



HIGHER EDUCATION AND NEP-2020

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INTRODUCTION:

India, being a growing liberal country for educational reforms, currently has more than 950 universities and approximately 40,000 higher education institutions, reflecting the overall high fragmentation and many small sized Higher Education Institutions in the country which are affiliated to these universities. It is found that over 41% 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 system in India are -

MERITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION POLICIES IN NEP-2020:

• Student Centric Model:

The current teacher centric model where the teachers decide the subjects, curriculum, evaluation, etc will be replaced by student centric model where student gets right to decide the subject he has to study from the institution,

SWYAM MOOC, and from ODL and he can appear for competency based evaluation in his own pace. Thus, the higher education section of NEP-2020 replaces teacher centric education system to student centric system.

•Competency based Continuous Evaluation System:

As against choice-based credit system, competency-based credit system has advantages of evaluating skill sets of a student along with knowledge and experience. Competency leads to confidence and objective of higher education system irrespective of subjects and areas of study is building confidence to identify new challenges and converting them into opportunities to solve problems in the society

•Research & Innovation Focused:

The objective of higher education is to create new knowledge or a new interpretation of existing knowledge through systematic analysis. This will solve all problems of the society optimally. Involving research and innovations as a major component of higher education creates new intellectual property to throw light into new innovative solutions. The higher education policies of NEP-2020 transform the Higher Education system from information centric to new knowledge and innovation centric.

•Improved STEM model of HE Curriculum:

To generalize higher education for all-round progress of students, it is scientifically proved that they should be exposed to art & design thinking to improve their creativity in solving problems along with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This new model called STEAM is considered as better than STEM model in higher education at a bachelor's degree level. STEAM with experimental learning and research based internship is the objective higher education section of NEP-2020.

•Faculty Productivity based on Research Output :

Research is an integral part of the higher education system. The faculty members who are guiding quality research should have research motives and experience so that they can be role models for their students. The new education policy focus on merit-based promotions which depend on faculty members annual performance indicator score with major portion depends on their performance in research and publications or patent to contribute to the IPR of the organization and hence of the country. Thus, the accountability of every faculty member in higher education system depends on their research productivity for a given time period.

•Autonomy at all Levels:

Higher education institutions which have the autonomy to do innovations in deciding the courses, curriculum, pedagogy, examination and evaluation could able to improve the quality of educations offered by them. In university affiliation system, affiliated institutions do not have any autonomy in teaching-learning and evaluation systems thereby the quality and motivation of both students and faculty members get affected. Autonomy at education (teaching -learning processes), examination and evaluation, administration including financial

decisions are essential for a progress oriented system.

•Merit based Student admissions, Faculty Selection & Promotion:

NEP 2020 stresses on the importance of student admission based on merit by giving importance to social justice. It also comments that the quality of higher education and research can be improved only if all faculty selections and promotions are merit based. All kinds of reservations and lobbies should be 13 curbed at individual institution level by means of appointing highly qualified and proven leaders as members of the Board of Governors. It also stresses that merit-based appointments are essential at all policy formulating and regulating levels of Higher Education Councils.

•Education Leaders should be Role-Models:

Self-contribution to research and innovation is important to education leaders. New researchers get inspiration by seeing the contribution of leaders to perform better. Higher Education Institutions should cultivate role models in this sector who should be super performers to IPR of the organization so that the organization can prove that higher contribution is possible. Professors who hold administrative positions are also expected to research and publication field during their leisure period to be role models to young researchers. It has been observed that many professors when elevating to administrative positions forget their responsibility of research and publications and do only lobbies and influences to elevate further. Since NEP-2020 suggest merit-based appointments and promotions, only role-models get further growth opportunities.

•Integrated Controlling & Monitoring System :

As per NEP-2020, the first 10 years from 2021 to 2030 is the implementation period and the

next 10 years from 2030 to 2040 is the operational period. The implementation process is divided into seven stages.

- * Implementation of spirit and intent of the policy

- * Implementation of policy initiatives in a phased manner

- * Prioritization and sequencing of policy points

- * Comprehensive full-fledged implementation to achieve the desired objectives

- * Collaborative planning, monitoring, and implementation by both Centre and States

- * Timely supply of required resources by both Centre and States

- * Careful analysis and review of multiple linkages to ensure effective dovetailing of all initiatives Effective use of technology to monitor and control each stage is essential for the expected progress of implementation.

* **Boost to Online training:**

Use of Information Communication and Computation Technologies (ICCT) including Education technology, Internet technology, Artificial intelligence, Virtual reality, etc are very essential in effective implementation of education in the 21st century. The latest technologies help planning, design offering effective online education to realize the characteristics of the ideal education system and also to enhance GER. It is expected that during the 21st century, due to improved tech generations, technology driven education is going to replace classroom based education and the policies of NEP-2020 laying the foundation for it but also supports classroom based education system by adding more research components in it.

* **Control of Quality through Biennial Accreditation Process:**

Currently, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council monitor the quality of

education and award the graded accreditations to Higher Education Institutions. This accreditation timeframe is five years. As a result, Higher Education Institutions are not continuously monitored for their accreditation status. Instead, to make accreditation status more serious and effective for continuous improvement, NEP-2020 has simplified it and made it mandatory as a biennial accreditation process. This model of accreditation holds tight control on higher educational institutions to actually work for quality and performance.

* **Boost of GER through Autonomy to Private Sector :**

One of the major goals of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is quality education to everyone. This can be achieved at the higher education system also by the private sector in education as a parallel sector with public systems. Based on NEP-2020, the private sector should give 20% free seats, 30% half fee scholarships so that many poor but merit-based students get free or discounted fee study opportunities. Such free education at Higher Education level will boost GER of higher education in the country.

* **IMPORTANT POINTS IN NEP 2020 FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM:**

- * Higher Education 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 Higher Education Institutions.

- * 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 Higher Education Institutions into two types of

Multidisciplinary Universities (MU) 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 Higher Education including Vocational education will increase from current 26.3 % (2018) to 50% by 2035.

* Higher Education Institutions 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, and level and have a holistic and multidisciplinary education approach.

* Pedagogy in Higher Education Institutions will focus on communication, presentation, discussion, debate, research, analysis, and interdisciplinary thinking.

* An Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) will be established which would digitally store the academic credits of all registered candidates

earned from various recognized Higher Education Institutions (SWAYAM & ODL mode) that can be taken into account while awarding degrees by the college or university.

* Four years Bachelor degree with multiple exit options, one to two years Master's degree based on the number of years spent in Bachelor degree as four or three respectively, and option to do Ph.D. for four years Bachelor degree with research are possible.

* Two years Master degree with full research in the second year, One year Master degree for four years Bachelor degree holders, and Five years integrated Bachelor/Master degree.

* All Higher Education Institutions will focus on research and innovation by setting up - Start-up incubation centers, Technology development centers, Centers in frontier areas of research, Centre for Industry academic linkage, and Interdisciplinary Research Centers including humanities and social sciences research.

* Student Centered teaching & learning process instead of Teacher centered teaching model.

* Choice Based Credit System is revised by an innovative and flexible Competency Based Credit System.

* Examination system will change from high-stakes examinations (Semester End system) towards a more continuous and comprehensive evaluation examination system.

* All Higher Education Institutions will have professional academic and career counseling centers with counselors available to all students to ensure physical, psychological and emotional well-being.

* All Higher Education Institutions will develop, support, and fund for topic-centered clubs and activities organized by students with the help of faculty and other experts as needed, in the area

of science, mathematics, poetry, language, literature, debate, music, sports, etc.

* Encouragement for Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses as a part of degree programmes to include the credit system.

* The Degree programmes may contain in-class teaching, Online teaching components, and ODL components with 40:30:30 ratio model to achieve a global standard of quality.

* Higher Education quality will be improved to global quality level to attract more international students and the credits acquired in foreign universities will be counted for the award of a degree.

* National Scholarship Portal will be strengthened and expanded to help the financial needs of merit based students. Private Higher Education Institutions will be encouraged to offer larger numbers of free ships and scholarships to their students.

CONCLUSION:

Higher education is an important aspect in deciding the economy, social status, technology adoption, and healthy human behavior 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.

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