

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY-2020: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract:

Well defined and futuristic education policy is essential for a country at school and college levels due to the reason that education leads to economic and social progress. Different countries adopt different education systems by considering the tradition and culture and adopt different stages during their life cycle at school and college education levels to make it effective. The policy aims to transform India's education system by 2021. Shortly after the release of the policy, the government clarified that no one will be forced to study any particular language and that the medium of instruction will not be shifted from English to any regional 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. Education in India is a Concurrent List subject. Himachal Pradesh has become the first state to implement New Education Policy 2020. The national educational policy should be implemented in all schools over India by 2022. To provide equitable access to quality education to all students irrespective of their socio-economic backgrounds, gender, or physical abilities. To promote a multidisciplinary approach to education and encourage students to explore and pursue their interests.

Keywords: Higher Education, National Education Policy 2020, NEP-2020, Overview & Analysis, Implementation Strategies, Approaches, Challenges, Opportunities of NEP 2020.

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Introduction:

The NEP 2020 is founded on the five guiding pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. It will prepare our youth to meet the diverse national and global challenges of the present and the future.

Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development. Providing universal access to quality education is the key to India's continued ascent, and leadership on the global stage in terms of economic growth, social justice and equality, scientific advancement, national integration, and cultural preservation. Universal high-quality education is the best way forward for developing and maximizing our country's rich talents and resources for the good of the individual, the society, the country, and the world. India will have the highest population of young people in the world over the next decade, and our ability to provide high-quality educational opportunities to them will determine the future of our country.

Objectives:

- The NEP 2020 aims to promote a flexible education system that allows students to choose their courses and subjects according to their interests and aptitudes.
- It also aims to promote multiple entry and exit points in education, making it possible for students to pursue their studies at their own pace.

Skill Development:

One of the major highlights of the policy is skill development, especially life skills and vocational training. The life skills training prepares children to be skilful in social behaviour, making children socially adaptable and is comparatively easier to implement. The major challenge, however, lies in imparting vocational training as there is a danger of attributing certain vocations to certain specific communities who have been traditionally dependent on certain occupations for many generations. The proposed vocational training should be based on the identified aptitude of the students. The upcoming breed of technology savvy teachers will act as mentors to students in guiding their students about new technologies and will be the main motivators and initiators of the IT implementation college. Change Management NEP 2020 endeavours not only to improve the cognitive skills in students wherein developing high order thinking skill and critical thinking along with building the foundation of literacy but also life skills which will prepare the students for the varied challenges in their adult life.

Requirement of Trained Teachers:

Implementing this policy will need trained teachers, facilitators and support staff supplemented by a pool of inspiring mentors. Learning need to be made an engaging and enjoyable activity rather than a monotonous routine mental working which eventually produces unemployable youth.

Change Management:

NEP 2020 endeavours not only to improve the cognitive skills in students wherein developing high order thinking skill and critical thinking along with building the foundation of literacy but also life skills which will prepare the students for the varied challenges in their adult life. Hence the change in the curriculum and teaching methods is the need of the hour so that maximum benefit can be incurred from the new policy

Inter- disciplinary Higher Education:

An interdisciplinary educational regime is a great initiative that will provide flexibility to the students to study the subjects of their choice. For ages, Indian universities have developed in a very compartmentalized manner, scholars and professors have remained fiercely protective of their subject speciality. This culture is deep-rooted with very few exceptions and the new policy calls for changing the same.

Learning or certificate/degree:

Though flexibility in the higher education model through the concept of multiple exits is an important step for reducing the number of drop outs, a question still arises on the value of such certifications and diplomas. The Indian psyche closely associates jobs with the degrees acquired. Hence, to implement the new system, we first have to dismantle the archaic thinking that only with a degree can one successfully secure a job. This is a dangerous paradigm which undermines and discourages other innate talents of an individual.



Digital connectivity:

We require internet penetration in remote areas because e-learning is the way forward, as witnessed during the pandemic. Digital infrastructure for this purpose will include digital classrooms, expertise-driven online teaching models, AR/VR technologies to overcome gaps in physical teaching and lab infrastructure teacher training to become adept at new-age technologies. This will continue to be a major challenge in the next decade.

Curriculum and Content:

In addition, the NEP 2020 focuses on reducing the curriculum content to make space for critical thinking and in turn, develop individuals with 21st-century skills instilled in them. Hence, all aspects of the curriculum and pedagogy need to be restructured to attain these goals. The challenges in successfully implementing these changes include modifying the curriculum in accordance with the National Curriculum Framework. Also, educators need to rethink the learning content rubric and modify the textbooks accordingly.

Examination Structure:

The NEP focuses on formative assessment for learning rather than summative assessment. The primary purpose of changing the assessment system is to promote continuous tracking of learning outcomes. However, continuous assessment requires schools and teachers to use innovative evaluation approaches and assignments. These approaches demand technological intervention and active involvement of teachers and students.

Effects of Redefining NEP 2020:

- NEP 2023 promotes skill-based education, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving.
- Inclusivity is a key focus, offering equal opportunities for diverse learners.
- Emphasis on local languages and cultures provides a global perspective.

With the motto of Educate Encourage Enlighten, this is the first education policy to be released in the last 34 years in India. The aim of the policy is to prepare the children of India with 21st century skills.

Research Methodology:

This research paper is based on secondary data. Secondary data used in the research was collected using the internet, research journals and books.

Literature Review:

The concern for improvement of education has been at the top of India's development (Saxena and Anu, 2019). The New Education Policy seeks to positively upgrade the present education system. It is bundled with some very innovative and contemporary proposals. The policy foresees a model of all-inclusive learning that is immersive, consistent and appealing.

Conclusion:

NEP2020 is an advanced regime that will facilitate value-based education and scientific learning? It will replace the older system of 'curriculum' which is rigid and unamenable to change with changing time due to the unwieldy bureaucratic system to change it. The NEP 2020 lays emphasis on making the education system holistic, flexible and aligned to the needs of 21st-century education. However, in order to accomplish all these goals, we must overcome all the execution challenges in a sustained manner for years to come. The drafting committee of

NEP 2020 has made a comprehensive attempt to design a policy that considers diverse viewpoints, global best practices in education, field experiences and stakeholders' feedback. The mission is aspirational but the implementation roadmap will decide if this will truly foster an all-inclusive education that makes learners industry and future ready.

Reference:

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Cite This Article:

Ms. Rajbhar R. M. (2024). *National Education Policy-2020: Issues and Challenges.* In Educreator Research Journal: Vol. XI (Number I, pp. 93–96). **ERJ.** <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10754564>