FEATURES AND CHA LLENGES OF NEP 2020

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Abstract: The National Education Policy 2020, which is a transparent attempt to create an efficient, effective, and values-based education system in India based on as much facts and information as possible, was adopted by the Indian Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020.. It promotes a five plus three plus three plus four school structure, stresses mother language education, and proposes a Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). Holistic, multidisciplinary learning and continued teacher improvement are at the core of this policy. In this article we will focus on the important features and challenges brought to us by NEP 2020.

Index Terms – Holistic Learning, Interdisciplinary studies, inclusiveness, Technology Integration, Vocational education.

I. INTRODUCTION

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was a revolutionary framework adopted by the Indian Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020, which was primarily formed with the aim of restructuring the Indian educational system through multidisciplinary learning. This policy calls for the establishment of the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) in order to oversee the field and promote mother-language education. Using interdisciplinary studies and a reduced curriculum, the National Education Policy 2020 targets enhancing the psychological and analytical abilities of respective students. This policy by 2035, aims to achieve a 50% gross enrollment ratio (GER) in higher education and childhood high-quality education by 2030. The importance of research, teacher training programs, and innovations was highlighted, and it strongly recommends the creation of a National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) and a National Research Foundation (NRF) to ensure that the classroom will be equipped with modern educational technology. Equality and inclusiveness are given top priority, as seen by initiatives like scholarships, special education zones, and a gender inclusion fund. Vocational education is also highlighted in order to achieve the goal, i.e., by 2025, at least half of all students studying under NEP 2020 should have received vocational training. Reducing the rote learning policy advocated for a modernized assessment process in order to promote more comprehensive and competency-based evaluation. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a great attempt to make a flexible and inclusive education system with a focus on establishing a 21st century educational framework to enhance India's educational standard and building highly skilled and knowledgeable students absolutely ready for any employment opportunity.

2. FEATURES AND CHALLENGES OF NEP 2020

One of the most notable developments brought about by NEP 2020 is its priority towards the curriculum and methods of teaching. The strategy promotes the development of reasonable, and psychological abilities as the primary emphasis of an extensive approach to education. By simplifying the curriculum, it makes sure that students are not overburdened and are able to entirely concentrate on specific concepts. In higher education it encourages interdisciplinary study, dissolving the traditional boundaries between the disciples of commerce, science, and the arts. As a result, promoting a more holistic learning experience for the students. The NEP 2020 seeks to deliver great early childhood education to everyone by 2030, including competency in reading and basic arithmetic by 2025. The policy prioritizes teacher training and experience, maintaining high standards in the teaching profession.

By 2035, NEP 2020 wants the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education to reach 50%. A Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) is suggested to be established in order to supervise the whole higher education industry. It highlights the importance of prioritizing research and innovation where the National Research Foundation (NRF) aims to encourage a thriving research atmosphere that enhances the various fields of study.

A major part of NEP 2020 is technology integration; the strategy sought for the widespread use of technology in government, administration, education, and learning. A National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) is recommended for better integration. The policy highlights the value of digital and online education especially due to the situation of education in the country during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy wants to increase accessibility and inclusiveness of education by encouraging the creation of digital infrastructure and e-content.

The NEP 2020 emphasized inclusiveness and equality. There are measures listed to guarantee that pupils, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds and excluded segments of society, have equitable access to education. Scholarships, special education zones and involvement of children with disabilities are some of the major steps in this direction. Additionally suggested is the establishment of a Gender Inclusion Fund to guarantee that every girl gets a top-notch education. Goal was set to ensure that at least half of the students have the opportunity to experience vocational education by the year 2025. Moreover, it aims to incorporate vocational education into the regular curriculum right from a young age. Emphasizing skill development is crucial to prepare students for jobs and meet the demands of the evolving job market. Through the promotion of an environment that values practical learning, NEP 2020 seeks to provide students the abilities required for a range of careers.

NEP 2020 gives significant importance on implementing changes to testing and assessment methods. The policy suggests replacing more comprehensive, formative, and competency-based examinations with more conventional rote learning-based ones. With this method, a more thorough knowledge of a student's skills and learning development is sought to be provided. The report also suggests offering model board

tests twice a year for students to try, on a modular basis, and in this way reduce the stakes associated with them. The aim here is both to encourage more equitable assessment and to reduce the stress associated with exams.

CONCLUSION

National Education Policy 2020 sets a transformative agenda for the Indian educational structure. With a concern of preschool learning, educator preparation, technology, equality, job-based learning, and examination changes, NEP 2020 aims at fashioning a more elastic, universal, 21st century-oriented education framework. The successful adoption of this policy would help to advance India's educational level and equip learners for better employment opportunities.

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