



Role Of Nep 2020 On School Education And Higher Education: A Review

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Abstract:

The New Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) introduced by the Government of India represents a significant and ambitious effort to reform the country's education system. This policy aims to address various shortcomings in the existing system and pave the way for a more holistic and flexible approach to education. NEP 2020's emphasis on holistic education and skill development holds the potential to improve career prospects for students. By introducing changes in curriculum and pedagogy, the NEP aligns education with industry needs, thereby enhancing employability. The NEP 2020 offers numerous opportunities for various stakeholders, including universities, faculty, students, industries, and policymakers. It encourages institutions to revamp curricula, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and foster research partnerships to align with the policy's goals. Students, in turn, can benefit from a more flexible and interdisciplinary education system that enhances both skill development and critical thinking. This review explores the impact of the NEP on school education and the career-building process in higher education.

Key words: New Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), Higher education, interdisciplinary education system.

Introduction:

The New Education Policy 2020 is a significant development in the field of educational attainment and overall upliftment of educational attributes in India, with a special emphasis on primary education. The goal of the policy is to change the Indian Educational System. Therefore, it is imperative to evaluate all facets of the Indian educational system in its context. The purpose of this essay is to go over the numerous aspects of primary education as outlined by NEP 2020. The NEP is indeed a significant reform that aims to transform the education system and align it with the needs of the 21st century. The NEP indeed emphasizes the promotion of critical thinking, creativity, and innovation among students. It recognizes the importance of a holistic education that goes beyond rote learning and focuses on developing essential skills [1]. One of the key objectives of the NEP is to provide opportunities for students to pursue higher education and build successful careers. The policy envisions a flexible and multidisciplinary approach to higher education, allowing students to choose subjects based on their interests and aptitudes. It also encourages the establishment of a more inclusive and equitable

education system, addressing issues related to access, affordability, and quality. The policy emphasizes the importance of early childhood care and education as the foundation for lifelong learning. NEP aims to ensure that every student achieves basic literacy and numeracy skills in their early years of education. Higher education institutions are encouraged to offer a multidisciplinary approach, allowing students to choose courses across different fields. The policy promotes flexibility in choosing subjects and programs, enabling students to follow their passions and interests. NEP highlights the significance of vocational education, aiming to equip students with practical skills that can lead to employability [2]. The policy focuses on improving the quality of teachers through better training, professional development, and support. The policy strives to ensure equal access to education for all, irrespective of socio-economic backgrounds, gender, or disabilities.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aims to bring about a holistic transformation by integrating traditional values and knowledge with contemporary approaches. The policy envisions the development of a well-rounded, equitable, and vibrant education system that addresses the diverse needs of learners and prepares them for the challenges of the 21st century.

About National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

The National Education Policy 2020 is a holistic blueprint for transforming and redefining the Indian education landscape. This progressive policy emphasizes the incorporation of India's diverse cultural, historical, and philosophical legacy into the educational framework. It strives to advance Indian languages, arts, sciences, and traditional knowledge systems, promoting a well-rounded development of students through cognitive, social, emotional, and physical dimensions. NEP-2020 underscores experiential and interdisciplinary learning, empowering students to select subjects aligned with their interests and capabilities. The policy aims to alleviate the rote learning culture and exam stress, propelling a shift towards comprehensive education. Emphasizing the significance of top-tier education across all levels, NEP-2020 suggests modifications in curriculum structuring, teacher training methodologies, and assessment systems to enrich the learning journey. The policy recognizes the significance of technology in education and proposes its integration for personalized learning, teacher development, and administrative efficiency. NEP-2020 also focuses on providing a strong foundation for learning during a child's early years and aims to ensure universal access to quality early childhood education. It highlights the integration of vocational education into mainstream education to equip students with practical skills and enhance their employability. The policy emphasizes continuous professional development for teachers and proposes robust training programs. It advocates for the transformation of higher education institutions into centers of excellence and suggests the establishment of a national research foundation to promote research and innovation [4]. NEP-2020 prioritizes equity and inclusion by addressing gender disparities, providing education to marginalized communities, and ensuring equal educational opportunities for all. It

suggests a shift from a high-stakes examination-centric approach to a more holistic and formative assessment system. NEP-2020 aims to establish a transparent governance framework for education institutions and holds stakeholders accountable for delivering quality education.

School education:

The National Educational policy is believed to bring back the dropouts from education by providing numerous ways to complete the education. It is forecasted that about two crore dropout students are expected to get back to mainstream education. The policy also makes provisions for informal education with collaborating the counsellors; it also enhances the open schooling system and adult literacy through life enrichment programs. The National Education Policy has focused much on early childhood education, the traditional 10th and +2 structures into 5+3+3+4 structure. The new school educational structure with respect to ages is defined as 3 years to 8 years, 8 years to 11 years, 11 years to 14 years, and 14 years to 18 years. The cognitive mental skills are much developed during the age of 3 years to 6 years; this age frame is well included in the National Education Policy on par with globally recognized educational structure. The new education has 3 years of Anganwadi, which is a notable phenomenon. The NCERT will develop a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education for the students up to the age of 8 years. The early childhood care will be enhanced in order to develop an inclusive strategy for Anganwadi and the pre-schools. The implementation of early childhood care and educational policies will be implemented by the Ministries of Human Resource Development, Women and Child development, health and family welfare and tribal affair

Literacy and Numeracy: Foundational literacy is the need of the hour with respect to numeracy right from primary school. The Ministry of Human Resource Development sets up a National Mission for foundational Literacy and Numeracy through National Educational Policy 2020. It is expected that the states will implement the National Educational Policy guidelines by 2025 in respective states along with the formulation of National Book Promotion. The 21st-century development is well included in framing the National Education Policy with respect to the pedagogy and curriculum. The focus of the National Educational Policy is experimental learning through critical thinking. Hence students are to be provided with flexibility with respect to the subject options in learning with respect to science and art.

NEP 2020 and Higher Education:

The main goal of the policy is to raise the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 50% by 2035. To achieve this target, around 50 million new seats will be added to higher education institutes. The policy recommends the establishment of a National Research Foundation (NRF) to support and promote research across all disciplines. It also suggests the formation of a unified regulatory body for higher education, named the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), to replace the

current fragmented regulatory framework. Furthermore, the policy advocates for the introduction of a multidisciplinary four-year undergraduate program with flexible exit options and skill development opportunities [5]. A National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) is proposed to encourage the integration of technology in higher education. Additionally, the policy envisions the adoption of a credit-based system for degree programs, enabling students to pursue multiple degrees concurrently. To facilitate credit transfer and accumulation between educational institutions, a National Academic Credit Bank (NAC-Bank) will be established [6].

Merits of National Education Policy 2020 for higher education.

The new policy introduced an approach to higher education that promotes flexibility and focuses on the needs of students. It allows them to have the freedom to choose their coursework, the speed at which they learn, and the way it is delivered.

The system offers students the flexibility to join or leave courses at different stages, granting them the freedom to choose different courses at different times throughout their educational journey.

- The policy intends to create a strong research and innovation ecosystem by dedicating resources towards research and development, providing financial support, and promoting partnerships between academic institutions and industries.
- The policy incorporates vocational training as a fundamental part of higher education, with the goal of providing students with practical skills that can prepare them for employment opportunities.
- The NEP 2020 aims to prioritize comprehensive teacher training and development programs in order to establish a capable and efficient teaching workforce. Additionally, it strives to foster a culture of ongoing professional growth among educators.
- The objective of the policy is to utilize technology in order to improve teaching and learning experiences. This involves developing online courses, open educational resources, and e-learning platforms.

National Education Policy 2020 and Career Opportunities in Higher Education:

- The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India envisions significant changes and reforms in the higher education sector. These reforms open up various career opportunities for individuals interested in higher education. Some of the career opportunities that have been influenced by the NEP 2020 are:
- Faculty positions: With a focus on multidisciplinary education and flexible curricula, higher education institutions will require a diverse range of faculty members. This includes professors, assistant professors, and associate professors who can contribute to interdisciplinary teaching and research.
- Academic administrators: The NEP emphasizes decentralized decision-making and greater autonomy for institutions. This creates opportunities for academic

administrators such as deans, department heads, and registrars who can manage and lead these institutions effectively.

- Curriculum designers: The shift towards a more flexible and holistic education approach requires experts in curriculum design. Individuals who can develop interdisciplinary and skill-oriented curricula will be in demand.
- Educational technologists: The NEP promotes the use of technology in education. Educational technologists who can develop online courses, e-learning platforms, and innovative teaching tools will find opportunities in higher education institutions.
- Councillors and mentors: The policy emphasizes holistic development, including academic, social, and emotional aspects. Counsellors and mentors will play a crucial role in guiding students through their academic journey.
- Research scholars and Postdocs: The NEP encourages research and innovation in higher education. This creates opportunities for research scholars and postdoctoral researchers to contribute to cutting-edge research in various disciplines.
- Skill develops trainers: The policy emphasizes the integration of vocational skills and experiential learning. Trainers who can provide practical, job-oriented training will be in demand.
- Entrepreneurship and innovation coordinators: The NEP promotes entrepreneurial thinking and innovation. Institutions will require coordinators who can foster entrepreneurship among students and facilitate the development of startups.
- International collaborative managers: The policy encourages internationalization of education. Professionals who can establish and manage international collaborations, student exchange programs, and partnerships with foreign institutions will be sought after.
- Assessment and evaluation experts: With a focus on continuous and comprehensive evaluation, experts in assessment methodologies and evaluation techniques will be needed to ensure the quality of education.
- Policy analytics and researchers: Individuals with expertise in education policy analysis and research will be valuable in shaping the implementation and impact assessment of the NEP.
- Content developers: The creation of new study materials, textbooks, and educational resources aligned with the new curriculum and pedagogical approaches will require content developers.
- Online educational experts: The NEP recognizes the importance of online education. Specialists who can design, implement, and manage online learning platforms and courses will be in demand.
- Institutional accreditation and quality assurance experts: As institutions strive to meet the quality standards set by the NEP, experts in accreditation and quality assurance will play a vital role.

Although the policy document provides guiding principles for smooth implementation, there are certain obstacles that must be addressed. These include challenges such as accepting the flexible higher education model, embracing the concept of multidisciplinary institutions, increasing public funding, establishing robust digital infrastructure, among others, which should not be dismissed.

The successful execution of the policy requires adhering to the guidelines provided in the policy document, simplifying decision-making structures, reallocating budgetary resources, incorporating automation and mechanization, fostering a change in perspective, and implementing the new policy in a planned and systematic manner in the coming months and years.

Conclusion:

The National Education Policy (NEP) in India is poised to revolutionize the education sector by emphasizing the all-round development of students. It seeks to equip them not only with academic knowledge but also essential life skills crucial for their holistic growth. The NEP's focus on career readiness signifies a departure towards preparing students for practical challenges in the real world. By advocating for a multidisciplinary approach to learning, it breaks the barriers between different subjects, recognizing that knowledge is interconnected and necessitates a comprehensive understanding of complex issues. Moreover, the NEP stresses the significance of skill-based education to narrow the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical expertise necessary in various professions. Encouraging students to explore diverse career avenues, it advocates for a flexible approach to career decisions. The policy also underscores the importance of internships, apprenticeships, and practical training to provide students with hands-on experience and make them job-ready. However, the successful implementation of the NEP relies on collaboration among stakeholders such as the government, educational institutions, industry partners, and students. Achieving the policy's objectives will necessitate concerted efforts and unwavering dedication. It is crucial to recognize that while the NEP 2020 sets forth ambitious goals, its effective execution hinges on the strategies adopted, resource allocation, and adaptability to evolving educational and societal landscapes. Furthermore, regular evaluation and modifications may be essential to ensure the policy's efficacy in realizing its desired outcomes.

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