

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF NEP 2020 IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

India is a significant player in the global education market. India claims one of the world's most extensive networks of higher education institutions with 26.31 percent of India's population between the ages of 0 and 14; the education sector offers significant potential for development. India's education system has greatly improved in recent years, and it is now one of the best in the world. It is also one of the most important contributors to the country's economic prosperity. Apart from government initiatives, the importance of private institutions in the development of India's education industry cannot be overstated. However, there are some suspicious figures as well. Despite increased investment in education, 40 percent of the country's population remains illiterate. Only 15% of kids are able to progress to the following level, which is high school.

Key Words: development, education, global, higher, progress, reforms, skills, society

Introduction

The Higher Education

With many institutions, India boasts the world's third-largest upper secondary education system. These days, an increasing number of students are pursuing higher education. The number of students enrolling in higher education reflects the outcome. The number of institutions is steadily expanding. As of December 31, 2023, India had the following number of educational institutions:

Schools, colleges, universities, and other private institutions make up the education industry. The education industry equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to adapt to an ever-changing working environment. The industry is made up of a growing number of companies that aim to give clients with lifetime learning opportunities. Primary education, secondary education, higher education, and vocational education are the four categories that make up the education sector. All other industries rely on the education industry for their workforce capability. However, it faces its own set of workforce development issues. The Education industry is subject to intensive public and political scrutiny, as well as periodic waves of policy change and review, because it is responsible for skilling the current workforce and educating future generations for work and life. There are movements for educational reforms, such as enhancing the quality and efficiency of education to make it more relevant to students' lives and efficient problem solving in today's or tomorrow's society, or for evidence-based education techniques. Some states and the United Nations have acknowledged the right to education. Global activities are aimed at accomplishing Sustainable Development Goal, which calls for universal access to high-quality education.

From early childhood care and education to higher education, the gap between existing learning results and what is expected must be addressed by fundamental reforms that bring the highest

quality, equity, and integrity into the system.

The goal must be for India to develop a world-class education system by 2040, with equitable access to high-quality education for all students, regardless of social or economic status. While drawing on India's traditions and value systems, education, including SDG4, will be prioritised. For the sake of national security, it is regarded vital to instill knowledge about India and its diverse social, cultural, and technological demands, as well as its inimitable aesthetic, language, and knowledge traditions, and strong ethics in India's young people.

Pride self-assurance, self-awareness, collaboration, and integration.

Principles of Policy

The following are the essential concepts that will guide both the education system as whole and particular institutions within it.

- ✓ Recognizing, identifying, and fostering the unique capabilities of each student.
- ✓ Flexibility.
- ✓ There are no definite divisions.
- ✓ Multidisciplinary and a holistic approach to learning.
- ✓ A focus on conceptual comprehension
- ✓ Creativity and critical thinking
- ✓ The centre of the learning process is teachers and faculty

Need for the Study

1. To comprehend the NEP 2020 concept.
2. To know the benefits of the policy.
3. Must be aware of challenges that the government faces in implementing the policy.

Statement of Problem

The present education system orients the students towards the concept of the subject. It does not give skill based learning concept to the students there by creating the gap industry between academic. The employability of the students may be hampered due to the above fact. In present education system there is no multiple entries and multiple exits for the course. This may not help the students to get certificate diploma or degree to the students.

Objectives of NEP 2020

1. To study the issues and challenges of NEP 2020 in higher education.
2. To study how best NEP 2020 can help the students in higher education.

Methodology of Research

TOOL FOR DATA COLLECTION

Primary Data

The primary data is collected through the discussion with students and teachers of education organisation.

Secondary Data

Keeping in mind the various objectives of the studies the secondary data collected from the Research papers, Newspapers, Websites, Journals, Magazines and Articles.

Limitations

1. There may be bias in the information provided by the respondents.
2. The project work is carried out in Andhra Pradesh.
3. The major data is collected through secondary sources.

SWOC ANALYSIS of NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

The Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) issued The New Education Policy on July 31, 2020, after years of deliberation and two committees. Although the strategy has many beneficial aspects, the government's major problem is widespread implementation and achieving the desired learning results. Because accessibility, affordability, and quality are three major concerns in the education industry, this article seeks to do a SWOT analysis of the National Education Policy 2020.

Strengths

The policy has improved the basis of education by re-imagining the school curriculum from a 10+2 model to a 5+3+3+4 model for a child's holistic development; this stage accounts for 80% of cognitive growth.

Multiple entry and exits from any course is a flexible move that will enable students to receive a 'basic certificate' if they finish a year, two 'diploma certificates' if they complete two years, and a 'degree' once the course is completed, resulting in no loss of years. They will get honours degree once they complete the course on 4th year. Greater subject choice flexibility, as well as the removal of boundaries between arts and sciences, curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities, sports, and vocational crafts, would allow students to study and grow at their own speed.

The increase in GDP allocation to the education sector from 4.43 percent to 6% is a positive move. The policy aims to raise the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to 50% (now 26.3%) by 2035, and to achieve universal literacy in primary schools by 2025.

Gender sensitivity is also part of the curriculum, which will help pupils become more aware of gender issues. Assessment will transition to a formative style that promotes higher-order thinking—skills, critical thinking, and conceptual clarity, which is a huge step away from the rote learning that is currently used in our classrooms.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 introduced several reforms and changes aimed at transforming the Indian education system, including higher education. While the policy has been welcomed for its ambitious goals and comprehensive vision, it also faces several challenges and potential issues.

1. Implementation Challenges: One of the primary issues with NEP 2020 is the challenge of implementing its ambitious goals. Transforming the entire education system requires significant resources, coordination among various stakeholders, and political will. Ensuring effective

implementation at all levels of education, especially in higher education institutions, can be a daunting task.

Here's a breakdown of why effective implementation is crucial and the hurdles that need to be overcome:

Effective Implementation Matters

The NEP 2020 outlines a promising vision for a more holistic, student-centric, and outcome oriented higher education system. However, the success of the policy hinges on its effective translation from vision to reality across a vast network of universities and colleges. Flawed implementation can lead to inconsistencies, dilution of the core ideas, and ultimately, a failure to achieve the desired outcomes.

Challenges to Effective Implementation

Resource Constraints: As discussed earlier, financial limitations can hinder the ability of institutions to implement the NEP effectively. Upgrading infrastructure, providing faculty training, and offering diverse learning experiences all require adequate funding.

Coordination among Stakeholder: The NEP requires collaboration between various stakeholders, including central and state governments, regulatory bodies, universities, and teachers. Streamlining communication and ensuring everyone works towards the same goals can be challenging.

Faculty Development and Training: A significant shift in teaching methodology is envisioned by the NEP. Equipping existing faculty with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver this new pedagogy requires comprehensive training programs.

Curriculum Revision and Standardization: Developing and implementing a new curriculum framework that maintains consistency across diverse institutions is a complex task. Balancing national guidelines with institutional autonomy needs careful consideration.

Assessment and Evaluation Reforms: Moving away from rote memorization towards assessing a wider range of skills requires developing robust and reliable evaluation methods. This necessitates innovation and capacity building within the education system.

2. Strategies for Effective Implementation

Phased Implementation: A phased approach, with pilot projects and gradual rollout, can help identify and address implementation challenges before wider adoption.

Capacity Building: Investing in faculty development programs, creating a support system for teachers, and strengthening institutional leadership are crucial for successful implementation.

Decentralization and Flexibility: While ensuring a national framework, providing flexibility to institutions to adapt the NEP to their specific context can foster innovation and ownership.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation processes are essential to identify bottlenecks, assess progress, and make necessary course corrections.

Funding Constraints: NEP2020 proposes several reforms that require substantial financial investment, such as setting up new institutions, enhancing infrastructure, and promoting research and innovation. However, the allocation of funds for education in India has often been inadequate, and diverting resources to meet the goals of NEP 2020 could pose financial challenges.

Funding constraints are a major hurdle in implementing the ambitious goals of NEP 2020, particularly in higher education. Here's a deeper dive into the issue:

The Scale of Investment Needed:

The NEP proposes a significant revamp of higher education, including:

- Setting up new universities and institutions, particularly focused on research and interdisciplinary studies.
- Enhancing existing infrastructure, including classrooms, labs, libraries, and digital learning facilities.
- Promoting research and innovation through increased funding for faculty research projects and creation of research facilities.
- Implementing faculty development programs to equip them with new pedagogical skills envisioned by the NEP
- Offering additional student support services, such as scholarships, counseling, and career guidance. All of these initiatives require substantial financial resources.

The Current Funding Scenario:

India's public spending on education, as a percentage of GDP, has historically fallen short of the recommended benchmark of 6%. Currently, it hovers around 3.5% of GDP, which is simply not enough to meet the NEP's goals. Even within the existing budget, a large portion goes towards elementary and secondary education, leaving higher education with a smaller share.

The Challenge of Increasing Allocation:

- Increasing government spending on education significantly requires strong political will and economic stability.
- Diverting resources to education might necessitate cuts in other areas, which could be politically challenging.
- The economic impact of the pandemic has further strained public finances.

Potential Consequences of Underfunding:

- If the NEP is not adequately funded, its implementation will be compromised.
- The quality of higher education may not improve as envisioned.
- The goals of increased research output, improved faculty training, and better student support services may remain unfulfilled.
- The gap between the ideals of the NEP and the reality on the ground may widen, leading to disillusionment.

Possible Solutions:

- Exploring alternative funding mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, alumni donations, and corporate social responsibility initiatives
- Increasing efficiency in spending existing education funds and eliminating wasteful expenditures.
- Engaging with civil society and educational institutions to find innovative ways to raise resources.

3. Quality of Education: While NEP 2020 emphasizes improving the quality of education across all levels, including higher education, achieving this goal is not straightforward. Ensuring quality education requires addressing issues such as faculty shortages, outdated curriculum, inadequate infrastructure, and the need for continuous teacher training. Without addressing these fundamental challenges, the quality of higher education may not improve significantly.

Here's a closer look at the issues that need to be addressed for a substantial improvement:

Roadblocks to Quality Enhancement**Faculty Issues:**

Faculty Shortage: Many universities, especially in rural areas, grapple with faculty shortages. This can lead to overburdened faculty and a decline in the quality of instruction.

Outdated Skills: The shift towards a more interactive and research-oriented pedagogy envisioned by NEP may require faculty to upgrade their skills.

Limited Research Opportunities: Inadequate funding for research and a lack of well-equipped labs can hinder faculty research output and their ability to stay current in their fields.

Curriculum Constraints:

Outdated Content: Many curriculums may not reflect the latest advancements in various fields. Regular updates and incorporation of industry needs are crucial.

Limited Flexibility: A rigid curriculum with limited space for electives and interdisciplinary exploration can restrict student learning and development.

Infrastructure Deficits:

Inadequate Facilities: The lack of well-maintained classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and digital learning tools can hinder the quality of the learning experience.

Limited Access to Resources: Insufficient availability of books, journals, and online resources can restrict students' access to knowledge and hinder research capabilities.

Strategies for Quality Improvement**Faculty Development Initiatives:**

- Investing in training programs to equip faculty with new pedagogical skills and knowledge. Incentivizing and promoting research activities among faculty members.
- Addressing faculty shortages through targeted recruitment drives and improved working conditions.

Curriculum Reforms:

- Regularly updating curriculum content to reflect advancements in various fields.
- Introducing more flexibility in course selection, allowing students to pursue electives and explore interdisciplinary interests.
- Enhancing the focus on critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.

Infrastructure Improvements:

- Increasing government funding and exploring alternative sources of investment to upgrade infrastructure in universities and colleges.
- Prioritizing the development of well-equipped labs, libraries, and digital learning facilities.
- Ensuring easy access to learning resources, including books, journals, and online databases.

4. Access and Equity: NEP 2020 aims to increase access to higher education for all segments of society, including marginalized communities and those in rural areas. However, ensuring equitable access to quality higher education remains a challenge due to disparities in infrastructure, resources, and opportunities across different regions and socio-economic groups.

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