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EVALUATION OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

INTRODUCTION

NEP 2020 is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India. The policy is drafted after consulting and availing suggestions from people in various parts of the society, gram panchayats, blocks, urban local bodies and Districts. The revised policy expands the age group of mandatory schooling from 6-14 yrs to 3-18 yrs. This new system include 3 years of Anganwady /pre-schooling along with 12yrs of schooling. This system make our country to be placed in the top three economies of the world in the next 10 yrs. NEP put forward various interventions to erase social and gender gap in the system of education prevailing in our country. This policy stresses on the 'quality education' through 'quality teachers'. In order to improve the existing teachers and to make them competent, trainings are made compulsory to teacher community. This policy eradicated the grievance of three parties related with education field - Teachers, Students and Parents.

AIM

Making India within "A global knowledge super power". Education focuses on the individual child's development and his/her relationship to society. To bring out the genius inherent in every individual and to provide an environment that facilitates personality development.

VISION

India centric 'Education system' that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high- quality education to all.

NEW CHANGES IN NEP

NEP made a drastic change in the areas of education prevailing in India. MHRD is renamed to Ministry of Education. It paves the way to the opening of Indian Higher Education to foreign universities, dismantling of the UGC and the All India Council for Technical Education. It also stresses on the introduction of a four year multi disciplinary undergraduate programme with numerous opportunities. M Phil programme is also being discontinued.

In school education, NEP proclaims – “easier” Board exams, a reduction in the syllabus to retain “core essentials” and thrust on “experiential learning and critical thinking”. We can see changes in 10 + 2 structure of school education. The new NEP pitches for a “5+3+3+4” design for the age group of 3 – 8 yrs and it is the ‘foundation stage’. ‘Preparatory stage’ include those students between the age of 8-11. The ‘middle stage’ constitute the age between 11-14. Students between the age of 14-18 belongs to ‘secondary’. This policy lead to early childhood education for children of 3 – 5 yrs of age.

The mid - day – meal programme is also made accessible to pre-school children. Mother tongue or regional language is picked as the medium of teaching for the students until Class V. The colleges and universities are also made Holistic to become multi disciplinary by 2040

MAJOR CHANGES

- 1) New system of education – 10+2 system is changed to 5+3+3+4 format.
- 2) One large multi disciplinary college in every District.
- 3) Sanskrit will be main streamed.
- 4) vocational skills to be taught.
- 5) Internship will be included from class 6.

- 6) Importance to practical assignments and skill development.
- 7) Single common Entrance Exam for all colleges.
- 8) Music ,Arts and Literature to be taught in all colleges.
- 9) No rigid separation between Arts and Science curriculum.
- 10) Academic Bank of credit to be established.
- 11) Emphasis digital learning.
- 12) IITs to follow Holistic approach.
- 13) Multiple Entry and Exit system.
- 14) M Phil to be discontinued.
- 15) Expenditure in education is changed from 4 percent to 6 percent of the total GDP.
- 16) Foreign Colleges can set up colleges in India.
- 17) India to be promoted as Foreign Study Destination.

BENEFITS OF NEP 2020

- The new NEP stresses on practical learning than rote learning.
- The students are moulded to have a scientific approach from the very young age.
- High quality Higher educational institutions capable of competing with global standard.
- Global exposure to students by the opening of foreign college campuses in our country.
- Value – based education make students more ethical and humane.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF NEP 2020

The National Education Policy – 2020 aspires to combine traditional knowledge with modern thinking and introduces vocational education from elementary schools. It emphasizes on technology in education and attempts to transform education planning, teaching and learning assessment. The policy establishes a National Education Technology Forum to advance digital learning and e-content. This need a road map to align graduates in regional languages with job opportunities

‘School readiness’ has been prioritised as the foundation of learning. But neither the Anganwady centres nor the Primary schools grant the liberty, to try new ways of learning. New schemes are essential for making real the infrastructural transformation, procedural modifications and resource allocation. NEP 2020 remodelled Higher Education in India and establish reputed universities. But the quality of education imparted remains a source of concern.

The expenditure on education is changed from four percent to six percent of the total GDP. The question is – how would the Centre raise the funds amidst an economic crisis. Will it bear the brunt of the expenditure? Will the two percent education cess be a part of the Primary budget or will it be an additional tax as conceptualized in the beginning?

Though the policy emphasises the competency of universities in global standard the baseline of plan of action is seen to forgot it. There’s no strain of financial commitments to implement the Right to Education Act. Now, only around ten percent schools meet the RTE norms.

Concern about teachers’ credibility in NEP-2020 is also highlighted . But most of the educational institutions lack infrastructure and teaching posts are still vacant. A substantial proportion of college teaching is done by ‘ad hoc’ teachers. Is it possible to make a long – term sustainable plan with scanty resources?

The NEP aims to create a knowledge economy. A knowledge – based economy requires it’s pupils to develop a combination of skills and prioritizes scientific temperament to enhance employment opportunities.

The policy has opened the doors for foreign universities to have campuses in India. Will they provide reservation to economically poor students? Can NEP 2020 motivate students to study in India instead of going abroad?

Common entrance exams for universities, reforms in the school examination system and mother – tongue based primary education are welcoming steps but, we should think of enhancing quality education in secondary level. The policy recommends the discontinuation of M Phil course. What will happen to

the students pursuing this degree?

CONCLUSION

The historic Universal Declaration of Human rights, adopted at the UN General Assembly in 1948, declared that “everyone has the right to education”. Article 26 in the Declaration stated that “education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages” and “elementary education shall be compulsory”, that ‘education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms’. The classrooms and learning processes won’t be the same in a post- covid world. A budgetary provision is a must to address the challenges that students going to face in the coming months. Corruption in the education sector and the lack of financial support are the major constraints for policy implementation.

We must have an outstanding teacher preparation and recruitment system as well as teacher training institutes. The future of NEP – 2020 depends on the political will and the system to welcome ‘quality’ human resources. Let the ‘merits be the focal point to reconstruct Indian Education. Dreams of sustainable education make INDIA UNIQUE in world.

