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COMPARISON OF NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY 2020 AND NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION 1986

BASANTI MAHANTA

Research Scholar, Department of Education
University of Kalyani, Kalyani, Nadia
Kalyani, West Bengal, India

ABSTRACTS:

The NEP 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020. The Ministry of Human Resource Development formed a committee headed by former ISRO Chairman Dr. K Kasturirangan, who outlined the vision of India's new education system. The New Education Policy addresses challenges the current education system faces such as Quality, Affordability, Equity, Access, and Accountability. NEP 2020 envisions an India-centric education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant society filled with knowledge and by providing high-quality education to all. The National Policy on Education (NPE) is a policy formulated by the Government of India to promote and regulate education in India. The policy covers elementary education to higher education in both rural and urban India. NPE 1986 was promulgated by the Government of India by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This article emphasizes the major differences between the current education policy i.e., the New Education Policy of 2020 and the New Policy on Education 1986. An attempt had been also made to figure out the challenges in the existing policy that led to the emergence of NEP 2020. The data has been collected through various sources, i.e., journals, reports, print media, and other government websites. This article is purely based on secondary data. Though NEP 2020 has new targets to be achieved by 2035, nevertheless it has its own merits and limitations the efforts have been made to highlight them. As NEP 2020 is one of the most promising policies introduced, the question relies on to what extent the policy's objectives will be achieved.

Keywords: Education policy, Development, Higher education, Comparison, Teachers, Drawbacks, Challenges.

INTRODUCTION:

Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development. Providing universal access to quality education is the key to India's continued ascent and leadership on the global stage in terms of economic growth, social justice and equality, scientific advancement, national integration, and cultural preservation as mentioned in Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties. India's previous Education Policy was passed and implemented in 1986. After thirty-four years, the National Education Policy (NEP) for India has been updated, revised, and approved on 29 July 2020. The policy signifies a huge milestone for India's Education System, which will certainly make India an attractive destination for higher education worldwide. The policy is based on the pillars of "Access, Equity, Quality, and Affordability & Accountability" and will transform India into a vibrant knowledge hub. NEP 2020 emphasizes systematic and institutional improvements to regulate govern and promote multidisciplinary academic and research in Indian HEIs. NEP 2020 has marked an epoch of development in the educational landscape of India. The policy envisions an Indian-centred education system

compatible to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society. Remarkably, the thrust area of the new education policy is to make the education system well-resourced and multidisciplinary by consolidating multiple educational institutions and disciplines which constantly strive to deliver the needs.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The NEP 2020 has many initiatives to improve the quality and the broadness of the education system in India. The objectives of this study are:

- To Highlight Salient Features of NPE 1986
- To Highlight Salient Features of NEP 2020
- To Compare NEP 1986 with NEP 2020 in India

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The article is based on secondary data collected from various journals, newspapers, and websites. The methodology consists of a conceptual discussion on the highlights of the NEP 2020 and NPE 1986. The focus of this article is the comparison of NPE 1986 with the current educational policy of India NEP 2020.

OBJECTIVE NO- 01: TO HIGHLIGHT SALIENT FEATURES OF NPE 1986

The Government of India reviewed the prevailing education system in 1985 and the policy was articulated in the document “Challenge of Education: A Policy Perspective”. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi introduced the National Policy on Education in May 1986. The new education policy was intended to prepare India for the 21st century.

1. Access, Enrolment, and Retention of all children up to the age of 14 years in the schools
2. Quality improvement of education by improving the school environment, child-centered and activity-centered teaching methodology, continuous evaluation throughout the year, removal of all kinds of physical punishment, continuing the practice of not failing the students in any class at the elementary level, and arranging the essential facilities in primary schools
3. Setting up of Navodaya Vidyalaya was another landmark in the history of education
4. The policy emphasized on inclusion of motor-handicapped children in normal schools and the arrangement of special schools at district headquarters.
5. NPE 1986 proposed a national system of education based on the accepted structure of 10+2+3.
6. primary schools be opened in remote areas including ashrams or residential schools in tribal regions.
7. Arranging non-formal education for children, who left the schools, in between, or are residing at places not having schools
8. It suggested that the +2 stage be accepted as part of school education throughout the country.
9. It also extended the open university system with the inauguration of the Indira Gandhi National Open University in 1985
10. emphasized adult education and the development of new schools and universities.
11. reorientation of the system to promote gender equality, employment of teachers from oppressed groups, and disabled persons
12. The NPE and POA elaborately discussed the concept of language development and emphasized the adoption of regional languages as the medium of instruction at the university stage. The mother tongue should be the medium of instruction at the school stage
13. Selected Secondary Teacher Education Institutes should be upgraded to complement the work of the State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)
14. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) should be provided with the necessary resources and capability to accredit institutions of teacher education and to provide guidance regarding curricula and methods
15. District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET) need to be established with the capability to organize pre-service and in-service courses for elementary school teachers and non-formal and adult education
16. Equal educational opportunities especially for women and reserved communities

17. From expanding scholarships to recruiting more teachers from the reserved categories and incentives for poor families to send their children to school regularly
18. The Policy had some important features like common school curriculum, minimum levels of learning, value education, the role of media and education technology, work experience, emphasis on teaching Mathematics and Science, Sports, and Physical Education

OBJECTIVE NO- 02: TO HIGHLIGHT SALIENT FEATURES OF NEP 2020

The National Education Policy 2020 proposes various reforms in school education as well as higher education including technical education. Several action points/activities for implementation in school education as well as higher education are mentioned in the National Education Policy 2020. Details of the salient features of NEP 2020 are as follows-

1. Ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12
2. Ensuring quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years
3. New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4)
4. No hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams
5. Emphasis on promoting multilingualism and Indian languages; The medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language.
6. Assessment reforms - Board Exams on up to two occasions during any given school year, one main examination and one for improvement
7. Establishing National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
8. Equitable and inclusive education - Special emphasis is given to Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SDGs)
9. Robust and transparent processes for recruitment of teachers and merit-based performance
10. Setting up of a new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)
11. Setting up of State School Standards Authority (SSSA)
12. Exposure to vocational education in school and higher education system
13. Increasing GER in higher education to 50%
14. Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education with multiple entry/exit options
15. Establishment of Academic Bank of Credit
16. Setting up of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) and National Research Foundation (NRF)
17. A separate Gender Inclusion fund and Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups
18. NTA to offer Common Entrance Exam for Admission to HEIs
19. Expansion of open and distance learning to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)
20. The Centre and the States will work together to increase public investment in the Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest
21. Single overarching umbrella body for the promotion of the higher education sector including teacher education and excluding medical and legal education- the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)-with independent bodies for standard setting- the General Education Council; funding-Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC); accreditation- National Accreditation Council (NAC); and regulation- National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC)
22. Professional Education will be an integral part of the higher education system creation of an autonomous body
23. National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, and administration
24. Strengthening of the Central Advisory Board of Education to ensure coordination to bring overall focus on quality education

OBJECTIVE NO- 03: COMPARISON BETWEEN NEP 2020 & NPE 1986

DIMENSIONS	NEP 2020	NPE 1986	ANALYSIS OF COMPARISONS
Released By	Ministry of Human Resource Development	Govt of India, Ministry of Education	NEP 2020 which was started by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020, outlines the vision of the new education system of India. But NPE 1986 was formulated by govt. of India to promote and regulate education in India
GER Ratio	Gross Enrolment Ratio -50% (2035)	Gross Enrolment Ratio- 26.3% (2018)	NEP 2020 targets 50% GER in school education in the next 10 years and also envisions universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level. But NPE 1986 targets 26.3% in higher education on 2018
Academic Structure	5+3+3+4 format	10+2 format	NEP 2020 declared a 5+3+3+4 structure which has a strong base of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) from age 3 is included, which is aimed at promoting better overall learning, development, and well-being. But NPE 1986 declared a 10+2+3 structure which made that the primary stage should consist of 5years and 3 years of upper primary followed by 2years of high school, efforts will also be made to have the +2-stage accepted as a part of school education throughout the country
Age Break	Break-up of age: 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, 14-18	The break-up of age: 6-16, 16-18	NEP 2020 announced 4stages like- Foundational stage (Ages 3 to 8 years), Preparatory stage (Ages 8 to 11 years), Middle Stage (Ages 11 to 14 years) & Secondary stage (Ages 14 to 18 years). But NPE 1986 envisages a common educational structure where the first 10 years followed school education, the next 2 years followed higher secondary education & next 3 years followed university education
Languages	3 language- by state, region, and choice of student	3 languages- Hindi, English, and the regional	NEP 2020 recommended 3 language formulas, first- Mother tongue or regional language, second- in Hindi-speaking states, it will be other modern Indian languages or English, third- in Hindi-speaking states, it will be English or a modern Indian language. But NPE 1986 states 3 Language formula that schools must teach Hindi, English, and One modern Indian Language
Stream Separation	No hard separation between Art, Commerce, and Science. All will be mixed with the curriculum	Hard separation- Art, Commerce, Science	NEP 2020 declared there will be no rigid separation between Arts and Science streams and curricular and extra-curricular activities in school education and higher education, it will now follow a multi-disciplinary approach. But NPE 1986 announced a hard separation between Art, Science & Commerce
Board Exam	Based on core competencies students are allowed to take the exam twice a year	Based on memorizing, facts used to be held once a year	NEP 2020 announced the board exam will be made 'easier', class 10 and 12 board exams will test primarily core capacities, and competencies rather than memorization. But the NPE 1986 board exam is based on memorizing and adapting to continuous evaluation and grading system
	School education would be 12 years of schooling with 3 years of	The elementary system comprising 5years of	NEP 2020 declared School education would be 12 years of schooling with 3 years of Anganwadi. But NPE 1986 announced an Elementary system

School Education	Anganwadi/pre-primary	primary and 3 years of upper primary and 2 years of high school education	comprising 5 years of primary and 3 years of upper primary and 2 years of high school education.
Report Card	Report card to have reviewed by teachers, peers, and students	Report card to have reviewed by teachers	NEP 2020 redesigned report cards will be a holistic, 360-degree, multidimensional report that reflects in great detail the progress and the uniqueness of each learner in cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. The progress report will include self-assessment, peer assessment, and teacher assessment. But in NPE 1986, report cards were only reviewed by teachers.
Percent of GDP	Education sector to get 6% of the GDP	Education sector to get 4.5% of the GDP	NEP 2020 has set the target to increase public investment in the education sector to reach 6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at the earliest. But NPE 1986 declared education sector gets 4.5% of the GDP
E-Courses	E-courses will be developed in regional languages and virtual labs will be developed and a National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) is being created	Introduction of elective computer-science courses at a higher-secondary level during the 7th Plan	NEP 2020 emphasized the usage of technology in education. E-content will be developed in eight regional languages - Tamil, Telegu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali, and Oriya. But NPE 1986 Integration of computer-education modules in professional and general education courses at the first-degree level and provision of computer facilities in these institutions initiated in the 7th Plan to be completed by 1995
PTR	A pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) of under 30:1 will be ensured at the level of each school,	At the primary level the PTR should be 30:1 and at the upper primary level it should be 35:1	NEP 2020 says Not more than 30 students in a class. areas having large numbers of socio-economically disadvantaged students will aim for a PTR of under 25:1. But NPE 1986 declared at the primary level the PTR should be 30:1 but upper primary level it should be 35:1.
Test Conducted by	National Testing Agency (NTA)- It will conduct aptitude tests and exams in the science, humanities, languages, arts, and vocational subjects,	A National Examination Reform Framework would be prepared to serve as a set of guidelines to the examining bodies which would have the freedom to innovate and adapt the framework to suit the specific situations	NEP 2020 announced that National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct one common entrance exam for admissions to all the universities and colleges for undergraduate degrees. But NPE 1986 to formulate a national examination reform work the Department of Education would, inter-alia, constitute an inter-institutional Committee with representations from UGC, NCERT, AICTE, and state-level organizations including the Board of Secondary Education.

Credit Scoring	Multiple entry and exit options for incomplete courses. Their credits will be transferred through Academic Bank Credits (ABC)	Nothing said about Credit Scoring	NEP 2020 declared ABC is a virtual storehouse that contains information on the credits earned by individual students throughout their learning journey, it will enable students to open their accounts and give multiple options for entering and leaving colleges or universities. But the NPE 1986 does not say about credit scoring.
Aims of Higher Education	It aims at building the overall personality of students by strengthening infrastructure for open and distance learning, and online education and increasing the use of technology in education	The main objective of the National Policy of Education of 1986 and Programme of Action, of 1992 was to establish a national system of education that implies that all students irrespective of caste; creed, sex, and religion have access to education of comparable quality	The NEP 2020 calls for key reforms in both school and higher education that prepare the next generation to thrive and compete in the new digital age. Thus, there is much emphasis on multidisciplinary, digital literacy, written communication, problem-solving, logical reasoning, and vocational exposure in the document. But the NPE 1986 recommends that the institutions of national importance like UGC, NCERT, NIEPA, AICTE, ICAR, IMC, etc. will be strengthened to enable them to give shape to the national system of education and to cope with the emerging demands of the nation
MPhil Degree	New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government has advised that the MPhil program should be discontinued.	First M.Phil., then Doctorate could be pursued	NEP 2020 declared The MPhil program is discontinued for the more research-oriented undergraduate and master's degrees and also said A doctorate can be pursued after a Master's. But NPE 1986 recommendations MPhil is a short-term research degree for students, which provides them exposure to research work and more options for advanced academic work
Controlling Authority	Controlling Authority- HECI (Higher Education Commission of India) except Medical and Legal. Divided into 4 parts: National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting, Higher Education Grant's Council (HEGC) for funding and National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation	Controlling Authority- UGC, AICTE (Technical), ICAR (Agriculture), BCI (Legal), CCIM (Medical), ICAI, ICSI, CBSE, NCERT, etc.	NEP 2020 announced controlling authorities like- HECI, NHERC, GEC, HEGC, and NAC. But NEP-1986 declared about controlling authorities like- UGC, ICAR, BCI, CCIM, CBSE, and NCERT

<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>Strong and innovative government initiatives for adult education - in particular, to facilitate community involvement and the smooth and beneficial integration of technology</p>	<p>NPE envisages that adult education would be a means for reducing economic, social, and gender disparities. The principal aim of the new National Programme of Adult Education (NPAE) is to provide education including literacy, to the population in the 15-35 age group, which numbers about 100 million</p>	<p>NEP 2020 has recommended taking up five components of Adult Education- (a) foundational literacy and numeracy (b) critical life skills (c) vocational skills development (d) basic education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency); and (e) continuing education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports). But NPE 1986 declared Adult education to be the application of science & technology and pedagogical research for improving the pace and environment of learning and Establishing a linkage between adult education and the developmental programs</p>
<p>Vocational Education</p>	<p>According to NEP 2020, by 2025, at least 50% of learners shall have vocational exposure through school and higher education. Every child is supposed to learn at least one vocation and be exposed to several more</p>	<p>Vocational Education has received a top priority in the NPE 1986, Vocational education will be a distant stream that intends to prepare children for different occupations across various areas of activity.</p>	<p>The NEP 2020 stated that there will be ‘no hard separation’ between the ‘vocational and academic streams. Universal access to all children of the country to quality holistic education - including vocational education - from preschool to Grade XII will be ensured while allowing for flexibility and choice of subjects. A National Committee for Integration of Vocational Education (NCIVE) consisting of experts in vocational education and representatives from across Ministries, in collaboration with industry, will oversee the efforts of the implementation of VET. But NPE 1986 said about Vocational Education At the primary stage of education from class 1 to 5 Socially Useful Productive Work (SUPW) and at the higher secondary stage are to be regarded not as a preparation for college, but as a period for preparing an increasingly large number of school-leavers for different vocations in life</p>
<p>Curriculum</p>	<p>New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure: With an emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education, Accreditation norms are to be made to categorize the autonomous colleges and universities into- Research oriented and Teaching</p>	<p>The curriculum was designed by Curriculum Development Centres (CDCs), and various CDCs were to be set up to foster the needs of specialization and application-oriented study</p>	<p>The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) aims to devise four National Curriculum Frameworks (NCFs), for which a comprehensive strategy has been worked out jointly by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). But NPE-1986 emphasized early childhood education, strategies that involved total development of the child, i.e. physical, motor, cognitive, language, emotional, social, and moral, essential for children below the age of 6 years</p>

	oriented based on their curriculum		
Teachers Training	4-yr., 2-yr., and 1-yr. B.Ed. programs to be provided by all HEIs based on the no. of years the candidate has taken up under graduation	Policies were made for the training of teachers for all levels from elementary schooling to higher education	In NEP 2020, The Government directly takes an active initiative in creating an integrated B.Ed. the program takes four academic years to complete. National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) supervises teacher training in this regard and promotes B.A. – B.Ed. a scheme that helps future teachers achieve their maximum potential. NPE 1986 Declared The existing program for teacher educators will be suitably modified considering the present-day training needs. The induction and continuing training programs for the DIETs/CTEs/SCERTs faculty will be designed and implemented by the NCERT, NIEPA

CONCLUSION:

It is concluded that the Indian government has formulated educational policies regularly to ensure that the Indian education system is of high quality and internationally recognized. The two previous national educational policies have helped to develop India's educational system, and the action plan for the third national educational policy is one of the platforms that will be used. The policy's results will be evaluated using the outcomes of the current national education policy's action plan. If this policy focuses on the root causes of the issues and difficulties it faces, it will be effective.

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