IMPACT OF NEP-2020 ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract: Education is the backbone of every country. The development of the nation depends upon how much educated is the population of that nation. So, to make education available to all in a specific way a proper framework governed with rules and regulations is required. In India, National Education Policy is formed to regulate educational framework. The first NEP was formulated in 1968 after that two amendments have been made first in 1986 and then in 2020. NEP 2020 is the latest policy of education given by K Kasturirangan on 29th July 2020. NEP 2020 is the most comprehensive policy which discusses about the insufficiencies of prior policy. It aims at imparting quality education to all. NEP 2020 focuses on both holistic and multi-disciplinary school as well as higher education. The target is to reduce dropouts and bring equality among all students by 2030. Through this paper, we will discuss the highlights and positive and negative impact of an NEP 2020 on higher education. Although the policy looks very promising, but the time will prove if it becomes a success or not.

Index Terms - NEP 2020, Highlights, Higher Education, GER, Impact of NEP 2020

INTRODUCTION

After the 76 years of independence, the aim of 100% literacy is still underdeveloped. The few policies were formed to achieve success in education sector. A new education policy, named National Education Policy (NEP- 2020) is introduced by a committee led by Dr K Kasturirangan during the pandemic year of lock down when we experimented the new online system of education. This policy ratifies several changes in the National Education Policy -1986. The policy presents the various frameworks for primary education, secondary education and the higher education. To enhance the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education from 26.3 percent to 50 percent by 2035 is the fundamental purpose of National Education Policy 2020. The single over asking umbrella regulator body named Higher Education commission of India (HECI), will be established for the Indian higher education system which will work on four independent verticals to perform the functions of regulation, funding, accreditation and to set standards for the learning outcomes. HCEI will replace the regulatory bodies of Higher Education like the AICTE and UGC.

Objectives

• To discuss the highlights of NEP 2020 with reference to higher education.
• To study the impact of NEP 2020 on the higher education in India.

Methodology

This paper is based on the descriptive method of research. Online data has been used to study the influence of NEP 2020 in higher education. Official draft of National Education Policy and various websites have been used to complete the research work.

Highlights of NEP 2020 in context of Higher Education

★ Internationalisation of Higher Education is proposed through the NEP 2020. World's top universities will be given opportunity to establish their campus in India.

★ Access to equity and inclusion will be achieved by focusing on the online education and open distance learning.

★ Holistic and multi-disciplinary education will be promoted in institutions of higher learning to develop the aesthetic, communal, physical, emotional, intellectual and moral capabilities of students.

★ Various bodies are recommended for the promotion and preservation of Indian languages such as National Institution for Pali, Persian etc.

★ Establishment of a National Research Foundation is proposed to involve universities and colleges in research through funding and mentoring.

★ 4 years undergraduate degree programs with multiple entry and exit options and appropriate certification at different stages.

★ To increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education including vocational education, from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% by 2035, is the purpose of NEP 2020.To increase the number of seats by 3.5 crore in higher education institutions is also the target of NEP- 2020.

★Establishment of Academic Bank of credits to e-store, transfer and counter the academic credits earned by the students from different higher educational institutions towards a final degree.

★ The same set of rules will be implemented in the government and private higher education institutions for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.

★The structure of 'Affiliated Colleges' will be eliminated gradually in fifteen years and graded autonomy will be established by following the step wise procedure with the NCERT.

Old Education Policy versus New Education Policy

Mandatory schooling age 3-14 years	Mandatory schooling age 3-18 years
Curriculum structure :10+2	Curriculum structure :5+3+3+4
UGC, AICTE, NCTE Wardha regulators of Higher Education.	HECI is the single regulator body for Higher Education.
No degree or certificate if final year is not completed.	No more college dropouts. Students will get certificate /degree after each year of competition.
Lack of regional language e-content.	E- content in total eight languages.
Gross enrollment ratio 26.3% (2018)	Gross enrollment ratio 50% (2035)

Positive Impact of NEP - 2020 on Higher Education

Elasticity in learning

NEP- 2020 provides students with various entry and exit points which is its prominent feature. The students who cannot complete their course due to job exploration or financial circumstances will have opportunity to join back their course based on their situation. The students under NEP 2020 will be awarded certificate for one year, diploma for 2 years, and degree for 3 years and or research degree on the completion of full 4 years course.

Focus on Research

The approvement of National Research Foundation Bill, 2023 in the parliament has cleared the way to formulate the National Research Foundation (NRF) which will be helpful to foster the research culture among the students. Multi disciplinary education and research universities (MERUs) will be founded for the enhancement of quality and capacity of scholastic research.

Internationalisation

Each higher education institution will set up an international students office to support the students arriving from other countries. Indian institutions' MOU with foreign universities will be beneficial for the research students. Establishment of foreign institutions in India will help the students to enhance their various research and vocational skills.

Single Regulatory Body

HECI is a fundamental governing reform envisioned in NEP- 2020 in which it is said that "the regulatory system is in need of a complete overhaul in order to re-energise the higher education sector and enable it to thrive".

The thought of single regulatory body came from repeal of university grant mission act. HECI is a combination of four different verticals respectively named National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC), National Accreditation Council (NAC), Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) and General Education Council (GEC). These verticals function differently in their respective areas and help in funding and framing of learning outcomes in higher education.

Financial Support to Students

Various incentives and scholarships for the merit students of SC, SC, OBC categories will be provided to assist them in the field of education. Students will be able to track their scholarship for progress with the help of National Scholarship Portal.

Digitalisation

New initiatives are the need of modern educational structure. National Education Policy 2020 recognises the importance and advantages of technology. Among several educational reforms envisioned in the National Education Policy 2020, establishing a digital University named National Digital University to provide students with a "world class universal education with personalised experience in multiple languages at their door steps" is crucial. This initiative facilitates the realisation of access, equity and quality which are NEP's thrust areas. To provide the quality education to the poor and rural students at their doorsteps, National Digital University consolidates the existing potentials as a Swayam, e-PG pathshala, NDL and virtual labs.

Negative Impact of National Education Policy (NEP 2020)

Implementation

It has been 3 years since NEP 2020 is introduced in India. It is still not adopted by all states. Karnataka was the first state to adopt this policy in 2021.But after its implementation Karnataka has decided to withdraw NEP 2020 in upcoming session of 2024 and put into effect their state policy.

Lack of Funds

The recommendation to spend 6% of GDP on education was proposed by the Education commission in 1966. But it could not be implemented due to limited budget of the government. And NEP 2020 again talks about giving 6% of GDP for education. It seems difficult to implement it as we couldn't pull off this recommendation since last 50 years.

Establishment of New Institutions

One of the primary goals of NEP-2020 is to double the Gross Enrollment Ratio in the sector of higher education by 2035.It means that to open one new university every week is the target of this policy. But the economy of our country does not allow us to open a new university weekly.

Language Gap between Learners

It seems that language is a negative factor in NEP 2020. Indian education system is suffering from the student teacher ratio. Introduction of mother language in the classes will be a critical problem for the Teachers in arranging and teaching the material in mother tongue because there are 22 languages in India and no single National language as other countries like France, China and Germany etc.

Another critical impact of national education policy is on the learners. It will increase the difference between the students of Government and private schools. In the Government schools will impart education in their respective regional language and the private schools will introduce the English language in their early classes. The pupils of public schools will be left behind in learning English language from the students of private schools. Therefore, it will increase the competition among the students in higher education.

Three Language Policy

New Education Policy 2020 focuses on Sanskrit and other Indian languages in NEP 2020 which is called as mainstreaming Sanskrit language.

This is an attempt on balant saffronisation of education in the country. There are states which are doing exceptionally well with the two language policy, State official language and English. How do we expect a 3-year old to study three languages? Also, there is another clause in the 3-language policy, which is two of the three languages have to be Indian languages. Now, if one language will be the State official language and another is English language, the third language is an easy guess. Do you think each state and every government school will have teachers for the language of students' choice or will they have Hindi or Sanskrit teachers, thereby systematically imposing Hindi and Sanskrit on the whole nation through this NEP 2020 education policy.

Conclusion

It has been 3 years since the introduction of NEP 2020. The policy is framed with a wide vision to transform the current situation of education in India. It has given us the solutions to the problems and insufficiencies which our current education system was going through. Due to defects and limitations of current policy the literacy rate and GER was being affected. This new policy of 2022 has targeted such problems by making education more inclusive, equitable and holistic.NEP 2020 is yet to be adopted throughout India by every state. Everything has its positive as well as negative impacts. But the success depends on how much powerful the positive impacts are. NEP 2020 will be a success or not can't be estimated yet as it isn't adopted all over India. It depends upon time if this policy will achieve its targets by the time limit bound or not. The true success of NEP 2020 will be no further amendment requirement in our educational policy.

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