Original Research Article

# A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020 ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**\* Ms. Jacintha Annaselvam Anandraj Nadar,**

*\* Assistant Professor, ASMIM COST: Institute of Management and Computer Studies.*

**Abstract:**

*The Government of India's New Education Policy (NEP 2020) was a welcome change and welcome news in the midst of all the negativity surrounding the world as a result of the challenges posed by the Covid19 pandemic. Many people were taken aback by the announcement of NEP 2020. Many education professionals did not see the changes proposed by NEP 2020 coming. Education policy has had an equal impact on school and college education; however, this article focuses primarily on NEP 2020 and its impact on higher education. This paper also discusses the key features of NEP and how they affect the current educational system.*

**Keywords:** *New Education Policy, Higher Education.*

**Introduction**:

The National Policy on Education (NPE) is a policy established by the Government of India to promote education among the people of India. The policy extends from primary school to college education in both rural and urban India. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi issued the first NPE in 1968, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi issued the second in 1986, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued the third in 2020.

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which was approved by India's Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020, outlines the vision for the country's new education system. The new policy supersedes the previous 1986 National Policy on Education. The policy establishes a comprehensive framework for primary, secondary, and higher education, as well as vocational training, in both rural and urban India. By 2021, the policy aims to transform India's education system. The language policy in the NEP is a broad guideline and advisory in nature, and its implementation is up to the states, institutions, and schools. The NEP 2020 implements a slew of changes to India's education policy. It aims to increase state education spending from around 4% to 6% of GDP as soon as possible.

A committee led by former Cabinet Secretary T. S. R. Subramanian began the consultation process for the New Education Policy in January 2015. Based on the committee report, a panel led by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan submitted the draft NEP in 2019. The Ministry of Human Resource Development later released the Draft New Education Policy (DNEP) 2019, which was followed by a series of public consultations. The Draft NEP was 484 pages long. In developing the draft policy, the Ministry conducted a thorough consultation process, receiving "over two lakh suggestions from 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, 6,600 blocks, 6,000 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), and 676 districts." The National Education Policy envisions:

Original Research Article

*"National Education Policy 2020 envisions an India-centric education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all."*

Excellent, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals must be developed through quality higher education. It must allow a person to study one or more specialized areas of interest in depth and develop character, ethical and constitutional values, intellectual curiosity, scientific temper, creativity, service spirit, and 21st century skills in a variety of fields such as sciences, social sciences, the arts, humanities, languages, personal, technological, and vocational subjects. The new education policy makes some fundamental changes to the current system, with the main highlights being multidisciplinary universities and colleges, with at least one in or near every district, revamping student curricula, pedagogy, evaluation, and support for enhanced student experience, establishing a National Research Foundation to support excellent peer-reviewed work, and effectively implementing the new education policy.

Academic research funding and large affiliated universities result in low undergraduate education levels.Institutional restructuring and consolidation aim to end higher education fragmentation by transforming higher education institutions into large multidisciplinary institutions, creating well-rounded and innovative individuals, and educationally and economically transforming other countries, increasing the gross enrolment ratio in higher education, including vocational training, from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035.

Holistic and multidisciplinary education should strive to improve all human capacities--mental, cultural, social, physical, emotional, and moral--in an integrated manner. In the long run, such an all-encompassing education will be the standard for all undergraduate programs, including those in medical, technical, and vocational fields. Optimal learning environments and student support provide a holistic approach that includes an adequate curriculum, interactive pedagogy, consistent formative assessment, and adequate student support.

**Objectives of the study:**

1. To investigate the impact of the New Education Policy 2020 on higher education.

**2.** To outline the key features of NEP and examines how they impact the current educational system.

**Research methodology:**

This research is a descriptive study. The necessary secondary data was collected from various websites including those of Government of India, magazines, journals, other publications, etc. This data was then analysed and reviewed to arrive at the inferences and conclusions.

**Salient Features of NEP Related to Higher Education:**

The new NEP was introduced with the goal of formalizing changes in the system from the school level to the college/university level. Keeping the evolving scenario in mind, educational content will now center on key concepts, ideas, applications, and problem-solving approaches. The National Education Policy is expected to have a positive and long-term impact on the country's higher education system. The government's decision to allow foreign universities to open campuses in India is a commendable one. This will allow students to experience global education quality in their own country. The policy of introducing multi-disciplinary institutes

will result in a renewed emphasis on all fields such as arts and humanities, and this type of education will help students learn and grow. Another positive step that will reduce the number of applicants is the implementation of a single common entrance test.Reduce the stress of multiple competitive exams and the pressure of preparing for so many of them. It will also ensure a level playing field for all future student applicants.

Creating an Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) is a solid idea for storing the academic credits that students earn by taking courses at various recognized higher education institutions. By completing a course, a student can earn points that will be credited to their ABC account. If a student decides to change colleges, he or she can transfer these credits. If a student leaves for any reason, his or her credits will be preserved, allowing him or her to return years later.

The new regulatory structure for higher education will ensure that distinct administrative, Separate, autonomous, and empowered bodies perform accreditation, financing, and academic standard-setting functions. These four structures will be established as four separate entities. independent verticals under the auspices of India's Higher Education Commission (HECI). NEP has implemented a number of reforms and new developments in the higher education sector. Among the notable features are:

Introduced by NEP in the higher education sector. Some of the salient features are:

- **Single regulatory body for higher education:**

    The NEP aims to establish Higher Education Commission of India which will be the single regulatory body except for legal and medical education.

- **Multiple entry and exit programme:**

    There will be multiple entry and exit options for those who wish to leave the course in the middle. Their credits will be transferred through Academic Bank of Credits.

- **Tech- based option for adult learning through apps, TV channels:**

    Quality technology-based options for adult learning such as apps, online courses/modules, satellite-based TV channels, online books, and ICT-equipped libraries and Adult Education Centres, etc. will be developed.

- **E-courses to be available in regional languages:**

    Technology will be part of education planning, teaching, learning, assessment, teacher, school, and student training. The e-content to be available in regional languages, starting with 8 major languages – Kannada, Odia, Bengali among others to join the e-courses available in Hindi and English.

- **Foreign universities to set-up campuses in India:**

    World's top 100 foreign universities will be facilitated to operate in India through a new law. According to the HRD Ministry document, "such (foreign) universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India."

- **Common entrance exam for all colleges:**

    The common Entrance exam for all higher education institutes to be held by National Testing Agency (NTA). The exam will be optional.

- A Higher Education Council of India (HECI) will be set up to regulate higher education. The council's goal

Original Research Article

will be to increase gross enrollment ratio. The HECI will have 4 verticals:

a) National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC), to regulate higher education, including teacher education, while excluding medical and legal education.

b) National Accreditation Council (NAC), a "meta-accrediting body".

c) Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC), for funding and financing of universities and colleges. This will replace the existing National Council for

Teacher Education, All India Council for Technical Education and the University Grants  Commission.

d) General Education Council (GEC), to frame "graduate attributes", namely thelearning outcomes expected. It will also be responsible in framing a National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF). The National Council for Teacher Education will come under the GEC, as a professional standard setting body (PSSB).

**Detailed Analysis of Impact of NEP on Higher Education:**

**Higher Education Regulatory System:**

A significant change in NEP 2020 is the proposal to establish the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) as an umbrella body for higher education, excluding medical and legal education. This usually prompts the question, "What will happen to the current UGC and AICTE?" HECI's goal is to reform the higher education sector; the Bill will separate the sector's academic and funding aspects. According to the new Bill, HECI will have no financial authority. The Ministry of Education, formerly known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), will take over the funding processes previously handled by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

This change, on the other hand, is expected to clear the regulatory quagmire in India's higher education system. The National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) will regulate, the General Education Council (GEC) will set standards, the Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) will fund, and the National Accreditation Council (NAC) will accredit. To achieve uniformity in educational standards, a single umbrella body has always been required, and this has been a vision shared by many educators. This is regarded as a positive step toward streamlining education policy. However, in order to ensure the quality of higher education, institutes must be evaluated using relevant criteria such as research, industry connections, placements, and academic excellence, among others. If the HECI can pull this off, the benefits to its most important stakeholder, India's youth, will be enormous.

**Grading Accreditation and Autonomy:**

The concept of "empowerment and autonomy to innovate" is one of NEP 2020's key features, which supports a "phasing out" strategy from Affiliated Colleges to Autonomous Colleges. Institutions. The increased flexibility provided to autonomous institutions raises the prospect of curriculum enrichment. It also states that, with the proper accreditations, Autonomous degree granting Colleges can progress to Research-intensive or Teaching-intensive Universities if they so desire. The announcement of the establishment of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) in the country adds to the optimism. These institutions will compete with

the existing IITs and IIMs in terms of multidisciplinary education for Indian students.

**Domestic internationalization:**

NEP 2020 allows foreign universities and colleges to visit India, posing a challenge to local institutions to improve the quality of education they provide. The Indian higher education sector is buzzing with excitement over the prospect of allowing foreign universities to establish campuses in the country. With over 900 universities and 40,000 colleges, India has one of the world's largest higher education networks. However, India's GER (Gross Enrollment Ratio) in higher education is 26.3%, which is significantly lower when compared to other BRICS countries like Brazil (50%) or China (51%), and significantly lower when compared to European and North American nations.

**More Multidisciplinary and Holistic Education:**

According to the NEP 2020, a holistic and multidisciplinary education would aim to develop all human capacities - intellectual, aesthetic, social, physical, emotional, and moral - in an integrated manner. This type of education will aid in the development of well-rounded individuals with critical 21st century capacities in the arts, humanities, languages, sciences, social sciences, and professional, technical, and vocational fields; an ethic of social engagement; soft skills such as communication, discussion, and debate; and rigorous specialization in a chosen field or fields. By 2030, the NEP 2020 envisions a large multidisciplinary Higher Education Institution (HEI) in or near each district.

**Degree program structure and duration:**

Under the National Education Policy 2020 scheme, any undergraduate degree in any institution will last three or four years. Within this time frame, one may withdraw from the degree. Any educational institution must award a diploma degree to a student after two years of study, a degree after three years of study, and a certificate to students who complete one year of study in any professional or vocational course of their choice. The Government of India will also assist in the establishment of an Academic Bank of Credit for the digital storage of academic scores. At the end, total the credits and apply them to the student's degree. This will be useful for those who may need to leave the course in the middle. They can begin the course later. They should pick up where they left off rather than starting over. Even though NEP 2020 states that higher education institutions will be given the freedom to start PG courses, designing a One Year PG Degree for students who have completed a Four Year UG Degree and a Two Year PG Degree for students who have completed a Three Year UG Degree may be difficult.

**Conclusion:**

The policy implements a wide range of changes and appears to be a very progressive document, with a firm grasp on the current socioeconomic landscape and the prospect of future uncertainty. To keep up with the increasing dematerialization and digitalization of economies, education for a new generation of learners must essentially engage with a completely new set of capabilities. This appears to be an even more important requirement now, with the pandemic hastening the trend toward digitalization and disruptive automation. Overall, the NEP 2020 addresses the need for professional development in a wide range of fields, from

*Educreator Research Journal*

**Original Research Article**

agriculture to artificial intelligence. India must be prepared for the future. And the NEP 2020 lays the groundwork. As a result, policy connections can ensure that education policy addresses and learns Skill India's experience in engaging more dynamically with the corporate sector to shape vocational education curriculum for success.  To adapt to rapidly evolving transmutations and disruptions, more evidence-based decision-making is required. NEP has made provision for real-time evaluation systems as well as a consultative monitoring and review framework, which is reassuring. Instead of expecting a new education policy every decade for a curriculum shift, this will empower the education system to constantly reform itself. This will be a remarkable accomplishment in and of itself. The NEP 2020 is a watershed moment in higher education. It will be truly groundbreaking if it is implemented effectively and on time.

**References:**

Aithal, P. S.; Aithal, Shubhrajyotsna (2019). "Analysis of Higher Education in Indian National

Education Policy Proposal 2019 and Its Implementation Challenges". International Journal of Applied
        Engineering and Management Letters. 3 (2): 1–35. SSRN 3417517

Nandini, ed. (29 July 2020). "New Education Policy 2020 Highlights: School and higher education to see major
        changes". Hindustan Times.

Jebaraj, Priscilla (2 August 2020). "The Hindu Explains | What has the National Education Policy 2020
        proposed?". The Hindu. ISSN 0971-751X

Chopra, Ritika (2 August 2020). "Explained: Reading the new National Education Policy 2020". The Indian
        Express.

Rohatgi, Anubha, ed. (7 August 2020). "Highlights | NEP will play role in reducing gap between research and
        education in India: PM Modi". Hindustan Times.

Krishna, Atul (29 July 2020). "NEP 2020 Highlights: School And Higher Education". NDTV.

Naidu, M. Venkaiah (8 August 2020). "The New Education Policy 2020 is set to be a landmark in India's history
        of education". Times of India Blog.

https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf

https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/national-education-policy-2020-policy-times/

https://www.highereducationdigest.com/the-impact-of-national-education-policy-2020-onprofessional-
        education/

http://bweducation.businessworld.in/article/NEP-2020-Impact-On-Higher-Education-/07-08-2020- 305999/

https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-modi-s-address-at-conclave-on-transformationalreforms-in-
        higher-education-under-national-education-policy-