

INDIAN NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY FORESEES VIBRANT KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

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Abstract

The scientific and technical advancements has paved way towards a changing world. This paper aims to investigate India's new education policy (NEP) on significant Indian institutions, provide an outline of the policy with a focus on its guiding principles, and speculatively assess benefits of the National Education Policy. As a result of this policy, higher education in the 21st century has seen a new phenomenon. The National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 aims to make India a vibrant knowledgeable society by creating an education system anchored in Indian culture that directly contributes to building dynamic and sustainable India.

Keywords: *Bhagwad Gita, National Education Policy 2020, Higher education system, Teaching & learning.*

INTRODUCTION

Education is vital in realizing human potentials [4]. The key to India's national growth is ensuring that everyone has access to high-quality education [9]. The basic purpose of education empowers citizen to secure productive employment [4]. The rapid changes in scientific and technological advances may increase a greater demand for skilled laborers [9]. Prior to today, emphasis was placed on teaching content, but now education is centered on multidisciplinary developing students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Education must build character, enable learners to be ethical, rational, compassionate, and caring, while at the same time prepare them for gainful, fulfilling employment [12].

1. Milestones of Indian Universities

Historically, rich and well-established education were undergone in India for centuries. In ancient India, there were at least 15 universities or colleges, including Takshashila, Nalanda, and Mithila. The "Gurukul" institution preserved the rich ethos of teachings and customs, nonetheless.

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After India gained its independence in 1948, a commission led by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the country's second President and one of its greatest educators attempted to update the previous policies [11]. The major turning points in the evolution of educational reforms in India were the Kothari Commission (1966), the National Education Policy of 1968 and 1986 (later modified in 1992), the Yashpal Committee (1993), the National Knowledge Commission (2006), the Tandon Committee (2009), and the third NEP (2019). These changes came across within a time period of approximately 18 years [8].

The First Policy of 1968 placed a strong emphasis on the three-language formula and mandatory education for youngsters up to the age of 14. In the Second National Policy of 1986, education placed a significant focus on providing women, scheduled castes, and tribes with equal access to educational opportunities while simultaneously favoring the Open University system. The inclusion of a common entrance exam system for engineering and technical courses, such as the JEE exam, changed this approach in 1992 [10].

Citizens who are productive and active contributors can fulfil the requirements for a fair inclusive and pluralistic society as envisioned by the Constitution. Numerous studies have examined various facets of the National Education Policy 2020, and good academic research practices in higher education, including the results of their research performance and the challenges they face in conducting their research.

In the present age of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and artificial intelligence the unskilled and semiskilled job sectors will be replaced by machines. This will eventually lead to the increase in demand for technical and computer-based jobs. With expanding environmental issues, climatic shifts, crisis in basic needs, and persistent threat of pandemics, there will be greater need for jobs in integrated fields of physics, chemistry, biology, social sciences and the control and control and prevention of infectious disease. All of these things indicate the necessity of multidisciplinary teaching and learning approach [8].

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

The educational system of India is at a crucial point. The National Education Policy 2020 is intended to take the role of an outdated paradigm. The Union Cabinet approved the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which aims to make improvements to the Indian education system at all levels [6]. It is a 66-page document released on 29th July 2020 which covers all dimensions of education [1]. The NEP 2020 seeks to transform India into a "vibrant

and knowledge society." The NEPs' adoption by the Cabinet marks just the third significant redesign of India's educational system since independence [6].

The National Education Policy 2020 aims to make India into equal, sustainable, and thriving knowledge society by integrating its tradition, culture, values, and ethos into the educational system. The development of the NEP-2020 took into account the nations rich and varied historical past as well as the contributions of numerous scholars to various fields as the cornerstone for creating high quality multidisciplinary liberal education at both the secondary and higher & professional education levels [5]. The policy proposed to have three different types of higher education institutions: autonomous colleges, interdisciplinary universities, and higher education clusters [2].

From preschool through high school 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030 is preferred via an open education approach. Training in ECCE pedagogy and curriculum is provided to rural child care centre staff members and teachers. Taking into account the child's growth and development, the 10+2 system will be replaced by 5+3+3+4 curricular structure that corresponds to the ages of 3–8, 8–11, 11–14, and 14–18. A National Assessment Centre called PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) will redesign board exams for Grades 10 and 12 [6].

When analyzed from an educational point of view, the words from the Bhagavad Gita represent the tasks of a perfect teacher as executed by Krishna to guide his pupil Arjuna who seeks his advice and assistance in overcoming the distortion of mind. The Shrimad Bhagwad Gita is one of the most important texts ever existed in the history of mankind. It directs our lives by providing sensible and logical responses to all the queries that people have about life. It promotes the Karma or practice path, and its doctrines are transcendent and universal. Bhagwad Gita chapter 9, paragraph 32, emphasizes the importance of student-centered teaching by showing that Krishna, the teacher, is accepting of all individual differences and recommends that a good teacher should be mindful and respectful of each student's needs regardless of gender, caste, color, or creed [7]. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) along with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will create a new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE) 2021. By 2030, a four-year integrated B.Ed. degree will become the minimal requirement for teaching. The goal of higher education should be to create ethical, bright, multifaceted, and resourceful individuals [6].

The most effective teaching pedagogy tools are introducing a thought-provoking curriculum, interaction with students, being accessible and approachable, addressing pertinent questions and developing structured courses. This necessitates the teachers to be ready and knowledgeable in their subjects and communicate clearly with students through group work, experiential learning, and action-oriented activities [7].

It must promote financial independence while simultaneously educating students for more fulfilling, personal and professional duties by offering a fresh and forward-looking viewpoint for India's higher education system [6].

FOCUS ON NEP PRINCIPLES,

The ancient Indians were strong because they had access to a variety of skills. They were admired for their excellence in skills (Aayakalaigal 64). The decision-makers used this as a reflection to suggest an education plan that would give children of the current generation similar possibilities.

The fundamental principles of National Education Policy:

- Promotes students' holistic development by identifying, recognizing, fostering unique capabilities of all students in both academic and non- academic spheres.
- Provides flexibility in learning according to their talents and interests.
- Aims to master fundamental literacy and numeracy skills by third grade by all the students.
- Eliminates harmful hierarchies in areas of learning, curricular and extra-curricular activities, arts, and science, vocational and academic streams, etc.
- Ensures unity and integrity of knowledge and provides a holistic education and focuses mainly on multidisciplinary education and research universities.
- Highlights conceptual understanding rather than rote learning.
- Encourages making logical decisions, critical thinking and creativity.
- Emphasizes on ethics, human values like empathy, respect for others, scientific temper, cleanliness, courtesy, constitutional values like liberty, responsibility, pluralism, equality, and justice, democratic spirit and respect for public property.
- Promotes multilingualism and life skills such as teamwork, cooperation, resilience and communication.

- Offers a wide-range use of technology in teaching and learning, and respect for diversity as well as importance of local context in curriculum.
- Centers on regular formative assessment for learning than summative assessment.
- Collaborations in curriculum from Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) to higher education.
- Emphasizes on the recruitment of teachers, their professional development, improving their service conditions and providing positive working environments.
- Provides platforms for research as a co requisite for excellence in education and development.
- Encourages a strong, active public education system, as well as facilitates genuine altruistic participation of individual and communities.
- Develops a sense of pride towards the nation and its rich and diverse culture as well as its education systems and traditions. [10]

BENEFITS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

Education is essential to create a progressive and forward-thinking. The students are given the choice to learn what they want rather than a subject centred approach where they are restricted in their choices. The NEP 2020 proposes a number of novel ideas, such as vocational courses in addition to conventional study, in order to acquire the appropriate skills at the right time. Vocational education has many other beneficial changes, including creating interest by choosing apt subjects, easing the pressure in board exams, reducing the choices of streams, and in turn increasing the gross enrolment. If students choose the best course or topic combination based on their natural talents, the gap between industry and academics will soon be closed. Skilled students can be successful in their personal growth and development as well as in business undertakings. New businesses and start-ups have provided job seekers with better employment opportunities.

The educational system has also given students a variety of exit options, which can save them time if they choose the best course for their future. Students can even start their own business while still in school because of the practical training they receive in schools. Students from all backgrounds can gain practical experience through research. In the long run almost all of the suggestion of the NEP 2020 has the potential to benefit every stakeholder and succeed in developing an education system rooted in the culture of India. This will eventually turn India into a sustainable society. It can be concluded that, this is still in process and only in the next

several months will it come to its completion and be implemented. The actual outcomes of the NEP 2020 will be determined by how well the plans are implemented and carried out on the ground [3].

CONCLUSION

The National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of the twenty-first century. This Policy suggests the revision and restructuring of all aspects of the educational system. The National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 aims to transform India into a vibrant and knowledgeable society by creating an education system which includes Sustainable Development Goals and Indian traditions and values. This Policy also supports multidisciplinary education, multiple exit options, active pedagogy, techniques to improve life skills, fosters critical and higher order thinking and vocational education. The NEP also emphasizes on empowering teachers and enhancing their hiring, working conditions, transfer policies, and professional advancement possibilities at all levels. The NEP (2020) is likely to change India's educational environment and convert India into a vibrant knowledgeable society.

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