

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020: ENVISIONS AND EDUCATION SYSTEM ROOTED IN INDIA

Dr.Philomina M.J¹ and Dr.Jahitha Begum A²

Abstract

Every nation needs a clear, forward-looking education policy since education is the main engine of social and economic advancement. Different nations have adopted various educational systems based on their own traditions and cultures. Nearly 30 years after the last significant adjustment to the policy, in 1986, the Government of India recently took a great step forward by unveiling its new education strategy, the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). The timing of the policy is ideal, and the goal is admirably noble. But there is a huge difference between establishing a policy in writing and adhering to it in spirit. How quickly NEP 2020 is implemented and how well it does so will be determined in large part by how well the government, universities, and schools are able to overcome the obstacles in their way. This review paper has highlighted the major affirmatives, challenges and visions by different reviewers.

Keywords: NEP 2020, Education Policy

INTRODUCTION

National Education Policy that was suggested in 2020 and adopted by the government of India will be certainly an important turning point in the history of education in Asian countries. The policy is all-encompassing, thorough, and hawk-eyed, and it can undoubtedly contribute to the future growth and development of the country. The newly written National Education Policy is unquestionably a revolutionary document that is anticipated to alter the course of the next generation of students and, ultimately, the entire country. Knowing the advantages and disadvantages of NEP 2020, which will be implemented under the new education strategy, becomes crucial. Envisions and education system with roots in Indian culture that, by ensuring that everyone has access to high-quality education, directly contributes to India's transformation into a vibrant and equitable knowledge society and, in turn, makes India a global knowledge superpower. The prime duty of the teachers is to make the students to apply their thinking skills, prepare children to become citizens, ready to meet

¹Guest Faculty, Dept of Education, The Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, INDIA
²Professor & Head, Dept of Education, The Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

the needs and demands of the society. (Jahitha, 2009). The National Education Policy 2020 also gave emphasis for critical thinking and experiential Learning or learning by doing.

AFFIRMATIVES OF NEP 2020

Everyone in the nation will have access to education from the preschool level through secondary school with the help of the new education policy. NEP 2020 is beneficial since it will encourage two crore students to resume to their studies. The current 10+2 framework will be replaced with a 5+3+3+4 structure that will concentrate on a student's formative years of learning. The age groups that the structure correlates to are 3 to 8 years, 8 to 11 years, 11 to 14 years, and 14 to 18 years.

The National Curriculum and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE) is being designed and developed by NCERT. This is intended for kids under the age of eight. In India, a National Book Marketing Policy will be created. The Education Ministry will shortly establish the National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy as part of this new educational strategy. The successful implementation of reaching the fundamental literacy and numeracy for all kids in India will fall under the purview of the states. This is relevant to students up to third grade, and it must be completed by 2025.

In classes 10 and 12, there will be board exams, just like in the past. However, there won't be as much at stake and the emphasis will be more on the student's overall development. Only the third, fifth, and eighth grades will take school exams; the other courses will be evaluated by the school administration. In the near future, PARAKH (Performance, Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) will be established, according to the announcement. The government will establish this as a National Assessment Center in accordance with the new educational strategy.

The establishments of Special Education Zones and the Gender Inclusion Fund have received special attention. For others who are less fortunate, this will be advantageous. There will be Bal Bhavans in every state. The pupils can participate in play, art, or career-related activities at this boarding school. Additionally, it has been said that by 2022, the National Council for Teacher Education will have developed the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST). After consulting with SCERTs, NCERT, educators, and organisations, this will be done.

An Academic Bank of Credit will be established, where the credits that student acquires will be kept so they can later be considered toward the completion of the final degree. The nation will establish Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs). The goal of these schools, which will be comparable to the current IITs and IIMs, is to demonstrate multidisciplinary education to Indian students. The same set of accreditation and regulation norms will serve as the guide for both public and private academic institutions. Colleges will be given autonomy in place of the college affiliation. By 2030, the minimum degree requirement for teaching will be a four-year B. Ed. The promotion of online learning will help pupils become prepared for pandemic circumstances. This would give quality education in such trying circumstances while also preparing the system.

MAJOR CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLANTATION OF NEP 2020

There are currently about 1,000 universities in India. It will take 15 years to open one new institution if we want to double the gross enrollment ratio in higher education, one of the policy's stated aims, by 2035.

The National Education Policy 2020 aims to re-integrate 2 crore children who are not currently enrolled in school. Regardless of your perspective, completing this over a 15-year period calls for the construction of over 50 schools per week. This unquestionably necessitates a large investment in campuses and classrooms. But it also requires the continual appointment of at least 200–300 teachers every week and at least 50 headmasters per week. This presents a particularly fascinating challenge given that many teaching posts are empty even in currently operating schools.

According to the National Education Policy 2020, education spending will rise from 4.6% to 6% of GDP, or over INR 2.5 lakh crores annually. Building schools and colleges across the nation, recruiting professors and teachers, and covering operational costs like giving schoolchildren free breakfast are all excellent uses of this money. This strategy is implemented at a time when the economy has been severely harmed by lockdowns associated with Covid-19, tax revenue is at an appallingly low level, and the fiscal deficit was significant even before Covid.

Despite the hardship on the exchequer, economists have been asking for significant stimulus packages totaling double-digit percentages of GDP. Although the National Education Policy is a 20-year project, one is concerned that we may be off to a stumbling start over the next

two to three years as the more urgent but no less significant demands of healthcare and economic recovery take precedence over government and budgetary objectives.

The strategy calls for a fundamental structural redesign of the curriculum in school education, which is a highly positive development. But in order to effectively offer this curriculum, we need teachers who have received pedagogical training and are aware of the requirements. Many of the curriculum modifications necessitate significant mental adjustments on the part of both instructors and parents.

The National Education Policy 2020's emphasis on inter-disciplinary learning in higher education is a very positive development. Universities have been highly compartmentalised and isolated for many years, particularly in India. It is difficult to see the entire higher education system being made up of "exceptions" professors who respect, are curious about, and lean into other fields of study while being specialists in their own. Over the next 15 to 20 years, this calls for a cultural change throughout the entire higher education ecosystem.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A fair and inclusive learning environment for students across the country is another goal of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020). Making education available to everyone and advancing socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups are its main goals (SEDGs). The newly implemented education strategy in the Indian educational system places a strong emphasis on the value of pedagogical strategies that support students' overall growth through experiential learning. The core objective of NEP is to implement a competence-based learning approach in which students are guided to successfully enhance their abilities. The fourth Sustainable Goal of the UN, which focuses on providing every child with access to education, is in line with the NEP 2020 (blog.teachmint.com).

The policy is thorough, all-encompassing, and long-sighted, and it will undoubtedly play a significant part in the future development of the country. It correctly strikes a balance between acceptance of the best concepts and methods for learning from around the world and India's rootedness and sense of pride. The policy supports holistic education by imagining the fusion of the scientific and artistic streams. The development of an informed citizenry is crucial for strengthening our democratic foundations, and the emphasis on ethics, human values, and constitutional principles will go a long way in that direction. Instead of the more common 6 to 14 years, extend the schooling years to 3 to 18. (Prashant Mavani, 2020).

In order to foster "a culture of research," the National Research Foundation would be established. A revolving board of governors would have autonomous control over NRF. The main responsibility of NRF would be to provide funding for grant applications that are competitive, peer evaluated, and submitted across all disciplines. It would also serve as a liaison between researchers and the appropriate parts of government to facilitate breakthroughs. Major changes in higher education have been advocated in order to allow students more freedom. Students have a wide range of options for their higher education, including the ability to take a break (Khurana, 2020)

The new National Education Policy (NEP) is the first comprehensive reform since the creation of the Indian Constitution more than seven decades ago that seeks to radically transform education at all levels throughout India. The Constitution's values and guiding principles can be regarded as continuing in the NEP, which states that its goal is to "create an equal, inclusive, and plural society as envisaged" in the Constitution. Although they have high standards, the NEP's suggested improvements could totally transform society and raise Indian education to a global level if they are successfully implemented (Tanmoy, 2021).

The NEP has made an effort to encourage a "critical thinking" approach to learning, which requires students to draw their own conclusions after being presented with information rather than just being given information and being expected to memorize answers. This new ethos will help promote lifelong learning, faster skill adaptation, and a more self-driven and autonomous workforce of professionals. Previously, many students would first encounter a "critical thinking" approach in their overseas education. "Critical thinking and reflective thinking are often used synonymously Critical thinking is used to describe the use of cognitive skills or strategies that increase the probability of a desirable outcome in the same way critical thinking is sometimes called directed thinking because it focuses on a desired outcome" (Jahitha & Raman,2018). NEP 2020 had given importance for Critical thinking and reflective thinking as well.

The NEP's proposed modifications are modelled after the educational systems of some of the world's most industrialized and powerful nations. And now these techniques will be used in the nation with the biggest population in the globe. If properly implemented, it will provide children from all societal groups with an equal starting point in life. Students will be inspired to think rather than just repeat. It will provide additional educational options and support the study of culture and the arts (Kunal, 2021).

The NEP-2020 programme strives to advance student-centered, all-encompassing, and multidisciplinary educational systems. By offering all Indians access to high-quality education,

transforming the country in a sustainable manner into a fair and thriving knowledge society. (Kalaburagi, 2022).

In order to assure adherence to required quality standards, the NEP, 2020 envisions an efficient quality self-regulation or accrediting system for all levels of education, including pre-school education, in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. States/UTs will establish an independent, state-wide organization called the State School Standards Authority (SSSA) to make sure that all schools comply to specific minimum professional and quality standards. The goal of improving public education could be achieved by maintaining a common accreditation procedure and quality framework for both public and private institutions. It also strives to dispel the notion that vocational education carries a stigma of lower social standing and calls for the gradual integration of vocational education programmes into regular classrooms. In order to improve the quality of education in the nation through innovation and experimentation, the National Digital Education Architecture is being envisioned as a digital infrastructure for education that will assist not only the government at the Center, State, and UT levels, but also the entire education ecosystem, including private sector, non-profit, and technology players (Rohmetra,2022).

CONCLUSION

The National Education Policy 2020 programme of the government is a significant step in ensuring access to top-notch education. Unquestionably, the National Education Policy 2020 marks a significant turning point in the history of the country. It is a great endeavour that deals with several issues that have plagued the educational field for years. NEP 2020 makes sure that no detail is overlooked when it comes to educator preparation, pedagogy, digitization, equity, and accessibility. The long-term development of the country will benefit from the policy. With the execution of this policy, students will acquire new abilities and become prepared for the future.

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