



**REFORMING TEACHER EDUCATION WITH MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH
ADHERING TO NEP 2020**

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Abstract:

Education is an important aspect that plays a huge role in the modern, industrialized world. This is the age of science and technology. It is the age of explosion of knowledge, day by day, even at every moment, the new knowledge, researches have been explored. We live in the information era, where students are bombarded with information from all concerns, so the need of the hours, to engage students in the learning stream by establishing connections and linkages between various disciplines with the help of available knowledge. It is known as the multidisciplinary approach in education.

NEP 2020 envision one large multidisciplinary Higher Education Institution (HET) in or near every district, 2030 and encourages multi-disciplinary approach from the primary education, flexibility to choose subjects from science and humanities to students. These types of recommendations encourages an inclusive holistic, fruitful, multidisciplinary education system. The present paper throws light on the multidisciplinary approach which is introduced in teacher education by NEP2020. There are many fundamental changes brought in education and teacher education too. One of the changes is elimination of separate existence of B.Ed. and its integration in multidisciplinary colleges. The process of confluence will create some challenges which should be catered with more academic manners. Some of the challenges are also discussed in the present paper.

Keywords: *Multidisciplinary Approach, Teacher-Education, Integrated B.Ed., Policy of Education*

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Introduction:

Education is an integral aspect that plays an important role in the modern world. This is the age of science and technology. It is the age of knowledge explosion, researches have been explored day by day. In the context of 21st century, we are now entering in a knowledge based educational and economic environment. We live in the information era, where students get information from all concerns, so it is the need of the hours, to engage students in the learning stream by establishing connections and linkages between various disciplines with the help of available knowledge. It is known as the multidisciplinary approach in Education.

In July, 2020, the Union cabinet approved the new education policy (NEP) which brings major changes in the education system from preschool to higher education. It also affects the teacher education. It also affects the teacher education. As per the new policy the minimum degree required for teaching will be a four years integrated B. Ed. Teacher education colleges will be merged in senior colleges having Arts, Science and Commerce etc.



faculties; such colleges will be called multidisciplinary Higher Education Institutes. HEI will be having multi-faculties including teacher education. Teacher education will lose its separate identity and will remain a department of a composite college. Teacher education is a professional course and it includes training part.

Multidisciplinary Approach:

Multidisciplinary is something that combines several field of study or academic interest, combining the disciplines of many or several different branches of learning or research.

International Bureau of Education - An approach to curriculum integration which focuses primarily on the different disciplines and the diverse perspective they bring to illustrate a topic, theme or issues. A multidisciplinary curriculum is one in which the same topic is studied from the view point of more than one disciplines.

Multidisciplinary approach is a wonderful way to totally integrate your education into a comprehensive unit rather than scrambling to draw connections between seemingly unrelated parts. It empowers you to see tangible correlations across subject matters rather than view each in a silo.

Importance of multidisciplinary approach:

- A multidisciplinary approach is one in which a single topic is studied from the viewpoint of from more than one discipline.
- A multidisciplinary approach in education helps you in getting a more holistic understanding of the world.
- Scientifically, it has been proven that multi-disciplinary teaching, helps in concrete development of cognitive, affective and psychomotor domain together/ simultaneously. It is easy for the child as he or she does not have to switch between different topics in different subjects.
- As the learning goals remain common for all subjects, teaching efficiency of teachers as well as learning efficiency of students improves.
- According to the toolkit for multi-disciplinary teaching it is real world learning not isolated educational experiences.
- Multidisciplinary teaching leads to personal and relevant as well as memorable learning experience both for students and teachers.
- It develops critical thinking and communication skill as well as creativity among students by developing an interest in the teaching learning process.
- It encourages 'out of box' thinking in both teachers and students.
- It opens the doors to different ideas and ways of understanding.

National Education Policy, 2020:

- The Union cabinet in July, 2020 approved the new Education Policy (NEP), which aims at universalization of Education from preschool to higher education, NEP 2020 is an inclusive framework which will replace the National Policy on Education 1986.
- The policy re-firms that bridging social gaps in access, participations and learning outcomes in schools education will continue to be one of the major goals of all education sectors development programme.



- Multidisciplinary approach towards NEP 2020 is also one of the parts of this policy.

Recommendations about Teacher Education in NEP 2020:

- The NEP 2020 envision one large multidisciplinary higher education, Institution (HET) in or near every district, by 2030.
- An immediate need to train the teachers and upgrade their skills and knowledge. They need to be in the know-how of cutting edge pedagogy and ways of delivering high quality content.
- The flexibility to choose subjects from sciences and humanities with the ability to also learn fine arts and sports will give students a wide range to subjects to choose without the restrictions they faced earlier.
- The step being taken to train the teachers and faculty through a focused process and planned manner is one of the highlight of NEP 2020.
- NEP 2020 is a comprehensive document and its main purpose is to improve the education sector by making it inclusive, holistic, multidisciplinary and more fruitful.
- As per the new policy, the four year multidisciplinary bachelor's programme will be preferred option for B. Ed.

Multidisciplinary approach towards Teacher Education:

- The 4-year integrated B.Ed., the minimal degree qualification for schoolteachers, is conceived as a multidisciplinary and integrated dual-major bachelor's degree, in Education as well as a specialized subject. The admission to this course shall be through suitable subject and aptitude tests conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- Due to this approach the individuals who are really passionate about teaching and will decide to take up teaching as their future profession will only take admission into these integrated courses. Teacher training will be taken up or practiced for 4years instead of present 2 years.
- The flexibility to choose subjects from sciences and humanities will give students a wide range of Subjects to choose without any restrictions.
- A multidisciplinary form of teacher education enables the development of skills like critical thinking, problem solving, adaptability and flexibility etc. These skills are most important aspect of education to create critical thinkers who can think out of the box to solve issues, utilizing the depth of learning from their education.

Challenges:

- NCTE or equivalent authorities should modify the regulations of teacher education in case of staffing pattern, qualifications of faculty, physical resources, special requirement etc. So that there will be clarity and uniformity in the implementation.
- National Education policy, 2020's focus is on multi-disciplinary approach in teacher education and this step is welcomed. But in many colleges, departmentalized culture runs very deep among scholars and professors alive, with few expectations. But for the implementation of multi-disciplinary approach is not an easy task. This requires a cultural shift in the entire teacher education ecosystem, over the next 15-20



years.

- In present, B. Ed. course is of 2 years programme. But in NEP, 2000, there are 3 options for doing B. Ed. along with the 4 years B. Ed. course, one and two years B. Ed courses will also be available. This implementation may bring diversity at college level. Teachers have to give attention at 3 levels.
- In teacher education courses one to one guidance is very important. Micro lessons, simulation lessons, presentation, discussion, qualitative feedback etc. are carried out. In the crowded and shared campus one to one interaction would become difficult.
- Since teacher education is a professional and training based programme their requirements are different from the traditional courses. Composite colleges may face the problems while sharing resources with the teacher education courses. Though number of students are less for teacher education courses and one to one interaction is more important and hence they require more resources for example micro teaching rooms, guidance rooms, method labs, activity rooms, art drama music rooms, ICT room etc. which are mandatory in NCTE Regulations.
- Integrated courses are only available for Arts and Science faculty. There is no provision of integrated course for Commerce students. B.Ed. is compulsory qualification to teach Commerce subject at junior college (HSC) level. So there should be consideration of the Commerce students about their opportunity to do integrate B.Ed.
- Educators are trained and experience to interact with graduate students with the age of 21+ years. In case of integrated course, educator's interaction will be with 18+ year's student which is something new for them.

Conclusion:

Multi discipline approach towards Teacher Education suggested in NEP 2020 will play a significant role in the shaping of the future of higher education in the country and influence India's growth in the future. The drafting committees of NEP 2020 has made a comprehensive attempt to design a policy about teacher education that considers diverse view points, field experiences, experts feedback and global best practices in teachers education. The mission is aspirational but implementation roadmap will decide if this will truly come in realistic and make student teachers ready for the future challenges. This is a new change and there are many other changes which will be happening at the time of implementation of new education policy 2020. Before actual execution there should be lots of discussion on the implementation. After the discussion there should be a code of conduct for the merger of colleges. Then there should be orientation of the faculty and administrative staff and the society about the merger. Further there should be awareness created and the issues reported from the ground level should be catered should be addressed and then only the implementation should begin. If the implementation is done hurriedly the quality of teacher education will affect the education system.

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