nowadays. Current policies place a strong emphasis on a student's whole development

through cross-disciplinary, outcome-based education. Instead of the current teacher-focused teaching paradigm, a student-focused teaching and learning methodology will be used. Competency-based evaluation will replace the current Choice-based evaluation methodology. A continuous assessment approach will replace the end-of-semester examination model for evaluation and assessment. The focus will be on skill education for all HEIs. Additionally, they must provide counselling centres with counsellors to look after the students' mental health. Since it will now be driven by the market, traditional education is undergoing a significant transition. The Indian government wants to build top-notch educational institutions and draw in many foreign students. Additionally, a student's coursework from overseas universities would be awarded credit and treated equally in India. This will give students the option to begin a degree programme overseas and finish it in India.

(B) Scope for Private Institutions

It is suggested that all non-public colleges receive varying degrees of autonomy. Their accreditation, involvement in cutting-edge research, and provision of high-quality education will serve as the foundation for this autonomy.

Additionally, they would have to maintain open financial transactions. Financial irregularities shouldn't exist, and a set method needs to be in place to monitor that. Private higher education institutions must offer free tuition and scholarships to deserving and meritorious students in every course. A mechanism has been established to monitor this during the accreditation process. When allocating research funds, which need to be completely based on the quality of the proposals, there shouldn't be any distinction between public and private institutions. Without a minimum enrolment of 3,000 students, private HEIs would be asked to close down.

Benefits of the NEP-2020

The NEP-2020 is anticipated to close the gap in India's educational standards. It will foster innovation and aid in the internationalisation of the nation's educational system. The NEP 2020 draught was developed in a progressive manner after extensive stakeholder participation. It is recommended that children begin formal schooling around age 3. This policy's main areas of focus include entrepreneurship, workforce development, and job creation. It is founded on the tenets of equality, gives people freedom, and strengthens the weaker members of society. NEP provided a foundation for HEIs to thrive. They will receive concessions from reservation quotas, freedom from admission restrictions, teacher

appointment freedom, funding for research, and freedom from layoffs and staff reductions.⁴ Private institutions can set their own norms for admission and fees fixation. Public institutions have to abide by directions given by government in this regard. NEP prescribes for multi-disciplinary mode of education which should focus on skill creation and make students employable. It made provisions for autonomous institutions which will be awarding self-degrees both at undergraduate and postgraduate level. In order to keep control on quality of education, accreditation and ranking system is prescribed. The expertise and thoughts of the many consultants from all sectors are embedded within the Proposal. NEP 2020 is formulated with the vision to meet the sustainable development goals (SDG) in accordance with United Nations by 2030. It also put emphasis on lifelong learning and made provision for multiple entry –exit to enable student to complete degree at any stage of their life. Education has to be provided all sections of society under RTE and it should be based on equality with no scope of any kind of discrimination based on caste or gender. There is a special provision to support students from economically weaker section of the society. The reforms has been suggested for teachers education and training to improve quality of teaching in higher education institutions.

Only special category of institutions will be allowed to run B.Ed. programme. This would be made as mandatory qualification for all elementary school education. All libraries would be digitalized. It is planned to promote intensive research at both undergraduate and post graduate level, supported through funding by National Research Foundation. Autonomy will be given to lecturers to devise their own class delivery, evaluation and research-innovation plan. Online distance learning has been permitted to offer degrees in higher education and it is expected to be an effective tool to increase GER. Now Universities/Institutions in India can tie up with foreign university for all types of educational & research collaboration freely. It is proposed to set up National Research Foundation with initial capital of INR 20000 crores. This body has been given mandate to provide funding support to all public and private institutions.

Drawback of NEP

It seems to be formulated to give thrust to privatization of education is India as visible from the document. Among others it talks of encouraging the top 100 foreign colleges to open their shops in India. Whether this is to further the cause of education or facilitating profiteering is debatable. Although NEP 2020 talks of the need for greater transparency and especially in relation to fee structure it does not indicate any road map on how to tackle the growing malady of capitation fees

by private colleges which are mostly run by powerful politicians and religious groups. Education for all will thus remain a distant dream. NEP 2020 does not tell how to operationalize and ensure the right to education especially for marginalized and deprived sections NEP.⁵

Findings and Discussion

The National Education Policy-2020 established a plan for progressive education while preserving the fundamental principles of Indian tradition, culture, and values in order to create a new nation with a forward-looking outlook.

India has a long history that has been deeply ingrained in its educational system. After extensive consultations with stakeholders from all sectors, NEP 2020 is developed. It aims to increase student enrollment in all types of educational institutions by 2030; it aims to provide multidisciplinary skill-based education to create jobs. This will require massive changes in present conventional education system. Hence, it also needs to introduce accountability of each stakeholder at all level. While there are also critics for customer centric or market driven education system.³ Their argument is that such system will destroy essence of education and they talked about moral, ethical, cultural issues in it. There may be undue demands from students but they have recognized importance of student's satisfaction. Liberal and progressive education policy must include meaningful research and innovation, which can enhance quality of education. Co-creation of values will be additional inducement to student's perception of learning. Quality and better selling education can be devised by linking theories that leads to entrepreneurship, innovation, research and value added teaching-learning process. The education and employment opportunities were started getting linked by end of 20th century. So, skill enhancement was key issue for discussion in education sector. NEP 2020 has given great importance to job prospects of graduates considering all these seriously. It has devoted bigger attention to communication skill, IT skills, foreign language and overall development of personality. Any sound policy should be vocal about preparing students for the growing globalization and internationalization. This could be only achieved through teaching-learning beyond four walls of class rooms.

National Education Policy 2020 will play an important role in reforming the earlier old fashioned education system in comprehensive way. NEP 2020 based on the concepts of quality, autonomy, liability, fairness, economical, holistic, multidisciplinary approach. Because of this it will bring new changes in the employment and educational scenario in all over the country.

Conclusion

NEP 2020 is aimed to revamp higher education in India. It will utilize the co-operation of international communities and their experiences will be utilized. Moreover higher education provided in Indian universities and colleges under NEP 2020 will incorporate ICT to suit the need of the education in new normal post –COVID era. It has become meaningless to continue with outdated education system. On the part of the Indian government a lot of changes would be required to be brought to the curriculum of higher education absorbing the global demand for receiving skilled manpower. Thus, implementation NEP 2020 would be a great challenge. The policy is bound to introduce revolutionary and innovative changes. Higher educational institutions (HEI) will come under ambit of one regulator from the present regime of multiple regulators. There will be liberal environment of autonomy to promote freedom of academic delivery, scope of research and emphasis on innovation. There will an opportunity of foreign university to start its campuses in India and there won't be any bottleneck to Indian university for setting up its campuses abroad. NEP 2020 will give big thrust to skilling in India as it provide multiple entry and exit option to student and to pursue their higher education after taking break for employment. Overall, NEP 2020 is largely a very progressive document, with a firm grasp on the current socio-economic landscape and the prospect to meet future challenges. Well, no policy bears any fruit if that is not implemented in an appropriate way. Anyways, this proposal seems to be well thought and genuine attempt to remodel Indian Educational system. This policy highlights the integration of professional education in HEI for skilling and employment generation. It won't be wrong to conclude that NEP 2020 has laid a concrete roadmap for India and if implemented properly; then it has got everything to make India global hub in education by 2030.

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