

National Education Policy-2020 and the Prospect of Technical Education in India

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Abstract. National Education Policy or the NEP has become a very important topic of discussion since its arrival in the year 2020. Like rest of the world, India is also fighting against the fierce pandemic situation for the last two years. In spite of that, Government of India is trying honestly for the implement of this policy throughout the country. It is necessary to aware the common people of this NEP and the Government is looking forward on this issue. NEP brings lots of changes in every level and field of education. Technical Education is not at all an exception. But what was the necessity of this change and what is the significance of it? These are vital questions and this paper will throw light on that direction. In short, this is an attempt to focus on the nexus of NEP and the technical education in India.

Keywords. New Education Policy; Technical Education; AICTE

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1. Introduction

As stated by Swami Vivekananda, “Education is the manifestation of perfection already existing in a human being.” [1] This statement of Swamiji clearly reveals the original portrait of an ideal education system. Unfortunately, modern education system of India did not follow this ideology in many respects. Existing Indian education system was following the colonial structure and it was imitating the British or the western school of thought blindly. Though India became independent, yet the Indian students were studying various subjects according to the opinions of western scholars i.e., our students were learning their thought and it was just from their point of view. There lies the problem of the Indian education sector so far.

Indians have no dearth of meritorious students and teachers. But the problem is that, in India, the students are generally being trained to look at each and every aspect through the views of the foreigners (especially, from the west). No doubt, this is also essential but not at all sufficient. Every nation follows such an education policy which is appropriate for the culture, society by at large and history of its own. Hence, a nation follows mainly the ideas. Which are given by the scholars of that particular nation. Every developed and developing country follow this principle and India was the only exception. In every field of knowledge, it used to teach students with the foreign inputs and ultimately, students became almost unaware of the facts, culture and history of knowledge of our own. Finally, the

outcome is nothing but some highly educated Indian foreigners who have no respect for the country and for the countrymen. Certainly, there are exceptions, but they are very few in number.

Besides, the old education system was not at all appropriate for the need of time. At this 21st century world, we should have such an education policy which will fulfil the need of the students. Here comes the National Education Policy or the NEP [2].

2. Goals of NEP

In this section we are briefly mentioning the main objectives of NEP. They are as follows:

- 1) Every learner is different and each of them has different ability or power. Education system should take care of the same.
- 2) Education process must be flexible in accordance with the need of the students.
- 3) There should be no barrier of knowledge by identifying the subjects like arts, science and commerce.
- 4) Multi-disciplinary subjects will be taught so that, a student can get ideal education which will make perfect citizen. Choice based credit system (CBCS) is another important feature of NEP.
- 5) Creativity as well as creative thinking will be encouraged and the aim of learning will be not only to get higher marks, but higher values.
- 6) Mere bookish knowledge is not at all enough, Hence, teaching of moral values, ethics, respect for the country and our glorious cultural heritage are very important.
- 7) Sense of responsibility, equality, scientific thinking, respect for women and the senior citizens will be the subjects for teaching.
- 8) Lectures will be given on Indian values, Indian culture, glorious past of Indian history and common Indian lifestyle. The basic point will be ‘unity in diversity’ that Indians are maintaining for the ages.
- 9) More emphasis will be given on continuous assessment. Focus on vocational and practical training has been increased.
- 10) This education policy stresses on ‘multilingual teaching’.
- 11) Digital and online process of learning will be encouraged a lot than before.
- 12) Continuous learning process for the teachers is a vital objective of NEP.
- 13) Highly enriched research is another important characteristic feature of NEP. Moreover, NEP aims at the establishment of ‘Higher Education Institutions’ of excessively higher standard.
- 14) Indianization of colonial education system is very much needed.
- 15) So far, technical education was considered as separate identity from the general higher education. But, according to the NEP, this attitude should be changed.
- 16) Private individuals as well as organizations will be encouraged more than before to extend hands in the education sector for the sake of humanity with a vision of service of mankind, not for profit only.

3. Focus on Technical Education

In this section, very briefly focus of NEP on technical education will be discussed. No doubt, vocational and technical education were considered as a separate chapter or section of education so far. Hence, they were considered as different domain from the general higher education system.

Indeed, this cannot be an appropriate attitude towards the higher education. Moreover, in many cases, it is seen that somehow an inferior approach has been taken for the vocational students. NEP- 2020 is different from all these drawbacks.

According to a survey, number of students (age group less than 24 years) who are learning vocational education is less than 5% while it is 52% in USA, 75% in Germany and more than 96% in South Korea. The difference is quite evident. Hence, expansion of vocational education is very important. NEP announces that, it will be made as mandatory for the schools to include vocational training in the mainstream education. Further, in higher education institutions also, vocational

education will be included. Learners will be encouraged for being self-dependent or to begin start-up with the help of Government of India or various NGOs. B.Voc degree at the higher education level will also be awarded. ITI, Polytechnic, institutes etc., will be more modern and they will be directed towards job creation and job-oriented education. The proper authority will help to expand apprenticeship and soft skill development programs also. Moreover, vocational and technical education will be of international standard and for this reason, so many MOUs will be signed among various institutions of both national as well as international importance.

As vocational and technical educations are part of professional education system, hence, it is the need of time for more professionals. This means not only the increase in numbers but also enhancement or the upliftment in the quality also. NEP emphasizes on that. Besides, it ensures to make Indian students as per international standard with absolute latest modern training i.e., digital education. Society has changed a lot and today digital or online teaching-learning has become as an inseparable part of education. So, NEP looks at it and announces to upgrade the standard of teaching process. It will help to make teachers technically efficient and hence more experienced with modern methodologies.

All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has commented on NEP as—“..... marching towards a new era of professional and technical education”. Now, focus will be made on three specific features of NEP regarding technical education.

Firstly, it allows students to attain higher technical knowledge in their mother-tongue or the regional languages which is indeed a revolutionary attempt.

Secondly, NEP announces multi-disciplinary studies in technical education. IIT-Delhi has already started online course on ‘Upanishads—A Scientific Approach’. Various other famous institutions also have started taking initiatives regarding this. For example, architectural history of ancient India is included in the syllabus of some reputed institutions. These are certainly steps to learn India and Indian culture coupled with modern infrastructure and technical efficiency. It will help students to apply the ancient unimaginable knowledge in the modern age, because our ancient knowledge has deep significance in 21st century World also. This has been appreciated and accepted by various countries. It is because of that; they want to study Indian cultural heritage.

Thirdly, close connection or collaboration between industries and educational institutions is very important in NEP. This is significant not only for employment, but also for innovative research and development of the society by at large.

4. Conclusion

Definitely, this is a brief discussion on National Education policy—2020 and the future of the technical education in India because, there are lots of words to tell on this theme which is not at all possible in this short space. Yet, it is an attempt to draw a picture of the future of Indian education sector with a glimpse to the technical education. Indeed, according to the technical experts, NEP will help to organise the system in such a way that a student of today will become a leader of tomorrow. Thus, the country will pave the way towards advancement. For this reason, AICTE has already taken steps like NEAT or National Educational Alliance for Technology which is promoting high level online and modern training to the students. Indeed, this NEAT have several other features also. Definitely, this is the first step towards the implementation of NEP. Recently, the Union Budget, 2022 has been presented. In this budget, allocation in education has been increased and allocation for AICTE has been certainly increased than the previous year. Moreover, Digital University will also be established in future to expand online education for all. So, in short, NEP is working to make India as the leader of the world as well as for sustainable development also. So, National Education Policy-2020 will definitely bring a ray of light in the field of professional and technical education (which are integral part of higher education also), it is hoped.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

References

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