

The Future of Higher Education System in New Education Policy (2020)

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this paper is to evaluate the future of higher education system in new education policy. National Education Policy 2020 envisions an India-centric education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all. The National Policy on Education (NPE) is a policy formulated by the Government of India to promote and regulate education in India. The policy covers elementary education to higher education in both rural and urban India. The first NPE was promulgated by the Government of India by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1968, the second by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986, and the third by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020. The Union Cabinet approved the National Education Policy 2020. This is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the thirty-four-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. The new policy aims for universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 per cent Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030 and aims to raise GER in higher education to 50 per cent by 2025. The National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education. Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards. NEP 2020 aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education including vocational education from 26.3 per cent in 2018 to 50 per cent by 2035 and aims to add 3.5 crore new seats to higher education institutions. The policy envisages broad-based, multi-disciplinary, holistic Under Graduate education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification.

Key words: *National Education policy, Higher Education, Multi-Disciplinary.*

Introduction

NEP 2020 will bring two crore out of school children back into the main stream. The 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively. It will include 12 years of schooling and three years of Anganwadi and pre-schooling. NCERT will develop a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE) for children up to the age of eight. NEP 2020 calls for setting up of a National

Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by the Education Ministry. States will prepare an implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools for all learners by grade 3 by 2025. A National Book Promotion Policy is to be formulated. An Academic Bank of Credit is to be established for digitally storing academic credits earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards final degree earned. Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.

All students will take school examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8 which will be conducted by the appropriate authority. Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, but redesigned with holistic development as the aim. A new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body. NEP emphasises on setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund and also Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups. Every state/district will be encouraged to establish "Bal Bhavans" as a special daytime boarding school, to participate in art-related, career-related, and play-related activities. Free school infrastructure can be used as Samajik Chetna Kendras. A common National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) will be developed by the National Council for Teacher Education by 2022, in consultation with NCERT, SCERTs, teachers and expert organizations from across levels and regions. States/UTs will set up independent State School Standards Authority (SSSA). The SCERT will develop a School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAAC) through consultations with all stakeholders.

Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges. A new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFTE 2021, will be formulated by the NCTE in consultation with NCERT. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree. Stringent action will be taken against substandard stand-alone Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs). A National Mission for Mentoring will be established, with a large pool of outstanding senior/retired faculty who would be willing to provide short and long-term mentoring/professional support to university/college teachers. The National Scholarship Portal will be expanded to track the progress of students receiving scholarships. Private HEIs will be encouraged to offer larger numbers of free ships and scholarships to their students. Measures such as online courses and digital repositories, funding for research, improved student services, credit-based recognition of MOOCs, etc., will be taken to ensure distance learning is at par with the highest quality in-class programmes. A comprehensive set of recommendations for promoting online education consequent to the recent rise in epidemics and pandemics in order to ensure preparedness with alternative modes of quality education whenever and wherever traditional modes of education are not possible, has been covered. A dedicated unit for the purpose of orchestrating the building of digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity building will be created in the HRD ministry to look after the e-education needs of both school and higher education. An autonomous body, the National

Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration. NEP recommends setting an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI), National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, strengthening of Sanskrit and all language departments in HEIs, and use mother tongue/local language as a medium of instruction in more HEI programmes. Internationalization of education will be facilitated through both institutional collaborations, and student and faculty mobility and allowing entry of top world ranked universities to open campuses in India. Stand-alone technical universities, health science universities, legal and agricultural universities etc will aim to become multi-disciplinary institutions. Policy aims to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy. The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6 per cent of GDP at the earliest.

NEP 2020 Highlights for Higher Education:

The policy envisages broad based broad based, multi-disciplinary ug education, holistic Under Graduate education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification. UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period. Academic Bank of Credits to be established to facilitate Transfer of Credits. Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country. National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education. Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. HECI to have four independent verticals - National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding, and National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.

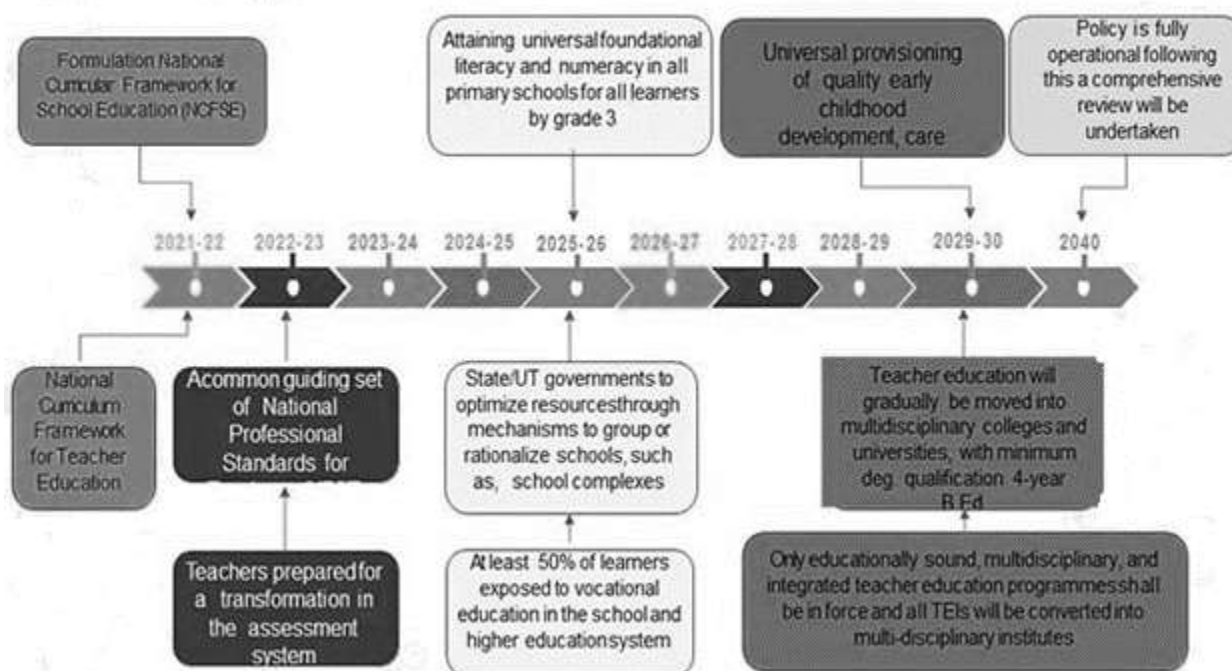
Major Reforms: Higher Education

- 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio by 2035
- Holistic and multidisciplinary Education – Flexibility of subjects
 - Multiple Entry / Exit
 - UG Programs – 3 and 4 years
 - PG Programs – 1 or 2 years
 - Integrated 5 years Bachelor's / Master's
 - M Phil to be discontinued
- Credit Transfer and Academic Bank of Credits

- HEIs: Research Intensive/Teaching intensive Universities and Autonomous Degree Granting Colleges
- Model Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MSRU)
(In or near every District)

The adoption of four years of undergraduate with the provision to directly move on to the doctoral programme is a welcome step. Already, in the United States and in the United Kingdom, undergraduate programmes in basic sciences, arts, humanities and social sciences are of four years. However, saying so, the NEP has several contradictions which need to be resolved after formal consultations and debates in the Indian parliament. This has been already legitimately raised by several opposition parties. Secondly, there has been no reference to the discipline of political science in the policy document. Only one small reference is made to political science (paragraph 15.8 on page 43), and that too for teaching in the B.Ed. colleges, which is already in place in the existing system. Hopefully, several professional bodies of political scientists will suggest that adequate attention must be given to opening up new political science departments in 21st-century Indian universities.

Timelines for Implementation in NEP 2020



- It proposes a 4-year multi-disciplinary bachelor's degree in an undergraduate programme with multiple exit options. These will include professional and vocational areas and will be implemented as follows .
 - A certificate after completing 1 year of study
 - A diploma after completing 2 years of study
 - A Bachelor's degree after completion of a 3-year program
 - A 4-year multidisciplinary Bachelor's degree (the preferred option)

- MPhil (Masters of Philosophy) courses are to be discontinued to align degree education with how it is in Western models.
- A Higher Education Council of India (HECI) will be set up to regulate higher education. The council's goal will be to increase gross enrollment ratio. The HECI will have 4 verticals:
 - National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC), to regulate higher education, including teacher education, while excluding medical and legal education.
 - National Accreditation Council (NAC), a "meta-accrediting body".
 - Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC), for funding and financing of universities and colleges. This will replace the existing National Council for Teacher Education, All India Council for Technical Education and the University Grants Commission.
 - General Education Council (GEC), to frame "graduate attributes", namely the learning outcomes expected. It will also be responsible in framing a National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF). The National Council for Teacher Education will come under the GEC, as a professional standard setting body (PSSB).
- Other PSSBs will include professional councils such as Veterinary Council of India, Council of Architecture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and National Council for Vocational Education and Training.
- The National Testing Agency will now be given the additional responsibility of conducting entrance examinations for admissions to universities across the country, in addition to the JEE Main and NEET
- The policy proposes that higher education institutes like the IITs make changes with regard to the diversity of learning.
- The policy proposes to internationalize education in India. Foreign universities can now set up campuses in India.
- The fees of both private and public universities will be fixed.

Conclusion

To conclude this big policy that has been proposed by Indian government to improve the Indian Education System is a big task. There was the need for a big change after 34 years of education system there was the gap that could be seen between Industry and academia and this gap result into the production of the skilled and educated students that won't find their place in Industry or corporate results into unemployment scenario or if employed they are under paid. In both the situation a person gets frustrated and leads towards depression and similar other things. New Education policy is still a proposal may be there could be some corrections needed that could be done either before implementing or after seeing the outcomes of the policy in practical. Mostly all the proposal that have been proposed in NEP 2020 are having great potential to give success to all the stakeholders in future. Introduction of vocational courses is a new concept, lowering the tension of board exams,

introduction of new subjects, diminishing the wall of streams and many more positive things are proposed. Now students can choose their subject combination, impractical sense now they will learn what they want to learn. The NEP 2020 enacts numerous changes in India's education policy. It aims to increase state expenditure on education from around 4% to 6% of the GDP as soon as possible. The education system has shifted the focus from learn what the system want to provide to learn what the students wants to learn according to their choice and preferences. In choosing the potential areas the scientific study can reveal student's intrinsic qualities and talents

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