

A Review of National Education Policy 2020: A futuristic approach

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Abstract - The advancement of educational policy paved the new way for development of school and colleges level through various different life cycles, from traditional to vocational. The new education policy is complete framework of education of early childhood to higher studies. The National Education Policy (NEP), which was created in 1986 and was in effect for 34 years, is being replaced by the New National Education Policy (NEP 2020) released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is a revolutionary change brought by the Indian government for the growth of Indian education system. This paper is a work of review on the approach multidisciplinary education and holistic development in New Education Policy 2020. And unlike any other policy; even NEP 2020 has difference of opinions among educationists and policy makers. This study also shows the pros and cons of NEP 2020.

Keywords: New Education Policy 2020, advantages, drawbacks, growth

I. INTRODUCTION

Education changes both a person's life and society as a whole. After being initially developed in 1986, the National Education Policy (NEP) was subsequently amended in 1992 and 1998. An encouraging beginning toward modernising the nation's educational system is the new National Education Policy 2020. It is a brave and ambitious policy that aims to drastically alter the educational system over the following ten years. In order to become a worldwide force, India is poised to make significant changes to its educational system. The most recent modifications were implemented to end 34 years of educational policies. The new approach, which is currently being implemented, places a focus on online learning, extends the school day, and discourages rote memorization.

Objectives of study:

1. To know major highlights of NEP 2020
2. To understand multidisciplinary education and holistic development in New Education Policy 2020
3. To identify pros and cons of NEP 2020

II. REVIEW ON NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY

1. **Venkateshwarlu. B (2021)** in his study stated that new education policy is important for our country's development of education system in schools and colleges also this will provide better higher education with various facilities, along with assisting social and economic development of students. He has further discussed the merits and demerits of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

2. **Wankhade Ram Rao (2021)**. His study highlights the pros and cons of National Education Policy 2020. According to him, NEP is need of the hour for sustainable development of education system. It also states that this policy is very effective if implementation is done properly.
3. **Ishika (2022)** tried to discuss designing of curriculum should be effective so that overall development of students will be in a positive way. She also discussed multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary approach of education. It defines various phases of education pattern, transformation of education structure in an advancement way in India.
4. **Gupta Sharava (2021)** brought out the positive and negative aspect of NEP 2020 and also discussed new ways of learning and gaining knowledge of advance technology. He also stated that policy focuses on equity, quality in overall education system through new ways.

III. KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF NEP 2020

The transition from the 10+2 educational structure to the new 5+3+3+4 educational structure is one of the most important reforms suggested by the NEP.

Years	Stage	Curriculum
5	Foundational	3 years of pre-primary followed by class 1 and 2
3	Preparatory	Classes 3 to 5
3	Middle	Classes 6 to 8
4	Secondary	Classes 9 to 12

Earlier, the educational system categorised the students in three streams: science, commerce and humanities which

was problematic for the students having interest in various subjects but now this has been changed. Students now have more flexibility to choose their subjects.

According to the NEP 2020, vocational education has become difficult because it is considered to be inferior to mainstream education. The policy attempts to overcome the social rank hierarchy associated with vocational education by gradually integrating it into regular education. The development of a National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) will be coordinated with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) to facilitate movement between streams.

An integrated development of a person's moral, social, physical, emotional, and intellectual faculties would be the goal of a holistic and multidisciplinary education. In addition to developing well-rounded individuals with critical 21st century skills in the arts, humanities, languages, sciences, social sciences, and professional, technical, and vocational fields, such an education will also foster an ethic of social engagement, soft skills like communication and debate, as well as a rigorous specialisation in one or more fields. Long-term, all undergraduate programmes, including those in professional, technical, and vocational disciplines, shall have a holistic educational approach.

The policy emphasises that the three-language system will be used in schools, with an emphasis on Hindi, English, and the local language and instruction in the first five grades will be given in regional languages rather than English to make it simpler for children to acquire them.

With the exception of medical and law schools, the government has declared that all higher education institutions (HEIs) will be overseen by a single regulator. The Office for Students, a new entity, now has jurisdiction over HEIs.

- The master's degree (MPhil) course will no longer be required.
- The policy's aim is to employ technology to improve education's usability and efficacy.
- For all the amendments is to be implemented GDP investment in education to be increased from 1.6% to 6%.

Multidisciplinary Education and Holistic Development

The necessity of holistic and diverse higher education is emphasised in Part II of NEP. According to the policy, by 2030 there must be at least one multidisciplinary "higher education institution" (HEI) in every district or close by, and by 2040 all HEIs must strive to be multidisciplinary. Additionally, the policy intends to raise the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% by 2035.

Large multifunctional universities, colleges, and HEI clusters/Knowledge Hubs, each aiming to have 3,000 or

more students, will replace current higher education institutions. Higher education institution (HEI) is defined under NEP 2020 as a university or a college. A university is a multidisciplinary institution of higher learning that provides undergraduate and graduate programmes with top-notch instruction, original research, and involvement in the local community. The new system refers to autonomous degree-granting institutions, two types of universities (research- and teaching-intensive universities), and (AC). An expansive, multidisciplinary college that awards undergraduate degrees and places a strong emphasis on undergraduate education is referred to as an autonomous college (AC). It wouldn't be limited to just that, though, and would typically be smaller than a conventional university. Higher education institutions (HEIs) are free to offer a variety of master's programmes, including those lasting two years for students who have finished a three-year undergraduate programme, one year for those who have finished a four-year undergraduate programme, and a five-year combined Bachelor's and master's programme.

The ancient India's rich heritage, where the goal of education was not just the acquisition of knowledge for preparing for life in this world or life after schooling, but for the complete realisation and liberation of the self, appears to be the source of inspiration behind the introduction of holistic and multidisciplinary higher education.

The humanities and the arts will be integrated with science, technology, engineering, and math in undergraduate education (STEM). Positive learning outcomes will be improved, such as greater creativity and invention, higher-order thinking skills, problem-solving aptitudes, teamwork, communication skills, more in-depth learning and subject-area mastery, and heightened social and moral awareness. The concept is also predicated on the idea that a comprehensive and diverse approach to education can promote and enhance research.

The policy makes reference to world-class institutions from ancient India, including Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Vallabhi, which accommodated researchers and students from all backgrounds and nations while upholding the highest standards of transdisciplinary teaching and research. Additionally, it discussed the contributions of illustrious figures like Charaka, Susruta, Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Bhaskaracharya, Brahmagupta, Chanakya, Chakrapani Datta, Madhava, Panini, Patanjali, Nagarjuna, Gautama, Pingala, Sankardev, Maitreyi, Gargi, and Thiruvalluvar to numerous disciplines like mathematics.

So, the strategy aims to have a significant impact on the globe through maintaining India's rich legacies and expertise. The new educational system should be used to explore, improve, and apply new applications of the ancient knowledge, according to policy.

The new educational system emphasises curriculum and pedagogy reform at all levels to produce well-rounded

individuals with the necessary character-building and 21st-century abilities. To do this, particular domain-specific sets of values and abilities will be identified for integration and absorption at each learning step. The new educational system aims to instil moral and constitutional principles as well as intellectual curiosity, a scientific mindset, creativity, and a sense of service. The policy also aspires to foster 21st-century skills across a range of academic fields, including the social sciences, humanities, arts, and languages, as well as professional, technical, and vocational studies. Last but not least, the strategy will help students attain economic independence through fulfilling and meaningful lives and careers.

Additionally, NEP 2020 seeks to eliminate the pervasive inflexible limitations of the current educational system by implementing flexible curricular structures with a variety of entry and departure points. With the help of many departure options, students will be able to withdraw from a course whenever they'd want. For instance, if a student withdraws from a four-year degree programme after the first year, they will receive a certificate. Students receive a diploma after two years of study, and a bachelor's degree after three years. They will receive an interdisciplinary Bachelor's degree after four years. Students can pick up where they left off with their studies thanks to the multiple entry option. The country will be able to enrol more students thanks to this system of many access points and exits. By 2030, NEP wants higher education enrolment to reach 50%.

In a letter to the vice chancellors of all universities, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has already urged them to implement "multidisciplinary and holistic education." On the University Activity Monitoring Portal, it has additionally requested that the institutions explain the steps they have made to adapt multidisciplinary and holistic education (UAMP).

The National Education Policy-2020 will be implemented beginning with the present academic year, 2021–2022, in Karnataka, the first state where the BJP is in power. However, detractors contend that academic and intellectual circles did not sufficiently discuss NEP 2020. Although ideals may be high, the country will not benefit from them until they are translated into reality on the ground. The masses will only praise ideas, not the advantages of their implementation.

To execute NEP 2020, the government must make genuine attempts to consider the views of others (academics, intellectuals, and political adversaries). It shouldn't be a repeat of the Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019 (CAA) or the Indian Agricultural Act of 2020 (Farm legislation), which were introduced in a hurry and met with fierce criticism before going into effect.

IV. ADVANTAGES AND DRAWBACKS OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020

Advantages

1. Making Education a Basic Right:

At the moment, the government ensures that children between the ages of 6 and 14 may receive a compulsory education, a goal for which many programmes, such the "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan," have been effectively implemented. However, it excluded a number of kids from the educational system. As a result, the new NEP pledges to universalize education so that all kids from 3 to 18 years old can receive a free education in institutions administered by the government.

2. Option to Learn Coding in School:

The inclusion of computer and coding classes in the curriculum as early as class 6 will be a positive step toward improving the educational experience.

3. Broader Learning Options:

Multidisciplinary course options are now accessible to students in grades 9 through 12, which mean that the boundaries between the various streams will be more porous and allow for a wider range of subject pairings. Without strict adherence to the streams of Arts, Science, and Commerce, any student will be free to follow subjects of their interest, even if they are outside of their primary discipline; a science student will be able to study history, and an art student will be free to pursue biology.

4. Focus on Critical Thinking:

The board exam system, which primarily evaluated students' memorising and rote learning skills, will be abolished in order to foster students' critical thinking, rationality, and creativity through the application of their knowledge in real-world situations.

5. Increased Spending on the Education Sector:

The Indian education industry currently receives only a 3% portion of the country's GDP; however, with the implementation of NEP 2020, spending will rise to roughly 6%, giving the sector a much-needed boost.

6. Changes to School Structure:

To lessen the stress of board exams on children, the current 10+2 school structure will be replaced with the 5+3+3+4 pattern. From classes six through eight, there will also be a focus on vocational education, allowing students to pick up practical skills like carpentry, plumbing, pottery, gardening, and more while reflecting on their interests and growing in their knowledge of and appreciation for these trades.

7. Regulating Fees:

The NEP's implementation will provide a cap on the amount of fees that may be charged, preventing private

institutions from charging excessive fees for higher education. This action will increase education affordability and accessibility for all students, including those from low-income backgrounds.

8. More Opportunities for Global Education:

The new NEP will welcome international universities and global educational institutions to establish campuses in India. Indians will have greater access to high-quality education in their country, which will make the dream more affordable for more kids and maybe stop the brain drain.

9. Promoting Culture and Ethos:

The Indian culture and ethos will be incorporated into the curriculum so that kids can learn about India's ancient history and beautiful past, taking a step toward restoring our traditions and fostering unity and fraternity from an early age.

Drawbacks

1. Delayed English Education:

The NEP predicts that English would begin to be taught in government schools after class 5, which will be a setback for children who can only afford to attend government-run institutions. While the private schools will continue the habitual of teaching in English from the starting which will advantageous for their kids, If English, the universal language, is taught to government school pupils at an early point in their education, it will expand the gap between the various socioeconomic categories and eliminate multiple opportunities that could have been advantageous for the students.

2. The Amended Terms of the Undergraduate Program:

Because a student can leave a graduate programme and still receive a certificate or diploma under the updated policy, this could lead to students quitting their studies early, which would result in their lack of seriousness and a high drop-out rate.

3. Focus on Digital Learning:

While it may seem necessary and pragmatic, the NEP 2020's emphasis on digitising education and promoting e-learning appears to ignore the fact that only about 30% of Indians can afford smartphones, and even fewer have access to computers. Because government-run schools lack a robust IT infrastructure, students from remote areas or with low socioeconomic status will not be able to adjust to IT-based learning until the facility is made available as soon as possible.

4. Language Enforcement:

The NEP places a strong emphasis on the use of mother tongues to teach the core topics in elementary classes, with English instruction coming much later. India is a diverse country with 22 major languages and tens of

thousands of dialects, in contrast to other countries like Germany, Russia, Japan, China, France, etc., which all share a single mother tongue. Therefore, translating the fundamental themes into these many regional languages (and mother tongues) will be a challenging process that takes a lot of time, effort, and qualified personnel. The enforcement of mother tongue and regional languages is perceived by some as the central government's attempt to impose Hindi on the non-Hindi speaking states, which is another reason why some people have been outspoken in their opposition to the NEP.

Although the new education policy has many shortcomings, it also has comparatively significant benefits and with the implementation of this policy, the education level of the country is definitely going to rise.

V. CONCLUSION

Certainly, we can conclude that the evolution of India's education system from pre-primary through higher education would be significantly influenced by New Education Policy 2022. It can be said that NEP 2020 is framework for a better India, which is possible with appropriate implementation of the policy measures. Proper planning and keeping a check on student's activities can ensure expected results. Most importantly education must be prevented from being commercialized and there must be acknowledgement of drawbacks in current policy, accordingly those must be improvised, so that all the loopholes can be closed. All in all, the NEP 2020 is a great measure for taking Indian academic system a step higher.

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