

## 1. Overview on National Education Policy 2020

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### Abstract:

Education is always considered the path of development for the progress of any nation. It gives direction to the youth of the nation and channelizes their energy and intellectuality for the progress of the human resource which is believed to be the biggest asset of the nation. Therefore, the government of any nation is careful about its education policy and from time to time it reviews and revises its education policy to keep abreast with the changes according to the advancement at the global level keeping an eye on the local scenario so that that they both can synchronise and bring productive result in the ensuing years. The present research paper is an attempt to overview the changes made in Higher Education in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020).

Keywords: Higher Education, multidisciplinary institution, NEP 2020 and Research.

### Introduction:

The National Education Policy 2020 talks about Higher Education in which it gives the broader idea about the higher educational institutions which will be established in the ensuing years which will be altogether different from the existing higher

educational institutions. The National Education Policy 2020 focusses on multidisciplinary universities and clusters of colleges. It will be a paradigm shift in higher education. Higher education institutions are broadly divided into three categories the first is Research intensive universities that will give equal emphasis on research and teaching “those that place equal emphasis on teaching and research intensive universities” (NEP :34). Teaching intensive universities that will give importance to teaching but it will also carry out research. The third will be an Autonomous degree granting college. The Existing education system gives less importance to research. It doesn't provide space for research whereas in the National Education Policy 2020 gives special attention to research therefore it has come up with the idea of establishing research intensive universities that will provide ideal space and resources for carrying out multidisciplinary research. Research is always considered as the backbone of any nation, the progression of any nation can be measured with its research related activities. Research directly contributes to the economy of the nation and brings changes in the life of the citizens of the nation. Multidisciplinary is a pivotal word in the new education policy 2020. The target has been set in the new education policy 2020 that all the higher education institutions will be converted into multidisciplinary institutions by 2030. Plan is afoot that by 2030 every district should have one large multi-disciplinary

institution that would cater to the needs of the rural population because the majority of Indian lives in villages. It aims to give access to HEI to every citizen of India irrespective of region. The medium of instruction will be local or Indian language. The rationale behind is to increase the gross enrolment ratio which was 26.3 percent in 2018. The efforts would be taken to take it to 50% by 2035. Therefore, Open distance learning and online programs will be given preference so that the student can pursue their diploma or degrees on ODL mode. Quality online courses will be designed and developed and will be integrated into the curricula of Higher Education institutions so that quality online courses could be offered to a large number of students. The reason behind integrating online courses into the curricula of Higher Education institutions is to give preference to a blended mode of learning that could be percolated in the learning arena. Online learning can be offered to the students so that it can be blended with the regular teaching.

The NEP 2020 will abolish single stream colleges over a period of time and merge them into the multidisciplinary clusters that will offer interdisciplinary and cross disciplinary courses and with the passage of time they will be encouraged to go for Autonomy “‘affiliated colleges’ over a period of fifteen years through a system of graded autonomy, and to be carried out in a challenge mode” (NEP 2020:36). The parent university is assigned the responsibility to

mentor the affiliating colleges to properly guide them to become multidisciplinary in its approach and gradually move towards an Autonomous degree granting college.

The compartmentalization of professional courses, vocational courses and other such courses will be dismantled and become integrated or multidisciplinary. The focus is on the multidisciplinary university rather than deemed university, affiliating university, technical university and unitary university. These will be the talk of yesteryears.

The overall revamp in the education system is to make the education system multidisciplinary as it has been recorded in the NEP 2020 that Banabhatta's Kadambari describes a sound education as the knowledge of 64 arts. The need of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is to give a wide range of courses to the students as it is not new to the traditional Indian Education system. It was in the practice in Nalanda and Takshashila where the students from all over the world would come to pursue education. The aim is to restore the old indigenous education system where as many as 64 Kalas/arts were taught to the students. It ranges from music, mathematics, carpentry, chemistry, engineering, medicine and soft skills. Now in today's world it is known as liberal arts. NEP 2020 marks the distinction between the present education system which is general in nature whereas the multidisciplinary education system proposed by NEP 2020 is

integrated and synthesising. NEP 2020 envisages providing holistic and multidisciplinary education to the students of the 21<sup>st</sup> century which needs to be in concurrent with the 4 industrial revolution. The students of engineering will learn arts and humanities and the students of arts will come to know more about science and engineering.

The remarkable quality of NEP 2020 is to make the students lifelong learner through the holistic and multidisciplinary approach and therefore they have given the option of multiple level of entry and exit to the students through the process of Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) in which the students will earn the credits that will be stored in the digital locker and s/he will be awarded certificate, diploma, degree and Bachelor's degree with Research on the basis credits earned by her or him. He can pursue bachelor's degree either in a 3 year or in a 4 year programme choice is at his disposal. Research has become the core part of higher education either it will be offered in the fourth year in a 4 year bachelor's degree programme. If he completes one year after 12<sup>th</sup> he will be offered certificate, in second year - diploma, in third –degree and in fourth -bachelor's degree with Research. The fourth year will be devoted to research if he is desirous to complete his bachelor's in a four year programme, then his master's will be of one year. Research has been emphasised if he completes his graduation in a 3 year, his master's will be of 2 years,

and he will devote his second year of his master's entirely for research. The integrated Bachelor's or Master's programme is for 5 years. Those who want to pursue doctorate will have to complete master's or a four-year Bachelor's programme with research. The National Research Foundation will be set up to boost research in the field of education.

The NEP 2020 focuses on giving autonomy to the institution in order to make strategy to work towards quality enhancement. MERU (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities) is also the concept which has been incorporated in NEP 2020 which will take efforts to set up multidisciplinary universities with the standard of IIMs and IITs. More focus will be given on making linkages between research and innovation and therefore start-up, incubation and technology development centres will be established. The need of the socially and economically disadvantaged group of students are taken into consideration thus the plan is to develop support centres in order to help these students. Professional counselling and counsellors will be readily available at the centres to take care of personal, physical, psychological and emotional well-being of the students. This is the need of the hour as the emotional need of each student varies from person to person so only professionals can only resolve the complicated problems of the students at the superficial level all the problems of the students appear to be alike.

The NEP 2020 underlines to cater to the problems of providing quality education to a large number of students a quality ODL (Open Distance Learning) will be developed having the standard of highest quality in order to provide accessibility to the masses as India constitutes a highest number of young population that will be accommodated with the help of integrated learning mode platform such as in class mode, online and ODL mode. Internationalization of Indian education system is envisaged in the NEP 2020 as India has the old tradition of being recognised as Vishwa Guru therefore in order to restore its old identity, endeavours have been made to set premium institutions in India. The mobility of the foreign students will be increased by setting up International Students Office that will be taken care by the HEI in order to resolve the problems of the foreign students. Students exchange and faculty exchange will be run in collaboration with the foreign universities and top universities of the world will be allowed to set up their campuses in India and vice versa. Credit based system will be made such that the students who earned credits from foreign universities can continue their studies in Indian Institutions and get their degrees from Indian universities. This is to internationalize the Indian education system .

Conclusion:

The NEP 2020 is quite futuristic and it certainly appears to

resolve the problems of higher education as it focuses on multidisciplinary educational institutions to teach interdisciplinary courses. The compartmentalization of the education system will be dismantled and the multidisciplinary and holistic education is given prime importance in the NEP 2020. Research Intensive University, National Research Foundation, Clusters Hub and Autonomous Degree Granting Colleges are the revolutionary steps that will change the face and future of higher educational institutions in India. But there are many riddles in the NEP 2020 which are difficult to understand as there is no clear cut structured mechanism given in the policy document as how these policies are translated into reality.

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