

IMPACT OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020 ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

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Abstract

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a paradigm shift in India's approach to higher education, aiming to transform the sector to meet the evolving demands of the 21st century. NEP 2020 also aspires to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) to 50% by 2035, promote regional languages, and integrate vocational education. While the policy lays out an ambitious framework, its successful implementation will require substantial investment, robust infrastructure, and strong coordination among stakeholders. This paper explores the transformative potential of NEP 2020 and critically examines its expected impact on the quality, accessibility, and global relevance of higher education in India.

Keywords: *New Education Policy 2020, Education System, Higher Education, Principles, Vision and Covid-19.*

Introduction

The government should allocate additional resources to education to guarantee equal opportunities for all individuals and foster societal advancement. Providing universal access to quality education is critical to India's continuous rise and leadership on the global arena in areas such as economic growth, social fairness and equality, scientific advancement, national integration, and cultural preservation. Institutions of higher learning are the primary drivers of this progress, and the government must ensure that all students have access to quality education. Universal high-quality education is the most effective way to cultivate and optimize our nation's abundant talents and resources for the benefit of individuals, communities, the country, and the world. Institute of Education In the coming decade, India will possess the largest number of young individuals globally, and the quality of education we offer them will shape the trajectory of our nation's future. The global education development goal, expressed in goal 4 (SDG4) of the 2030 goal for sustainable development, accepted by India in 2015, is to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030. Achieving such a lofty goal will require a complete overhaul of the educational system to provide the necessary support and resources for learning, in order to successfully meet the targets and goals outlined in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The National Education Policy 2020 represents a paradigm shift in India's approach to education, with the goal of overhauling the current system to make it more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, and responsive to the requirements of the twenty-first century. The policy

was introduced by the ministry of school and focuses heavily on regional language promotion, equal access to school, vocational training integration, and basic reading and numeracy skills. Instruction: Rewrite the following sentence It also seeks to increase the gross enrolment ratio in higher education to 50% by 2035 and restructure the school system to a 5+3+3+4 model, replacing the old 10+2 system. Institute of Economic Affairs The NEP 2020 aims to preserve India's diverse cultural heritage while fostering critical thinking, innovation, and continuous learning throughout one's life. (Ministry of Education, 2020).

Objectives

The primary objective of this research is to know the impact of National Education Policy 2020 on higher education in India. The study also outlines the principles and vision of the policy.

Research Methodology

The research is a descriptive study. The necessary secondary data was collected from various websites including Government of India, Journals, Magazines and publications.

Review of Literature

Ankit Kamleshbhai Panchal (2024)¹ in their study, they revealed that the NEP 2020 encouraged the merit based admissions and have scholarships to economically deprived students. Besides, The faculty members of each higher education institution have the freedom to choose curriculum, pedagogy methodology and evaluation models in according to the given framework of this policy.

Ajay Kurien and Sudeep B. Chandramana (2020)² conducted a study on impact of New Education Policy 2020 on Higher Education. The study concluded that the policy's strength depend on whether it is able to effectively integrate with the other policy initiatives of government namely Digital India, Skill India and New Industrial Policy.

Principles of the Policy

The educational system's goal is to produce people who are capable of rational thought and action, who have compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, a scientific temper and a creative imagination, as well as strong ethical foundations and ideals. It seeks to produce active, productive, and contributing citizens who will help construct an egalitarian, inclusive, and plural society as envisioned by our Constitution. The essential principles that will guide both the education system as a whole and the specific institutions within it are adapted from education.gov.in, 2020.

Recognizing, identifying, and fostering each student's unique capabilities, by sensitizing teachers and parents to promote each student's holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres; making Foundational Literacy and Numeracy a top priority for all students by Grade 3.(phfi.org, 2020). Flexibility, so that learners can choose their learning trajectories and programs, and therefore forge their own routes in life based on their talents and interests. Institutions should be able to provide a variety of programs and courses, and students should be allowed to select those that best meet their interests and ambitions. There are no clear distinctions between arts and sciences, curricular and extracurricular activities, vocational and academic streams, and so forth in order to prevent damaging hierarchies and silos between

different areas of study. Multidisciplinary and holistic education in the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, and sports for a multidisciplinary world, ensuring the unity and integrity of all knowledge.

Emphasizes intellectual comprehension over rote study and exam preparation. Creativity and critical thinking promote logical decision-making and innovation. Ethics and human and constitutional values include empathy, respect for others, cleanliness, civility, democratic spirit, spirit of service, respect for public property, scientific temper, liberty, responsibility, pluralism, equality, and justice. Promoting multilingualism and the importance of language in education and learning. Life skills include communication, cooperation, teamwork, and resilience. Instead of the summative evaluation that fosters today's 'coaching culture', focus on regular formative assessment for learning. Extensive use of technology for teaching and learning. Respect for diversity and the local context should be included into all curricula, pedagogy, and policies, with the understanding that education is an ongoing process. Full equity and inclusion should be the foundation of all educational decisions to ensure that all pupils can prosper in the educational system. Curriculum synergy across all stages of education, from early childhood care and education to secondary education and higher education. Teachers and faculty are at the center of the learning process, including recruiting, ongoing professional development, positive working environments, and service conditions. A 'Light but Tight' regulatory framework to ensure the educational system's integrity, openness, and resource efficiency through audit and public exposure, while fostering creativity and novel ideas through autonomy, good governance, and empowerment. Outstanding research serves as a prerequisite for outstanding education and development. Progress is continuously reviewed based on long-term study and regular evaluation by educational specialists. Education is a public service; every child's access to a quality education should be regarded a fundamental right.

Vision of the Policy

This National Education Policy envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that directly contributes to the long-term transformation of India, or Bharat, into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing everyone with access to high-quality education, transforming India into a global knowledge powerhouse. The Policy envisions that our institutions' curriculum and pedagogy should instill in students a deep respect for the Fundamental Duties and Constitutional values, a sense of patriotism, and a conscious awareness of one's roles and responsibilities in a changing world (pib.gov.in, 2021). In addition to developing knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development and living, and global well-being, the Policy seeks to instill in students a deep sense of pride in being Indian, not only in thought but also in spirit, intellect, and deed. This will enable students to become true global citizens (education.gov.in, 2020).

Impact of the Policy on Higher Education In India

Higher Education: Flexibility, Autonomy, and Research

Reforming higher education is one of NEP 2020's most transformational parts. The initiative envisions a 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) by 2035, up from approximately 27% in 2018.

To do this, it proposes transforming colleges into independent multifunctional institutions and discontinuing the affiliating college system (PRS India, 2020).

The Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) is a significant innovation that allows students to transfer and accrue credits across schools, promoting flexible learning paths (Ministry of Education, 2020). Furthermore, the National Research Foundation (NRF) will support quality research, promoting an environment of innovation and evidence-based policy making.

Vocational and Skill Education

Recognizing the gap between academic learning and employability, NEP 2020 integrates **vocational education from Grade 6 onwards**, with a target of exposing 50% of learners to vocational training by 2025 (PRS India, 2020). Internships and practical experiences are emphasized, helping bridge the skills mismatch in India's labor market.

Teacher Training and Professional Development

The policy emphasizes teacher quality through continuous professional development and the establishment of **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)**. All teacher education will be conducted in multidisciplinary institutions by 2030, offering a four-year integrated B.Ed. degree (Ministry of Education, 2020).

Digital Education and Equity

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the urgency of digital readiness. NEP proposes the formation of a **National Educational Technology Forum (NETF)** to facilitate e-content, virtual labs, and online teaching tools. However, concerns remain over the **digital divide** between urban and rural learners, potentially exacerbating inequalities (KPMG, 2021).

Conclusion

NEP 2020 is a forward-thinking and inclusive strategy for converting India into a knowledge superpower. If effectively implemented with adequate finance, stakeholder cooperation, and technological integration, it has the potential to make Indian education more holistic, accessible, equitable, and globally competitive. (Ministry of Education, 2020; PRS India, 2020).

However, the success of NEP 2020 will be heavily reliant on how well its lofty goal is translated into ground-level action. This involves educational capacity building, substantial infrastructure development, inter-departmental collaboration, and ongoing political and public backing. As India approaches its centenary of independence in 2047, NEP 2020 has the potential to be the foundation of a more empowered, innovative, and inclusive society—if its reforms are implemented with consistency, transparency, and commitment (Drishti IAS, 2020). The policy also requires a transformation in attitude, from rote learning and exam-centric education to inquiry-based, competency-driven learning. It challenges both institutions and individuals to re-imagine the purpose of education—not just for employment, but for **character building, critical thinking, creativity, and lifelong learning** (KPMG, 2021). In the coming years, ongoing monitoring, feedback mechanisms, and policy adaptations will be required to guarantee that NEP 2020 evolves in tandem with India's social, economic, and technical advancements. If the program delivers on its promises, it has the potential to redefine education as a tool for not only personal improvement but also national transformation (The Hindu, 2020).

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