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**CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020 OF INDIA****Mr. Manoj Kumar Shah and Miss. Navsin Mistry**

Assistant Professors, Department of Commerce, M.V Mandali's Collges of Commerce and Science, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

**ABSTRACT**

*Education Policy is a tool of socio-economic transformation. It plays a crucial role in qualitative development of country's human resources. NEP 2020 is formulated with an ultimate objective of striving socio-economic balance by providing an edge for exploring skills, knowledge, and talent and promotion value-based education in the country.*

*Keywords: National Education Policy (NEP), Higher Education Institution (HEI), University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and Higher Education Commission of India (HECI).*

**INTRODUCTION**

NEP 2020 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> education policy of the country. 1<sup>st</sup> education policy was introduced in the year 1968 under the leadership of late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> education policy formulated under the leadership of late Prime Minister Shri. Rajiv Gandhi in the year 1986. Later on, some amendments were made to his policy by Narsimha Rao Government in 1992. Country got the 3<sup>rd</sup> education policy after a long haul of 34 years. Policy aims at initiating drastic changes and revamping of entire education structure and system. Policy will revolutionize entire education frame work of the country having long lasting impact on teaching pedagogy at each phase of acquiring and imparting education.

Central government has constituted a committee in 2017 to formulate NEP under the chairmanship of Dr. K.K. Kasturirangan, policy draft was ready in 2019. It was approved on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 currently in India higher education system is controlled by Statutory Bodies such as UGC, AICTE and NCTE. Under NEP 2020 HECI will be the nodal agency to control higher education in the country operating through its 4 sub-nodal agencies such as National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC), General Education Council (GEC), National Accreditation Council (NAC) and Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC)

**Status of Sub-Nodal Agencies of HECI**

- 1. Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC)** – It will act as a regulatory body, monitoring higher education as well as teacher education sector in the country.
- 2. General Education Council (GEC)** – It will set the standards for the evaluation of learning outcome with respect to academic programs to be provided by higher education institute (HEI).
- 3. National Accreditation Council (NAC)** – It will assess public self-disclosure, good governance and administration as well as academic performance of the institutes and universities imparting higher education in the country.
- 4. Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC)** – it will provide grants and financial assistance for grant-in-aid institutes and universities.

**Need of NEP 2020**

- To impart holistic education in the country.
- To create knowledge and value-based society.
- To improve the quality of education through innovative practices of imparting education.
- To encourage research and development at all phases of imparting education.
- To make Indian educational system competitive as per global standards.
- To make the youth more employable by enhancing technical, managerial and holistic skills.

**Features of NEP 2020**

- Based on 4 pillars which are Access, Equity, Quality and Accountability.
- New curriculum is based on education pattern divided on the basis of 5+3+3+4 structure which includes twelve years of schooling and 3 years of pre-school (Anganwadi) replacing old 10+2 education pattern.

- Vocational education will start from 6<sup>th</sup> grade which also includes internships.
- Till 5<sup>th</sup> grade this policy emphasis on imparting education in local language / regional language / Mother-tongue as a medium of instruction.
- At school and higher education, Sanskrit will be included at all levels of education as an optional subject including 3 language formulas.
- Literature of India and other classical languages will be available as an optional subject.
- No compulsion on students to study any language.
- High degree of flexibility in selecting subjects.
- Their will multiple entries and exits options with appropriate certification in this period like certificate will be awarded after one year, advanced diploma after two years, degree will be awarded after three years, and bachelor with research degree after four years.
- Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) will be created digitally.
- Focus on E-learning.
- Imparting education based on critical thinking, discovery, inquiry, discussion and holistic learning methods.
- Allocation of 6% GDP to revamp and host educational system in the country.
- Phasing-out college affiliation system in next 15 years.
- Creating multi-disciplinary higher education institutions having more than 3000 students in each institute by the end of 2040.

#### **Four Phases NEP**

1. **Foundation Stage** - It is meant for 3 to 8 years children. In which 3 years of pre-school education will be done in Anganwadi and class 1 & 2 school education under which emphasis will be on language skills.
2. **Preparatory Stage** - The time duration of this stage is 3 years. It includes children from 8 to 11 years. Having schooling up to class 5 emphasizing on numerical skills and imparting education in regional language.
3. **Middle Stage** – The time duration of this stage is 3 years. Having schooling from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade based on vocational training and internship. Imparting subject-based curriculum to create employability skills during school education.
4. **Secondary Stage** - The time duration of this stage is 4 years. Having schooling from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> standard which covers educational curriculum with intensive study. Students have been given the freedom to choose subjects in the discipline of Arts or Commerce or Science. The examination will be conducted 2 times a year. There will be objective and subjective tests once a year. "Artificial intelligence" based software will be used to evaluate the progress of the students and help the students to take decisions related to their future.

#### **Scope for Online and Digital Education**

National Educational Technological Farm will be created to promote digital education. It will carry out the work of coordination for digital infrastructure, materials, and capacity building.

E-content will be made available for study in regional languages.

#### **Protection and Promotion of Linguistic Diversity**

In the new education policy, many options have been kept regarding languages. Class 5 and class 8 Priority has been suggested to study mother tongue or regional language as a study. Students will be able to take foreign language from secondary level i.e., 9th grade. It will be compulsory to study at least two Indian languages in the tri language formula.

#### **Physical Education**

Under the new education policy 2020, skills will be developed in the areas of Horticulture, Yoga, Music, Dance, Sports, and Sculpture, etc.

#### **Problems and Challenges Related to NEP**

1. **Cooperation, Coordination and Unconditional Support** – It is essential from every state government and union territory for effective implementation of NEP 2020. But in reality, it is difficult because of the

resistance from state governments having their own educational board. NEP 2020 will open new avenues for the students aspiring to pursue education in foreign universities and institutes but it will not be affordable for all sections of societies such as middle class and lower middle class.

2. **Sanskritisation of education** – Most of the south Indian states have made an allegation that tri language formula will lead to saffronisation of education through use of Sanskrit in education system as Sanskrit as a subject is based on philosophy of Hinduism.
3. **Problems related to high fees and donations** - Such problems are existing in many metropolitan cities where expensive education is imparted by education mafia's providing lavish and high-tech infrastructure at a cost of high fees and donations. Resistance to this policy is oblivious from such education mafia's who are part of political system of our country. Having their own schools, private universities and institutions.
4. **Problem of Budgetary Allocation** - Implementation NEP 2020 will require around 6% of budgetary allocation of GDP. Which is practically impossible looking at the present fiscal deficit and fiscal imbalance of the country. In present times, government budgetary allocation is only 1.7 % of GDP for educational sector.

### SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS NEP 2020

1. **Creation of Kids Zone** - first 5 years of early childhood care education must be imparted through kids' zone. By converting Angawadi (Pre-school) in to kids' zones which will help in faster physical and mental growth of the children.
2. **Moral Stories and Bagless education** – Education imparted in the schools for the children belonging to the age group 8 to 11 from grade 3 to grade 5 must be based on moral stories which helps in all round development with ethics to boost the process of developing a responsible citizen. Emphasising on bagless education by reducing the burden of number of subject text books and making the curriculum e-based.
3. **Evaluation System** – It must be based on 1:1 ratio i.e., 50% evaluation must be curriculum oriented (Text book based) and 50% evaluation should be based on promotion of rural fine arts, handi-crafts, culture, SSI and spirit of entrepreneurship.
4. **Vocational training and Internship** – It must be provided to the children in various areas to make them aware about the geographical environment.
5. **Strong Political Will and Effective Administration** – It is necessary for implementation of NEP 2020 at every phase and dimension.
6. **Better infrastructure** – It is essential for execution and achievement of the objectives of NEP 2020.
7. **Autonomy** – Major educational institutes and universities must be granted autonomy in terms of academic, administrative and finance assistance for improving the standard of education.
8. **Emphasis on R&D** – More funds must be allocated for imitating research and development programs in the institutions and universities.

### CONCLUSION

The new National Education Policy, 2020, if implemented effectively and efficiently it will revamp the entire educational system of the country by creating knowledge-based society based on the approach of holistic education. Improving the quality of education making it competitive in line with global standards set by the corporates and foreign universities.

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