

National Education Policy-2020: Evaluation and Assessment

Dr. Sucheta Y. Naik

Associate Professor,

Shree Mallikarjun and Shri Chetan Manju Desai College, Canacona-Goa.

Corresponding author- **Dr. Sucheta Y. Naik**

Email- sucheta.nk@gmail.com

Abstract

Education is playing an important role in developing and creating an equitable and knowledge society. Education brings overall transformation in any country. India is expected to have the premier youth population in the world over the next few years. National Education Policy - 2020 which was drafted by the panel of experts under the able guidance of the former Indian Space Research Organization Chief, Shri K. Kasturirangan to transform India into a “vibrant knowledge society” and “global knowledge superpower” by making both school and college education more “holistic, flexible and multidisciplinary”, suited to 21st century needs. This paper tries to highlight the key recommendations of NEP- 2020 in Higher Education. The study focused on few issues of the policy, some innovations and predicted implications of the policy on the Indian Higher Education System.

Keywords: Higher Education, NEP-2020, Sustainability, Innovation.

Introduction:

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is based on five deep-seated pillars such as Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability which is brought to the people of India with some constructive and positive hopes. NEP has potential to restore the entire education system of India with few major reforms. It will certainly bridge the gap between the present system of education and what is needed in future for upgraded quality and integrity into the system, from pre-primary to higher education. It basically aims to imbibe national values and sustainable goals in the present and future generations.

Objectives of the study:

The NEP is to provide fundamental right of education to all. The objectives of this study are:

1. To highlight the Key Recommendations of NEP-2020 in Higher Education.
2. To understand issues of NEP- 2020
3. To understand the Innovations in NEP- 2020
4. To focus on merits of higher education policies in NEP-2020

Methodology:

The present study is based on secondary information collected from various research papers, Journals, draft policy and discussion with few experts. Study tried to discuss highlights of NEP 2020 on Higher Education system. It also tried to focus on problems during implementation with possible recommendation.

I Key Recommendations of NEP- 2020 in Higher Education(HE).

1. Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will set up as a single umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. It will have four independent verticals - National Higher Education

Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding, and National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.

2. All Public and Private HEIs will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.
3. National Research Foundation (NRF) will be established to fund research in Universities and Colleges.
4. Existing Multidisciplinary Universities (MU) and Multidisciplinary Autonomous Colleges (AC) will make a Cluster by 2030, and will have a campus having more than 3,000 students by 2040.
5. Multidisciplinary Universities will be of Teaching and Research intensive Universities.
6. Affiliation of Colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges. College have to develop either an Autonomous degree-granting College, or a constituent college of a university.
7. The National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct common Entrance exam for all HEIs.
8. The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP.
9. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in HEs including Vocational education will increase from 26.3% to 50% by 2035.
10. Incentives from the Government will link to the quality of HEs.
11. Existing affiliated Colleges will grow as autonomous degree-granting colleges with the mentoring support of affiliated University.

12. The various nomenclatures used currently such as Deemed to be university, Affiliating university, Central University, affiliating Technical University, will be replaced by 'University' after fulfilling the required criteria as per norms.
13. Research will be included in UG, PG level and have a holistic and multidisciplinary education approach.
14. Education in HEIs will focus more on communication, presentation, debate, research, and interdisciplinary thinking.
15. An Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) will be established which would digitally store the academic credits of all registered candidates earned from various recognized HEIs.
16. Holistic undergraduate education with a flexible curriculum of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period.
17. One to two years Master's degree based on the type of Bachelor degree and option to do Ph.D. with research. M Phil. program is discarded.
18. HEIs must focus on research and innovation by setting up Start-up incubation centres, Technology development centres, Centre for Industry-academic linkage, and Interdisciplinary Research Centres.
19. HEI should adopt Student Centred teaching & learning process
20. Choice Based Credit System is revised by an innovative and flexible Competency Based Credit System.
21. Examination system will change from Semester End system to more continuous and comprehensive evaluation examination system.
22. All HEIs will have professional academic and career counselling centres with counsellors available to all students to ensure physical, psychological and emotional well-being of the students.
23. More Encouragement for Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses as a part of degree.
24. To achieve a global standard, Degree programmes may contain classroom teaching, online teaching and ODL components with 40:30:30 ratios.
25. To assist financially for meritorious students National Scholarship Portal will be strengthened. Also, Private HEIs will be encouraged to give more free ships and scholarships to their students.
26. Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs,

to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards country.

II. Issues with the New Education Policy-2020.

NEP 2020 looks strong and forward-looking which is primarily meant to transform the education system by 2040. To implement the policy, there is a need for a comprehensive roadmap of implementation. Some proposals to be implemented immediately, starting with the change in the name as Ministry of Education. Some implementation should be done in phases, based on time, region and types of institutions. Some of the issues are as below:

1. Conversion of HEIs from affiliation to autonomy can be the complex process.
2. Spending 6% of the GDP on education is prevailing since the Kothari Commission. Mobilising financial resources will be a big challenge to achieve the target.
3. There is a mismatch between the knowledge & skills imparted and the jobs available. This important issue of bringing diversity of pedagogical needs in Artificial Intelligence, cyber security, Machine learning has not been much focussed in the policy.
4. Credit bank and credit transfer will be complex task of multiple students for many years.
5. Presently there is no standard evaluation mechanism for research performance of HEIs which can be another challenge.
6. Creation of Experiential Learning Units is a real challenge as setting up facilities for experiential learning requires heavy financial support. For some theory subjects and languages, experiential Learning may not be possible.
7. Presently around 1000 universities are prevailing across the country. To open more than 1000 universities in coming 15 years to meet the target of doubling the Gross enrolment Ratio by 2035 is really a challenging task.
8. By 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system should have exposure to vocational education, for which a clear action plan and infrastructure is yet to develop.
9. The encouragement to private philanthropy at various levels, from schools to HEIs, may indicate the withdrawal of state funding, which is a serious issue.
10. Intense digital infrastructure for E learning is necessary for online teaching learning process. Building huge digital infrastructure in remote areas within limited time and resources will be a major challenge.
11. The policy of a multi-disciplinary approach in HE is good, but it need to prepare a framework,

so that the core interests and preferred knowledge streams are not neglected.

III. Innovations in NEP 2020

1. 100 top Indian Universities will be encouraged to operate in foreign countries.
2. 100 top Foreign Universities will be allowed and facilitated to operate in India
3. Every classroom shall have access to the latest educational technology that enables better learning experiences.
4. Faculty Stability will be provided in an appointed institution with generally no transfer to other institutions.
5. Faculty members get curriculum and pedagogy freedom within an approved framework. Based on academic and research performance, faculty incentives & accountability will be fixed.
6. Faculty fast-track promotion system for high impact research contributions will be offered. Focus on achieving sustainable Education Development Goal (SEDG) All Ph.D. registered students should take one subject related to teaching/curriculum development and accept teaching Assistantship for enhancing teaching skills.
7. All students should be encouraged to take SWAYAM online courses at least two courses per semester.
8. Strengthening Vocational education (VE) to reach at least 50% of the student population.
9. Dual degree programme in ODL (Online Distance Learning) mode or 2 hours evening programme through Skill labs & partnership with industry & NGOs.
10. Inclusion of research and internships in the undergraduate curriculum as very essential.
11. Information Communication and Computation Technology (ICCT) & Nontechnology (NT) will be introduced at undergraduate education to increase the employability of youths. AI Research Centres, Nanotechnology Research centres get support from NRF.
12. Creation of Virtual Labs along with SWAYAM and Diksha to support MOOC education.
13. Choice based Credit system will be improved and Competency based credit system is going to be adopted.
14. Focus is on the building of digital infrastructure, digital content, and capacity building to keep pace with Tech-generation expectations.
15. The current teacher centric model where the teachers decide the subjects, curriculum, evaluation etc. will be replaced by student centric model where student gets right to decide the subject he has to study from the institution.

16. Other innovations like stress on networking with industries and other HEIs for research and collaborations, focus on creating IPR, and improving stakeholder's perception are also suggested.

IV. Conclusion

The New Education Policy-2020 represents aspirations to become a knowledge powerhouse of the world inculcating the best of the Global Educational Experiments. The global education development agenda seeks to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030. The objective of higher education is to create new knowledge and interpretation out of existing knowledge through systematic analysis. This will help to solve all problems of the society. The success of the policy depend on its proper implementation, well-designed curriculum which will meet local and global needs, provision for quality books and adequate infrastructure, appointment of quality teachers and the role of the regulatory mechanism including provision for accountability. Let all of us hope that the existing problems in Higher Education will slowly reduce after restructuring New and Creative Higher Education System.

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