A Study on Exploring the Multifaceted Roles of the National Educational Education Policy 2020

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Abstract: *The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to reform India's education system, focusing on a holistic approach that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and research excellence. One of its core objectives is to enhance research capabilities across all disciplines by creating a conducive environment for innovation, interdisciplinary studies, and global collaboration. This paper explores the functions of NEP 2020 that directly impact research and innovation, including the establishment of the National Research Foundation (NRF), greater autonomy for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the emphasis on international collaborations, and infrastructural developments. By critically evaluating these components, this paper aims to shed light on how NEP 2020 could transform India's research ecosystem and contribute to its socio-economic development. In this research paper, we will explore the functions outlined in NEP 2020 that focus specifically on research and development (R&D), interdisciplinary learning, funding, and the global positioning of Indian research institutions..*

Keywords: New Education Policy, NEP 2020, India's education system

I. INTRODUCTION

India's education system has undergone several reforms over the past decades, but the **New Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, introduced by the Ministry of Education in July 2020, marks a significant turning point in the nation's educational trajectory. With a clear focus on making India a global knowledge hub, NEP 2020 aims to bring radical changes to the structure of education, particularly in **higher education** and **research**. While the policy seeks to address issues related to access, equity, and quality, one of its most important aspects is its emphasis on **research, innovation**, and the **globalization of education**.

FUNCTIONS

In order to improve and reform India's educational system, the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 incorporates a number of new roles. NEP 2020 serves the following five main purposes:

1. Encouragement of Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education

The significance of a diversified approach to education is emphasized by NEP 2020. In order to help students acquire well-rounded abilities, it encourages them to study a range of courses across disciplines, including science, the arts, the humanities, and vocational studies. In order to move away from strict specialties early in school, this aims to foster critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities.

2. Emphasis on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE)

Early childhood care and education (ECCE) is emphasized heavily in the strategy as the cornerstone of learning and development throughout life. In order to guarantee that every child has access to high-quality early education, it suggests universal pre-school education for kids ages three to six. This role aims to close the gap in early education and provide a strong basis for kids' cognitive and emotional growth.

3. Using Technology in the Classroom

Through the use of digital tools to improve the learning process, NEP 2020 seeks to incorporate technology into education. This covers the utilization of digital classrooms, interactive learning materials, and online learning platforms. Additionally, the policy aims to increase digital literacy among educators and students by making technology available to both urban and rural schools.

4. The NRF, or National Research Foundation

Proposed under NEP 2020, the National Research Foundation (NRF) aims to promote and finance top-notch research in a range of fields, including the social sciences, humanities, and sciences. The NRF will promote cooperation between government agencies, businesses, and academic institutions as well as multidisciplinary research. This role seeks to establish India as a global leader in innovation and improve its research output.

5. Revised Structure for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

NEP 2020 aims to transform **higher education institutions (HEIs)** by providing them with greater **autonomy**. The policy encourages HEIs to focus on academic excellence, offer flexible programs, and create research-driven curricula. It proposes the introduction of **multi-disciplinary institutions** that offer a wide range of academic disciplines and enhance **research output**. The vision is to make Indian universities globally competitive.

These five functions reflect the **transformational vision** of NEP 2020 to build a more **inclusive, flexible**, and **research-driven** education system in India.

The following is a thorough overview of the roles that Basic Numeracy and Literacy play under NEP 2020:

4. Education in Multiple Languages

The academic community is debating the NEP 2020's proposal to use mother tongue instruction till Grade 5. Studies like those by Duarte (2019) and Cummins (2000) highlight the cognitive benefits of mother-tongue instruction and how it might enhance academic achievement, especially in multicultural, multilingual nations like India.If absolutely, let's investigate multilingual education. Teaching pupils in multiple languages is known as education in multiple languages. Numerous forms, including bilingual education, multilingual education, and dual-language immersion programs, are examples of this teaching methodology. Here are a few crucial elements:

5. Pedagogical and Curriculum Reforms

With a focus on competency-based education and interdisciplinary learning, the NEP 2020 suggests significant curriculum and pedagogical changes. According to studies like Bauer & Phelan (2021), interdisciplinary education fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills, equipping students for the complexity of contemporary workplaces. To change the Indian educational system, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 proposes a number of important curriculum and methodological changes. The goal of these changes is to make education more comprehensive, interesting, adaptable, and in line with 21st-century demands. The strategy recognizes that in order to promote critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, and a passion of lifelong learning, the current system with its strict and exam-focused structure needs to change. While curriculum reforms seek to make education more accessible, multidisciplinary, and relevant, pedagogical reforms place an emphasis on interactive, student-centered learning.

6. The Use of Technology in Education

Scholars like Dhawan (2020), who emphasize how digital learning platforms can close the divide between urban and rural education, have backed the NEP 2020's focus on the integration of technology in education. However, as the 2020 study by India's Ministry of Education discusses, issues with digital literacy and infrastructure continue to be widespread.The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 acknowledges that technology has the potential to revolutionize education by greatly enhancing learning's quality, accessibility, and adaptability. From elementary schools to universities, the strategy seeks to incorporate digital tools, platforms, and resources into every facet of education in order to foster a more diverse, interesting, and individualized learning environment. Technology is viewed as a catalyst

for creative pedagogies, increasing the educational process and facilitating equal access to education nationwide, in addition to being a tool for augmenting traditional education.

7. Skill Development and Vocational Education

In order to prepare pupils for the workforce, the NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of secondary vocational education. According to studies by Kluve et al. (2020), vocational education is crucial for imparting practical skills, which are essential in India's quickly changing labor market.As crucial elements of the educational framework, skill development and vocational education are highly valued in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. In addition to traditional academic education, the NEP seeks to give students practical skills and vocational training in recognition of the quickly evolving labor market and the rising need for a trained workforce. Whether students choose to continue higher education or enter the workforce straight out of high school, this integrated strategy aims to provide them with the competences they need to excel in both the workplace and their personal lives.

8. Implementation Difficulties

NEP 2020 implementation confronts many obstacles, including as the requirement for intensive teacher training and infrastructure constraints, despite the potential for change. The gap between urban and rural schools is highlighted by academics such as Kapoor (2021), which could impede the policy's goals from being fully achieved. The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** presents a transformative vision for the education system in India, emphasizing **equity**, **accessibility**, **quality**, and **inclusivity** across all levels of education. However, as with any large-scale policy reform, the **implementation of NEP 2020** faces several challenges that could hinder its full realization. These difficulties arise from issues related to **resource allocation**, **infrastructure**, **policy coordination**, **teacher training**, and **technological integration**. Below are the key **implementation difficulties** and their functions within the context of NEP 2020.

9. Effect on Postsecondary Education

The creation of multidisciplinary institutions is the goal of the NEP 2020, which aims to modernize higher education. The movement toward multidisciplinary and research-oriented education is crucial to raising the standard of higher education in India, claims Chakrabarti (2020). A number of important reforms are introduced in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 with the goal of revolutionizing postsecondary education in India. In order to make India's higher education system more inclusive, multidisciplinary, globalized, and student-centric, the policy aims to improve the quality, accessibility, and flexibility of higher education. These adjustments are intended to foster innovation, better match the educational system with the demands of the twenty-first century economy, and guarantee that graduates have the skills needed to thrive in a labor market that is changing quickly.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

In order to reform India's educational system, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was introduced. It aims to promote a more comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to education while addressing concerns of fairness, quality, and access. By emphasizing cutting-edge teaching and learning strategies, the policy aims to direct India toward meeting international educational standards. The significance of the NEP in bringing India's educational system into line with international trends has been emphasized by academics like Muralidharan (2021). The Indian government adopted the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as a comprehensive framework to direct the evolution of the country's educational system. The policy, which was approved by the Cabinet on July 29, 2020, replaces the previous National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986. It aims to completely revamp the current system by implementing a number of revolutionary changes in a number of areas, such as vocational training, higher education, and school education. By emphasizing access, quality, and equity, NEP 2020 seeks to address the educational requirements of a populace that is varied and expanding. It aims to make education more multidisciplinary, flexible, holistic, and in line with international norms.

MerinLukose ,Pankhuri Sharma . A Study on the Role of NEP 2020: Skill Development of Students . This study states that NEP (National Education Policy) 2020 is a major step taken by the government to reshape the education system to adapt the changes that came with the pandemic and the policy supported more of skill-based education for the students so that they can make correct choices for their future. Technological revolution popularly known as 4th Industrial revolution is fundamentally changing the way of life, work and interaction with each other. NEP focuses on promoting creativity and curiosity among the young learners to make the curriculum of schools & colleges more skill-oriented, by transforming our youth into tangible global resources. The present research is conducted to study the role of stakeholders in skillbased development of students and the suggested skills required by the students to learn. The present study aims to identify the role of NEP 2020 in student skill development. The paper also makes a study on perspectives of different stakeholders for skill enhancement. With special reference to NEP 2020 the study will focus on the idea of vocational education to promote skill enhancement to the students. Five literatures were reviewed to study the skill enhancement of students and various 21st century skills required by the students.

Dr. HemlataVerma ,Adarsh Kumar in their research paper New Education Policy 2020 of India: A Theoretical Analysis stated that Education has a key and decisive role in this scenario of contingencies. The National Education Policy 2020 has therefore been transformed into the framework of this reform, which could help to build a new education system in the country, in addition to strengthening those economic and social indicators. That still needs to be improved. NEP 2020 provides for quality higher education through multidisciplinary universities and autonomous colleges. We have critically examined the policy in this paper and proposed changes to ensure a seamless continuum with its predecessor in addition to its predecessor, boosting its importance. The current paper describes the analysis of the requirements for NEP 2020 provisions and management practices at the university level. Recommendations are made for the design and implementation of NEPs at national and HEIs (Higher Education levels).

G.Santoshi , A Study On National Education Policies And Revolution In The Education Sector In India states Education is one of the key factors for the development of the country. Substantial investment in human capital contributes to the sustainable development of the economy. It raises human capital and boosts entrepreneurship and advances in technology. Ultimately it plays a vital role in ensuring both social and economic progress as well ameliorates income distribution. Finance Minister in Union Budget 2021-22 aforementioned that NEP under "reinvigorating human capital" theme launched lately has received a good reception. The present paper highlights on National Education Policies and major changes that took place in the education sector in the last decade. This study is descriptive in nature and information is collected from secondary sources. Finally paper revealed that drastic changes took place in education sector.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

A thorough research approach is necessary to assess how NEP 2020 is being implemented and its overall consequences when examining its functions and how it affects different facets of the educational system. Both qualitative and quantitative assessments should be possible with the study methodology, giving a comprehensive view of the policy's efficacy, difficulties, and results.

Research Objectives

- To study the functions of NEP 2020.

Research Design

To understand the multifaceted functions and impact of NEP 2020, a **mixed-methods approach** is recommended. This approach involves both **qualitative** and **quantitative** research methods to provide a holistic understanding of the policy's effects.

Data Collection Methods

Secondary Data Collection

1. **Government Reports**: Analyze documents such as **NEP 2020 implementation plans**, **annual reports from the Ministry of Education**, and **statistical data** on education in India.
2. **Institutional Reports**: Evaluate reports from specific educational institutions that have implemented NEP reforms.
3. **Previous Studies**: Review existing research papers, policy briefs, and articles assessing the effects of NEP 2020 in different states or sectors.

Limitations

- **Access to Remote Areas**: Limited access to rural and remote areas may affect the inclusiveness of the study, especially regarding challenges faced by these communities in implementing NEP 2020.
- **Time Constraints**: Given that NEP 2020 is in the early stages of implementation, the study may face limitations in evaluating long-term impacts.
- **Data Availability**: Official data related to NEP 2020's effects might be limited or still under collection, affecting the thoroughness of the quantitative analysis.

IV. FINDINGS

The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** is designed to reform and transform the Indian education system across all levels, from **early childhood** to **higher education**. Based on initial studies, surveys, and analyses, several key findings have emerged regarding the **functions** and **impact** of NEP 2020. These findings highlight both the **positive outcomes** and the **challenges** faced during its implementation.

By allowing students to choose from a variety of disciplines, NEP 2020 encourages multidisciplinary education and fosters critical thinking and holistic growth.

By choosing courses more freely, students are able to better match their academic objectives with their personal and professional aspirations. However, strict academic hierarchies make it difficult for universities to execute. In order to achieve the policy's goal of flexible, comprehensive education, several obstacles must be overcome.

Early childhood education is a significant priority for NEP 2020, which promotes its national growth. According to state reports, more is being done to strengthen the learning foundations and boost the quality and reach of ECCE. However, the lack of qualified teachers in rural and isolated locations makes it difficult for them to obtain high-quality ECCE. In order to guarantee equitable early education in every location, these gaps must be addressed.

As a result of the focus on experience learning, conceptual clarity, and critical thinking, interactive teaching approaches have become increasingly popular. These approaches are said to be more interesting and pertinent for students. Numerous institutions have begun incorporating project-based learning into their curricula, and teachers have been trained to apply these techniques.

The usage of digital platforms, e-learning tools, and online education has increased as a result of the policy's emphasis on technology integration. When educational systems switched to online modes during the pandemic, this was very helpful. Impact: Many students report having easier access to virtual classrooms, online courses, and learning materials, especially those who attend school in cities. For example, the number of classes and users on the SWAYAM platform have increased significantly. The challenge: The usefulness of these technologies is hampered in rural regions by a lack of digital infrastructure and internet connectivity, creating a digital divide.

Vocational education is given priority under NEP 2020 in order to prepare students for the workforce by integrating it with regular education. Institutions are providing hands-on experience by growing their vocational programs and establishing industry links. Parents and students are not well-informed about these opportunities, though. A prevailing belief that vocational courses are less valuable than traditional degrees persists. Addressing this perception and boosting awareness are essential for the policy to effectively cultivate a skilled workforce and bridge the gap between education and the job market.

V. CONCLUSION

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a comprehensive overhaul of India's education system, designed to foster a more inclusive, accessible, and holistic learning environment. At its core, the NEP champions a multidisciplinary approach, empowering students to explore diverse subjects and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Recognizing the foundational importance of early childhood education, the policy aims to universalize high-quality preschool learning. Furthermore, it prioritizes inclusion and equity, striving to bridge socio-economic and regional disparities while ensuring equal access for all, including those with disabilities. A significant shift is the emphasis on mother tongue or regional language instruction, promoting deeper understanding and cultural connection. The NEP also embraces technology, advocating for its integration to enhance learning and reach underserved areas. Assessment reforms aim to move away from rote memorization, focusing instead on evaluating critical thinking and creativity through continuous evaluation. In higher education, the policy encourages the establishment of multidisciplinary universities and emphasizes research and innovation. Recognizing the pivotal role of teachers, the NEP focuses on improving their quality through professional development and pedagogical reforms. Streamlined regulation and institutional autonomy are also key aspects, alongside flexible pathways for students in higher education with multiple entry and exit options. Ultimately, the NEP 2020 seeks to create a dynamic, forward-thinking education ecosystem, aligning India with global standards and nurturing a generation equipped to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

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