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ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION

National Education Policy, 2020 – A New Light in Indian Education System

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ABSTRACT

The National Education Policy introduced after many consultations should bring great changes in India. It has several promising features. It has the aim of improving India into a vibrant, flourishing knowledge society and super power by making college and school education more multidisciplinary, holistic and flexible, suitable for 21st century needs further taking out the best, unique capabilities of each student. This paper attempts to present an overview on National Education Plan, 2020.

Keywords- National, Education Policy, HRD, Consultations, Multidisciplinary, Schools, Colleges

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Education Policy introduced in the year 2020 should be a game changer in Indian education system. The Indian education system which has been suffering from different bottlenecks needed a much needed jolt to get out of its demerits. That's why the National Education Policy, introduced by Union HRD Minister tried to address the demerits of the Indian higher education system. It has gone several positive sides which will be discussed in this paper.

2. BACKGROUND

The National Policy on Education, 1986 was replaced by the latest National Education Policy, 2020. Cabinet Secretary T. S. R. Subramanian in January, 2015, started the policy of consultation on NEP by forming a committee. By emphasizing on the committee's report, a draft report was prepared in June 2017. In 2019, this draft report was presented by ISRO chief, Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan. Later, Ministry of HRD released a Draft New Education Policy (DNEP) in 2019, after a series of public consultations. This Draft NEP had 494 pages. For rigorous consultations the Ministry received

lakhs of suggestions from 676 districts, 6000 urban local bodies, 6600 blocks and 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, 6,600 blocks.

Provisions of NEP, 2020

The provisions of NEP, 2020 can be elaborated as per below:

1. Compulsory schooling by 2020.
 2. NEP, 2020 will benefit approximately 2 cr children.
 3. NCERT will develop a National Curriculum for children within age of 8 years.
 4. A National Mission on Foundational Numeracy and Literacy will be set up by Education Ministry to achieve targets of literacy and numeracy of children by class 3 which is to be achieved by 2025.
 5. National Book Promotion is another welcome policy of NEP, 2020.
 6. With holistic development in mind school education will be restructured.
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7. “Bal Bhavans” will be established in all states/district for aiding students in the development

of art, play and career.

8. The NEP, 2020 prescribes setting up of an “Academic Credit Bank”. The Bank will store

credit points for degree completing students which can be counted after completion of their

degrees.

9. As per NEP, 2020 ; Multidisciplinary Research and Education Universities will be set up at

par with IIMs and IITs. These universities will introduce multidisciplinary subjects

involving cross specializations.

10. Same rules related to accreditation and regulation will be applicable for both private and public bodies.

11. Autonomy will be provided to colleges in a phased manner.

12. By 2030, a 4-year BEd degree will be made compulsory to school teaching.

13. Online academics will be promoted in a big manner for facilitating education in future

pandemic situations.

3. IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF NEP, 2020

State Governments are supposed to follow the guidelines as provided in the NEP, 2020. Off course, there is no compulsion on any state to follow it. For example, Tamil Nadu does not follow the 3 languages rule passed in 1968. Due to the joint nature of Education, both the State and Central Governments can take collaborative approach with regard to the implementation of educational reforms. With the aim of phased implementation, the Government has taken the approach of implementing all of the reforms by 2040.

As planned by the Government, several committees will be set up emphasizing on various subjects by including relevant members from different Ministries. This committee will work on implementing the different plans of NEP, 2020. Annual targets will be set up and at the end of every year, reviews will be carried out.

4. CHALLENGES FOR THE NEP, 2020

Though NEP 2020 has a few advantages it also has good number of challenges. The policy aims to bring in a total transformation in Indian education system. Some of these will be implemented soon whereas some will be implemented later.

Based on a 100 actions plan the NEP 2020 aims to progress with progress of time. Based on institutional and regional developments, its implementation will be carried out. The Central Universities and Institutes of Eminence will play a major role in this regard.

In terms of legality, Higher Education Council of India Bill draft is still seated in Ministry of Education for more than a year. The required manifesto will have to be changed based on the Acts of Central and State Universities, A note regarding National Research Foundation is already with cabinet, but an Act is required to make it a completely autonomous body.

Funding is another concern for NEP 2020. If budget allocations are done then only free breakfasts can be given. At least, 15 years will be needed getting financial assistance to convert affiliated colleges into autonomous institutions. Also, the Covid 19 pandemic fuelled by Omicron is acting as a delaying factor. This has delayed the beginning of academic session in which the Government had planned to introduce some of the NEP, 2020 guidelines.

5. CONCLUSION

Education is an indispensable part of any society, nation or country and all countries must have a strong progressive education policy. The

New Education Policy introduced by the Ministry of Education is the right step in this regard. Success of NEP 2020 will depend largely on its implementation. India with the youngest

population in the world can't afford to have a poor implementation of the grand plans of NEP, 2020.

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