

New Education Policy 2020 and Higher Education

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***Abstract:** A nation's ability to advance socially and economically depends on its level of education. To make their educational systems efficient, various nations implement various stages at the high school and college levels throughout their life cycles, taking into account tradition and culture. India is prepared to put the National Education Policy 2020 guidelines into practice across the nation in order to reform and make radical changes in school education and higher education with the aim of creating a new education system that should empower children and boost their self-confidence to create new knowledge, new skills, along with human values, to solve current and future problems and challenges of the civilized society through their improved innovative abilities. The new education policy has several inherent proposals to enhance the standard of school and higher education with the goal of delivering value-based, knowledge-based, and skill-based higher education for everyone in the nation.*

Keywords: NEP2020 & Higher Education.

I. INTRODUCTION

The aim for India's future educational system is described in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which was adopted by the Indian Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020. The old National Policy on Education, 1986, has been replaced with the new policy. In both rural and urban India, the policy provides a complete framework for education from early childhood through higher education. It also covers vocational training. By 2021, the strategy wants to completely overhaul India's educational system. The implementation of the language policy in NEP is up to the states, organisations, and schools; it is intended to be a broad guideline and advisory in nature. Numerous reforms to India's education policy are implemented by the NEP 2020.

The National Education Policy's stated goal is to "transform our country effectively into an equal and dynamic knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all. National Education Policy 2020 proposes an India-centric education system that directly contributes to this goal."

1.1 New Education Policy In India

The educational system must be changed by 2030 in order to comply with the new education policy from 2020. The curriculum will be divided in accordance with the educational system of 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 rather than the current 10 + 2 model. The author of the new education policy 2020 claims, "We have attempted to create a policy that will change the educational setting in our understanding so that we can prepare the youth to face the current and future challenges." "For the purpose of fostering cooperation in the education sector, the Central and State Governments will invest 6% of the national GDP in the field. Every participant in the voyage has adopted a personal approach, and collectively, we have tried to address many facets of the larger educational landscape of our nation. The fundamental principles of this strategy include accessibility, capability, quality, affordability, and accountability. We have taken this field from early childhood through higher education, embracing additional fields that are tied to the larger landscape. (K. Kasturiranjana, committee chairman)

1.1 Phases of New Education Policy 2020

The new education policy is broken down into four phases. It has been fully eliminated under the new policy. The new education policy is based on the 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 formula, whereas the prior strategy was organised using a 10 + 2 formula. The new pattern calls for both three and twelve years of education. Both government and non-government institutions are required to abide with the new policy.

- **Foundation Stage** :Children in the Foundation Stage, which is part of the New Education Policy, range in age from 3 to 8 years. For five years, the Foundation Stage has been fixed. The linguistic abilities and ability levels of the pupils will be assessed and their development will be centred during the three years of pre-school instruction in Anganwadi and in classes 1, 2, and 3.
- **Preparation Stage**: This stage lasts for three years. Children between the ages of 8 and 11 make up this period. where he will have kids up to fifth grade. The students' numerical skills will be strengthened as part of the current phase of the new educational agenda. The local language will also be taught to all youngsters at the same time. Children will also be taught science, art, maths, and other subjects through experiments.
- **Middle Stage**: This stage's duration has been set at three years. Children in this stage, who will get subject-based instruction and begin learning to code in the sixth grade, range in age from 6 to 8 years old. All of the kids will have the chance to take part in vocational tests and internships at the same time, with the intention of limiting their eligibility for employment to the time they spend in school.
- **Secondary Stage**: This stage lasts for four years. Students from the 12th standard are included in the 9th grade at this level. In this, the themes will be studied in-depth. The alternate educational course has also begun during this stage, along with the educational curriculum for the eighth through twelfth grades. Instead than being limited to a certain stream, students can select their courses based on their preferences. Students are now able to select their own studies under the new educational strategy. The study of science, the arts, and kormas can all be pursued concurrently by students. The former 10 + 2 scheme prevented government schools from offering preschool. In general, classes 1 through 10 were for education, while classes 6 and 7 offered students the freedom to choose any subjects they wanted from those classes. Previously, education began in the first six years, but it will now begin in the first three.

1.3 Features of the NEP 2020 for higher education

The newly planned NEP's objective is to formally carry out systemic reforms from the secondary to the postsecondary levels. In view of the changing scenario, educational curriculum in the future will focus on important concepts, ideas, applications, and problem-solving attitudes. The National Education Policy is expected to have positive and long-lasting benefits on the nation's higher education system.

- **Interdisciplinary education**: The NEP 2020 calls for the dissolution of strict divisions between various academic faculties and disciplines. It encourages colleges to offer interdisciplinary courses that let students explore a range of topics and academic specialties.
- **Flexible curricula and credit transfer**: The NEP 2020 advocates for a flexible curriculum that gives students the freedom to select from a variety of classes and disciplines to suit their unique interests and professional aspirations. In order to increase mobility and encourage academic achievement, the strategy also suggests a credit-transfer system that enables students to transfer between universities without losing academic credit.
- **Research and innovation**: By pushing institutions to prioritise research and raising investments in science and technology, the NEP 2020 intends to make India a centre for global innovation and research. The policy also urges the creation of a National Research Foundation to encourage and finance research initiatives in all fields.
- **Vocational education and skill development**: These are significant components of preparing students for the job market, and the NEP 2020 acknowledges this. It suggests incorporating apprenticeships and work-integrated learning programmes into regular schooling to assist students get the necessary skills.
- **Online education**: The NEP 2020 suggests creating a thorough digital infrastructure for education while acknowledging the value of technology in the classroom. It encourages colleges to offer online courses and blended learning programmes in order to reach more students and advance educational access.
- **Equity and inclusion**: By addressing the needs of underprivileged groups like girls, low-income families, and children with disabilities, the NEP 2020 lays a strong emphasis on promoting inclusion and equity in education. Additionally, it aims to give kids from all socioeconomic levels equitable chances.

- **Internationalisation:** It is a goal of the NEP 2020, which will be accomplished by fostering partnerships with foreign universities, luring in international students, and promoting teacher and student exchanges. In order to encourage educational exchanges between states, the strategy also urges the creation of a National Education Exchange Programme (NEEP).
- **Accountability and Autonomy:** The NEP 2020 calls for more institutional autonomy and decentralised decision-making to raise the standard and efficacy of higher education. In order to guarantee that institutions uphold quality standards, the strategy also underlines the significance of accountability, transparency, and regulatory systems.

1.4 NEP Provisions related to higher education

Under National Education Policy 2020, it is intended to enhance the gross enrollment ratio in higher education institutions from 26.3 percent (the year 2018) to 50 percent while simultaneously adding 3.5 crore new seats. The percentage of the total eligible population who have enrolled in educational institutions is known as the gross enrollment ratio.

- **Programme with numerous entry and exit points:** For individuals who want to drop out of the course in the middle, there will be a variety of entry and departure points available. Through the Academic Bank of Credits, their credits will be transferred.
- **TV channels and apps for tech-based adult education:** The development of high-quality technology-based adult learning choices, including apps, online courses and modules, satellite TV channels, online books, ICT-equipped libraries and Adult Education Centres, etc.
- **Regional languages will be offered for online courses:** Education planning, instruction, evaluation, teacher, school, and student training will all include technology. Regional language e-content will be made available, starting with 8 major ones. Kannada, Odia, and Bengali will join e-courses in Hindi and English.
- **Foreign universities to open campuses in India:** A new rule will make it easier for the top 100 foreign universities to operate in India. The HRD Ministry document states that "such (foreign) universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India."
- **Common admission exam for all colleges:** The UGC will be replaced by the Higher Education Commission of India, which will oversee all higher education programmes with the exception of those in medicine and law.
- **A universal college entrance test:** The UGC will be replaced by a Higher Education Commission of India, which will oversee all higher education programmes with the exception of medical and legal studies. We'll create a research and transdisciplinary education institution on par with the IITs and IIMs. These universities will be top-notch.
- The Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), which would serve as the institution's parent organisation, will develop these four structures as four separate verticals.
- **National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC):** It will oversee teacher preparation programmes as well as higher education as a whole.
- **General Education Council (GEC):** This organisation will establish the framework for anticipated learning outcomes for programmes in higher education, i.e., their standardisation work.
- **National Accreditation Council (NAC):** These institutions are accredited and will operate largely in accordance with the following fundamental standards: open self-disclosure, responsible leadership, and performance.
- **The Higher Education Grants Council (HGFC):** finances college and university projects. Currently, organisations like the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and University Grants Commission (UGC) govern higher education institutions.

1.5 Merits of National Education Policy 2020 for higher education

- The new policy provides a versatile, multidisciplinary, and student-centered approach to higher education, allowing students to pick their courses, the speed at which they learn, and the mode of delivery.
- The method provides for several entry and exit points, giving students the freedom to choose different courses at various stages throughout their education.
- The policy intends to promote a strong research and innovation ecosystem through funding, supporting, and encouraging academic and industrial collaborations. Investments in research have been urged.
- In order to prepare students for the job market, the strategy incorporates vocational training as a crucial part of higher education.
- The NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on offering comprehensive programmes for teachers' training and growth in order to create a more capable and productive teaching force. It also aims to encourage instructors to pursue ongoing professional development.
- The goal of the strategy is to use technology to improve the quality of teaching and learning. This includes developing online courses, open educational resources, and e-learning platforms.

1.6 Challenges of National Education Policy 2020 for higher education

- System reform for higher education: The National Education Policy 2020 calls for a significant reform of India's higher education system. While this might result in a system that is more efficient and streamlined, some stakeholders are worried about the difficulties that can develop during the shift.
- The strategy suggests a number of novel initiatives, including the establishment of new colleges, the reform of the educational system, and the promotion of online education. The government must find ways to pay for these without adding to the tax burden on citizens because putting them into action would cost a lot of money.
- The strategy aims to promote online education and make it available to everyone, even those who live in distant locations, in order to bridge the digital divide. But to do this, the digital divide must be closed, which is difficult in a nation where many people still lack access to even the most basic internet connectivity.
- Although there is a dearth of qualified faculty in many fields of higher education, the strategy places a major priority on faculty development and training. As a result, it might take some time for institutions to create the necessary capacity.
- While the National Education Policy 2020 aims to improve equity and inclusion in higher education, some of the proposed policies, like the four-year undergraduate programme, have raised concerns that they may harm students from underrepresented groups or those with impairments.

II. CONCLUSION

The National Education Policy 2020 is a thorough document that pledges significant changes to India's higher education system. The policy acknowledges the value of research, transdisciplinary education, career education, teacher preparation, and technology utilisation in higher education. The goal of the policy is to transform India into a centre for research and development, draw in talent from all over the world, and equip students for the rapidly evolving job market. It will take coordinated efforts from all stakeholders to implement the NEP 2020, and it is unclear how well the policy will be carried out. To change India's educational system to match the needs of a rapidly changing global environment, the NEP 2020 is a positive step.

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