

National Education Policy 2020 Ensuring Equitable, Accessible and Inclusive Higher Education in India

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Abstract

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) is an inclusive framework for the development of education in India, including the higher education sector. While the NEP 2020 has set a roadmap for the transformation of higher education, its implementation is a complex and challenging process that requires significant resources and collaboration between stakeholders. The implementation of NEP 2020 in higher education institutions in India has highlighted some of the key challenges and opportunities. This study is based on descriptive research passed on past studies done. Some studies have found that the implementation of the policy is hindered by the lack of resources, infrastructure, and trained faculty. They have also highlighted the need for greater collaboration between government, industry, and academia to ensure the success of the policy. Other studies have highlighted the potential opportunities that the NEP 2020 offers for the transformation of higher education. These studies have emphasized the need to promote multidisciplinary education, research, and innovation, as well as the need to establish a single regulator for higher education. They have also highlighted the importance of internationalization of higher education, vocational education, and community colleges. The implementation of NEP 2020 in higher education institutions in India highlights the need for a collaborative effort to overcome the challenges and leverage the opportunities offered by the policy. The successful implementation of NEP 2020 in higher education institutions in India will require significant investments in infrastructure, faculty development, and research funding.

Keywords: [NEP 2020, Higher Education Institutions, Inclusive Education, Multidisciplinary, Research culture].

A Introduction to NEP 2020

The National Education Policy 2020 is a comprehensive framework for the development of education in India. It was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2020 and replaces the National Policy on Education, 1986. The new policy aims to transform the education system and make it more inclusive, flexible, and holistic.

Some key highlights of the policy are:

1. The policy aims to achieve 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio in school education by 2030.
2. The policy advocates for a flexible and multi-disciplinary curriculum, allowing students to choose subjects across disciplines.
3. The policy aims to establish a National Education Technology Forum to promote the integration of technology in education.
4. The policy emphasizes the importance of early childhood care and education and proposes the establishment of a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education.
5. The policy emphasizes the importance of vocational education and training and proposes the establishment of a National Skills Qualification Framework.
6. The policy proposes the establishment of a new apex body for higher education called the Higher Education Commission of India.
7. The policy also emphasizes the need to promote research and innovation in education and proposes the establishment of a National Research Foundation.

8. The National Education Policy 2020 has received widespread support from educationists, policymakers, and stakeholders in the education sector. However, its implementation will require significant changes in the education system and the allocation of resources to support these changes.

NEP 2020 and Higher Education in India

The National Education Policy 2020 lays down a roadmap for the revolution of higher education in India. Some of the key highlights of the policy related to higher education are:

1. The establishment of a single regulator for higher education called the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC). The HECI will focus on promoting academic quality, accreditation, and funding of universities and colleges.
2. The policy emphasizes the need to promote multidisciplinary education and research. It proposes the establishment of research universities, which will offer undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD programs across multiple disciplines.
3. The policy recommends the establishment of National Research Foundation (NRF), which will fund research in all disciplines, including social sciences, humanities, and sciences. The NRF will have a budget of Rs. 20,000 crores over the next five years.
4. The policy advocates for the establishment of a credit-based system for higher education, which

will allow students to take courses across multiple disciplines and accumulate credits.

5. The policy emphasizes the importance of internationalization of higher education and proposes the establishment of a National Education Exchange Program (NEEP) to facilitate student and faculty exchange programs.
6. The policy recommends the establishment of community colleges and vocational education institutions to provide skills-based education and training.

Overall, the National Education Policy 2020 aims to promote quality education and research in higher education institutions in India. It recognizes the need to promote multidisciplinary education, research, and innovation to make Indian higher education globally competitive. The implementation of the policy will require significant investments in infrastructure, faculty development, and research funding, and collaboration between government, industry, and academia.

The National Education Policy 2020 has set a roadmap for the transformation of higher education in India. The policy's vision is to make India a global knowledge superpower by promoting multidisciplinary education, research, and innovation. The implementation of the policy will require significant investments in infrastructure, faculty development, and research funding.

Potential future outcomes of the NEP 2020 on higher education in India

Multidisciplinary education and research: The NEP 2020 promotes multidisciplinary education and research, which will enable students to take courses across multiple disciplines and acquire a broader skill set. This will help students to develop a well-rounded perspective and prepare them for the complex challenges of the future.

Focus on research and innovation: The establishment of the National Research Foundation and research universities will boost research and innovation in India. This will help to create a vibrant research ecosystem, which will attract top talent, foster collaboration, and promote the development of new technologies.

Internationalization of higher education: The NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of internationalization of higher education and proposes the establishment of the National Education Exchange Program to facilitate student and faculty exchange programs. This will enable Indian students and faculty to gain exposure to global best practices, develop cross-cultural skills, and promote collaboration between institutions across the

world.

Skills-based education: The policy recommends the establishment of community colleges and vocational education institutions to provide skills-based education and training. This will help to address the skill gap in the Indian economy and prepare students for jobs that require specific skills.

Conclusions

With the introduction of NEP 2020, many changes have been made. The essence of this policy is the introduction of the multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary, and trans-disciplinary approaches to humanise the education with an emphasis on humanities-related subjects. Now, even a student taking a professional degree can learn some subjects of humanities, this freedom was not available in earlier policies. Besides, this policy has got an emphasis on vocational skills to meet the growing employment needs as also the focus on employability through skilling. The present policy is considering the training of teachers as an important ingredient. Along with flexibility there are some drawbacks in the new education policy, the merits are more in number. It is believed by many that by implementing these changes, the Indian academic system will be taken a step higher it will revolutionize the education scenario in the coming future and will make India a superpower in the years to come.

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