

# A Study on National Education Policy- 2020 and its impact on Higher Education

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## **Abstract:**

*Education is the backbone of all national endeavors. The National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP) Visions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India in to an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all, and thereby making India a global knowledge superpower. This policy introduces significant reforms in the higher education sector in India. It aims to transform the higher education landscape by addressing various aspects such as curriculum, pedagogy, governance, and research. The Policy has emphasized upon Quality Education across all stages of School Education. Quality education is not only a life-changing, but also a mind-crafting and character- building experience, that positively impacts on citizenship. Empowered learners not only contribute towards many growing developmental imperatives of the country but also participate in creating a just and equitable society. This paper also outlines the salient features of NEP and analyses how they its impact on Higher Education.*

**Key words:** Higher Education, NEP-2020

## **Introduction:**

Education is the most vital input for the growth and prosperity of a nation. It provides strength and resilience to enable people to respond to the changing needs of the hour. The NEP 2020 is the first major education policy in India in over three decades, replacing the previous policy which was formulated in 1986. It seeks to address the evolving needs of the 21st-century learners and align the education system with global standards. It was approved by the union cabinet of India 29 July 2020 and aims to bring about significant reforms in the country's educational landscape. Dr K Kasturirangan was the chairman of national education policy 2020 committee.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a comprehensive and ambitious framework for reforming the education system in India. It marks a significant departure from the previous policy, dating back to 1986, with a vision to revamp the entire educational landscape in India. Post-independence, beginning in 1947, India embarked on a journey of educational reform aimed at addressing the colonial legacy and propelling national

development. The Kothari Commission, active from 1964 to 1966, played a pivotal role in shaping the contours of the modern Indian education system, emphasizing the expansion of educational access and the implementation of a standardized structure.

The new education system aspires to implement radical improvements in the classroom and higher education systems. Another significant step in enhancing India's position as a world power is replacing the education system, which is currently 34 years old. The HRD Ministry will once again be known as the Education Ministry as part of the new NEP. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted to support the idea of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat": "Aspects such as expanding the availability of scholarships, strengthening infrastructure for Open and Distance Learning, Online Education, and increasing the use of technology have received great attention in the NEP. These are crucial changes for the educational field.

By 2030, the educational system must be modified in accordance with the new education strategy of 2020. In place of the current 10 + 2 model, the curriculum will be divided according to the educational system of 5 + 3 + 3 + 4. In accordance with the new Education Policy 2020, Central and State Governments must spend in the education sector at a rate equivalent to 6% of the nation's GDP in order to cooperate in the field of education. The NEP 2020 has five main objectives-

1. To make education accessible to all
2. To improve the quality of education
3. To make education more equitable
4. To make education more affordable
5. To make education more accountable

#### **NEP 2020 in Higher Education:**

NEP2020 (National Policy of Education) „Teachers truly shape the future of our children and, therefore, the future of our nation. It is because of noblest role that the teacher in India was the most respected member of society“

Provisions related to Higher Education India has one of the largest networks of higher education systems in the world, with more than 900 universities and 40,000 colleges. But GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) of India in higher education is 26.3%, which is significantly low and more than 7 Lakhs of Indian students are studying abroad. The National Education Policy 2020 essentially aims at quality of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and positioning India as a global education hub. The focus is on providing flexible curriculum through an inter-disciplinary approach, creating multiple exit points in what would be a four year undergraduate programme catalyzing research, improving faculty support and increasing internationalization.

This National Education Policy aims at building a global best education system rooted in Indian ethos, and aligned with the principles enunciated above, thereby transforming India into a global knowledge superpower.

#### **1. Multidisciplinary Approach:**

NEP 2020 emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach in higher education, allowing students to choose subjects from different disciplines and promoting the integration of arts, humanities, sciences, and professional courses. It aims to break the rigid boundaries between different fields of study and encourage cross-disciplinary learning.

## **2. Flexible Undergraduate Programs:**

The policy introduces flexible undergraduate programs, allowing students to choose a major and minor subject combination or to pursue a multidisciplinary approach with a wide range of subjects. This flexibility enables students to customize their education based on their interests and career goals.

## **3. Holistic Learning and Skill Development:**

NEP 2020 emphasizes holistic learning and the development of critical thinking, creativity, communication skills, and ethical values among students. It focuses on promoting experiential learning, vocational education, and internships to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

## **4. Research and Innovation:**

The policy lays emphasis on promoting research and innovation in higher education institutions. It encourages the establishment of research parks, incubation centers, and collaboration with industries and research organizations to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. NEP 2020 also emphasizes the integration of research into undergraduate education.

## **5. Accreditation and Quality Assurance:**

The policy emphasizes the need for a robust accreditation and quality assurance system in higher education. It aims to establish an independent and autonomous accreditation authority to ensure the maintenance of high-quality standards in higher education institutions.

## **6. Technology Integration:**

NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of technology in higher education and encourages the integration of technology-enabled learning methods. It promotes the use of online resources, digital libraries, and e-learning platforms to enhance access to education and improve the quality of teaching and learning.

## **7. International Collaboration:**

The policy encourages higher education institutions to foster international collaborations and partnerships. It aims to facilitate student and faculty exchange programs, joint research projects, and twinning programs with reputed foreign universities to promote global exposure and enhance the quality of education.

## **8. Governance and Regulation:**

NEP 2020 proposes the establishment of a single, overarching higher education regulatory authority called the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). HECI will replace existing regulatory bodies and ensure a more streamlined and transparent regulatory framework for higher education institutions.

The National Education Policy 2020 in higher education envisions a transformation in the quality, relevance, and accessibility of higher education in India. It aims to equip students with the necessary

skills and knowledge to excel in a rapidly changing global landscape and contribute effectively to society and the economy.

## CONCLUSION:-

This policy has a lot of positive aspects, but it still has to be enhanced. NEP 2020 may turn out to be the best policy in the field of education and human resources if its policies are updated on a regular basis. "A mad king misuses his power and leads his country to sewers," as the proverb goes, and the policy, if mishandled, may prove disastrous. Misuse of policy is natural in a country plagued by concerns such as favouritism, corruption, lobbying, and so on.

The NEP 2020 paves the way ahead for many young aspiring students to be equipped with the right skill set. It aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and higher education more holistic, flexible, multi-disciplinary, and suited to 21st century needs. Use and Integration of technology with Promoting Multi-lingualism will be a key factor for developing scientific temper, inculcating of knowledge and practice of human and constitutional values i.e. patriotism, sacrifice, non-violence, truth, honesty, peace etc.

Furthermore, the hope that this policy provides to those in need is enormous. By 2030, the education system and workforce should have improved thanks to NEP 2020's student-cantered concept.

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