



NEP 2020: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN IMPLICATION FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHER'S

** Dr. Prasad S. Gurao,*

** Assistant Professor, Guru Nanak College of Education and Research, Bhandup, Mumbai.*

Abstract:

The role of education is important for living a meaningful life. Good quality education is needed for the overall development of the individual, for developing the full potential of the individual, for national development.

To make a developing, populous India self-reliant, India needs a national education policy capable of innovation. That is why the Indian Union Cabinet approved the new National Education Policy 2020 on 29 July 2020. The new education policy will take India on the path of modernity. This policy will be helpful in building a competent and skill-oriented India. The new education policy 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century. An overview and analysis of a National Education Policy (NEP) typically involve examining its key features, goals, potential impact, and any challenges or criticisms associated with its implementation.

The new education policy aims to be more inclusive, flexible and of international standard to meet the needs of both school and university education. Potential challenges or criticisms associated with the NEP. could include concerns about resource allocation, resistance to change, inequalities in implementation, or unintended consequences. Understanding these challenges is crucial for addressing and mitigating them during the policy's implementation. This conceptual paper endeavour's to provide an in-depth examination of the opportunities and challenges associated with the implementation of NEP 2020. It will benefit stakeholders like teachers, institutions, policy makers and students.

Key Points: *Higher Education, National Education Policy 2020, NEP-2020, Overview and Analysis, Implementation Strategies, Challenges, Opportunities for NEP 2020.*

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Introduction:

The role of education is important for living a meaningful life. Good quality education is needed for the overall development of the individual, for developing the full potential of the individual, for national development. The new education policy 2020 provides for reforms at all levels of education from school to higher education. The objectives of the NEP are to strengthen teacher training, reform the existing examination system, provide early childhood care, and restructure the basic framework of education.

This education policy is an effective educational policy that overcomes many social and educational barriers and brings about a drastic change in the system. The NEP 2020 has been formulated with the aim of giving proper direction to the educational problems, needs and challenges of the country. Various reforms and initiatives have been included in this education policy keeping all the objectives in mind.



Opportunities in New Education Policy 2020:

The new education policy emphasizes radical change in the education sector. A prosperous education system is essential to create a prosperous society in the 21st century. Equity, employability, competence and excellence are given priority in this education policy. The National Education Policy 2020 is a step taken towards the advancement of understanding as the world becomes a global village, the next generation to be self-reliant, and India's readiness to innovate.

Due to the implementation of the policy from June 2023, the process of adoption and understanding of it in the higher education sector i.e. in all the universities and colleges of the state is on. At present, this policy will be implemented from the students taking admission in the first year of postgraduate courses.

Gradually, all the courses will have to be run according to the new policy. We see many changes in this, in which major changes will be seen in examination, credit system, division of marks, syllabus. New opportunities are available in the new education policy as follows.

Opportunities for students:

1. Uniform Credit System:

An important change in the credit system is 'Uniform Credit System'. Students taking admission in the first year of the degree will be taught the course according to the credit scoring system. That is, the credit of each subject will be fixed and uniformity will be brought. It means that the credit of the subjects will be uniform in all the university colleges of the state.

2. 'Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit':

Undergraduate and postgraduate students will have multiple options for education. This is called 'Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit'. Students will benefit greatly from this option. According to the new National Education Policy, students will be able to drop out of graduation and resume their studies at will.

That is, the facility of multiple entry and multiple exit has been provided in the new policy. Students have been given a limit of seven years for this. That means a student can complete his graduation in up to seven years. That means if you have to drop out after the first year of college for some reason and there is a gap of two years, such students can complete the two semesters of their first year and take a break in between and complete their graduation again. Students will be given a total term of seven years for this.

That means a gap of maximum seven years will be allowed in two semester years. But there is a condition for this. That is, the student will have to complete a 10 credit two-month internship and skill course while exiting at each stage. Also the concerned student will not be allowed to change the university till completion of the particular degree.

3. Skill-wise Employment Opportunities:

Even if a student drops out of a course at any stage while pursuing a degree, his education will not go to waste. Students can earn credits and certification based on their skills. Accordingly, employment opportunities will also open up for the student. In this new policy, the students who are studying through employment will be greatly benefited as they are allowed to leave the course or join the course at any stage.

4. Quality Education:

The emphasis of this education policy on raising the standard of education from school to higher education creates access to quality education.

5. Early childhood benefits:

Incorporating early childhood education into the school education framework creates opportunities for very good quality education right from infancy.

6. Education according to interest:

Due to the flexible policy of course selection, students can study according to their interest and need under this education policy.

7. Technology Proficiency:

Subjects such as coding at the pre-secondary level and artificial intelligence at the secondary level provide opportunities to make students technology proficient.

8. Development of Employable Skills:

The policy of promoting hands-on and experiential learning will provide opportunities for students to develop employable skills.

9. Learning at your convenience:

Students are given the opportunity to study either online or offline, so through this strategy, students can study at their own convenience and time.

10.Scholarships:

The educational policy aims at various scholarships for quality development and creating equal educational opportunities for all. It creates an opportunity for educational quality development.

11.Multilingualism:

The policy of learning foreign languages along with the mother tongue at school level or in higher education creates opportunities for brothers to become multilingual.

12.Opportunity for meritorious:

According to the new national education policy, more emphasis is placed on merit in the teacher qualification and selection process, thus giving opportunity to the meritorious person to work in the field of education.

13.Employment Opportunity:

The policy envisages setting up of new educational institutions to bring the maximum number of children into the education stream. This creates a large employment opportunity in the education sector.

14.Reduced Curriculum Burden:

NEP aims to reduce the curriculum burden on students by emphasizing core concepts and essential learning outcomes. This allows for a deeper understanding of subjects and promotes a more comprehensive learning experience.

15.Inclusive Education:

This policy prioritizes inclusive education, ensuring equal opportunities for students from diverse

backgrounds, including those with disabilities and marginalized communities. It promotes an inclusive and supportive learning environment, fostering empathy and understanding among students.

16. Skill Development:

NEP 2020 focuses on skill development, equipping students with 21st century skills such as clinical thinking, communication skills, problem solving, and digital literacy. Thus enhancing employability among students and preparing them for future challenges.

Opportunities for teachers:

1. Opportunity for professional development:

The policy envisages that a person working in the education sector should continuously develop his/her professional development. Also complementary opportunities have also been included in this policy.

2. Opportunity to work at international level:

Faculty exchange programs of various academic departments or institutes have created opportunities for teachers to work at national and international level.

3. Scope for innovation:

With the help of various teaching methods and technology, opportunities have been created for the teacher to implement innovation and develop quality.

4. Research and Quality Development:

It is noticed that efforts will be made to provide funds for research work through various means through this policy, so it will give momentum to both research and quality work.

5. Professional development opportunities for teachers:

The new education policy recognizes the importance of continuous professional development for teachers. It provides training, workshops and opportunities to enhance their teaching skills, update their knowledge and collaborate on evolving pedagogical practices.

6. Improved Teaching Methods:

This policy encourages a shift towards learner-centered teaching methods, encouraging interactive and experiential learning methods. It allows teachers to actively engage students in the learning process, retaining deeper understanding and concepts.

7. Recognition of teacher leadership and guidance:

The policy also recognizes the importance of teacher leadership and guidance. Teachers have the opportunity to take a mentoring role, support their fellow teachers and contribute to policy implementation. This fosters professional growth and collaboration among teachers.

8. Collaborative Learning Communities:

NEP policy promotes collaborative learning communities, encouraging teachers to engage in peer learning, share best practices, and collaborate with colleagues. This creates a nurturing environment for professional growth and enhances teaching effectiveness.

9. **Empowering Teachers as Facilitators:** This strategy empowers teachers to become facilitators of learning rather than just information providers. They can guide students on their learning journey, foster clinical thinking, and nurture students' interests and talents.

Constraints in Education Policy 2020 Implementation:

1. **Adjustment Tools:**

Students who have been studying in the old educational policy curriculum for a few years find it challenging to adapt the new educational policy changes to the curriculum and learning style.

2. **Physical Tools:**

Students will be introduced to advanced technologies like coding, artificial intelligence, while doing these tasks they will need physical tools like computers, laptops, internet etc. Making these tools available will certainly be a challenge for students.

3. **Cyber Security:**

While studying various subjects online, students have to use different types of applications and websites. There is a possibility of students straying from the goal, so cyber security can be a very big challenge.

4. **Costs associated with building infrastructure:**

Costs associated with building digital infrastructure can be less expensive for all schools across the country. Besides, in rural areas of the country where the internet is not available. There is a question of using digital learning tools. Therefore, the government should work to develop basic infrastructure that supports digital infrastructure in all sectors.

5. **Teacher Education:**

It is necessary to produce teachers who are suitable for imparting the education expected by the new national education policy in schools and colleges. For that, it is necessary to make drastic changes in the education of teachers.

6. **Latest Technology:** NEP 2020 focuses on harnessing the benefits of technology to prepare youth for the future. However, developing digital infrastructure such as digital classrooms, remote professional based teaching models, and physical education and AR/VR tools to bridge the gap in laboratory infrastructure is a major challenge as most schools do not have the proper setup. Teachers need to have up-to-date knowledge of technology to teach according to the new educational policy.

7. **Selection Process:** The National Education Policy expects more transparency and quality in the selection process of teachers, so the selection process should also be implemented with the same level of rigour.

8. **Long Distance Schools:** Enrollment of rural students in secondary schools is less than expected compared to enrollment of urban students. Majority of the people live in villages and children have to walk long distances to go to school.

9. **Sanitation:** Toilets are always a hot topic in rural schools, especially for girls. An important issue

10. in schools is general cleanliness, which affects the health of students. Having accessible, clean

restrooms is especially important for female students.

11. Individual attention:

Multiple grade classes. In many schools, due to lack of available classrooms, they are often placed in the same classroom. The student to teacher ratio is low. Students who are already falling behind in class receive less attention as a result.

12. Availability of Funds:

Availability of funds is a major challenge. The National Education Policy expects expenditure on education to increase from 4.6% to 6% of GDP in 2020. The money is expected to be spent on activities such as building schools and colleges across the country, hiring teachers and professors and providing free breakfast to school children.

Conclusion: Among the various components of education, the opportunities and challenges faced by the National Education Policy were presented considering only the students and the teachers. Similarly, this National Education Policy presents various opportunities as well as challenges in front of the government administration, founders, curriculum development board, parents.

The National Education Policy 2020 has been drafted by considering the views of common citizens, teachers, students, administration officials, education experts. From the point of view that there will be no error, it is seen that a lot of efforts have been made, but considering the geographical and social diversity of our country India, some challenging situations may arise.

But if this situation is looked at from a positive point of view, one can try to overcome it and create a golden opportunity. Former President of our India and great scientist Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has said, "Obstacles are Opportunities". We should welcome this education policy (NEP 2020) which will take India towards innovation.

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