



A Study on Transformation of Higher Education System through NEP 2020

Deepika Gupta

Assistant Professor, Saraswati Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Palwal, Haryana

ABSTRACT:

NEP 2020 announced by the Government of India to bring drastic change in both school and university level education with enhancing better learning outcomes for students in career fields. The main goal of NEP 2020 is to make "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" through developing Entrepreneurial culture specially in higher education institutions.

The objective of this article is to raise awareness about NEP 2020 in stakeholders so that quality in the higher education system can be improved as per current needs and future prospects.

A brief analysis has been made on the highlights of the NEP 2020. An attempt has also been made to figure out the challenges in adopting NEP 2020. There are so many challenges that are going to be faced for implementing this policy. Because of the Corona Pandemic there is a delay in implementation of NEP 2020 by states in our country.

The findings of study show the impact of NEP on transforming higher education. It is a step ahead to improve education in various fields like wider personalized education, equal respect to all subjects, evolution of modern technology in education etc. We can learn about various opportunities in higher education with the help of this paper. For this study data has been collected from various secondary sources i.e., journals, reports, print media, periodical magazines and various government websites, etc.

From my side it can arouse awareness about the topic so that it can be a step to enable the country progressive.

Keywords: Higher Education, Atma Nirbhar Bharat, National Education Policy, Entrepreneurial culture.

I. NEP 2020: INTRODUCTION

The National Education Policy of India 2020 (NEP 2020), which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July, 2020 outlines the vision of a new education system of India. The new policy replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986. The policy is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India. The policy aims to transform India's education system by 2030. Statistics indicate that even though the percentage of school dropouts is on the decline, at the secondary level it is still around 17.5%. It is also high at the higher education level. Students are forced to take a break from studies due to financial and medical issues in the family. Such students now will be able to get a certificate of completion for the number of years they have studied and also have the option to return to their learning and start from where they had left off. "The Union Cabinet on 29 July 2020 passed India's first new National Education Policy in the presence of HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar which aims to make the Indian education system more contemporary and skill-oriented.

II. Aim of NEP

1. The new NEP does not look to build on existing strengths in Higher education. Instead, its aim is drastic modification in meaning of higher education itself and to the edtech so that it is a step to become India self-reliant.
2. The time has come for India to become "vishwa guru" once again and emerge as the hub of knowledge and innovation, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu said. He also said that the country must not only strive to nurture but also seek to preserve its rich cultural heritage and legacy for posterity. It was known as "vishwa guru" (teacher to the entire world) attracting knowledge-seekers in various disciplines from different corners of the globe and widen their intellectual frontier.

III. Implementation of NEP

Karnataka becomes first state to issue order for implementing National Education Policy. The government of Karnataka has issued an order with regard to the implementation of National Education Policy-2020 with effect from the current academic year 2021-2022. On his very first day after being assigned the portfolio higher education minister, Dr CN Ashwath Narayana convened a meeting with officials of the state higher education council. "With this, Karnataka has become the first state in the nation to issue the order with regard to implementation of NEP-2020," Ashwath Narayana said.

UGC has decided to implement NEP from July 2022 in the entire country. Draft NEP 2019 was already passed by cabinet in 2020 but there was a delay in adoption of NEP 2020 in the county because of Corona Pandemic-19.

IV. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The NEP 2020 replaces the National Policy on Education of 1986. In January 2015, a committee under former Cabinet Secretary T. S. R. Subramanian started the consultation process for the New Education Policy. Based on the committee report, in June 2017, the draft NEP was submitted in 2019 by a panel led by former Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chief Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan. The Draft New Education Policy (DNEP) 2019, was later released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, followed by a number of public consultations. The Draft NEP was 484 pages. The Ministry undertook a rigorous consultation process in formulating the draft policy: "Over two lakh suggestions from 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, 6,600 blocks, 6,000 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), 676 districts were received." The NEP 2020 is being discussed with educational institutions across the country such as BITS Pilani, Jamia Millia Islamia, Panjab University, Tezpur University Assam and CU Kerala.

V. TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM THROUGH NEP 2020

Cabinet Approves National Education Policy 2020, paving way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems in the country. This policy seeks to entirely overhaul the system through various reforms:

1. Regulatory System of Higher Education-

A significant change in NEP 2020 is the proposal to set up the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), as an umbrella body for higher education, excluding medical and legal education. This will usually bring out a question: what will happen to the present UGC and AICTE? HECI is aiming at reforming the higher education sector; the Bill will separate the Academic and Funding aspects of the sector. According to the new Bill, HECI will not have any financial powers. The funding processes which were handled by the University Grants

The Commission (UGC) will be taken care of by the Ministry of Education, previously known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

2. Graded Accreditation & Graded Autonomy- The student can get a degree from the University of his/her choice by getting a minimum of 50% credits from the respective university.
3. Opportunity for Global education through entry of foreign campuses- World's top 100 foreign universities will be facilitated to operate in India through a new law. According to the HRD Ministry document, "such (foreign) universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India."
4. More Holistic & Multidisciplinary Education- Assessment reforms with 360-degree Holistic Progress Card, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.
5. Change in structure of Degree Programmed- If someone studying engineering for three years has to leave it midway, the student finds himself/herself out of the system of education. The new policy will have multiple entry and exit points, under this system "Certificate after 1-year, Advanced Diploma after 2 years, Bachelor's Degree after 3 years and Bachelor's with Research after 4 years," will be provided to students.
6. Establish National Research Foundation- It will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.
7. Language policy- After the release of the policy, the government clarified that no one will be forced to study any particular language. The language policy in NEP is a broad guideline and advisory in nature; and it is up to the states, institutions, and schools to decide on the implementation.
8. Introduction of Common Entrance Test for all colleges- The common Entrance exam for all higher education institutes to be held by National Testing Agency (NTA). The exam will be optional.
9. Establishing Academic Bank of Credit- Academic Bank of Credits to be established to facilitate Transfer of Credits.

10. **Set up of India's Higher Education Commission-** The NEP aims to establish the Higher Education Commission of India which will be the single regulatory body except for legal and medical education. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards. Also, HECI will be having four independent verticals namely:

a) **National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC)**, to regulate higher education, including teacher education, while excluding medical and legal education.

b) **National Accreditation Council (NAC)**, a "meta-accrediting body".

c) **Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC)**, for funding and financing of universities and colleges. This will replace the existing National Council for Teacher Education, All India Council for Technical Education and the University Grants Commission.

d) **General Education Council (GEC)**, to frame "graduate attributes", namely the learning outcomes expected. It will also be responsible for framing a National Higher Education Qualification Framework. The National Council for Teacher Education will come under the GEC, as a professional standard setting body (PSSB).

11. **Multiple Entry and Exit Programmed-** Holistic Undergraduate education with a flexible curriculum can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period. There will be multiple entry and exit options for those who wish to leave the course in the middle. Their credits will be transferred through Academic Bank of Credits. The multiple entry and exit will be done through an academic bank of credit. One can use academic credit in Digi locker like we use the bank credit and resume education after a break as specified by the higher education commission.

12. **E-Tech based options for adult learning through applications-** Quality technology-based options for adult learning such as apps, online courses/modules, satellite-based TV channels, online books, and ICT-equipped libraries and Adult Education Centers, etc. will be developed.

Well, since the paradigm has already been appearing. We have started slowly shifting. There are Webinars, Web conferencing, Tele-miners, Web-exam, Web-Presence, and Web-Class, etc.

13. **Curriculum to have Flexibility of Subjects.**

VI. CHALLENGES TO BE FACED IN IMPLEMENTING NEP 2020

In the current scenario, the education system is going through so many changes and paradigm shifts which is leading to a lot of challenges for students and professors. This article will help us to understand these challenges and what can be plausible solutions to deal with them.

1) Effect of Corona pandemic on our country:

COVID-19 has become an issue around the globe, however, this has given a very great opportunity to all of us to rethink, re-diagnosed and re-analyze our existing systems and practices, whether it is education delivery system or an educational design system, teaching systems and examination systems.

2) Need of Technological Upgradation and awareness programmed in the community.

3) Require modern communication networks in current institutions.

4) Identifying the qualified and qualitative teacher educators for training to teachers.

VII. OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH NEW NEP

1. **Make Young and Diversified country** - India has a huge youth population, but the educational infrastructure is inadequate to manage such huge volumes. Therefore, investment should be encouraged in higher education institutions.

2. **Digital Learning and Learning Tools** – With the assistance of digital learning tools, countries like India could overcome the various challenges faced for achieving proficiency in higher education.

3. **Equality of Educational opportunity** – In order to reduce income & wealth inequalities, higher education could be used as a powerful tool by providing equal educational opportunity in higher education in India.

4. **Linking of National and International HE** – Future prospects for strategic collaboration in higher education between the National & International platforms can be encouraged through participation in conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.

5. **Investment Opportunities** – Due to the increase in the youth population in the country and lack of funds, there is immense scope for investment in both regulated & non-regulated sectors.

VIII. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING NEP 2020 IN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Post-COVID education culture, work culture, governance culture, management culture, and meeting culture, etc. had changed so we need to bring people closer to technology.

In recent years, India has made strides in bettering its education system. Between 2011 and 2015, the country increased its spending on education by 80 percent. Additionally, as of 2011, the country's literacy rate was at 74 percent, a great improvement from the 52 percent recorded in 1991. While India's education system has continued to improve throughout the years, it is still known as one of lesser education systems around the world. Here are some ways that India's education system can be improved:

1. **Increase the Budget-** While India made strides between 2011 and 2015 to increase the amount of its budget allocated for education, in recent years, the country has begun to back pedal. For the 2016-2017 year, only 3.65 percent of the country's GDP was spent on education. Compared to other countries such as Mexico, New Zealand and Brazil, which all spend more than 12 percent of spending on education, India has a long way to catch up.
2. **Ensure Excellent Educators-** One of the largest problems with India's education system is its lack of quality teachers. In 2011, the government created an exam for aspiring teachers, ever since this test has been introduced, as many as 99 percent of applicants have failed. Additionally, the Annual Status of Education Report revealed that even after three years of schooling, 60 percent of students are still unable to read, with the number only decreasing to 54 percent after another year of education.
3. **Need to change in Reservation System-** UGC helps universities to implement reservation policy in student admission and staff recruitment process for teaching and non-teaching jobs. There should be change in reservation system through adopting following measures:
 - a) Income not caste should be given importance in reservation.
 - b) There should not be a double quota in jobs to those whose parents have already availed reservation facilities in jobs. have already taken quota. For e.g., a Govt. Employee has received a quota in their job then there should not be any quota for their children in monetary facilities.
 - c) Concession of scholarship may be provided to reserved category students (SC/ST/Others) if securing more than specified % of marks in schools & U.G, P.G courses for quality education.
4. **Collaboration between HE and Industries-** Job-oriented courses should be inbuilt for graduates so that they can achieve deep knowledge and excellence in the subject so that they could be recruited by the companies after graduation, which would decrease unnecessary rush to higher education.

IX. CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF NEP & HEI

Statistics indicate that even though the percentage of school dropouts is on the decline, at the secondary level it is still around 17.5%. It is also high at the higher education level. It is aimed at improving the GER in higher education, including vocational education, from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035.

1. It aims to increase state expenditure on education from around 3% to 6% of the GDP as soon as possible.
2. Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education including vocational education to be raised to 50% by 2035. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) 2018 in higher education is 26.3%.
3. It also aims to add 3.5 crore new seats in higher education institutions.

X. INITIATIVE BY HARYANA GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT NEP IN HEIs

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on 14 August, 2022 launched the National Education Policy (NEP) in Kurukshetra University (KU). According to KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Som Nath Sachdeva, Kurukshetra University is the first university in the state to implement NEP with a defined structure template and detailed curricula in its undergraduate programmed on its on-campus colleges. Sachdeva said that although the state has set a goal of NEP implementation for 2025, KU has implemented it in the 2022 session. He added that the four years research undergraduate programmed of KU is focused on providing quality education along with all-round development to the students.

Khattar added that NEP lays the foundation of New India as it is based on a holistic approach. "Many attempts have been made in the past to frame NEP, but it could not be freed from Macauley's education Policy. NEP covers significant aspects such as holistic, multidisciplinary and futuristic education, quality research, and use of online technology for better reach in Education. NEP will certainly pave the way for making India "vishwa Guru" once again and leading the world towards peace, sustainable prosperity and brotherhood," he said. Also, he added "**We need to re-write our nation's history and free it from the prejudices and distortions of western historians**".

XI. IS THERE ANY DEFECTS IN NEP?

Defects can be seen after implementing N.E.P in higher education institutions. But According to the National Education Policy 2020, students of the private schools will be introduced to English at a much earlier age than the students of the Government schools. The academic syllabus will be taught in the respective regional languages of the government school students. This is one of the major new education policy drawbacks as this will increase the number of students uncomfortable in communicating in English thus widening the gap between sections of the society.

XII. CONCLUSION

This study aims to develop awareness about the essentiality of NEP 2020 so that it enables the stakeholders to adopt change in HEIs. With the introduction of nep 2020, it is a step to transform our entire education system with adoption of technology-based education.

NEP 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the thirty-four-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 that is built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability & Accountability, this policy is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college education more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary suited to 21st century needs and aimed at bringing out the unique capabilities of each student.

REFERENCES

Websites

1. www.wikipedia.com (N.E.P 2020)
2. <https://pib.gov.in/>
3. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/haryana-khattar-launches-national-education-policy-in-kurukshetra-university-8090631/lite/>
4. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346654722_Impact_of_New_Education_Policy_2020_on_Higher_Education
5. <https://www.theindiaforum.in/article/disruption-higher-education-india>
6. <https://eduvoice.in/dr-d-p-sharma-on-the-challenges-in-indian-education-systems/>
7. <https://www.news18.com/news/india/to-improve-gross-enrolment-ratio-new-education-policy-proposes-academic-bank-of-credit-multiple-entry-exit-points-2742693.html>
8. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/time-has-come-for-india-to-emerge-as-knowledge-hub-become-vishwa-guru-again-vice-prez/article36303157.ece>
9. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/haryana-khattar-launches-national-education-policy-in-kurukshetra-university-8090631/lite/>