

Establishment of the National Education Policy 2020: Encouraging Creativity, Innovation and Excellence

Dr. Shivani Sharma

Lecturer, UIET, Kathua Campus, Univ. of Jammu

Dr. Rahul Verma

Lecturer, Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu

ABSTRACT

*The National Education Policy launched in 2023, has the motto to **Edify, Encourage and Enlighten the new generation with the best quality of education**. The main purpose of government to launch this policy was to develop 21st-century skills and proficiencies in the students of India. All the modifications in NEP from the previous education policy strive for Exploration, innovation, and excellence. All the preparations of the policy for education in schools and colleges fall under the purview of the National Education Policy, which the Government of India updated in 2023. The new policy includes significant changes aimed at positioning India as a global knowledge superpower. The Policy 2023 is a much-needed development that aims to transform the Indian education system into a more comprehensive, flexible, and learner-centric one. It is basically designed to address the current challenges and gaps in the education sector and provide quality education to all, irrespective of their socio-economic background. The present study is an effort to highlight how the policy is focusing on skill enhancement, multi-disciplinary education, and encouraging creativity and critical thinking.*

Keywords: NEP, Skill development, Multi-disciplinary, Creativity.

The National Education Policy envisages a holistic and integrated education approach. It also accentuates using technology and digital resources to develop the learning experience. The need for a new education policy was felt in the country for a long time. Till today three National Education Policies have been introduced in India: National Education Policy 1968, National Education Policy 1986, and National Education Policy 2020. The National Education Policy 1986 was revised in the year 1992. The emphasis of previous policies on education was mainly on the issues of access to education. In June

2017, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of former ISRO chief Dr. K. Kasturi Rangan to formulate a new education policy. The draft of the National Education Policy was presented by this committee in May 2019.

The main objective of this policy is to develop streamlined critical thinking, higher order thinking, having more grip on the subjects and domain, to develop problem solving skills along with team work and communication skills. The New Education Policy has been brought in keeping with the shortcomings of the previous education policy and the current and future needs, which can lead to large-scale transformative reforms in both the school and higher education sectors.

The National Education Policy provides everyone with equal right to education. It incorporates school education as an elementary part and makes it compulsory for every child. There have been provisions of multiple entry and exits for secondary students and extends to Undergraduate, Post Graduate and research levels. It allows the flexibility for a student to complete his education at any point of time the student thinks so and has mainly been framed for students who had to discontinue their studies midway due to the pressure of the work or family. The policy aims to provide a strong base of liberal arts along with Vocational Training at Undergraduate levels. A candidate who is in the fourth year of the Undergraduate course can seamlessly integrate itself at Masters and Doctoral levels which in the long run will help in bringing professional education into mainstream undergraduate education. Vocational Education will also be an integral part of the Education Policy.

The Higher Education sector has been combined with liberal arts with Mathematics, Sciences, Technology and Engineering. The main purpose is to develop streamlined critical thinking, higher-order thinking, having more grip on the subjects and domain, to develop problem-solving skills along with teamwork and polish the communication skills. Moreover the National Research Foundation has been constructed and the main objective of this organization would be to focus on the Education System specifically at College and University levels. It will also take care of research capacity expansion and monitoring the same with a more formal mechanism.

Digital Literacy and Computational Knowledge: Major Aspects

The most important element of the New Education Policy is Digital literacy and Computational ideas. The importance would be given to make students digitally literate

and further will be trained in programming and coding to enhance their IT skills. The new policy has been entrusted to integrate ICT in education so that the process becomes less burdensome, fast and clear.

ICT will facilitate the students to have a better education through proper monitoring. NEP has also plans to integrate online education into the education process so that the students can maximize their educational experience. The policy includes Artificial Intelligence, Cognitive tools to ensure that online education is guided by student learning and student growth at an individual level. It plans for huge IT infrastructure and technology platforms. It plans to have more and more online courses and expects to have tie-ups with top-level Universities and Institutes to have more Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC's).

Restructuring of the Higher Education System

With respect to higher education, the NEP has proposed some significant changes.

They established Higher Education Commission of India HECI, which replaces the current regulatory bodies, the University Grants Commission (UGC), and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Therefore the HECI will be the sole regulatory authority of the entire higher education system. The HECI is further subdivided into several verticals in order to carry out various standalone functions:

- The prime vertical is the National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC), which is in charge of regulating higher education in India, excluding medical and legal education.
- The second is the National Accreditation Council (NAC), which is given the responsibility of rating and accrediting colleges based on certain criteria, including good governance and basic norms.
- The third body under HECI is The Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC), which is responsible for financing colleges and universities.
- The fourth body, the General Education Council (GEC), is given the charge of framing the National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF).

Further it has been seen that the an important component of the policy is the complete restructuring and reorganization of the higher education system through the introduction of a multidisciplinary undergraduate programme, with an option of either a three or four year duration, and multiple exit and entry points. Ultimately it will bring a far greater level of flexibility within the higher education system.

More importantly it will complete restructure the higher education system through the introduction of a multidisciplinary undergraduate programme, with an option of either a three or four year duration, and multiple exit and entry points. This will bring a far greater level of flexibility within the higher education system.

Reorganizing the existing School System

This policy talks about reorganizing the existing 10 + 2 school system into a new system of 5 + 3 + 3 + 4, the basis of the curriculum and teaching of all children aged 3 to 18 years. The current 10 + 2 system is to be replaced by a new 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 curriculum structure as per the age of 3-8, 8-11, 11-14 and 14-18 years respectively.

➤ Foundation Stage 5

Foundation Stage 5 is divided into two parts. In the first three years, children will take pre-schooling education. After this, children will be studying in a school in classes 1 and 2 for the next two years. A new curriculum will be designed for these 5 years of studies. It will include children from 3 to 8 years old.

➤ Initial stage 3

In the initial phase 3, children from classes 3 to 5 will be taught. In this period, children will be taught science, mathematics, art, etc. through experimentation. It will be taught to children between 8 and 11 years old.

➤ Middle school stage 3

Here, in this stage, children from classes 6 to 8 will be educated. These classes will be taught subject-based courses. Vocational courses will also be started from class 6, in which children will be made aware of variety of skills. The child will be taught coding from class

6 itself. In addition, project-based education will begin from class 6. Children of 11 to 14 years will be included in this stage.

➤ *Secondary stage 4*

In this phase of education, students of classes 9 to 12 will study in two stages. In first phase, there will be students of classes 9 and 10 and in the second phase, students of classes 11 and 12. Here, students will also be given the freedom to choose the subject. Some subjects will be there that will be considered as general for all and it also includes some optional subjects like art, music, vocational subjects, etc, out of which students will be able to choose the subject according to their interest. This phase will cover 14 to 18-year-old students.

Positive Recommendations of the NEP

Few recommendations are best presented in the policy. The first and foremost is the multidisciplinary undergraduate programme. There is an unexploited repository of knowledge that students can hope to find by studying a combination of subjects. It will surely allow students to discover the whole world through the lens of multiple subjects, without the artificial limitation and restriction of streams. A multidisciplinary education will provide to students with a far greater opportunity, therefore, taking learning beyond the classroom, and into the real world.

The second positive change is the flexibility that the NEP will provide for choosing a three or four year programme, while also allowing some freedom to take gaps within one's bachelor degree studies. The rigidity of the current system comes from the need to teach grown adults, who are old enough to vote and drive, rather than to facilitate their learning. This proposal allows students to have more control over their education, and removes the rigidity that currently prevails in the education system.

Advantageous Effects of the New Education Policy

- Emphasis is laid more on the self-capability, cognitive skills of the student. It will cater a child in developing their capabilities.

- Earlier the students can opt for only one discipline for learning but now can choose different subjects, for example – one can go for art and craft along with mathematics.
- This policy has strictly emphasized that equal importance will be given to each subject.
- The main purpose is to encourage in students the power of interaction, critical thinking, and the ability to reasoning and reckoning with the inculcation of innovative ideas among the students.
- The opportunity of multiple exit option in bachelor's courses will provide a chance to the students to benefit from the experience and attain skills by working somewhere in meantime and then continue later.
- The new education policy concentrates on the practical aspect of learning of any subject, as it is considered a better way of understanding the concept and ideas.
- By the establishment of the policy, all the institutions and higher education organizations will become multidisciplinary by 2040.

Conclusion

It is amazing and remarkable to see the initiative taken by the government to transform the education system. The New Education Policy was marked with the promise of landmark initiatives. It is quite audacious decision of the government to want to restructure the education system, with especially drastic changes in the higher education system. To achieve full human potential, education is a fundamental requirement for the development of a just and equitable society and to promote national development. The whole world is undergoing rapid changes in the knowledge landscape. The implementation process of the new policy further require the collaboration and support of all stakeholders, including the government, educational institutions, teachers, students, parents, and the industry. It ensures wide-ranging and unbiased quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for everyone. The new policy is designed to address the current challenges and gaps in the education sector and provide quality education to all, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

WORKS CITED

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

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

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

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://www.oneindia.com/india/new-education-policy-2020-advantages-and-disadvantages-of-nep-3127811.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Policy_on_Education
<http://bweduction.businessworld.in/article/NEP-2020-Impact-On-Higher-Education-/07-08-2020-305999/>