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**CRYSTALLIZED MODE OF A NEW HORIZON: NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY  
2020**

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**Abstract**

Education plays an extremely significant role when it comes to building a nation and deciding its betterment. The growth and development are highly impacted and hence a well-defined and futuristic education policy is extremely essential for the nation at all levels, especially in schools and colleges. We can completely compare the growth of India before its independence and after its independence keeping in mind, the traditions and culture of each country's different education policies are defined. Recently the Indian government has announced the new educational policy, 'NEP 2020- National Educational Policy 2020' which has many reforms as compared to the previous ones. This chapter deals with the overview, objectives, salient features, and also its beneficial contribution to society.

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**Keywords:** National Education Policy 2020, Education, Future of Indian education, growth, features, government

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**Introduction**

Our country India is well appreciated and regarded for its education right from ancient times. India had a completely different education system before independence which was also known as Gurukuls but as India attained independence there were several reforms put forward and the first education policy was designed and put forward in 1968 followed 1986 which had a minor amendment in 1992 and since then India has the same education pattern from the last 34 years. It is now that after 34 years, the Indian government has proposed a new educational policy, "National Educational Policy- 2020" (Kumar, et.al., 2005). A lot of people have contributed by giving their valuable suggestions. To count a few, they are student-parents, teachers, educationalists, and other members who are involved in the field of the education sector. This happened for the very first time that a large scale of suggestions and consultations were taken into consideration.

The Indian education system started at the Gurukul level and further changed to the education system influenced by the Britishers. There were many amendments, changes, modifications, and upgrades in the education system. One of the major reforms of National Education Policy 2020 is that now the 10 + 2 system will be replaced by 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 system. The stream divisions such as Humanities, Commerce, and Science would now be removed and every student will be free to make any combinations of the subject they would like to pursue. It would be a great boon by removing such frontiers of subject stream classifications and give the independence to choose what to learn and attain higher strides in that area.

**Method**

The National Education Policy 2020 has many planned interventions to enhance the standard, caliber and immenseness of the Indian education system. The intent of this chapter on NEP 2020 is:

- To have a highlight and brief of NEP 2020.
- To equate NEP 2020 to the past reforms.

- To understand and identify the alterations in the higher education.
- To talk through the salient features of NEP.
- To discuss the benefits caused to society.
- To suggest further upgradation for a sustainable improvement towards the growth and development of the nation

### Highlights of the past

Just after the Indian independence, there were two major policy reforms made in the education sector. The first one was in 1968 followed by the other in 1986. The latest reform is made in 2020. Let us have an insight into the reforms made over the years

i. 1968:

The then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi had announced the first national policy on education based on the recommendations made by the Kothari Commission. It made sure that educational opportunities were divided equally among the people to achieve national growth. It was also known as a radical restructuring. The policy stated that education for children up to 14 years of age was mandatory by professional and specialized teachers. It brought into existence the study of 'Three Language Formula'. The students had to compulsorily study English, Hindi and the third language was decided on the facts that were the school was situated. Hindi was made compulsory as a means of teaching and communication because it was the national language. To preserve the culture and heritage of India, the teaching of Sanskrit was also considered equally important.

ii. 1986:

The government of India was now led by Rajiv Gandhi in the year 1986. He introduced reform in the national policy on education. This policy had its main objective to remove the social stigma from the educational sector. It gave equal chances specially to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Indian women. To bring an equal opportunity among all such people the policy brought scholarships, incentives to poor families and also recruited teachers belonging to such social and economic backward classes. The policy launched 'Operation Blackboard' to enhance the school environment. One more feather added to this policy was the concept of the Open University system and named it as Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in 1985. This policy was based on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

iii. 1992:

The national policy adopted in 1986 was later reformed in 1992 under P.V Narasimha Rao government. The major reform brought here discussed the admission of students into professional and technical courses especially engineering, pharmacy, architecture etc. It decided to conduct a common entrance examination to take admissions into such professional courses. It is divided into national level and state level engineering entrance examinations. Such a breakdown in the process of entrance level examinations helped the child to focus on the subject and get rid of stress, fatigue and mental burden.

iv. 2020:

Now a time finally passed and as the world started evolving, India too had to start walking along with the latest technologies and competition going around the world. The Ministry of Human Resource Development profoundly known as MHRD made a draft of the policy and took considerations and consultations from various people at different levels belonging to the education sector. It laid more focus on critical thinking and enhancing mental stability along with analysis-based learning. It reformed the 10 + 2 system to 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 system to enhance the cognitive growth of the children. There are many such modifications brought into the NEP 2020 which never took place in the past but were really essential to consider.

#### **Result: Vision of NEP 2020**

- A rich education is rooted deeply in Indian ethics which enhances to transform India into a cloud of vibrant knowledge and make it a global power even in terms of knowledge.
- The curriculum of the institution develops a sense of belonging and respect towards the fundamental duties and bonding with the country with the main aim of conscious awareness of an individual's roles and duties in changing the world for a better cause.

- The main vision lies in having a deep-rooted pride in being called an Indian not just by one's nationality but also in intellectual behavior and deeds such that it promotes the right responsibility in being a global well-being and sustainable development.

### **Deep diving into NEP 2020**

NEP 2020, the national education policy was put forward by the Government of India in the year 2020. It made great reforms and held upright the vision of India's education by keeping in mind its culture, traditions, and values such that they contribute towards the betterment of the society (Aithal, et.al., 2019). Education is indeed the basis of the success of an individual or the nation as a whole. Keeping in mind the heritage and the benefactions of various scholars in different vivid fields of mathematics, medical science, architecture, astronomy, yoga, fine arts, metallurgy, etc. the entire education system are upheld and built. As announced by the government the sole objective of NEP 2020 is to bestow a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary liberal education to each striver to elevate the current gross enrollment ratio to 50% by the year 2035.

NEP 2020 is classified into four diverse sections. It focuses on many major areas like school education, higher education, etc. it also lays a foundation of new bodies that shall synchronize the existing structure. The different stages of the reformed educational lifecycle are listed below.

#### **i. Foundation Stage:**

The foundation stage is of five years. It has children of age group 3 to 8 years under this category. It comprises of playschool and kindergarten. Apart from this the children belonging to the age group of 6 to 8 years who will be in grade 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> are also added in this category.

#### **ii. Preparatory Stage:**

The second stage is of three years also known as the preparatory stage. The age group is of 8 to 11 years. More attention shall be given to cognitive development. The medium of language between the student and teacher would be either regional or mother tongue.

#### **iii. Middle Stage:**

The third stage is of three years and is regarded as the middle stage. It is for the students of class 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> standard. Coding shall be taught to this category to develop critical thinking. NEP discouraged rote learning and promoted analytical and critical development.

#### **iv. Secondary Stage:**

The fourth stage which is of four years is regarded as the secondary stage. A student can pick any combination of subjects they desire to learn.

#### **v. Under Graduation Stage:**

The undergraduate programs shall be of three or four years of the period in which a student can have multiple exit options. The candidate shall have a certificate after passing the first year followed by achieving a diploma after passing the second year and lastly a bachelor's degree after completing the third year.

#### **vi. Post-graduation Stage:**

The post-graduate stage states that if the student has completed four years of bachelor, then he/she shall have to study only one year for the master's program and two years in case the student achieved three years of bachelor's degree. It shall make the students ready for the research stage by cultivating research methodologies in the existing stage.

#### **vii. Research Stage:**

The research stage consists of pursuing PhD in any mainstream subject for a minimal period of three to four years. The student has the right to choose either a full-time or a part-time depending on their personal choice. M.Phil. is now dropped off giving direct admission to PhD.

Apart from just the classification of stages, there are other reforms also carried out. They are as follows:

- The NCERT is now the only body responsible to develop the curriculum and standard books for schools throughout the nation.
- The board examination of standard 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> shall be continued but give more stress-free environment to the children.
- PARAKH (Performance Assessment Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development) which will be regarded as a new Nation Assessment Center will be set up as a standard body.
- 'Bal Bhavans' shall be encouraged as a daytime boarding school by all states/districts.
- The main aim of NEP 2020 is also to increase the GER in higher education from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% in 2035.
- The academic bank of credits shall be established to store the academic credits gathered from Higher education Institutes which can be further counted towards the final degree earned.
- The HECI is also known as the Higher Education Commission of India will now be the only standard body for higher education excluding legal and medical education.
- The private HEIs will be uplifted to offer a maximum number of scholarships to students.

Apart from the above-mentioned specifications, there are many other reforms carried out.

### **Salient features of NEP 2020: Higher Education**

- It strongly believes in identifying and recognizing the distinctive potentiality of each student and to encourage the holistic development of every student.
- To provide flexibility so that students can select their career path based on personal interests and choices.
- To remove the barriers between different streams and eliminate the classification of Arts, Commerce, and Science by providing unity and integrity of all knowledge.
- More significance is given to conceptual learning rather than mugging up things.
- Giving more focus on formative assessment rather than summative assessment.
- Making proper use of technology in learning and teaching and promoting educational planning and management.
- Treating the faculties and teachers as the heart of education as good education can thrive because of good teachers.
- It ensures transparency, integrity, and efficient resource by encouraging out-of-the-box ideas through empowerment and good governance.
- It encourages continuous community participation by investing in a strong and vibrant public education system.

### **Intimations of NEP 2020 in the Indian Higher Education system**

- A person cannot elevate to higher positions or top decision-making positions with any sort of corruption or favoritism. It cleans the bureaucratic system of higher education and makes it compulsory that no matter how many degrees a person has but to have positions like a director or vice-chancellor then the professors must have at least five patents or scholarly publications.
- More focus is given on research and innovative innovations at both Under Graduate and Post Graduate levels. It enhances the students and faculty to think creatively and out of the box to build confidence and gain higher strides.
- The Board of Governors (BoG) shall be highly educated to avoid any sort of misuse of power in individual hands. The Board of Governor members shall be highly qualified, dedicated, educated and have immense capability to take care of the position given to them.
- It shall be made compulsory for private HEIs to offer at least 20 % free-ship and 305 scholarship although they can decide their fees independently to recover their cost.
- The public or government colleges shall become multidisciplinary and can expand their volume to admit a greater number of students to convert itself to Autonomous Colleges (AC).
- Apart from the public colleges, even the private colleges can expand themselves in varying resources and high-quality education. They can also form a cluster and transform themselves into a degree-giving Autonomous College (AC).

### **Benefits of Higher Education policies in NEP 2020**

- Education plays a very important role in building a well-defined progressive and developed nation. The student-centric model shall be given the preference. Till now the teachers and the institutions decided the subjects on

behalf of the students but now the students will have the right to choose their subject. Hence NEP 2020 replaces the teacher-centric domain with a student-centric model. (Singh, et.al., 2011).

- The purpose of higher education is to create new expositions of surviving knowledge through systematic analysis. The new transform in NEP 2020 transforms from information to innovation.
- It promotes a competency-based continuous evaluation system which leads to convictions irrespective of student domains. It encourages to convert problems to opportunities.
- Along with technology, engineering, and mathematics, the students shall also be exposed to arts and design thinking to enhance their problem-solving capabilities.
- The education leaders should be role models and hence research and innovation are of extreme importance. The administrative representatives are also expected to contribute in their leisure time.

### Conclusion

Higher education plays a very significant role in determining the economy, growth, development, and social status of the country. National Education Policy 2020 shall improve the caliber and increase the production by opening up higher education for the private sector. It proves to be a great boon as it encourages and promotes scholarships and recognition to hardworking performers in regulating the national bodies. The most significant reform of NEP as discussed is the student-centric freedom as compared to being teacher-centric. The first transformation and desirable results are expected by the end of this decade that is the year 2030. To conclude on a shorter, note this policy is a very big decision having challenging goals to improve the Indian education system. India shall go through a wide reform after 34 years which is itself a very challenging task. Moving from a teacher-centered system to student-axial, marks oriented to skills-oriented, information to knowledge, and learning to research is itself a very big milestone for India. The final words to conclude is that the seeds are now sown to add a colorful feather to the Indian crown to make it a cloud of superpower having vast knowledge but now what matters is what we as a citizen would do for our country and how dedicatedly we support it in achieving the goal set forward towards the nation's growth.

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