

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 & HIGHER EDUCATION

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### Introduction:

Recently the Government of India took a giant leap forward by announcing its new education policy, the National Education Policy 2020 almost three decades after the last major revision was made to the policy in 1986. The New Education Policy (NEP) of India aims to provide universal access to education for all students. The ancient Indian universities Takshashila, Nalanda, Vallabhi, and Vikramshila had thousands of students from India and the world studying in vibrant multidisciplinary environments, amply demonstrated the type of great success that large multidisciplinary research and teaching universities could bring. India urgently needs to bring back this great Indian tradition to create well-rounded and innovative individuals and which is already transforming other countries educationally and economically.

The Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will now set up a regulatory body for the entire higher education. Norms, regulations, accreditation, and academic standards will be the same for both the private and public sectors. Thus, providing you with the opportunity to give one common entrance exam for higher education, multiple exit and entry wherein you can start and end your education allowing you to join back without losing your credits. Institutions will have the option to run Open Distance Learning (ODL) and online programs, provided they are accredited to do so. Single-stream HEIs will be phased out over time, and all will move towards becoming vibrant multidisciplinary institutions or parts of vibrant multidisciplinary HEI clusters. The policy focuses on providing better educational opportunities to all students, including those who may have previously been denied such opportunities.

### Objectives:

1. To study the visions of NEP 2020
2. To study challenges of NEP 2020 & higher education
3. To study opportunities of NEP 2020 & higher education

### Methodology:

Secondary data is used for collection of data. The necessary information collected from books, journals, newspapers & Internet etc.

### Result & Discussion:

The New National Educational Policy (NEP) focuses on 5 pillars these are Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. The duration of the undergraduate degree will be either 3 or 4 years. Students will also be given multiple exit options within this period. Colleges will have to grant a certificate to a student if they would like to leave after completing 1 year in a discipline or field including vocational and professional areas, a diploma after 2 years of study, or a Bachelor's degree after completing a three-year program. An Academic Bank of Credit will be established by the Government for digitally storing academic credits earned from different Higher Educational Institutions so that these can be transferred and counted towards the final degree earned. The Indian government needs to introduce stronger policies for educational infrastructure development. The National Education Policy 2020 envisages an increase in education spending from 4.6% to 6% of GDP, which amounts to around INR 2.5 lakh crores per year. Education has its own agenda to meet when it comes to improving sustainability, reducing emissions & minimizing costs. To remain financially viable & ensure their campuses are sustainable, HEIs need to invest appropriately.



The new NEP is focused on increasing the gross enrolment ratio in higher education space which is currently around 26%. This is much lesser than other countries such as china, Brazil & North American nations. Enrolment rates has been falling issue in US institutions hard & some Canadian universities have also been affected. Recent research shows that overall college enrolment fell by 13% in the past decade. Community colleges have been worst affected, having lost over 827,000 students since the start of the pandemic. This only intensifies the existing financial pressures facing colleges and universities.

#### **Visions of NEP:**

National Education Policy 2020 visions a complete overhaul and re-energizing of the higher education system to overcome these challenges and thereby deliver high-quality higher education, with equity and inclusion.

1. A higher educational system moving towards consisting of large, multidisciplinary universities and colleges with at least one in or near every district and with more HEIs across India that offer medium of instruction or programs in local or Indian languages.
2. A higher educational system moving towards a more multidisciplinary undergraduate education.
3. A higher educational system moving towards faculty and institutional autonomy.
4. A higher educational system revamping curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and student support for enhanced student experiences.
5. A higher educational system reaffirming the integrity of faculty and institutional leadership positions through merit appointments and career progression based on teaching, research, and service.
6. Establishment of a National Research Foundation to fund outstanding peer-reviewed research and to actively seed research in universities and colleges.
7. Governance of HEIs by high qualified independent boards having academic and administrative autonomy.
8. A higher educational system “light but tight” regulation by a single regulator for higher education.
9. A higher educational system increased access, equity, and inclusion through a range of measures, including greater opportunities for outstanding public education, scholarships by private or philanthropic universities for disadvantaged and underprivileged students, online education, and Open Distance Learning (ODL) and all infrastructure and learning materials accessible and available to learners with disabilities.

#### **Challenges of National Education Policy 2020 & Higher Education:**

The challenges & priorities of educational institutions have changed significantly over the last few years & are likely to continue to change at a swift pace. Universities & colleges must adapt quickly & astutely to keep up with this ever changing landscape of modern education delivery. Many HEIs have already made significant changes to their teaching & learning delivery as a result of the covid-19 pandemic. As the hybrid learning experience looks set to stay, institutions need to make the necessary technological investments. This includes implementing software that supports long term hybrid education delivery. The new education policy is a positive re imagination of India’s existing education regime.

#### **Opportunities of NEP in Higher Education:**

Opportunities are to enter the higher education system through enhanced scholarship, quality ODL & online degree programs that permit remote studies that is greater flexibility for students for course choices & pace of study, digitally stored credits to enable easy transfer, self- paced study & verification by third parties such as employers in the future, hands on learning & practical exposure

through short term skill certificates, internship, research based curriculum etc., improved transparency by HEIs would lead to informed decision making, reduced pressure on students through introduction of one common entrance exam with the option to choose subjects for UG admission & global exposure for Indian students through exchange programs & setting up of foreign university branch campuses in India. Minimal career gap & continuous learning opportunity for trainers through use of technology platforms such as SWAYAM & DIKSHA, system wide mentoring missions with senior faculty to ensure continuous training opportunities while pursuing their careers. NEP 2020 provides opportunities in revamping the educational system to match the international standards, it requires lot of infrastructure and institutional restructuring apart from support from states to implement the policy successfully.

**Conclusion:**

A university mean a multidisciplinary institution of higher learning that offers undergraduate and graduate programs with high quality teaching, research, and community engagement. Better outcome monitoring and resource improved budgetary efficiency, which can sharing as the policy will lead to be directed towards enhancing educational consolidation of the highly fragmented outcomes higher education system into clusters. The policy needs immediate collaboration between state and central authorities to establish newly proposed bodies. The success of NEP 2020 and the pace of its implementation depends to a large extent on how successfully the government, universities and schools can tide over the practical challenges facing it.

**References:**

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