



Issue and Challenges in Implementation of National Education Policy – NEP 2020

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Abstract:

National Education Policy 2020 has been announced on 29.07.2020 by the education ministry of union cabinet. The National Education Policy 2020 proposes various reforms in school education as well as higher education, including technical education. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a significant education reform policy in India which was approved by the Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020. It replaced the earlier National Policy on Education, which was formulated in 1986 and subsequently revised in 1992. NEP 2020 aims to transform the education system in India, covering various aspects from early childhood education to higher education. In this paper, the researcher presented key highlights of NEP 2020, format of education system and issue and challenges in implementation of NEP 2020.

Keywords: *National Education Policy, NEP 2020, Issue of NEP 2020, Challenges of NEP 2020, Education ministry of India, Union Cabinet of India.*

1. Introduction

Technology has simultaneously moved to another level and to achieve sustainable development and create more job opportunities by allowing students to learn and sharpen their skill sets, it is important to transform the education system. Keeping this in mind, the Union Cabinet has approved the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The NEP provides a clear roadmap for achieving excellence, innovation and quality education in the Indian education system.

National Education Policy 2020 has been announced on 29.07.2020 by the education ministry of union cabinet. The National Education Policy 2020 proposes various reforms in school education as well as higher education, including technical education. The National Education Policy 2020 has specified a number of measures/activities for implementation in school education as well as higher education.

2. Highlights of National Education Policy

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a significant education reform policy in India which was approved by the Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020. It replaced the earlier National Policy on Education, which was formulated in 1986 and subsequently revised in 1992. NEP 2020 aims to transform the education system in India, covering various aspects from early childhood education to higher education. Here are some of the key highlights and objectives of the National Education Policy 2020:

2.1 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

The policy recognizes the importance of early childhood education and aims to provide quality ECCE to all children up to the age of six by 2030. This includes setting up Anganwadi centers and preschools.

2.2 School Education

The policy emphasizes a holistic and multi-disciplinary approach to education. It proposes a 5+3+3+4 structure for school education, where the foundation phase (ages 3–8) and the elementary phase (ages 8–11) are included.

2.3 Medium of Instruction

The policy promotes education in the mother tongue or regional language at least up to standard 5 while also promoting multilingualism.

2.4 Assessment

It suggests a shift from rote learning to a competency-based approach to assessment, reducing emphasis on board examinations and introducing formative and summative assessments.

2.5 Higher Education

NEP 2020 promotes a flexible and multi-disciplinary approach to higher education. It aims to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) and establish a National Research Foundation to fund research activities.

2.6 Teacher Training

The policy emphasizes the importance of continuous professional development for teachers and the establishment of National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST).

2.6.1 Technology in Education

It promotes the integration of technology in teaching and learning, including the formation of an autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF).

2.6.2 Vocational Education

The policy aims to integrate vocational education into mainstream education and create a National Skill Development Mission to bridge the skill gap.

2.6.3 Regulatory Framework

NEP 2020 proposes the establishment of Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) to replace University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

2.6.3.1 Fiscal Commitment

- The policy aims to increase public investment in education and recommends that public expenditure on education should reach 6% of GDP.
- The National Education Policy 2020 has been lauded for its ambitious goals and forward-thinking approach to education reform in India. However, its successful implementation faces numerous challenges, including financial constraints, infrastructure development, and overcoming resistance to change in the existing education system. The policy's impact on the Indian education landscape will become clearer as it is gradually implemented over the coming years.

2.6.4 Concept of Universal Access

The NEP 2020 aims to ensure universal access to school education, from pre-school to secondary level, with the introduction of several provisions prioritizing inclusiveness and equity in education. These provisions include:

2.6.4.1 Innovative Education Centers

The policy promotes the establishment of innovative education centers to provide high quality education to all students, especially students from disadvantaged areas.

2.6.4.2 Good infrastructural support

NEP 2020 emphasizes on provision of good infrastructural support including well-equipped classrooms and laboratories to ensure optimal learning environment for students.

2.6.4.3 Tracking student progress

This policy focuses on tracking student progress based on learning level to ensure that every student achieves basic literacy and numeracy skills by Grade 3.

2.6.4.4 Multiple Modes of Learning

NEP 2020 advocates a flexible and multi-modal approach to learning that includes both formal and informal modes of learning.

2.6.4.5 Experienced Faculty Members

This policy encourages the recruitment of experienced and well-trained faculty members to ensure high-quality teaching and learning experiences for students.

2.6.4.6 Trained counselors

NEP 2020 also emphasizes the need for trained counselors in schools to provide emotional and mental health support to students.

2.6.4.7 Open Learning

- The policy provides an open learning option for students studying in classes 3, 5 and 8 through state open schools, NIOS and vocational courses. The aim is to bring about 2 crore out-of-school children back into mainstream education.
- The overarching agenda behind these provisions is to ensure that every student has equal opportunities to access quality education irrespective of their socio-economic status or geographical location.

2.6.4.8 Format of Education System according to NEP 2020

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 proposes a significant overhaul of the education system in India. It introduces a new structure for school education, emphasizing flexibility, holistic learning, and a multidisciplinary approach. Here's the proposed education system format according to NEP 2020:

1. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

- Age Group: 3-6 years.
- Objective: To provide quality early childhood education to all children.
- Structure: This stage is part of the 5+3+3+4 structure, where the foundational stage (ages 3-8) includes play-based and activity-based learning.

2. School Education

- Structure: NEP 2020 proposes a 5+3+3+4 structure for school education, divided into four stages.

Foundational Stage (3-8 years)

- Includes Anganwadi and preschool education.
- Focus on play-based and activity-based learning.

Preparatory Stage (8-11 years)

- Focus on developing basic numeracy and literacy skills.
- Multidisciplinary and holistic education.

Middle Stage (11-14 years)

- Subjects introduced, but with a flexible curriculum.
- Focus on experiential learning and critical thinking.

Secondary Stage (14-18 years)

- A more in-depth curriculum with opportunities for specialization.
- Emphasis on vocational education and internships.

3. Medium of Instruction

- Encouragement for teaching in the mother tongue or regional language up to at least Grade 5.
- Promotes multilingualism and the learning of three languages.

4. Assessment

- Shift from rote learning to competency-based assessment.
- Introduction of formative and summative assessments.
- Board exams to be made easier, and emphasis on holistic development.

5. Higher Education

- Promotes a flexible and multidisciplinary approach.
- Common entrance exams for universities to be phased out.
- Credit transfer system to enable seamless movement between programs.
- Setting up of a National Research Foundation to fund research activities.

3. Issue and challenges in implementation of NEP 2020

The implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India is a complex and challenging task. While the policy has ambitious goals and a vision for transformative change in the education system, it faces several issues and challenges in its execution:

1. Financial Constraints

Implementing the NEP 2020 requires a significant increase in funding for education. Allocating resources to construct new infrastructure, train teachers, and update curriculum materials is a considerable challenge, especially given other competing priorities in the country.

2. Infrastructure Development

The policy's recommendations, such as setting up new schools and colleges and improving existing infrastructure, require substantial investments. Building the necessary physical and digital infrastructure can be time-consuming and costly.

3. Teacher Training and Capacity Building

The NEP emphasizes the importance of teacher training and continuous professional development. However, there is a shortage of well-trained teachers, and providing quality training to the existing workforce is a massive undertaking.

4. Language Implementation

The policy encourages teaching in the mother tongue or regional language up to at least Grade 5. Implementing this across diverse linguistic regions in India is a significant challenge, and it may require developing curriculum materials in multiple languages.

5. Assessment Overhaul

Shifting from a rote-learning-based assessment system to a competency-based one is challenging. Developing new assessment methods, training teachers to use them effectively, and gaining acceptance from parents and students will take time.

6. Resistance to Change

The NEP 2020 represents a significant departure from the existing education system. There may be resistance from various stakeholders, including teachers, schools, and parents, who are accustomed to the current system. Convincing them to adapt to the new methods and ideas can be a challenge.

7. Inequality and Accessibility

Addressing educational inequality and ensuring access to quality education for all is a central goal of the NEP. However, achieving this in a diverse and vast country like India is challenging. Bridging the urban-rural divide and reaching marginalized communities will require focused efforts.

8. Coordination and Governance

The NEP suggests the establishment of various new bodies and regulatory changes. Ensuring smooth coordination and effective governance among these entities can be challenging and may lead to bureaucratic hurdles.

9. Evaluation and Monitoring

Proper evaluation and monitoring of the policy's progress are essential. Developing reliable metrics and mechanisms for assessment and ensuring accountability can be complex.

10. Digital Divide

The policy emphasizes the use of technology in education. However, there is a significant digital divide in India, with many students lacking access to the necessary devices and internet connectivity for online learning.

11. Political and Regional Variations

The implementation of educational policies in India often varies across states and regions due to differences in political priorities and regional needs. Achieving uniformity and consistency in the application of NEP 2020 across the country can be challenging.

12. Timeframe

Achieving the ambitious goals outlined in the NEP will require time. Political and administrative changes may affect the policy's continuity and the pace of implementation.

4. Final Thought

Despite the challenges, the NEP 2020 represents a significant step toward reforming the Indian education system. Addressing these issues will require a concerted effort from the government, educational institutions, civil society, and other stakeholders, as well as a long-term commitment to realizing the policy's vision.

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