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“ Transforming Teacher Education: An Evaluation of NEP 2020's Reforms”

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Abstract:

The Indian government announced the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, a comprehensive education policy, on July 29, 2020. It aims to transform the country's education system, making it more inclusive, effective, and aligned with global standards. NEP 2020 aims to empower teachers with the skills, knowledge, and autonomy needed to become effective facilitators of learning and prepare them to meet the diverse needs of students in the 21st century. The implications of NEP 2020 in teacher education are emphasis on continuous professional development, enhanced teacher quality, shift from traditional to competency-based training, teachers equipped to effectively use technology in the classroom, and teachers having more freedom to design curricula and assessments.

This abstract ends with the conclusion that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's reforms in teacher education aim to create a high-quality teaching workforce, presenting the teacher education system in a world-class context. The result or findings of NEP 2020 in teacher education are expected to be: improve teacher quality, enhance critical thinking and creativity, foster continuous professional development, and enhance research and innovation. So these findings are expected to transform India's teacher education system, improve learning outcomes, and create a more effective education system.

Keywords: *NEP 2020, Teacher Education, Comprehensive, Technology Integration, Inclusive, Continuous Professional Development.*

INTRODUCTION

The teacher's profession is a major and important position in any nation, as they are responsible for preparing the citizens of today and tomorrow. Teacher education refers to the process of preparing individuals to become effective and skilled educators. It develops pedagogical expertise, subject matter knowledge, classroom management skills, communication abilities, and also the importance of life skills. Teacher education includes teaching skills, pedagogical knowledge, and professional skills. Teacher education is related to the development of teacher proficiency and competency that empowers teachers to meet the challenges of the profession. Teacher education is the process of preparing people to become teachers. It includes pre-service education, in-service training, pedagogical knowledge, classroom management, field experience, etc.

After 34 years, the ministry of education launched NEP 2020, which brings a new perspective to the education system. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has brought many changes to teacher education, including improved quality, an integrated system, continuous professional development, technology integration, an autonomous body, and teaching as a specialized field. The National Education Policy 2020 has addressed the issues and concerns of teachers and teacher education and made recommendations to ensure quality teachers at all levels of school education, and the NEP recommended comprehensive reforms in teacher education. This included improving the teacher training program, service conditions, career management, establishing new teacher training institutions, and professional development.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ The main objective of this paper is to discuss the role of teacher according to NEP 2020.
- ❖ Analyze the reforms of NEP 2020 in the field of teacher education.
- ❖ To discuss the challenges faced by teachers.
- ❖ To provide some suggestions.

METHODOLOGY

The present paper is based on purely qualitative and analytical research in nature. The information presented in this paper is provided from the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 draft, various articles on Google Scholar, journals, blogs, and other related websites.

ANALYSIS OF THE REFORMS OF NEP 2020 REGARDING TEACHER EDUCATION

1. Teacher education requires multidisciplinary perspective and knowledge because a teacher needs to have knowledge of every subject and also need to have knowledge about Indian culture.
2. Discontinue commercialization in the field of teacher education and raise a standard, credibility, efficacy, and high quality to the teacher education system.
3. The NEP 2020 provides Teacher Eligibility Tests (TETs), now extended to all the stages (foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary) of school education.
4. By 2022, a set of National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) to improve continuous professional development, salary increases, and promotions.
5. The use of technology platforms such as SWAYAM/DIKSHA for online training of teachers. This makes the teachers robust.
6. 4 years of integrated B.ED. will be a dual major holistic, bachelor's degree, which is a minimal degree of qualification for school teachers.
7. All stand-alone Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) will require transforming to multidisciplinary institutions.
8. A National Mission for Mentoring shall be established to establish a robust mentorship system that empowers teachers to improve their teaching practices.
9. Teachers must endure 50 hours of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities every year by attending workshops, seminars, conferences, etc.
10. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 established the National Assessment Centre, Performance Assessment Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) to set standards and guidelines for student assessment.
11. All fresh Ph.D. entrances will be required to take credit-based courses.
12. More focused on innovative teaching methods and ICT to improve the learning outcomes.

ACCORDING TO NEP 2020, THE MAJOR ROLES OF TEACHERS

1. Teachers will act as facilitators or mentors to guide students in their learning journey.
2. Teachers will learn along with the students because education is a continuous process.
3. A teacher will have the flexibility to develop and design curricula that cater to diverse students needs.
4. Effectively using technologies to enhance teaching and learning.
5. The teacher will ensure inclusive and equitable learning environments.
6. The teacher encourages innovative thinking and problem solving.

7. Being passionate and motivated, teachers can create a transforming learning environment that empowers students.

CHALLENGES FACED BY TEACHERS IN NEP 2020

1. NEP 2020 emphasizes the use of technology in education, which can be challenging for teachers. Common issues included lack of training, limited access, and resistance to change.
2. Teachers will need to adapt to a new curriculum, which can be time-consuming and require more exertion.
3. NEP 2020 will focus more on multidisciplinary approaches, which may require teachers to develop new skills and teaching methods.
4. Teachers may face challenges in implementing the three-language formula. Mostly in regions with diverse linguistic backgrounds.
5. Teachers may face challenges in implementing NEP 2020 due to inadequate resources, infrastructure support, and funding.
6. Teachers also face challenges due to unclear or ambiguous guidelines, which create confusion.
7. Similarly, teachers face several challenges in implementing NEP 2020, including curriculum modernization, increased work load, diverse student needs, and assessment and evaluation reforms.

SUGGESTIONS

To effectively implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, teacher education needs to be re-imagined. Here are some suggestions:

1. More focus on developing teachers skills, competencies, and proficiencies.
2. Provide regular training and support for teachers to adapt to new methods and technologies.
3. Provide multilingual support, language training, and translation tools, and emphasize the use of local language to support a three-language formula.
4. Equip teachers with skills to properly use technology in the classroom.
5. Prepare teachers to cater to diverse learner needs and leadership roles.
6. Also provide regular feedback and assessment to teachers to enhance their professional growth.

So implementing these suggestions, teacher education can be transformed to support the vision of NEP 2020 and empower teachers to create a world-class education system.

CONCLUSION

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 plays a transformative role in the education system. It provides a comprehensive framework for education policy and governance. It empowers teachers to present a world-class education system. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has introduced several changes to teacher education in India, including: integrated teacher education programs, B.Ed. programs, multidisciplinary approach, research and technology, admission process, and continuous professional development.

The overall finding of teacher education regarding NEP 2020 is that it aims to enhance teacher quality, promote innovative methods and research, emphasize continuous professional development, focus on developing critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving, and more focus on a practical and student-centered teacher education system. Overall, NEP 2020 aims to create a robust teacher education system that prepares teachers to meet the diverse needs of learners and empowers them to become effective facilitators of learning.

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