

Contemporary Indian Education: Thoughts and Trends

Edited by
Kingshuk Karan

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Global Trends and New Scenarios of Higher Education in India: NEP 2020

Pintu Roychoudhury

The main idea of NEP 2020 is to provide value-based interdisciplinary education to build up holistic development for every student. It is based on the principle that one must develop both cognitive and foundational capacities to empower flexibility in course choices. They can design their paths of study and life plans. Besides that, the National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) plays a big part in creating job opportunities throughout the globe. Many major countries have already developed the QFs programme to make their graduates relevant to the 21st-century global market. Those various countries are Turkey, Australia, the UK, Poland, Canada, Japan, Malaysia etc. In this regard, the institution of higher education will have the autonomy to frame its curriculum and practices based on the NHEQF.

India will become the largest country in the world before 2030. So, the objective of higher education will be changed. Skill-oriented courses will be increased for mediocre students and make more opportunities for higher education programme. To ensure the sustainability and alignment of the Indian higher education system with international benchmarks, it is crucial to concentrate on three key areas. These are Quality of education, Affordability of education, and Ethics in education. The vision 2030 of Indian Higher Education is equity and excellence. India could potentially emerge as a global supplier of skilled manpower. Before doing that it is very necessary to improve our technology for education delivery, Merit-based student Financing, Internationalization of education, Enabling a research environment, and High-quality faculty.

The role of the teacher in this regard is very essential. Multiculturalism in education has also played a good job in developing community collaboration. It incorporates the Histories,

Texts, Values, Beliefs, and perspectives of people from different cultural backgrounds. Education has a big role in defining equity for all. Multicultural Education also assumes how students learn and think. It is deeply influenced by their cultural identity and heritage. However, there are many more reasons to implement a multicultural curriculum in our classroom. In a rapidly changing world, it is important to promote multicultural education programme that caters to the needs of diverse students. Multicultural education has a positive impact not only on individual students but also on society as a whole. When students learn to appreciate and respect the diverse cultures of their peers, they are more likely to become adults who advocate for equality and inclusivity for everyone.

The inter-disciplinary study can be encouraged to enroll in two courses, one of which should be from a different faculty or work experience training in operational expertise related to one of the major subjects. Suppose who studying Hindi /Bengali language, he or she can continue corresponding work experience courses like; Patrakarita/Creative Writing. It also is possible for other subjects. By integrating essential subjects into the curriculum, NEP 2020 creates a comprehensive education system. While maintaining flexibility in curriculum selection for students, it remains imperative that all students acquire the skills, capacities, and abilities necessary to become proficient, successful, innovative, adaptable, and productive individuals in the contemporary world. The pandemic forced the entire world to pause regular life living for one and half years. In India, many colleges are still online as vaccinations are slow and comparatively substandard infrastructure of schools and colleges. However, looking forward to upcoming challenges if we provide scholarship offerings, placement opportunities, and quality of education are sure to keep them motivated. Our government has already taken some global initiatives.

In NEP 2020, the gross enrolment rate in higher education, including vocational education, will rise from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035. Within the policy framework, flexible curricula are

provided, subject combinations are innovatively integrated, vocational education is seamlessly woven in, and there are multiple opportunities for entry and exit, all accompanied by relevant certifications. Within the framework of this policy, the current 10+2 school education system will undergo a transformation, adopting a fresh pedagogical and curricular structure structured as 5+3+3+4. Undergraduate education may vary in duration, ranging from three to four years, offering several exit opportunities along with the relevant certifications. For example, after 1 year students can achieve a certificate degree, an Advanced Diploma after 2 years, a bachelor's degree after 3 years, or with Integrated B.Ed degree after 4 years. A comprehensive higher education system will include professional education. There will be efforts to incentivize students from SC, ST, OBC, and other SEDGs. By 2025, we aim to provide 100% childhood care and education to children ages 3 to 6, and youth and adult literacy within 2035.

The committee recommends that schools should prioritize an equitable focus on all subjects, including science, social science, art, languages, sports, and mathematics, alongside both vocational and academic streams. By 2030, all school education will aim to have a gross enrolment ratio of 100%. To eliminate conflicts of interest, teachers will be recruited transparently and promotions will be made based on merit. Schools will be regulated and operated by separate bodies.

It is essential that policies are implemented efficiently in order to be effective. This will require multiple initiatives and actions from multiple agencies. Henceforth, the execution of this policy will be coordinated by a multitude of entities, comprising the MHRD, CABE, central and regional governments, educational ministries, state education divisions, boards, NTA, NCERT, SCERTs, schools, and HEIs. A well-defined timeline and a comprehensive review plan will be established to guarantee the faithful and purposeful implementation of the policy. This will be achieved through synchronized planning and seamless collaboration among all these educational entities.

Faculty with proper training in areas of science education,

mathematics education, social science education, and language education is required to strengthen the multidisciplinary education of teachers. College and university educators will be actively promoted to utilize technology platforms like SWAYAM and DIKSHA for conducting online teacher training. This approach aims to facilitate the delivery of standardized training programs to a substantial number of teachers in a relatively brief timeframe. So, we should hope; not to be hopeless by the global scenarios of higher education in India. The most important thing in India's education policy is the government's commitment to the students. Student Support and Progression in Point 'V' is mandatory regarding NAAC accreditation. The evaluation conducted by NAAC adopts a comprehensive approach, considering all the inputs, processes, and outcomes of an institution. This assessment aims to illustrate how the institution aligns with and works towards achieving its core values and objectives. Enhancing Core Values is not an easy task, for which every higher education institution has to follow a strict discipline. The areas where we are lagging in world standards need to be properly reformed first.

That's why we want to give importance to technology in education. India must adopt computer technology and high-speed internet connectivity. Our educational delivery methods should harness the vast human potential among the masses. Traditional physical schools, colleges, and universities should be seamlessly integrated and connected through information and communication technology (ICT). We should foster and support students' innovation and creativity. The system should recognize and reward those who excel academically. Continuous training for educators should be obligatory, as teachers are both innovators and creators. A teacher's impact should not be confined to the classroom; it should be visible to the global community through the internet.

Personalizing education is essential because the Indian education system currently operates under the presumption that what benefits one child benefits all. However, it's impractical to have a single, one-size-fits-all education system. Students have different learning styles-some are visual learners, others are

auditory learners, and the pace of learning varies from one individual to another. The curriculum should be crafted in a manner that recognizes and encourages each learner's unique abilities.

We need to provide quality of education with proper character building. Education without character is worthless and will create divisions in Society. Therefore, our new education system has emphasized overcoming all obstacles and bringing out the appropriate skills of the students which are a symbol of humanitarian ideals.

Finally, it has to be said that teaching is the highest form of service. Society will progress by appointing transparent teachers and competent teachers keeping that person in mind. To make the current education system world-class standard, it is equally necessary to provide all kinds of facilities to the teachers as well as student-friendly teachers. These aspects have been especially highlighted in the new education policy of India, which will bring benefits if properly followed.

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