
Developed India@2047- In Context of Higher Education

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Abstract

India was known as the "Golden Bird" in its past due to its immense prosperity and grandeur. India was a developed and prosperous nation throughout its history. In ancient India, fertile land, abundant natural resources, and global trade routes made India economically extremely prosperous. Its cultures were rich in art, science, and literature, attracting scholars and travelers from around the world. India was a centre of trade in gold, silver, spices, and silk. The dream of a developed India resides in every Indian's heart. To turn this dream into reality, our Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has set a goal of establishing India as a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of independence. Many factors contribute to a country's development, including high per capita income and national income, improved higher education levels, advanced and extensive infrastructure (transportation, communication, energy), a high standard of living (quality education, healthcare, housing), mastery of science and technology, and a stable and diversified economy. industrialization, low unemployment), low birth and death rates, and others. Our study examines the transformation of higher education in India in the context of the vision of a developed India @ 2047, and focuses on the challenges, interventions, and strategic pathways needed to build a globally competitive and inclusive education system. Using secondary data from national reports, policy documents, and scholarly studies, this research analyzes trends in enrolment, quality assurance, digitization, and research productivity. **Keywords** - Higher education, Viksit Bharat 2047, NEP 2020, GER, research innovation, policy reform.

Introduction

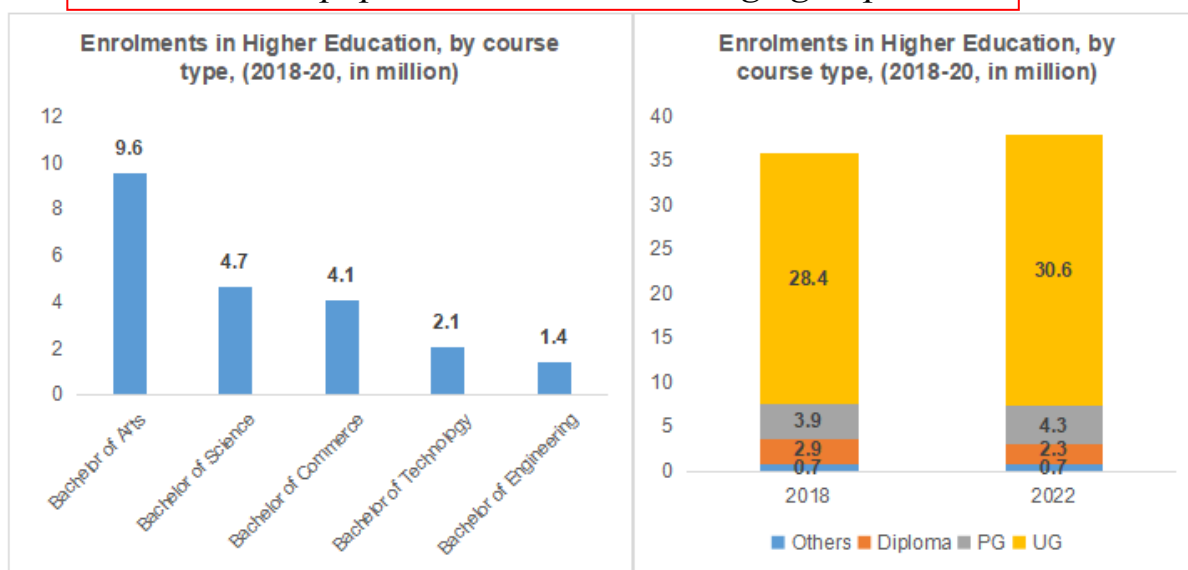
Keeping in mind the goal of making India a developed country by the 100th year of its independence, that is by 2047, India's higher education system is undergoing rapid transformation. This year marks the centenary of India's independence. In India, higher education has always been seen as a means of social mobility, economic progress, and intellectual advancement. From ancient centers of learning such as Nalanda and Takshashila to modern post-independence universities, education has played a crucial role in reshaping the identity of the country. However, considering the challenges of the 21st century, there is a need for revolutionary changes in our country's traditional education system. As a result, keeping in mind rapid globalization, technological disruptions, and changing workforce dynamics, our higher education needs to shift from being degree-oriented to competency-oriented. Since India envisions itself as a global leader by 2047, changes in higher education are not merely a policy necessity but a strategic requirement to sustain socio-economic development and global competitiveness. The structural challenges facing India's higher education system are both historical and systemic. Despite claiming to have one of the largest higher education networks in the world, with over 1,000 universities and 40,000 colleges, disparities in quality, access, and outcomes persist across different regions and socio-economic groups. To address these challenges, a major transformation was made in India's higher education system, and the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) was introduced on July 29, 2020, replacing the National Education Policy 1986. Its main objectives include ensuring universal access and equity in higher education, promoting multidisciplinary and holistic education, encouraging research and critical thinking, and improving the quality and international standing of

higher education. Additionally, increasing the gross enrollment ratio (GER) to 50 by 2035, making higher education institutions more flexible, and integrating vocational education are also key goals.

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

Gross Enrolment ratio is a Statistical tool to measure the student enrolment in higher education. In other word we can say that the Gross Enrolment ratio in higher education is the percentage of students in the 18-23 age group who are enrolled in higher education. Thus

$$GER = \frac{\text{No. of students enrolled in higher education}}{\text{Total population in the 18-23 age group}} \times 100$$



In 2017-18, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of India was 24.6%. It is related to academic education, employment opportunities, and individual development in society. Private and foreign comparisons are frequently made to evaluate India's education system, yet the benefits of any such exercise may not be fully realized. Academic education influences a person's career, moral development, discipline, knowledge acquisition, and overall personality. Such long-term efforts are essential both for uniting the country's educational institutions and for promoting continuous self-improvement and innovative thinking. India is gradually making progress in the field of education and literacy, aiming to achieve universal literacy by 2047. Accordingly, a national curriculum framework has been developed, and in 2020, the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP2020) was introduced. Its goal is that by 2021-22, India should increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) from 24.6% to 28.4%, and by 2035, achieve a GER of 50%, and by 2047, ensure that India fully integrates literacy across the country.

The First step taken by the Government of India to achieve Vision 2047: NEP 2020

To achieve the goal of vision 2047 The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was approved by the Government of India, marks a historic reform in the country's education system. It aims to transform India into a knowledge-based society by making education more holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary. In the context of higher education, the NEP 2020 brings significant changes to improve quality, accessibility, and global competitiveness. One of the key features of NEP 2020 in higher education is the introduction of a

flexible curriculum with multiple entry and exit options. Students can earn certificates, diplomas, or degrees according to the duration of their study, which promotes lifelong learning. The policy also emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach, allowing students to study subjects from different fields, such as combining science with humanities or arts. Another major reform is the establishment of a Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), which will act as a single umbrella body for the entire higher education system (except medical and legal education). This aims to ensure better coordination, transparency, and quality standards across institutions. The NEP 2020 also focuses on promoting research and innovation through the creation of the National Research Foundation (NRF). It encourages universities to become centres of research and creativity. Moreover, the policy promotes the use of technology and online learning, making higher education more inclusive and accessible, especially in remote areas. Additionally, NEP 2020 envisions increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education from around 26% to 50% by 2035. It also aims to internationalize education by allowing top foreign universities to open campuses in India. In conclusion, NEP 2020 represents a forward-looking vision for the future of higher education in India. It seeks to create a system that is inclusive, flexible, and globally competitive, preparing students not only for employment but also for responsible citizenship and lifelong learning.

Issues and Challenges in Higher Education after NEP 2020

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was introduced with the vision of transforming India's education system to make it more holistic, flexible, and aligned with global standards. While the policy is ambitious and forward-looking, its implementation in higher education faces several challenges that need careful consideration.

Key Issues and Challenges

- **Implementation gaps:** Despite the policy's vision, many reforms remain on paper. Centre–state disagreements and institutional bottlenecks have slowed progress.
- **Faculty shortages:** India faces a lack of qualified teachers and researchers, which hampers the quality of higher education.
- **Infrastructure limitations:** Many universities and colleges lack modern facilities, digital tools, and research labs needed to support NEP's goals.
- **Equity and access:** Social and economic barriers continue to limit access for marginalized groups, making inclusivity a challenge.
- **Technology integration:** While NEP emphasizes digital learning, many institutions struggle with poor connectivity, lack of training, and resistance to change.
- **Multi-entry and exit system:** The flexibility of allowing students to enter and exit programs at different stages is innovative, but its feasibility and acceptance remain uncertain.
- **Research culture:** NEP aims to strengthen research, but inadequate funding, bureaucratic hurdles, and weak industry–academia collaboration hinder progress.
- **Language barriers:** Promoting regional languages in higher education is progressive, but balancing them with global competitiveness in English-medium instruction is complex.
- **Financial constraints:** Implementing NEP reforms requires significant investment, and many institutions face budgetary limitations.

NEP 2020 has set a bold roadmap for higher education in India, aiming to make it more inclusive, research-oriented, and globally competitive. However, the real challenge lies in execution—ensuring adequate funding, training faculty, upgrading infrastructure, and bridging social divides. Without addressing these issues, the ambitious goals of NEP 2020 may remain aspirational rather than transformative.

Roadmap to Vikshit Bharat 2047 in Higher Education

A multi-pronged plan to make higher education more accessible, inclusive, and competitive on a global scale is necessary to reach the goal of Vikshit Bharat 2047. To make sure that higher education is available to everyone, targeted scholarships and reservation policies are necessary to help groups that are economically and socially disadvantaged. Building up digital infrastructure in rural and remote areas helps close the gap between cities and rural areas. At the same time, gender mainstreaming and targeted support for marginalised communities help make higher education more diverse and fair.

1. **Making sure that education is of high quality and focused on results:** Quality assurance is at the top of the list, with agencies like NAAC and NBA leading the way in making changes to accreditation. Updating the curriculum and giving teachers on-going training make sure that education stays useful and relevant. Students are better prepared for real-world problems and jobs when they focus on experiential learning methods like internships, projects, and hands-on research.
2. **Encouraging Research and Innovation:** To create a strong ecosystem for innovation, it is important to give more money to research and development. Indian institutions can become centres of technological and social innovation by setting up interdisciplinary research centres and campus based start-up incubators. These centres encourage creativity, entrepreneurship, and collaboration.
3. **Using EdTech and digital platforms:** Blended learning models, MOOCs, and AI-powered personalised learning tools are changing the way students learn. These platforms are flexible, scalable, and personalised, which makes high quality education available to millions of people with different learning needs.
4. **Faculty Development and Leadership:** Faculty skills and leadership improve when they have opportunities for international exposure and collaboration, as well as on-going professional development. Well-trained teachers are important for keeping up academic excellence and helping institutions grow.
5. **Creating world-class institutions:** To build institutions that are known around the world, they need to encourage healthy competition, take part in global rankings, and draw in students and faculty from other countries. When Indian higher education is compared to international standards, it helps improve its quality and reputation around the world.

conclusion

In conclusion, the vision of India@2047, as a self-reliant and developed nation, hinges significantly on the advancement of its higher education system. Over the next two decades, it is imperative that India evolves its educational landscape to meet the demands of an increasingly globalized world while remaining grounded in its cultural and social context.

The transformation of higher education in India must focus on fostering research-driven institutions, improving faculty quality, enhancing infrastructure, and promoting interdisciplinary learning. The integration of technology and innovation in teaching, as well as the expansion of partnerships between academia and industry, will be essential in creating a workforce equipped to meet the challenges of the future. Equally important is the need for equitable access to quality education across all regions, ensuring that the benefits of higher education are extended to underserved and marginalized communities. With inclusive policies, India

can harness the potential of its diverse population, fuelling social mobility and economic growth. As we approach India's centenary of independence in 2047, a reimagined higher education system will serve as a cornerstone of national development, contributing to a knowledge-driven economy and a more equitable society. By focusing on research, innovation, and inclusivity, India has the potential to position itself as a global leader in education and innovation, fostering a vibrant ecosystem of creativity, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. India's journey towards becoming a global knowledge hub will require consistent policy interventions, investment in human capital, and a collective effort across all sectors of society. As we look forward to 2047, the future of India's higher education system holds immense promise in shaping a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable nation.

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