

TRANSFORMATIONAL REFORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Higher education plays an important role in promotion of human being as well as development of society and in developing Country as envisioned in its constitution –a democratic , just ,socially established ,cultured and human nation upholding liberty ,equity ,equality ,fraternity and justice for all. Higher Education significantly contributes towards sustainable livelihoods and overall development of the Nation. Higher Education must form the basis for knowledge creation and innovation thereby contributing to a growing national economy .A quality higher education must enable personal accomplishment and enlightenment, constructive public engagement and productive contribution to the Society.

KEY WORDS

National Education Policy, Higher Education, Transformational Reforms.

INTRODUCTION

The world is undergoing rapid changes in the knowledge landscape .With various dramatic scientific and technological advances, such as the rise of big data ,machine learning and artificial intelligence ,many unskilled jobs worldwide may be taken over by machines .The gap between the current state of learning outcomes and what is required must be bridged through undertaking major reforms that bring the highest quality ,equity and integrity into the system ,from early childhood care and education through higher education . This National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st Century and aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of our county .

Transformational Reforms In Higher Education

Some of the major problems currently faced by the higher education system in India is that there is severely fragmented higher educational ecosystem , Less emphasis on the development of cognitive skills and learning outcomes, A rigid separation of disciplines ,with early specialization and streaming of students into narrow areas of study example if a student has interested in mathematics as well as History he cannot take these subjects together , Limited access particularly in socio-economically disadvantaged areas as example there is lack of money to complete the higher studies in poor family ,Limited teacher and institutional autonomy ,Inadequate mechanisms for merit –based career management and progression of faculty and institutional leaders these days teachers and institutes emphasizes students for marks and percentages ,Lesser emphasis on research at most universities and colleges they emphasizes on how to earn money and get a good job ,and lack of competitive peer –reviewed research funding across disciplines ,Suboptimal governance and leadership of Higher Education Institute ,An ineffective regulatory system and Large affiliating universities resulting in low standards of undergraduate education .

This policy envisions a complete overhaul and re-energising of the higher education system to overcome these challenges and thereby deliver high –quality higher education with equity and inclusion .The Policy ‘s vision includes the key changes to the current system i.e. Moving towards a higher educational system consisting of large ,multi-disciplinary universities and colleges, with at least one in or near every district ,and with more HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES across India that offer medium of instruction or Programmes in local/Indian languages , Moving towards a more multi-disciplinary undergraduates education , Moving towards

faculty and institutional autonomy Revamping curriculum ,pedagogy ,assessment ,and student support for enhanced student experiences, Reaffirming the integrity of faculty and institutional leadership positions through merit-appointments and career progression based on teaching ,research and service ;Establishment of a National Research Foundation to fund outstanding peer-reviewed research and to actively seed research in Universities and colleges ,Governance of HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE by high qualified independent boards having academic and administrative autonomy, “Light but tight” regulation by a single regulator for higher education , Increased access , equity ,and inclusion through a range of measures ,including greater opportunities for outstanding public education ,scholarship s by private /philanthropic universities for disadvantaged and under privileged students, online education ,and Open Distance Learning (ODL), and all infrastructure and learning materials accessible and available to learners with disabilities .

HIGHER EDUCATION KEY HIGHLIGHTS IN NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

- 1.Regulatory system of Higher Education to be distinct for regulation ,accreditation ,funding and academic standard setting –all under umbrella of Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)
- 2.4 verticals of HECI to be National Higher Education Regulatory Council , National Accreditation Council (NAC),Higher Education Grants Council (HGEC) and General Education Council (GEC)which would further form a National higher Education Qualifications Framework
- 3 .UGC,AICTE to be replaced by a single Higher Education Regulator-HECI
4. The professional councils such as the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Veterinary Council of India (VCI), National Council For Teacher Education (NCTE), National Council For Vocational and Training (NCVET) etc, will act as Professional Standard Setting Bodies (PSSBs)
- 5 .Universities to be named not on the basis of ownership but on quality of education.
6. Impetus to multi –disciplinary education .Even IITs to move towards a more holistic curriculum with arts and humanities.
- 7.The undergraduate degree will be of either 3 or 4 year duration ,with multiple exit options within this period ,with appropriate certifications for example a certificate after completing 1 year in a discipline or field including vocational and professional areas or a diploma after 2 years of study ,or a Bachelor’s degree after a 3-year programme. The 4-year multi –disciplinary Bachelors programme, however ,shall be the preferred option .
- 8 .Students pursuing 4 year degree programme would have an option of getting a degree with research if the research process is completed in the area of study as specified .
9. National Research Foundation would be set up with a goal to enable a culture of research , NRF would be governed independently by rotating board of governors. Primary task of NRF would be fund competitive, peer reviewed grants proposals of all types and across all disciplines and also act as a liaison between researchers and relevant branches of government so as to allow breakthroughs .

CONCLUSION

Major reforms suggested in the higher education to give more flexibility to the students .students can choose any subjects for higher education, take sabbatical and other options. The National Education Policy, 2020 is meant to provide an overarching vision and comprehensive framework for Higher Education across the Country. The main thrust of this policy regarding higher education is to end the fragmentation of higher education by transforming higher education institute into large multi –disciplinary universities ,colleges and HEI clusters/knowledge hubs, each of which will aim to have 3000 or more students .This would help build vibrant communities of scholars and peers ,break down harmful silos ,enable students to become well rounded across disciplines including artistic ,creative and analytic subjects as well as sports ,develop active research communities across disciplines including cross-disciplinary research and increase resource efficiency ,both material and human ,across higher education.

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