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REVIEW ARTICLE

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NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY A STUDENT CENTRIC POLICY: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a notable step towards revising the Indian education system. It is focused at upgrading the quality of education and boosting the learning outcomes of students. The policy visualizes a student-centric approach to education, where the focus is on developing critical thinking, problem-solving and life skills among students. The core of the policy is to provide holistic education which helps the students not only acquire knowledge but also skill that are required through an approach that exposes them to become confident and self-sustainable. The policy directs the students to gain field experiences, verifiable research in the field they follow their education, involving all the stakeholders and thus creating an ecosystem for good education by eliminating the blockade between several disciplines. In this new pattern, a student is at the Centre stage thus in this paper a review is taken on progressive shift of National education policy towards a more considerable, adaptable and student centric education system.

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INTRODUCTION

The world is experiencing fast modification in the knowledge scenario. With various scientific and technological advances, with multidisciplinary abilities across the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) plays a significant role in shaping the future of India. The National Education Policy 2020 is a welcome and determined re-imagining of India's education system into a modern, progressive and equitable one. Flourishing implementation of this policy seek considerable interpretation of decision-making structures and re-arrangement of economical resources in upcoming month and years. The recent revamp of NEP 2020 has ushered in a wave of positive changes, particularly in empowering students through increased flexibility in course choices. This move represents a vacating from the traditional, stiff educational structure and focus to serve to the multiple talents, involvement and career desires of the students. The National Education Policy 2020 acknowledges the modifying dynamics of the universal manpower, highlights the need for a various skill ability that goes over the established barriers of arts, commerce, and science. The NEP 2020 permits students by providing them with greater choice and pliability in their academic activity. The NEP 2020 stand against the conventional separation between arts, humanities, sciences, and vocational education. Students are now motivated to search a blend of subjects that match with their concern, permitting for a more comprehensive and distinctive educational journey.

NEP 2020 Opportunities and Challenges: The national education policy brings both opportunities and challenges for students in higher education.

Opportunities

1. Multidisciplinary Approach: One of the important point of the NEP is the importance on a multidisciplinary approach to learning. Previously, students were restricted to particular streams - science, commerce and arts with confined scope for crossing but the new education policy promotes a complete path, permitting students to choose subjects from different streams. This will not only widen their knowledge base but also encourage a more skillful understanding of various disciplines. For example, a student excitable about both zoology and history can now coherently attend both subjects, open the way for a more adaptable skills.

2. Skill-based Learning For Future Careers: The current employment market is progress towards a favor for multi-disciplinary skills. The NEP accept this shift and desire to prepare students as per requirement of the future place of work. By promoting a curriculum that merge different subjects, students develop aversatile skills that is not restricted to a particular field. This move coordinate with the current shift where employers value flexibility, analytical thinking, and a widen knowledge base. Furthermore, the emphasis on research and innovation provides students with opportunities to engage in cutting-edge research projects. This exposure to research not only enhances their academic knowledge but also equips them with

valuable research skills and the ability to think critically and analytically (Mishra *et al.*, 2023).

3. Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS): The execution of a Choice-based Credit System is a revolutionary step in higher education. Students have the freedom to choose subjects from various disciplines, enabling them to explore their interests and develop a broader knowledge base (Gupta and Sharma, 2021). Each course comes with a certain number of credits, and students accumulate credits to complete their degree. This perspective not only permits for a customized learning involvement but also facilitates the combination of vocational and academic education. The CBCS empowers students to specialize their courses, making education more applicable to their career goals.

3. Flexibility In Entry And Exit: The NEP 2020 introduces a flexible entry and exit system for undergraduate programs. Students now have the option to enter and exit a degree program at different stages, receiving due recognition for the completed years of study. It is especially helpful for students facing unexpected situations or for those who want to find different academic paths. The flexibility in entry and exit points promotes lifelong learning and discourages the discernment of inflexible timelines for educational work.

4. Vocational Education blend: Realizing the significance of vocational education, the National Education Policy 2020 combines vocational courses into mainstream education. This shift is aimed at crossing the gap between academic learning and practical skills necessary in the professional world. Students now choose vocational courses with their regular academic curriculum, acquiring direct experience and increasing their employability. This combination ensures that education is not simply about theoretical knowledge but also about practical application and skill development.

5. Technology-Enabled Learning: The NEP compliance acknowledges the role of technology in modern education and promotes the integration of digital tools and platforms. This move towards technology-assisted learning provides students with access to a vast arrangement of courses and resources beyond the limit of customary classrooms. Virtual classrooms, online courses, and e-learning ways add to the flexibility of learning, letting students choose when and where they study.

6. Assessment Reforms: The NEP 2020 policy brings about important changes in the assessment methods, moving away from rote memorization towards a more holistic evaluation. Constant and extensive evaluation methods are reassured, including presentations, practical assessments and project work. This transformation not only minimizes the unwanted stress associated with the exams but also permits students to display their understanding through different means. This flexibility in assessment aligns with the NEP's broader goal of nurturing critical thinking and problem-solving skills among students.

7. Preparing For Lifelong Learning: The multidisciplinary approach not only prepares students for immediate career paths but also inculcates a sense of lifelong learning. By reinforcing analysis and a diverse subject choice, the national education policy 2020 sets the base for students who are not only specialists in their chosen fields but are also adapting to new challenges and gaining new skills throughout their lives.

8. Global Mobility And Recognition: The national education policy's compliance focus is to make Indian education world-class by promoting international alliances and partnerships. With the aim of a more pliable and comprehensive system, students can advantage from exchange programs, joint degrees, and credit transfers with foreign institutions. This not only broadens their views but also enhances the global acceptance of their qualifications. The added flexibility in course choices line-up with the global mode of accepting the importance of a diverse skill set and interdisciplinary knowledge.

Challenges: However, the new education policy also poses challenges, especially for students who are accustomed to traditional

teaching methods. The transition to a more student-centric and interactive learning environment may require an adjustment period (Gupta and Sharma, 2021). Students need to adapt to collaborative learning approaches, participate in group projects, and take ownership of their learning. This shift from a passive recipient of knowledge to an active learner can be challenging for some students (Rajput *et al.*, 2018). The research suggests that associate learning increases analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and communication abilities (Choudhary *et al.*, 2020). Students who actively engage in group projects and discussions gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter and develop important teamwork skills. The new education policy aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry by promoting internships, apprenticeships, and practical training (Kumar *et al.*, 2021). But challenges arise in implementing these changes. Faculty members need to adapt their teaching methodologies to support collaborative and experiential learning (Sharma and Verma, 2019). This requires additional training and professional development for teachers to effectively facilitate student-centered learning environments. Additionally, infrastructure upgrades and resource allocation are crucial to support the implementation of the new education policy (Sinha *et al.*, 2022).

CONCLUSION

At present, we are into memorization-based teaching and learning processes. Now, we will move on to application-based teaching and learning processes. The NEP 2020 is efficient than the former education policy in developing skills among the student and making them more capable to face challenges. The National Education Policy 2020 points out on flexibility in course choices as a key step towards creating a more considerable, adaptable and student-centric education system. The combination of vocational education, technological advancements and assessment reforms further add to a more comprehensive and applicable learning experience. Still, the National Education Policy also causes challenges, mainly for students who are familiar to traditional teaching methods. Undetermined all the challenges in a large country like India, having a lot of diversity with different types and levels of institutions, if National Education Policy is implemented in its true intensiveness then this revised education policy will definitely make India powerful and equal with the main countries of the world. The NEP 2020 would definitely link up the desired objective of creating a productive manpower that can make a significant contribution at national and international contexts.

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