

National Education Policy: A Vision for a New India

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Abstract:

Indian education system is one of the oldest and largest in the world. The system had gone through various changes over the years. Technological advancements rapid globalization and unprecedented developments are transforming the future of work. The existing education models need to be reassessed keeping the challenges of the global economy. The National Education Policy 2020 launched by the central government is the excellent initiative for the education system as the policy proposes revision and revamping of all aspects of education structure. The present paper is an analysis of NEP2020 and how it will affect the education system specifically school education and also highlight the major challenges for its implementation.

Keywords: NEP 2020, School Education, Global Economy

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I. Introduction

Education plays a critical & significant role in balancing the socio-economic fabric of the country. Citizens are the valuable resources of any country. They need the nature and care in the form of basic education to achieve a better quality of life. The Indian economy has grown in leaps and bounds in the recent years and hence there is a need to educate the masses to accelerate the growth. Education is the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills values morals beliefs, habits and personal development. Indian education system is one of the oldest and largest in the world. The system had gone through various changes over the years. Technological advancements rapid globalization and unprecedented developments are transforming the future of work. The existing education models need to be reassessed keeping the challenges of the global economy. The National Education Policy 2020 launched by the central government is the excellent initiative for the education system as the policy proposes revision and revamping of all aspects of education structure. The present paper is an analysis of NEP 2020 and how it will affect the education system specifically school education and also highlight the major challenges for its implementation.

Objective of the study

The basic objective of this paper is to study and analyze the National Education Policy 2020 and its implication particularly on school education. It also outlines the the salient principles of NEP 2020 and the impediments to its achievements

Methods & Limitations

The present paper is descriptive in nature. The required data was collected with help of secondary sources from various sources including websites, magazines, newspaper, journals and other publications. The study is subject to certain limitations as it is based on secondary data and only covers and reviewed the National Education Policy with respect to school education Further study can be conducted considering the impact of the policy on Higher Education in India and also on different aspects of NEP 2020.

National Education Policy 2020

National Education Policy 2020 the much debated and long awaited was approved by the union cabinet on 29 July 2020. The policy is proposed to be effective from 2022. The first education policy of 21 century, the NEP -2020 has replaced the 34 old policy. The National Education Policy is a significant step towards new India. The main aim of launching the policy is to remodel India's education policy this will focus on promoting continuous and comprehensive education. National Education Policy will be the foundation of new India. Policy aims at sustainable development and transformation of India into a vibrant knowledgeable society and a global superpower. The Objective is basically education system reforms National Education Policy is based on five pillars of

- ❖ Access
- ❖ Equity
- ❖ Affordability
- ❖ Quality
- ❖ Accountability

The fundamental principles of the policy:

- i. Recognizing, Identifying, and Fostering the unique capabilities of each student
- ii. Achievement of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
- iii. Holistic and multidisciplinary education
- iv. Emphasis on conceptual understanding
- v. Creativity and critical thinking to encourage logical decision-making and innovation;
- vi. Power of Language by promoting multilingualism
- vii. Focus on life skills such as communication, cooperation, teamwork, and resilience;
- viii. Focus on regular formative assessment for learning rather than the summative assessment
- ix. Extensive use of technology in teaching and learning,
- x. Respect for diversity and respect for the local context in all curriculum, pedagogy, and policy,
- xi. Full equity and inclusion as the cornerstone of all educational decisions to ensure that all students are able to thrive in the education system
- xii. Substantial investment in a strong, vibrant public education system

▪ **National Education Policy and School Education: Detailed Analysis**

❖ **The Foundation of Learning: Early Childhood Care**

Early childhood care and education is the foundation of learning. As per the research over 85% of a child's cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of 6 but presently quality early education childhood care is not available particularly to the many socio-economic backward classes. Appropriate care and attention at early is very necessary in order to ensure healthy brain development. Early childhood care and education ideally consist of play and activity-based learning, Logical and problem-solving approach and overall focuses on physical, mental, cognitive, social and ethical development NCERT will develop National curricular and pedagogical framework for early childhood care and education. Anganwadicenters will be strengthened with high quality infrastructure and teachers will also be trained in accordance with the curricular framework developed by NCERT. Also, counseling will be given to the parents for early childhood care.

❖ **Foundational literacy**

One of the prerequisites of learning is the ability to read and write and perform basic arithmetic at the foundation level. But the surveys indicate that over 5 crore children have not maintained foundational literacy and numerology. As it is a matter of great concern the government is trying to make immediate measures and focusing on the target to achieve this by 2025. Interesting, enjoyable and inspirational books will be developed for all level of students. Attention will be given on school and digital libraries and nutrition and health of children will be addressed through healthy meals that will help them to learn optimally. Special focus will be on recruiting and training teachers as they will be the base and support in the mission of attaining foundational literacy by 2025

❖ **Curtailling dropouts Rates**

India was very successful in attaining enrollment in elementary education through sarwaskhiksaabhiyaan in elementary education but the serious issue is of retainment of students in school. As per the survey by NSSO the number of dropouts in the age group 6-17 years is 3.22 crores. Top priority is to prevent student dropping out and goal to achieve percent 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio in preschool to secondary level by 2030. The focus will be on providing effective and efficient infrastructure, universal participation universal participation of students by proper tracking their learning level and ensuring quality so that students do not lose interest in attending school.

❖ **Academic Restructuring: Pedagogical and curriculum Restructuring**

a) **Restructuring school curriculum and pedagogy**

To encourage cognitive development, building character and well-rounded individuals equipped with 21st century skills NEP firmly believes that Learning should be holistic integrated enjoyable and engaging For the Holistic development of learners and to move the Indian education system towards real understanding and learning how to learn. Experiential learning will be adopted in all stages which will include hands-on learning arts and sports integrated education story telling pedagogy and competency based learning

New pedagogical and curricular structure of school education proposes three stages of preschool and 12 years of school. The structure will be of 5+3+3+4 which consists of 12 years of school and 3 years of pre schooling also known as aganwadi. This has replaced old structure of 10+2

Foundation Stage (5) Multilevel, Play Activity based learning

Preparatory Stage (3) play discovery and activity based and interactive class room learning.

Middle stage (3) Experimental learning in the field of science mathematics arts social sciences and humanities

Secondary stage (4) – Multidisciplinary study, greater critical thinking, flexibility and student choice of subjects.

b) More Flexibility to learn

National Education Policy Empower students through flexibility in course choices and dismantles the rigid distinction between arts commerce and science Students will be given flexibility to choose the subjects of their choice. There will be no separation of curriculum and extracurricular, among arts and science and humanities. Subjects like physical education, arts and crafts vocational skills will be added with other humanities science and mathematics. Coupled with a hybrid model of learning, education will become more participative and broader based. student will now be able to mix and match subjects like chemistry with history and music.

C) Multilingualism

As student grasp quickly in their home language it is decided that the medium of instruction at least till grade 3 or Grade 8 will be local language or regional languages. Teachers will be encouraged to use bilingual teaching learning materials with students who might face difficulty in learning the medium of instruction. Since India is having extremely rich literature and for the preservation of their rich language students will have the option of learning at least 2 years between grade 6-12 without effecting their normal course.

d) Transforming Assessment for students' development

Keeping the primary objective to be of learning, assessment system will shift from summative to formative. The assessment process will be more competency based to test skills such as critical thinking analysis and conceptual Clarity. The progress card will also be a 360 degree multidimensional report including self-assessment, peer assessment along with teaching assessment. The child will be also be assessed on the basis of projects, role plays quizzes and group work. Board exams of 10 and 12 will be continued but reforms will be made in the present structure. In order to reduce pressure students will be allowed to attempt exams up to two occasions during given school year. One will be the main attempt and for improvement if desired. A new national center for performance assessment review and analysis of knowledge for holistic development PARAKH will be established as the standard setting body. And NTA national testing agency will be the premier autonomous organization to conduct entrance examinations for various undergraduates' admissions.

▪ **Implementation & Challenges:**

National Education Policy is gathering a fair degree of momentum but the path to its realization is full of challenges. The size and diversity of Indian education sector makes it difficult task. India with more than 15 lakhs school 25 crore students and 89 lakhs teacher. India is the second largest education system in the world. Country wide implementation by creating a shared responsibility amongst key stakeholders having extraordinary diversity is going to be major challenge. Thousands of schools would need capacity building and re-Orientation with regards to the operational aspects of implementing a mega policy. Existing structure needs to undergo a massive over haul. Centre and state coordination is a must. Many states particularly the opposition ruling have been raising strong objections to several key provisions of the NEP and the manner in which they are being ruled out. Finally, the successful execution of key initiatives requires availability of adequate financial resources. Though it's there in the policy that to realize the goals of new policy the country has to raise public spending on education to 6% of GDP but how the financial resources will be managed it's a big question as the public spending on education has not gone beyond 3% from the past few decades. Successful implementation of this policy demands a broad and long-term vision along with the availability of the resources and expertise

▪ **Progress So Far**

With the help of **Shiksha Parv** a series of national level events the government has succeeded in building awareness and interest among stakeholders on the vision and mission of National Education Policy. The ministry of Human Resource Development has been renamed as Ministry of Education. School curriculum has been changed to include Artificial intelligence and Financial Literacy. Emphasis on mother tongue or regional language has been introduced in many states on pilot basis. A number of key initiatives such as **NIPUN BHARAT** mission as been launched for improving children learning competencies in reading writing and

numerology by the end of grade three. **VidyaPravesh** a three-month school preparation module for grade one children. **DIKSHA** a teaching learning repository of e-content. **NISHTHA** teachers training program for the secondary level teacher. But only few states have launched the programme. Karnataka became the first state to implement National Education Policy on 24 August and Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have also come forward with a series of initiatives giving a much-needed push to this mega policy.

II. Conclusion:

National Education Policy is a positive step towards growth and nation building. The reform will mainly focus on to cultivate 21 century skills among students including critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and digital literacy. The policy is set to revitalize the Indian education system in order to bring out the unique capabilities of each and every student. Will focus on 360-degree assessment. The policy intends to create a future where the child is at the heart of research based individualized learning. Hoping this policy will bring much needed changes with a uniform system with better transparency in the current education system. It is indeed one of the excellent initiatives taken up by the Government of India to universalize education and make India a global Knowledge superpower

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