Abstract: The Indian education system had not seen any major reform since a long time. The students had only few career options like medical Engineering or law. Their though had limited to restricted area and was chained to the limited boundaries. It became important to free them from the tailor made ideas and thought and inculcates creative and innovative thinking in students. For bringing a great change, National education policy 2020 came into existence after 35 year of long time with new ideas and innovation under the chairmanship of K Kasturirajnan. It is a comprehensive document which envisaged of quality education that covers to ECCE, school education and Higher Education. The Indian education system had not seen such a great reform. And most importantly it is a comprehensive policy that aims to make India knowledge superpower by equipping its students and teachers with the great knowledge, abilities and skills. The NEP 2020 covers the entire educational structure from primary education to higher education, vocational education, teacher education and adult education. It envisaged for some transformational reforms in the Indian education system. It talks about the education system that lays emphasis on experiential learning along with a focus on 21st-century skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, etc.

Keywords: Education, NEP2020, Innovative pedagogy, critical thinking, creative thinking, Experiential learning, multidisciplinary approach, multilingualism, Assessment, Integrated pedagogies

1. Introduction

Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.

George Washington Carver

Education is the soul of Nation. The foundation and the future of any nation is determined on the quality of the Education that is structured and implemented by the existing government of the respective country. The Education policy determines the educational structure and the way of its implementation. It gives shape to the nation for the upcoming days and paves the path for the well structured education system for the nation which ensure its implication on the ground level. The National Policy on Education is prepared to improve the quality of education in the country and is focused on providing education facilities to all the citizens of the nation. After National Education Policy 1986, it took a long time to bring a new innovative and comprehensive policy in the form of NEP2020. The NEP 2020 is the outcome of extensive and comprehensive consultations, aimed to make India a knowledge superpower, by equipping its students and teachers with the sound knowledge, capabilities and skills. The aim must be for India to have an education system by 2040. The main aim of the policy is to transform India’s education system, the new policy aimed in universalisation of education from pre-primary to secondary level. The policy aims at ‘light but tight’ regulation. By 2040 all higher education institute shall aim to be a multidisciplinary institution each containing 3000 or more students. By 2030 there shall be at least one large multidisciplinary institution in every district. It will help in establishing a transformation reform in school and higher education sector.

Need of New Education Policy

The existing education system is marks oriented and the knowledge becomes a certificate oriented rather than talent oriented. We don’t make the student marks seeker but the skill and technology driven expert. Only an exam can’t determine their future but they must have an opportunity to choose their career as per their choice and interest. New education Policy focuses to remove all barriers of marks and degree but on holistic development of child and is not depending on mere marks. The overall learning of child in all fields may be performing arts, sports, academics, vocational education is given equal importance.

The Policy emphasizes on work, skill and human oriented and shift from rote learning to critical and creative thinking. NEP will shift the focus of students from “what to think” to “how to think.” The target of NEP 2020 is to keep students future-ready and to lay the foundations for new India and enable them for being vocal for local and feel proud for being Indian. NEP aimed to make India powerful, take it to greater heights, empower students and afford them opportunities to grow.

The most vital changes come in teacher education. There is a great emphasis on Teachers education and improvement. Four year B. Ed program will be mandatory by 2030. Now the teacher will not be able to join the course accidently but will join it with full planning and seriousness. NEP 2020 takes forward our education system towards International standards and it will have impact on the future of the Indian Education.

Availability of teaching resources and textbooks in mother tongue teaching, availability of skilled teachers who understand thought behind NEP 2020 and removal of red tape in the regulation and monitoring system, proper coordination between state run and private schools are some of the Challenges that Government may face in the long run.

Although implementation of NEP 2020 in true spirits will take time but we hope that it will change the face of Indian Education system and will make it par with International standards.
Guiding Principle of New Education Policy

The policy aims to Indianisation of Indian education. India is the land of spiritual knowledge and this rich ancient and eternal knowledge is the guiding light for this policy. The aim of education in ancient India was not just the acquisition of knowledge but the preparation for life in this world. Education was not limited to school only. The aim of education was realization and liberation of the self. Purpose of Education meant for Shiksharth Aaiye Sevarth Jaiye which promote the ideology of universal brotherhood. Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila were the world class institution of ancient India which set the high standard of multidisciplinary teaching and research. Charaka, Susruta, Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Bhaskaracharya among numerous others, who made seminal contributions to world knowledge in diverse fields such as mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, medical science and surgery. These rich legacies to world heritage must not only be nurtured and preserved for posterity but also researched, enhanced, and put to new uses through our education system.

Foundation of NEP

The policy is structured on the pillar of Access, Quality, Equity, Affordability and Accountability. This envisioned doing sustainable development in education and transforming India into vibrant knowledge hub.

Figure 1: Foundation of New Education Policy2020

Key principles of NEP

The NEP deals with the school education and higher education. The policy aims to improve the quality of education by focusing on the following principles.

1. Emphasis on conceptual understanding
2. Critical thinking and creativity
3. Unique capabilities
4. Respect for diversity and local context and local
5. Equity and inclusion
6. Continuous Review
7. Use of technology

Some major changes in the school education system

- Pedagogical structure-The positive changes in the structure of school education will bring a new era for the restructuring of education system. The new policy aim to divide school education into different stages on the basis of the need of the students where they have to expand their knowledge. NEP 2020 has been break-down of the existing 10+2 education pattern and instead of its introduced 5+3+3+4 structure of school education system that will focus on the 15 year of the schooling.

Figure 2: Structural changes in school education system

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As per the age of the student’s different stages has been designed and determined the minimum learning outcome and the area of the domain where they have to achieve the target.

Transformation of curriculum and pedagogy

The policy aims to encourage the holistic development of the students. It is defined that National curriculum framework for School Education [NCFSE], and National curriculum framework for teacher Education [NCFTE] will be revised by 2021. Curriculum will be developed based on language proficiency scientific temper, sense of aesthetics, ethical reasoning, digital literacy and knowledge of India and current affairs. The innovative pedagogy and experiential learning will be introduced in NEP. The policy aims the holistic development of the learner. All aspect of the curriculum needs to be reoriented and revamp to achieve the aim of education so the Policy introduced some innovative ideas pertaining to curriculum and pedagogy through:

- Reduce curriculum content to enhance essential learning and critical thinking
- Experiential learning
- Empower students through flexibility in course choices
- Multilingualism and the power of language
- Integrated pedagogy
- Blended learning
- National Textbooks with Local Content and Flavour
- Curricular Integration of Essential Subjects, Skills, and Capacities

Transforming culture of Assessment

The aim of assessment would be to promote the student’s learning that will be holistic 360-degree that reflects their progress of cognitive, affective and psychomotor domain. Report card would not to judge the students but provide the important information to the teachers and parents on how to support the each student. The Grade 3 examination, in particular, would test basic literacy, numeracy, and other foundational skills. The new AI software would be developed to track the student’s performance through their school year based on learning data for the students, parents and teachers. The NEP2020 aim to abolish the coaching culture of education system and most importantly, Board exams will be redesigned to encourage holistic development; students will be able to choose many of the subjects in which they take Board exams, depending on their individualized interests. Board exams will also be made ‘easier, flexible and best of two attempts. Students will be able to choose their subject. At higher education Level NTA [national testing agency will work to offer a high quality common aptitude test, to eliminate of taking coaching for these exams.

National Assessment center [PARAKH]

It is proposed to set up a national Assessment Center that is PARAKH stands for Performance and analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development. It is a standard body for Assessment set under MHRD which has some major objectives;

- Setting up norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards of India
- Guiding the State Achievement Survey (SAS)
- Undertaking the National Achievement Survey (NAS)
- Monitoring achievement of learning outcomes in the country
- Encouraging and helping school boards to shift their assessment patterns towards meeting the skill requirements of the 21st century.

Higher Education

The major changes are that the institute will be given grade autonomy instead of Affiliation to award degree. NEP 2020 proposed the duration of undergraduate program from 3-4 year. In the fourth year the same students who want to go in entrepreneurship or research field. Flexibility will be given to students to Graduation entitled to get certificate diploma and degree after class 12

Graduation will also be of 4 year where last year will be purely focused on research area. And in that condition M. A will be of one year. When it comes to PG education, the highlight is that M. Phil. programs will be discontinued. The Government will setup world-class MERUs (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities) across India. These Universities will provide multidisciplinary education to students across India. If we talk about teacher education –

- The 4-year integrated B. Ed. will be a dual-major holistic Bachelor’s degree, in Education as well as a specialized subject such as a language, history, music, mathematics, computer science, chemistry, economics, art, physical education, etc. The HEI offering the 4-year integrated B. Ed. may also run a 2-year B. Ed., for students who have already received a Bachelor’s degree in a specialized subject.
- 1-year B. Ed. may also be offered for candidates who have received a 4-year undergraduate degree in a specialized subject.

Governance and regulation for Higher Education

The government and regulation of HEIs will be under the Independent bodies which will be having diverse function. The authority will be higher education commission of India [HECI]. The 4 independent authorities working under HECI described through the following figure.
Reconstruction of institution and consolidation

All higher educational institute [HEIs] will be consolidate into three types by 2030

Figure 5: Reconstruction of institution and consolidation

Vocational Education

The policy emphasis on the development of vocational capacities with development of academic or other capacities. The policy suggest that at least 50% of learner through school and higher education system shall have exposure of vocational education by 2025 so that new skills will be identified and developed. HEIs should offer this course in undergraduate program and continuous assessment and recognition of prior learning should be developed. To guide and assess the progress of vocational course, national committee for the integration of vocational education [NCVIE] will be developed.

Challenges for new education policy

The policy has brought possibilities of fundamental change in every field of education. National Education policy [NEP] has given a global vision to our education system. But there are many challenges in implementing it. Whether studying from primary to secondary level or changing the form of board of exam, the most important things for this policy are to reach the classroom by 2022 or later, a framework for teachers training will have to be prepared soon for better implementation of NEP.

NEP 2020 has brought a lot of changes and to implement them is one of the biggest challenges. The policy has to focus on the quality primary learning of the children. The NIPUN Bharat Mission should be implemented effectively that is based on improving reading writing and arithmetic skill of the children at the foundational stage. The mission determine to ‘learn to read’ and so that they can ‘read to learn’.

Training for teacher is very important because teachers are of the builders of the nation. Quality pre-service and post-service is promoted in the multidiscipline institution. Virtual teaching, video lectures, tricks of skilled teaching can be delivered to every district, block in local language. Quality orientation, workshop, training program will have to be conducted for better improvement.

Lack of infrastructure, quality assurance in teaching learning process and students teacher ratio some of the major issues that are creating hindrance in quality education but vision and mission of NEP focuses on creating milestones from school education to university education.

2. Conclusion

The New Education Policy 2020 is a policy with the better suggestion as it aims at making the education system holistic, more practical, flexible, multidisciplinary, aligned to the need of the 21st century. Creation of ‘inclusion funds’ in the policy will help economically, socially and educationally weaker children to pursue education, but same time the financially autonomy may affect the spirit of idea. The idea of a NHERC [National Higher Education Regulatory Council] as an apex control organization will may affect the subject right of states. In light all the provision the intent of policy seems to be ideal in many ways but it is the implementation where lies the key to success. The NEP 2020 is a big steps to replacing the 35-year-old-education policy idea and picturing to bring about the most awaited modification in the Indian education system. The policy has maintained a balance between the tradition and the multidisciplinary approaches, which is the need of the twenty first century.
References


