

## Impact of NEP-2020 on Higher Education

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### Abstract

New Education Policy (NEP-2020) introduced by Government of India was a welcoming transformation and crisp news amongst all the negativities surrounding the globe due to the challenges created by Covid-19 pandemic. The Union Cabinet of India gave the license to this policy on 29 July 2020, drafts the vision of new education system of India. The announcement of NEP- 2020 was completely unpredicted by many. The changes in the education system of India that NEP- 2020 has suggested were something that several educationists and academicians never think about such type of transformations in whole education system. This new education policy system replaces the previous National Policy of Education,1986. The policy is an extensive structure for basic education to higher education in both rural and urban parts of India and it has impacted college and school education equally. This research paper mainly focuses on the study of New Education Policy- 2020 and its impact on Higher Education of India. This article also describes the key features of NEP-2020 and analyses how has this policy transformed the existing education system.

**Keywords:** - NEP-2020, Education system, Higher Education, Covid-19

### Introduction

The New Education Policy (NEP) is a policy framed by the Govt. of India to upgrade the education amidst the people of India. The policy outlines the school education to college education system in both urban and rural India. The first NEP was introduced in 1968 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the second was launched by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986 which was further modified in 1992. The third policy on education system of India was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020 which was further approved by Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020 drafts out the vision of new education system of India. The policy provides a comprehensive substructure for the basic education to higher education of India. The language policy of NEP-2020 is a general guideline and advisory in nature and its implementation depends on states, universities, institutions, colleges and schools. The NEP- 2020 approves several changes in education policy of India. Its objective is to shortly enhance the education expenditure of state from around 4% to 6% of the GDP. A committee formed under the former Cabinet Secretary T. S. R. Subramanian, began the consultation process for the New Education Policy on January 2015. On the basis of the report of this committee, the draft of NEP was submitted in 2019 by a panel headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief, Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan. This Draft of New Education Policy (DNEP) 2019 was later launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), followed by a several public's consultation which had 484 pages. The Ministry initiated by a rigorous consultation process in formulating the draft policy of new education system: "more than two lakh suggestions and recommendations from 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, 6,600 blocks, 6,000 Urban Local Bodies & 676 districts were received. The vision of this New Education Policy 2020 is to make a such education system of India which directly helps to transform our nation sustainably into a fair- minded society by providing high-quality education to each and every student. The objective of quality higher education must focus on the development of those individuals who are creative, excellent, well-balanced and thoughtful. It must also allow a student to study in more than one

specialized area of interest comprehensively and to establish the character, ethical and moral values, social values, cognitive knowledge, service spirit, scientific temper, creativity, and the skills of the 21st century across a variety of areas like sciences, social sciences, the arts, humanities, languages, personal, technological and the vocational subjects as well. The NEP-2020 presents some elementary changes into the current education system which mainly highlights that multidisciplinary universities and colleges, with at least one in or near every district will reform the student curriculum, pedagogy and evaluation system. Apart from this, the university or college must also help the students and researchers to enhance their experience by establishing a National Research Foundation to support high quality peer-reviewed work and successfully seed study at universities and colleges. The main problems are facing by the Indian higher education system including enforced separation of qualifications, early specialization, restricted research areas, lack of infrastructure, less focus on research at most of the universities and schools and lack of research fundings. The objective of restructuring the institutions is to end the decentralization of higher education system by transforming higher education institutions into a large multidisciplinary institution that will support to create well-rounded and creative individuals. It also aims to enhance the gross enrolment ratio in higher education from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035. Holistic and multidisciplinary education must try in a comprehensive way to upgrade the all capacities of human- mental, social, ethical, cultural, emotional, physical and moral. In the long term, such a comprehensive education system shall be the method for all undergraduate programs including medical, technical and vocational disciplines as well. Optimal learning environments provide a comprehensive approach including proper curriculum, interesting pedagogy methods, regular formative assessment and proper support for students.

### **Key features of NEP-2020 in the context of higher education**

It is expected from NEP-2020 to bring enduring and positive impact on the higher education system of the country. Under the NEP-2020, it has given that overseas universities will be permitted to open campuses in India which is really a very commendable initiative by the Indian Government. This will surely help the students to experience the world quality education in their own country. The policy of establishing interdisciplinary institutions will conduct to a resumed focus on each and every field such as science, arts, humanities and skill development courses which will help the students to grow holistically. Another positive step is to introduce the single common entrance test which will lessen the stress of passing the several competitive exams. Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) is definitely a good approach to secure the academic credits that students earn by taking courses from several recognized higher education institutes. A student can earn credits by accomplishing a course and these will be added to the ABC account. If one wants to switch the college or university then he/she can transfer his/ her credit points. If a student ever leaves the course for some reasons, these credit points will remain intact which will help him to come back and pick up from where he had left. There are a many of new changes and developments which have been introduced by NEP in the higher education sector. Some of the key features are:

1. To establish Higher Education Commission (HEC) of India which will perform the role of a single regulatory body except for legal and medical education.
2. There will be aoption of multiple exit and entry for those students who want to leave the college/ university in the middle of the course. The student is able to transfer his credits through Academic Bank of Credits if he wishes to come back.

3. Techno- based education learning system, online courses/modules, online books, e- libraries and Adult Education Centres, etc. will be established. Technology will be the part of education planning, learning, assessment, learning, school, colleges, universities and student training.
4. E-courses will be available in regional languages, starting with 8 major languages – Bengali, Odia, Kannada, Hindi and English etc.
5. Foreign universities will be allowed to open campuses in India: World’s top100 overseas universities will be encouraged to operate in India. According to the MHRD (Ministry of Human Resources and Development), “these universities will be given special relaxation in the aspect of regulatory, governance, and content norms at the same level as with other autonomous institutions of the country.”
6. A single Common entrance exam will be conducted for all the colleges/universities: The common Entrance exam for all the higher education institutions will be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).
7. A Higher Education Council of India (HECI) will be established to conduct the higher education system of the country. The council's objective will be enhancing the gross enrolment ratio. The HECI will have 4 verticals: a) National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulating the higher education system, including teacher education except medical and legal education. b) National Accreditation Council (NAC) will play the role of “meta-accrediting body”. c) Establishment of a Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) to provide funding and financing to the universities and colleges and this will take the place of the existing National Council for Teacher Education, All India Council for Technical Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC). d) General Education Council (GEC), to set "graduate attributes". This council will also take the responsibility to make a National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF).

### **Study of impact of NEP-2020 in higher education sector**

#### **1. Governing System of Higher Education:**

A most important change in NEP- 2020 is to establish a Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) as an umbrella body for whole higher education system, excluding legal and medical education. HECI is focussing at improving the higher education system of the country; the Bill will segregate the Funding and academic aspects of the higher education sector. As per this new bill, the financial powers will not be given to HECI. All the funding processes which were taken care by the University Grants Commission (UGC) will be handed over to the Ministry of Education, formerly known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). This change will aid to clear the governing mess in higher Education system of India. HECI will have four independent bodies - General Education Council (GEC) for standard-setting, National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation and Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding. A single umbrella body was very essential for maintaining the uniformity in the education system of India. However, to maintain the quality of higher education in the country, institutions must work on relevant parameters like academic excellence, research, industry collaborations and placements etc. If, the HECI can manage this whole idea to improve the higher education sector of the country then the biggest stakeholders, the youth of the country will get the benefits of this.

#### **2. Graded Accreditation and Graded Autonomy:**

“Empowerment and autonomy to innovate” is one of most significant features in NEP- 2020 which supports a “phasing out” plan from affiliated colleges to autonomous institutes. This will help in enhancing the quality in the curriculum. It also describes that with proper accreditations, autonomous degree granting Colleges or institution could emerge into teaching-intensive research-intensive Universities, if they so intend. The announcement of establishing multidisciplinary education and research Universities or institutions in the country gives more hope to us. These institutions will be equal to the existing IIMs and IITs and will focus to showcase the multidisciplinary education for the Indian students and researchers. Another very important transformation in NEP-2020 is to set up a National Testing Agency as an expert, autonomous testing body to conduct the entrance examinations for undergraduate and post-graduate admissions. This will help to each university to conduct only one common entrance exam. Consequently, it will reduce the unnecessary burden on the students to crack hundreds of exams. It will also help the students to easily transfer their degrees and credits to their desired universities or institutions.

### **3. Internationalisation in the country:**

NEP- 2020 also allows foreign universities to establish their institutions in India to enhance the quality of education provided by them. India has one of the biggest networks of higher education systems in the whole world, with more than 900 universities and 40,000 colleges. However, Gross Enrolment Ratio of India in higher education sector is only 26.3%, which is significantly very low as compared with the other BRICS countries like Brazil (50%) or China (51%), and very much lower when compared with North American and European countries which would be more than 80%. India must attain a significant growth in the arena of global higher education for getting a sustainable economic height. The reports suggest that India will need another more than 1000 new higher education institutions by 2030 to fill a huge entry of the students. For accomplishing that purpose, the Indian government wants to encourage Foreign Direct Investment(FDI) in the country and expedite the External Commercial Borrowing Avenue to vitalize the capital investment for the higher education sector. The ministry of education is also making the efforts to build up India as an education centre because already more than 7lakhs of Indian students are in foreign countries for their studies. Thus, policy intends that foreign universities came in India to open the institutions for providing world-class education at a remarkably lower cost without travelling and moving in foreign countries. Consequently, it will greatly decrease the human capital migrating to abroad for job and study purposes.

### **4. Multidisciplinary Education along with holistic development:**

It has been claimed in NEP-2020 that a holistic and multidisciplinary education will be provided to enhance all capacities of human beings – Social, moral, physical, emotional, intellectual, aesthetic etc. in an integrated manner. Such type of education will aid to grow well-balanced individual for the society who will possess all the capacities of 21st century in distinguished areas like arts, humanities, social sciences, languages, sciences, vocational, professional and technical as well. The NEP- 2020 envisages a big multidisciplinary Higher Education Institution (HEI) in each and every district by 2030. For achieving this holistic and multidisciplinary education approach, all the higher education institutions shall incorporate credit-based courses/programmes and projects in the various areas of environment education and value-based education in their curricula. Environment education will include various areas like climate change, waste management, sanitation, cleaning, biological diversity conservation, pollution, biological resources management, biodiversity, wildlife conservation, forest conservation, sustainable development

and living etc. On the other hand, Value-based education will add the development of ethical, humanistic and Constitutional human values of truth, peace, non-violence, righteous conduct, love, scientific temper, citizenship values and the involvement in community service programmes etc. Ultimately, the different opportunities such as internships with local industry, art and crafting, businesses etc. as well as research internships with researchers and scientists will be provided to the students at their own or other institutions so that students may more actively involved in practical manner of their learning for enhancing the employment skills.

## Conclusions

This NEP-2020 document introduces many transformations in the education sector of the country and possess very progressive approach in terms of future prospects. Now, India needs to be prepared for the future and the NEP- 2020 makes easy the way of many young aspiring students to be facilitated with the proper skill-sets. The NEP-2020 has a very commendable vision to transform the education sector of the country but its stability and strength will depend upon whether it is capable to integrate successfully with the other policies of government like Skill India, Digital India and the New Industrial Policy to name a few, in order to effect a systematic structural change. Thus, policy interconnections will also help to make successful this education policy. NEP-2020 has successfully provisioned for real-time evaluation system and an advisory monitoring to review the structure. NEP-2020 will surely help to improve the education system of the country and will be a remarkable achievement for the government.

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