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GLOBALISATION AND NEP 2020: A STEP TOWARDS INTERNATIONALIZATION OF INDIAN EDUCATION

*Mrs. Chitra Suraj Ashtekar

* Assistant Professor of Commerce, Shri P. L. Shroff College of Arts and Commerce, Chinchani.Tal Dahanu, Dist- Palghar, Maharashtra, India .

Abstract:

Globalisation has significantly influenced education systems worldwide, promoting cross-border collaborations, research advancements, knowledge exchange and international mobility. In this context, India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 introduces a visionary roadmap to align Indian education with global standards. This study explores how NEP 2020 facilitates the internationalization of Indian higher education through multidisciplinary learning, research excellence, digital integration, and global partnerships. It also examines key challenges such as regulatory barriers, infrastructure development, and affordability in achieving these goals. Based on secondary data analysis, this research highlights the potential of NEP 2020 to position India as a global education hub while preserving its cultural and academic heritage. The study concludes that while NEP 2020 lays a strong foundation, continuous policy refinements and strategic investments are essential for effective implementation and long-term global competitiveness.

Key Words: *Globalisation, NEP 2020, Internationalization, Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Digital Education, Foreign Collaborations, Student Mobility.*

Introduction:

India has a rich history of world-class education, dating back to ancient times with renowned institutions like Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Vallabhi, which attracted scholars from across the world. These universities were centers of advanced learning in disciplines such as philosophy, mathematics, medicine, astronomy, and political science. Over the centuries, India's education system evolved, incorporating various influences, from traditional Gurukul systems to colonial-era universities. However, with the advent of globalisation, the need for reform in India's higher education sector became increasingly evident.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a transformative step toward modernizing Indian education while reviving its historical significance. The policy aims to position India as a global knowledge hub by introducing multidisciplinary education, research excellence, international collaborations, and digital integration. By enabling foreign universities to establish campuses in India, promoting student and faculty exchange programs, and fostering global research partnerships, NEP 2020 seeks to enhance the international competitiveness of Indian higher education.

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In this era of rapid technological advancements and global knowledge exchange, NEP 2020 can aligns India's education system with international standards while ensuring the preservation of its linguistic, cultural, and intellectual heritage. This study examines how NEP 2020 facilitates the internationalization of Indian education and addresses the challenges in its implementation. It also highlights India's potential to regain its historical stature as a global leader in higher education through strategic reforms and policy execution.

Objectives:

1. To study the key reforms introduced under NEP 2020 that align Indian education with global standards.
2. To explore the role of international collaborations, research, and digital advancements in making India a global education hub.
3. To identify the challenges in implementing NEP 2020 for internationalizing higher education in India.
4. To provide suggestions for effective implementation of NEP 2020 to enhance India's global educational presence.

Hypothesis:

H_0 (Null Hypothesis): NEP 2020 does not significantly contribute to the internationalization of Indian education.

H_1 (Alternative Hypothesis): NEP 2020 significantly contributes to the internationalization of Indian education.

Research Methodology:

1. **Research Design:**

   This study follows a descriptive and analytical research design, focusing on secondary data analysis.

2. **Data Collection:**

   The study is based on secondary sources, including: Government reports, policy documents, and official publications on NEP 2020.Research papers, journal articles, and books.

3. **Data Analysis:**

   - A qualitative approach will be used to assess the reforms, challenges, and future implications of NEP 2020 in the context of globalisation.
   - Thematic analysis will be used to categorize key findings on international collaborations, research, and digital education reforms.

4. **Scope of the Study:**

   - The study will focus on higher education reforms under NEP 2020 and their role in internationalization.
   - Challenges and opportunities in the implementation of NEP 2020 will be analysed.

5. **Limitations:**

   - The study is based entirely on secondary sources, and no primary data is collected.
   - The findings are dependent on the availability and accuracy of existing literature and reports.

NEP 2020 and Globalisation: Key Policy Reforms:

1. Multidisciplinary and Flexible Education

NEP 2020 promotes a holistic and multidisciplinary approach, allowing students to study diverse subjects across disciplines. Inspired by global education models, the policy introduces the Multiple Entry and Exit System (MEES), which enhances flexibility in higher education. This structure aligns Indian universities with global credit systems, making it easier for Indian students to transfer credits and pursue education abroad.

2. International Collaboration in Higher Education

A significant reform under NEP 2020 is its focus on global partnerships. The policy facilitates:

- Entry of foreign universities in India, particularly those ranked among the top 100 globally.
- Promotion of faculty and student exchange programs, enabling exposure to international teaching methodologies.
- Collaboration between Indian and global universities for joint degrees and dual-degree programs, enhancing employability.

3. Strengthening Research and Innovation

To position India as a research powerhouse, NEP 2020 establishes the National Research Foundation (NRF) to promote high-quality research. The policy encourages partnerships between Indian institutions and international research bodies to address global challenges. Increased funding and grants for research further enable Indian scholars to contribute to global knowledge networks.

4. Digital and Technological Integration

With rapid advancements in digital education, NEP 2020 envisions the creation of virtual universities and expansion of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The policy leverages digital platforms to connect students with international faculty and experts. Additionally, the push for AI-based learning, augmented reality (AR), and virtual labs strengthens India's position in the global digital education landscape.

5. Promotion of Indian Languages and Culture

While globalisation fosters internationalization, NEP 2020 also ensures the preservation and promotion of Indian languages, arts, and heritage. The policy supports bilingual education and encourages international students to explore India's rich linguistic and cultural heritage. This initiative enhances India's soft power and strengthens its global educational influence.

6. International Student Mobility

NEP 2020 aims to make India a preferred destination for international students by simplifying admission procedures and introducing scholarship programs. The policy also facilitates easier credit recognition, making it more attractive for foreign students to study in India. "Study in India" initiatives have been strengthened to attract students from developing nations.

Challenges in Internationalizing Indian Education:

Despite these reforms, several challenges must be addressed to realize the full potential of NEP 2020:

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Challenges in Internationalizing Indian Education under NEP 2020:

1. **Regulatory and Bureaucratic Hurdles** – Establishing foreign universities in India may involves complex approval processes, making it difficult to attract top global institutions.

2. **Recognition of Indian Degrees Internationally** – Aligning Indian higher education qualifications with global standards is essential for improving student mobility and employability abroad.

3. **Infrastructure and Faculty Development** – Many Indian universities require significant upgrades in infrastructure, research facilities, and faculty training to meet international benchmarks.

4. **Affordability and Accessibility** – While NEP 2020 aims to globalize education, ensuring that high-quality international programs remain affordable for students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds is a challenge.

5. **Limited Global Research Collaborations** – Although NEP 2020 encourages research partnerships, funding limitations and administrative barriers often restrict Indian institutions from participating in global research networks.

6. **Digital and Technological Gaps** – While digital education is a key component of NEP 2020, disparities in access to technology and internet connectivity hinder international collaboration, especially in rural areas.

7. **Attracting International Students** – Despite efforts to position India as a global education hub, factors like visa policies, institutional rankings, and living conditions impact the inflow of foreign students.

8. **Balancing Globalisation with Indian Ethos** – While adopting international models, it is crucial to preserve India's unique educational philosophy, cultural heritage, and regional language diversity.

9. **Resistance to Change** – Some institutions and faculty members may resist the transition towards international curricula, multidisciplinary education, and global teaching methodologies.

10. **Monitoring and Implementation** – Ensuring the successful execution of internationalization initiatives under NEP 2020 requires continuous monitoring, evaluation, and policy refinements.

Findings:

Followings are the findings of the study-

1. **Alignment with Global Education Standards**
   o NEP 2020 introduces reforms such as the **Multiple Entry and Exit System (MEES)** and **credit transfer mechanisms**, making Indian higher education more flexible and aligned with international models.

2. **Strengthened International Collaborations**
   o The policy encourages **foreign universities to establish campuses in India** and promotes **joint and dual-degree programs**, enhancing the global recognition of Indian institutions.
   o Faculty and student exchange programs have been expanded, increasing international exposure and knowledge sharing.

3. **Emphasis on Research and Innovation**
   o The establishment of the National Research Foundation (NRF) supports high-quality research

and facilitates collaborations with global institutions.

   o   Increased funding for research enhances India's contribution to global knowledge networks.

4. **Integration of Digital and Technological Advancements**

   o   NEP 2020 promotes Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), virtual universities, AI-driven learning, and augmented reality-based education, strengthening India's position in digital education.

   o   Digital learning platforms bridge the gap between Indian and international education systems.

5. **Global Promotion of Indian Culture and Education**

   o   The policy ensures the preservation of Indian languages, arts, and heritage, fostering a balanced approach between globalisation and cultural identity.

   o   The "Study in India" initiative has been strengthened to attract international students, boosting India's role as an educational hub.

On the basis of above findings Alternative Hypothesis i.e. 'NEP 2020 significantly contributes to the internationalization of Indian education can be accepted'.

Suggestions for Overcoming Challenges of Globalisation in Indian Education:

1. **Streamlining Regulatory Processes** – The government should simplify approval procedures for foreign universities, introduce a single-window clearance system, and ensure transparent policies to attract global institutions.

2. **Enhancing Financial Support** – Expanding scholarships, low-interest education loans, and public-private partnerships can improve access to quality education for students from economically weaker sections.

3. **Upgradation of Infrastructure and Faculty Competence** – Investment in modern facilities, digital classrooms, faculty training and faculty exchange programs with international universities can help institutions to meet global standards.

4. **Integrating Indian Ethos with Global Education** – A balanced curriculum incorporating Indian values, heritage, and philosophy alongside international best practices will preserve India's educational identity while embracing globalisation.

Conclusion:

NEP 2020 represents a significant step toward the internationalization of Indian education in the era of globalisation. By integrating multidisciplinary learning, fostering global partnerships, strengthening research, and leveraging digital technology, India is positioning itself as a major player in the global education landscape. However, the successful implementation of these reforms depends on resolving regulatory barriers, investing in institutional infrastructure, and ensuring accessibility for all socio-economic groups.

If effectively executed, NEP 2020 will not only enhance India's global standing in education but also equip students with the necessary skills to thrive in an interconnected world. Thus, while the policy lays a strong

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foundation, continuous evaluation, strategic investments, and policy refinements will be essential for India to emerge as a global education leader.

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