A Study on NEP 2020 in Implementing ESD

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Abstract:-

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represent a transformative shift in India's educational system by giving emphasis on integrating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at all levels of learning. ESD empowers the pupil to acquire the information, values & skills to take part in decision making about the way we do thing individually and Collectively that will improve the quality of life without damaging the planet for the future.

This article specially highlights the key Contributions of NEP 2020 to ESD. This new education policy advocates for a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to foster critical thinking, problem solving & responsible citizenship. As per guidelines of UGC, Environmental Studies (EVS) is a mandatory course for all undergraduate students to engage with sustainability topics. NEP 2020 also stresses on value-based education, aiming to cultivate environmentally responsible attitudes and behaviours. By 2030, ensures that all learners acquire the knowledge & skills needed to promote sustainable development. ESD is needed to empower learners to contribute to Sustainable development in economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The NEP 2020 has given some implementation mechanisms of ESD. Higher education institutions are encouraged to offer flexible, innovative curricula, including interdisciplinary topics and practical units dedicated to sustainability and environmental issues. The policy give emphasis on community based projects and service learning, connecting classroom Knowledge with real world situation. NEP 2020 emphasizes on professional development of teachers to effectively deliver ESD, including the use of technology and innovative Pedagogies.

NEP 2020 plays an important role in mainstreaming ESD in India to nurture environmentally conscious, responsible citizens ready to address the challenges of 21st Century.

Key words – NEP 2020, ESD

Introduction :–

In present scenario one of the important problem of the world is global warming. To prevent the environmental hazards and to protect the earth, we need sustainable development, Sustainable development is now necessary for protecting the environment and saving the resources for future generation. It is the key to learning how to improve lifestyle of human being without depleting enough resources. In 2015, United Nation (UN) adopted 17 sustainable development goals to end poverty, protect the planet by 2030 & to ensure all people will enjoy peace & prosperity. The SDGs highlight the connections between the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development. Among these 17 goals, Sustainable Development Goal 4 Is a commitment to ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The National Education Policy 2020

also try to fulfil the commitment of SDG4. This policy give emphasis on inclusive, equitable, quality education as well as Lifelong learning opportunities for all. The key alignments are-universal access of education regardless of their background, based on critical thinking & problem solving learning to promote quality education, contineous & skill development learning throughout the whole life, use of technology in teaching and learning, early childhood development to achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy, provide practical skills and knowledge to make more employable, promotes gender equality in education, emphasizes the importance of research and innovation in education for fostering learning environment.

Objectives of the study:-

The main objectives of this study is to find out the role of National Education Policy 2020 in imparting education for sustainable development. This study also explore the key alignment of National Education Policy 2020 with Sustainable Development Goals.

Significance of the study:-

From scientist to educationist, all are giving more emphasis on sustainable development. Sustainable development is now matter of concern, because at this moment we are living in risky earth. In coming future, we can lost our natural resources. So for protecting the earth, this is vital to aware the people about climate change, reason behind it, reason of natural disasters, loss of natural resource. This is also important to aware people, how can we protect our earth from these hazards and what we can do for our future generation. This awareness can be possible through education. The new education policy is very important to aware the people about sustainable development. To ensure peace & prosperity among all people and to protect the planet, in 2015 United Nation (UN) had adopted 17 sustainable development Goals (SDGs). The NEP 2020 also follow these goals specially SDG-4. The SDG-4 aims to provide inclusive & equitable quality education, NEP 2020 also focuses on inclusive quality education for all from early childhood to adult. So this study is significant to find out the fulfillment of the SDG-4 through NEP 2020.

Methodology:-

For this study researcher used secondary data. The data collected from National Educational policy 2020, different articles, research papers and books. The researcher also take opinion from different higher education institutions' teachers regarding the implementation of NEP. 200 This study is exclusively theoretical and descriptive in nature. After collecting data from various secondary sources, the researcher had done qualitative analysis.

Main features of Sustainable Development Goal-4-

In this study SDG-4 is highlighted because the aim of NEP 2020 align with the SDG-4. This goal specially highlight the inclusive & quality education. The main focus areas are discussed here

a) Universal access to quality education – The SDG-4 aims to ensure quality education for all pupil at primary and secondary level and can access freely.

b) Lifelong learning – SDG-4 also aims to promote lifelong learning for all from early childhood to adult education.

c) Equity and Inclusion – SDG4 also committed to give equity and inclusion. It does not bother gender disparity. This goals aims to include all students regardless of their learning style, abilities and disabilities in same classroom.

d) Literacy and Numeracy – One of the target of SDG4 is to make capable all the learners, achieving literacy and elementary numeracy skills.

e) Vocational training and technical education – Beside the theoretical part, SDG-4 also give emphasis on vocational training course and technical education for the future of the learners.

f) ESD and global citizenship – By 2030, every learners must have received an education that aim of obtaining the understanding and skills necessary to promote sustainable development. This education will be include sustainable lifestyles, global rights for human beings, global citizenship, peaceful culture.

g) Training for teachers and educators – To empower the people about sustainable development, it is important to ensure teachers training regarding ESD. There should be a substantial increase in the number of qualified teachers throughout the world.

Education for Sustainable Development and its importance-

Education for sustainable development is an approach to education that empowers people with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes necessary to take decision and appropriate actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and social justice. The ESD is holistic and interdisciplinary in nature which connects different subjects and real life situation. It develops analytical and critical thinking ability which enable the people to solve real life problems. ESD has some moral principles which make the pupil empathetic, socially responsible. It insist people to participate in community initiatives and to adopt sustainable Lifestyle. It also cultivates a sense of responsibility and cooperation beyond borders to promote collaboration In global issues and to make global citizen.

ESD is very much important for the present and future generation.

a) Addressing Global Challenges – ESD is crucial in tackling global challenges such as climate change, natural resource depletion, social inequality gender disparity etc. By raising awareness and building decision making capacity, it prepares individuals to find out solutions and adapt to changing conditions.

b) Promoting Sustainable Behaviours – ESD helps to promote sustainable behaviour by changing the attitude of the learner to conserve resources for the future generation.

c) Enhancing Economic, Social and Environmental well being - ESD is important for social and economic development of the people without damaging the environment. It helps to learn about how can a people live a sustainable healthy life without destroying the planet.

Role of NEP 2020 in sustainable development :-

NEP 2020 is a comprehensive framework for education in India which replaced the previous National Policy on Education of 1986. It is "an education system rooted in Indian, ethos that contributes directly to transforming India, that is Bharat, sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high quality education to all, thereby making India a global knowledge superpower." The five guiding pillars of this policy are Accessibility, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability.

The main features of NEP-2020 -

a) Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education – NEP 2020 emphasizes a shift towards holistic and multidisciplinary education which includes fostering intellectual, aesthetic, social, physical, emotional and moral development in an integrated manner.

b) Flexible Curriculum – NEP 2020 promotes a flexible curriculum that allows students to choose subjects based on their interests rather than being restricted. to traditional disciplinary boundaries.

c) Practical skills- NEP 2020 emphasizes the integration of practical skills and hands-on experience in the curriculum. It focuses on developing critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity among students.

d) Integration of vocational courses – This policy aims to integrate vocational streams within the general stream. In higher education beside the core courses, there are summer internship course for the students to choose different career option.

e) Integration of Value Added Course – This policy also integrated compulsory Value Added Course with the general core courses. Environmental Education Is one of the compulsory VAC in higher education. Which make the students aware about climate change, natural hazards, resource depletion etc.

f) Including Indian Knowledge System – NEP 2020 give emphasis the integration of Indian Knowledge System (IKS) into the curriculum across various disciplines including science, technology, engineering, mathematics, humanities and social sciences. This integration recognizes the rich intellectual heritage of India and seeks to foster a deeper understanding of its diverse knowledge traditions, including philosophy, science, mathematics and arts.

g) Integration of technology – The NEP 2020 give more emphasis on use of technology in classrooms to enhance the learning outcomes. Digital literacy and online learning of education can increase more accessibility of education.

h) Teacher training- NEP 2020 focuses on teacher training as for their professional development and to make eligible to as a good teacher who can serve the pupil according to new policy. Teacher will be eligible to spread Indian Knowledge System and aware the people about different global issues.

i) Research and Innovation – This policy focuses on the research and innovation beside different job opportunities to make the earth peaceful. The NEP 2020 encourage to continue research on sustainable development.

Conclusion:-

From the above discussion it is clean that NEP 2020 is align with the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The key connections between NFP. 2020 and ESD are i) introducing mandatory Environmental Education course as a core component at the undergraduate level, ii) advocating holistic and multidisciplinary approach to prepare students to address complex, real-world challenges, iii) emphasizing the training of teachers around sustainable development concepts to deliver ESD content effectively iii) Promoting Sustainable practices within educational institution such as waste management, water and energy conservation, biodiversity protection etc. This policy aims to create a responsible citizen who is aware about his/her role in society to promote sustainable development. Finally it can be said that NEP 2020 places ESD at the centre of India's educational reform which recognizes quality education as essential for achieving sustainable, equitable and prosperous society.

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