STUDY OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

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ABSTRACT

Well defined and futuristic education policy is essential for a country at school and college levels due to the reason that education leads to economic and social progress. Different countries adopt different education systems by considering the tradition and culture and adopt different stages during their life cycle at school and college education levels to make it effective. Recently Government of India announced its new Education policy which is based on the recommendations by an expert committee headed by Dr. Kasturirangan, Former chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization. This paper highlights on various policies announced in the higher education system and compare them with the currently adopted system. Various innovations and predicted implications of NEP 2020 on the Indian higher education system along with its merits are discussed. Finally, some suggestions are proposed for its effective implementation towards achieving its objectives.

Keywords: Higher education, National education policy 2020.

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NTRODUCTION:

India, being a growing liberal country for educational reforms, currently has about 845 universities and approximately 40,000 higher education institutions (HIEs), reflecting the overall high fragmentation and many small sized HEIs in the country which are affiliated to these universities. It is found that over 40% of these small sized institutions are running single programme against the expected reform to a multidisciplinary style of higher education which is an essential requirement for the educational reforms in the country for the 21st century. It is also noted that over 20% of the colleges have annual enrolment less than 100 students making them nonviable to improve the quality of education and only 4% of colleges enroll more than 3,000 students annually due to regional imbalance as well as the quality of education they offer. Some of the reasons found for the fragmentation of the higher education (HE) system in India are :

- Early streaming of students into different disciplines.
- Lack of access to HE, especially in socio-economically disadvantaged areas which resulted in the current gross enrolment ratio (GER)of 25% only.
- Lack of teacher and institutional autonomy to make innovations in HE to attract many students.
- Insufficient mechanisms for career management and progression of faculty and institutional leaders.
- The lack of research and innovations at most of the universities and colleges.
- Suboptimal levels of governance and leadership at higher education institutions.

HIGHLIGHT OF POLICIES OF NEP 2020 FOR HIS SYSTEM

Higher Education:

- HE monitoring and controlling institutions like UGC, AICTE, MCI, DCI, INC, etc will be merged with the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) as a single regulator for HEI.
- The current Accreditation Institutions like NAAC and NAB will be replaced by a robust National
- Accreditation Council (NAC).
- Establishment of a National Research Foundation (NRF) to fund research in universities and colleges.
- Consolidation of existing fragmented HEIs into two types of Multidisciplinary Universities (MU)

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and Multidisciplinary Autonomous Colleges (AC) with the campus having more than 3,000 students. The Timeline to become multi-disciplinary is by 2030 and to have 3,000 and more students by 2040.

- Multidisciplinary Universities will be of two types as (1) Research-intensive Universities, and (2) Teaching-intensive Universities.
- Every existing College will develop into either degree granting autonomous College or migrated into a Constituent College of University and becomes fully a part of the University.
- The Gross Enrolment Ratio in HE including Vocational education will increase from current 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035.
- HEIs which deliver the highest quality will get more incentives from the Government.
- All existing affiliated Colleges will eventually grow autonomous degree-granting colleges with the mentoring support of affiliated University by improving and securing the prescribed accreditation level.
- The various nomenclatures used currently such as deemed to be university, affiliating university, central university, affiliating technical university, unitary university, etc will be replaced by 'University' after fulfilling the required criteria as per norms.
- Research will be included in UG, PG, level and have a holistic and multidisciplinary education approach.
- Pedagogy in HEIs will focus on communication, presentation, discussion, debate, research, analysis, and interdisciplinary thinking.

Teachers Education:
- All stand-alone Teachers Education Institutions should convert themselves as Multi-disciplinary HETs by 2030 to offer only four years integrated B.Ed. programme.
- All schools of foundation, preparatory, middle, and secondary level should appoint 4-years integrated B.Ed. degree holders as teachers with dual major specialization (Education & Subject).
- Till 2030, there will be two years B.Ed. programme for 3 years UG and one-year B.Ed. for four years UG and those who have Master's degree in other subjects.
- M.Ed. will be one year with research focus. The faculty profile in Departments of Education will be diverse with Ph.D.'s in different areas.
- All interested senior or retired faculty will be utilized short or long term for guiding, mentoring, or professional support for research/training/innovation. A separate National Mission for Mentoring will be established.

Professional Education
- All stand-alone professional education institutions in any field shall aim to become multidisciplinary institutions offering holistic and multidisciplinary education by 2030.
- HEIs will be encouraged to prepare professionals in agriculture and veterinary sciences through programmes integrated with general education. HEIs offering agricultural education must focus on the local community and involvement in setting up Agricultural Technology Parks in the region to promote technology incubation and dissemination.
- Universities/institutions offering law education must prefer to offer bilingual education for future lawyers and judges - in English and State language.

Private Institutions:
- All private universities are eligible for graded autonomy based on their accreditation status.
- All private universities / autonomous colleges have to maintain an openness in their financial dealings and the BoG is responsible for any irregularities in the accounting system. BoG should contain eminent people well reputed in their professional area to guide the speedy development of

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the HEIs.
- All HEIs have autonomy in deciding their fees structure and surplus if any should be reinvested in the expansion projects with a transparent accounting system.
- All private HEIs should offer 20% free-ship and 30% scholarship in the course fee for meritorious students in every course which they offer during a given academic year and this should be checked and confirmed by the accreditation process.

INNOVATIONS IN NEP 2020:
- 100 top Indian Universities will be encouraged to operate in foreign countries. (2) 100 top Foreign Universities will be allowed and facilitated to operate in India
- Every classroom shall have access to the latest educational technology that enables better learning
- experiences.
- Faculty Stability will be provided in an appointed institution with generally no transfer to other institutions.
- Faculty members get curriculum and pedagogy freedom within an approved framework.
- Based on academic and research performance, faculty incentives &accountability will be fixed.
- Faculty fast-track promotion system for high impact research contributions will be offered.
- A multiple parameter-based API policy with peers & students' feedback, innovations in teaching &
- pedagogy, professional development activities, Quality and impact research, contribution to an institution in terms of admission, and social community contribution will be in place.
- The API policy will clearly be defined in the Institutional development plan.
- Focus on achieving sustainable Education Development Goal (SEDG) & GER of 50% by 2035.

IMPLICATIONS OF NEP 2020 ON INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Only qualified role-models have the opportunity to elevate to the top to decision making role: Higher Education policy-making decisions and implementation of such policies may go out of bureaucrats and fake educationists who are enjoying top decision-making positions like Chairman's of UGC, AICTE, MCI, DCI, and Vice-Chancellors of Various Universities. For example, in present HE system in India a person without a single scholarly publication can become Vice-Chancellor of Public Sector Universities and can elevate to various higher positions and even become the chairman of UGC. Similarly, a person without a single patent can become Director of Technical Institutions, and eventually can become the Chairman of AICTE. A person without a single IPR like scholarly publication or patent can reach decision making authority at Higher Education Divisions including the Association of Indian Universities.

CONCLUSION

Higher education is an important aspect in deciding the economy, social status, technology adoption, and healthy human behaviour in every country. Improving GER to include every citizen of the country in higher education offerings is the responsibility of the education department of the country government. National Education Policy of India 2020 is marching towards achieving such objective by making innovative policies to improve the quality, attractiveness, affordability, and increasing the supply by opening up the higher education for the private sector and at the same time with strict controls to maintain quality in every higher education institution. By encouraging merit-based admissions with free-ships& scholarships, merit & research based continuous performers as faculty members, and merit based proven leaders in regulating bodies, and strict monitoring of quality through biennial accreditation based on self-declaration of progress through technology-based monitoring, NEP-2020 is expected to fulfill its objectives by 2030. All higher education institutions with current nomenclature of affiliated colleges will expand as multi-disciplinary autonomous colleges with degree giving power in their name

or becomes constituent colleges of their affiliated universities. An impartial agency National Research Foundation will fund for innovative projects in priority research areas of basic sciences, applied sciences, and social sciences & humanities.

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