

National Education Policy 2020: An Approach Towards Inclusive Multidisciplinary and Internationalization

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ABSTRACT

To satisfy the 21st century's educational needs, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a reform roller and it creates revolutionize in the Indian education system. This current piece of work investigates three revolutionary aspects of the policy: equity and inclusion, holistic and multidisciplinary learning and internationalization of education. It demonstrates the way NEP 2020 is trying to create creativity, critical thinking, and ethical values both by alternative learning routes and by choice-based curricula with the help of experiential learning. The equity commitment of the policy can be seen in the efforts such as Specially Gender Inclusion Fund, Education Zones and the application of technology to reduce learning inequalities. Secondly, the internationalisation agenda makes India the centre-stage of global education by drawing scholars together, student-faculty exchange, and international campus establishment. According to secondary and policy reviews, this paper finds that the NEP 2020 roadmap is vision-based to have an inclusive, innovative and global-friendly environment. The system of competitive education is based on Indian cultural ethos and embraces international standards. This research is based on available literature and employs secondary data by way of descriptive and analytic research ways of making meaning of policy directions. The results indicate that implementation of NEP 2020 enhances the quality of education, inclusion and international competitiveness as well as aligns India's international standard for learning ecosystem.

Keywords: Inclusive education, Holistic education, Internationalization, Quality Education, Critical Thinking.

INTRODUCTION

Indian education system is a intersection with the alignment to National Education Policy 2020. The objective of this significant document is to transform the organization, teaching and running of schools in the 21st century. It is a first significant revision in thirty years. The NEP 2020 suggests a major transformation in educational ideology, which is holistic, student-centered, and interdisciplinary measures (Ministry of Education, 2020). To remain relevant at the global scale, NEP 2020 is focusing on making classroom instruction more experiential, flexible, inquiry-based and Indian value based. This policy is meant to deal with the multiple challenges facing our country. As per the 21st century educational need initial focus in to fulfill new developmental needs. It means that we need to rethink and radically change all the aspects of the educational system such as the administration and regulation of the educational system. The objective is to develop a new model that will follow Indian traditions and principles and promotes 21st century learning objectives such as SDG 4. Accordingly, the National Education Policy emphasizes much on the development of individual creativity and potential. It is predicated on the assumption that education must stimulate not only advanced abilities such as critical thinking and problem solving, but also social ones, as well as ethical and emotional skills and attitudes. Alongside cognitive skills such as basic literacy and numeracy. Cultivating knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that further enhance a great adherence to equality, sustainable development, and the policy aims at global well-being. This is what being a global citizen entails.

Additionally, NEP 2020 aims to instill in students great sense of pride in being Indian, not just in the ideas but also in character, intellectual capability and so on way of life. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi mentioned

on the occasion of the first anniversary of the NEP 2020 that, we are moving towards the 75th year of Independence." In some way, NEP implementation has become a vital constituent of this event. This would be crucial in developing a new India and young future-ready citizen. The frontiers of traditional classrooms have created and faded away with the world taking its place has crossed over to the technological era. Knowledge can now be made with no limits on geographical boundaries. NEP 2020 understands the transformation and rightly embarked on an uphill task towards making the tech-friendly education accessible. This initiative aims to bridge this gap and make nationwide potential. This NEP 2020 policy is not merely a piece of written document or a government initiative only. The policy also transforms the lives of millions of students in India and influences the trajectory of the nation.

Education has been considered as one of the greatest drivers of economic growth, social equity and personal empowerment. NEP 2020 emphasizes on an integrated and holistic education system that transcends beyond the silos of topics and focuses on the wholesome development of the learner, such as cognitive, affective and psychomotor. This strategy is cognizant of the fact that an Indian citizen will be successful citizen, and a person ought to do beyond book smarts; graduates are expected to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, group members, and ones that have strong ethical bases (R. Sharma, 2021).

Education is very crucial in our lives. Quality education may offer the required knowledge, along with values and skills. By gaining quality education, this individual will be self-sufficient to address the growing issues in the world. Through this kind of education, people can easily deal with every critical situation and make required decisions. NEP 2020, concerning opportunities like flexibility in course choices, integration of vocational education, multidisciplinary approach, pairing schools, internationalization (D.P. Arun, 2022).

The NEP 2020 encourages multidisciplinary education to aid in shaping individuals for higher education. This concept originates in ancient institutions such as Takshashila, Nalanda and Vikramshila. The current educational system promotes excessive specialization, which brings unnecessary frontiers between the humanities, sciences, social studies, and arts. This has made students lack knowledge outside their sectors, and most of the time, they fail to gain valuable information. Due to NEP 2020 implementation, somehow this problem has been resolved by introducing multidisciplinary education. NEP 2020 is considered to be a big step towards the higher education sector in India. The demand to revamp and overhaul the educational system in the country, according to the global demand. There have been significant transformations in the Indian system of higher education significant transformations owing to the historic move of NEP in favour of privatization, internationalization, and digitization.

Objectives:

The objective of the study is set as-

- I. The first objective is to find out how NEP 2020 facilitates multidisciplinary and holistic education.
- II. Secondly to find out suggestive recommendations for the equity, inclusion and quality education initiatives from NEP 2020.
- III. To review the aspect of the policy on the internationalization of the Indian education system and its capability of attracting international students to India.

METHODOLOGY

The approach involved critical review of data in books, web pages, reports and publications by diverse government sources and organizational sources. Researchers used a systematic collection of the results of each article and synthesized the results data to develop a robust research agenda for the future.

Multidisciplinary and Holistic Education:

NEP 2020 is a complete document, which also seeks to offer multidisciplinary and inclusive approach for education. This ought to ensure that education sector is more effective and inclusive (Kumar et al., 2022). The NEP 2020 emphasizes the requirement of the Indian educational system to be more multidisciplinary and

inclusive. The policy offers a number of plans for implementing this type of schooling, including integrating vocational schooling, initiating multidisciplinary programs, and promoting research and innovation. The problem and the analytical skills are supposed to be stressed in education according to NEP 2020, cracking skills rather than knowledge. It should inculcate innovativeness and multidisciplinary thinking. It must also illustrate how to adjust, be innovative and absorb new knowledge in areas that are dynamic. The growth of every power of man, including the intelligence, upbringing, social, physical, mental, and moral powers, is the goal of a broad and multidisciplinary education. The program can be left at any point in three or four years, which is the length of the bachelor's degree program. It will cover the qualifications required like a bachelor's degree following three years of study, a diploma following two years and a certificate after a single year in one of the fields, such as professional areas. The best option, however, would be a four-year bachelor's degree with different specialisations (Mandal, 2024). The balanced education enables the student to achieve excellence in his choice of vocational, technical and professional spheres. The school curriculum offers choice-based subjects that facilitate in-depth learning not only for the students but also to build up an all-round personality (Suther, 2025). India will have had at least one HEI by 2030. (Community higher institution of learning) within or near each district. This requires a critical analysis of the Indian higher education sector to establish the hindrance the system suffers in the attainment of the objective of independent and autonomous institutions.

Equity, Inclusion and Quality Education Initiatives:

The principle of inclusion and equity aspects of education policy should form the main values of quality education (UNESCO, 2017). However, the terms of inclusion and equity remain elusive. The children will be given enabling mechanisms. CWSN (Children with Special Needs) or Divyang, like other children, are entitled to equitable and good education. The Special Education Zones (SEZ) in several parts of India are being declared to assist the high population of educationally disadvantaged populations, such as SEDG. This project aims to proliferate and enhance quality education in the remote areas and suburban areas of India. India will have more Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalays, which will provide free boarding so as to access schools easily. In the Government of India (GOI), it is intended to develop a Gender Inclusion Fund to increase the capacity of the country to provide equal and equitable education to all boys, girls, and transgender. Similarly, the Inclusion Fund programs will be designed to solve such access issues to other SEDGs. Increasing and redeveloping of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas is also in focus. We should prioritize enrolling and including disabled learners in ECCEs and school education. NCERT will collaborate with such groups as DEPwD to formulate the National Curriculum Framework and make sure that it responds to the needs of differently abled children. A new school culture will be established.

Equity in education will be made known to all education stakeholders such as teachers, students, parents and administrators, with respect, dignity, and privacy of all people (Baidya et al., 2024). It also enhances digital learning in order to ensure that there is accessibility to early childhood education, learning, and bilingual education. Teacher also increases the effect of inclusive pedagogies training. These policies may do so by increasing the learning standards, dropout rates and building a more equitable education system, encouraging social movement and country development.

Nevertheless, the realization of actual inclusion remains pegged on effectiveness. A significant percentage of the population continues to be below par on matters of the digital divide access to digital resources. Consequently, most of the broadcasts will be through the traditional media, including television, terrestrial radio, and community radio. The educational programs will be available 24 hours to support the needs of different students, considering the number of languages. Special attention will be given to the contents in all Indian languages. Teachers should be exposed to digital content students in their language of choice as much as possible (Dhani Ram, 2021).

Internationalization of Education through NEP 2020:

Indian higher education has transformed drastically due to internationalization. It has disrupted ancient ideologies of national boundaries. India can be sold as a leading study abroad destination with affordable, high-quality education. Getting back to the status of a Vishwa Guru is the goal of this endeavour. Every higher education institution (HEI) that adopts foreign students through International Organization of students Office to

control everything related to supporting and welcoming such students. Teaching collaborations, together with research exchange of faculty and students, are promoted with the best foreign universities. Appropriate memorandums of understanding (MOUs) are signed with other nations to mutually benefit. The overseas campuses have established incentives for the best-performing Indian universities. In the same vein, some universities - those in the top 100 globally – have assistance to do business in India. A legislative framework was also designed in a manner to ease this process. These universities are also fortunate to enjoy special powers on rules, administration, and curriculum as other self-governing institutions in India. In addition, measures are being implemented to promote student exchange and collaboration in conducting research between Indian and international institutions. Credits obtained in foreign universities are accepted to an extent if they satisfy the requirements of each HEI to count towards degree completion (GOI, 2020). From global perspective, NEP 2020 may reshape student flexibility patterns, stimulate inbound institutional partnerships, and contribute empirical lessons to comparative education on how large, multilingual systems attempt modernization at scale (V. Rani, H. Oli, 2025).

CONCLUSION

NEP 2020 is the latest vision of the Indian educational system that aims at developing a non-discriminative structure that is already able to compete internationally. It emphasizes the need by promoting a well-rounded and multidisciplinary approach to critical thinking, creativity, and ethical values amongst students. The aim of equity and inclusion in order to bridge the educational gaps and provide quality learning to all and marginalized groups is already in right path. It has programs such as Special Education Areas, Gender Inclusion Funds and enhancement of school infrastructure. Moreover, NEP 2020 also focusing on internationalization for greater learning and makes India an international learning center. These promote cooperation, exchange of students and setting up of international campuses. A combination of these activities demonstrates a great willingness to construct a knowledge-based, innovative, and all-inclusive society that is reminiscent of global standards but also based on Indian culture. NEP 2020's potential to transform things, should it be implemented effectively, will transform the future of education in India and enable the future generations to be successful in the world that is changing fast.

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