

Analytical Study of New Education Policy and Higher Education in India

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Abstract

New Education Policy is the prime driver of educational development of higher education in India. It focuses humans in the center of education through skill and positive attitude development. It bores the nationalism and a homogeneous education system for all ultimately achieving employability, moral values, and nationalism. It will achieve the objectives of SDG based on Sarve bhawantu Shushinah, Sarve Santu Niramaya. This study is based on a conceptual study of the higher education system. A developed higher education system tends to employability and skill development for youth. This paper discusses the overall aspects of the higher education system in India and how new education policy will impact for the development of the education system particularly the higher education system. The present higher education system is not able to develop the job and employability in India.

Keywords

National Education Policy, Nationalism, Core Values, Holistic Education, Higher Education, etc.

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Introduction

New Education Policy 2020 is a great policy to achieve the holistic development and universalization of education in India. Its foundation is based on our culture, tradition, nationalism, globalization, quality education, personality development, human resource development through skill and attitude development. It is a balanced education policy based on the objectives of education to achieve the dreams of Gandhi, Ram Manohar Lohia, and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. This policy can be examined on different dimensions but some dimensions of this policy are correlated to objectives of education and NEP, educational scenario of world and India, challenges of higher education in India, and justification of online education and its integration with classroom education with special reference to higher education in India.

Objectives of New Education Policy

It is very pertinent to define the objectives of education. Is it concerning to employment, job, and income and wealth maximization? Is it concerning to character building, human welfare, social welfare, and socio-economic-cultural-religious development? Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India elaborated the education as “Excellence in thinking and action is the foundation for any mission. Excellence is not by accident. It is a process, where an individual or organization or nation continuously strives to better oneself”. It is very clear that education is a continuous process and it can be achieved through continuous efforts in the right direction with positive thinking and converting it into action. Hindu culture is observed as the knowledge leads to happiness but completes the justifiable channels. In practice, human is interested to achieve happiness without completing the chain system of happiness and such intention is posing a lot of problems in society.

Past study reveals that true/complete knowledge gives discipline, from discipline comes worthiness, from worthiness one gets wealth, from wealth one gets good deeds, from that (comes) joy. The new education policy 2020 is based on this holistic religious approach that ultimately tends to human welfare. It can be defined as an integrated education system concerning to balance and harmonious development as per the visions of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Mahatma Gandhi, and Ram Manohar Lohia. The objectives of NEP can be elaborated as integrated education.

New education policy has roots in the integrated education system through the development of knowledge, skill, attitude, moral development, employability, and personality, and communication skills. It believes inhomogeneous education system in India, research-based education, multidisciplinary education, character building, global connectivity, and overall development of people in society. The main focus is to create the responsible national and global citizens.

The objectives of this policy are holistic in nature with justifiable and viable methodologies. General Educational Council will be constituted with experts from different fields to discuss and prepare the contents of all courses applicable homogeneously in all regions of the country. It will lead to a homogeneous education system in all parts of the nation with employability in learners. Personality development, positive thinking, logical and mathematical way of thinking, communication skill, knowledge with skill, and attitude building will of course lead to employability and nationalism. Finally, this education system will create the responsible Indian citizens as well as a responsible global human beings. The objectives of self-reliant India and sustainable development goals can be achieved in India up to 2030.

Higher Educational Scenario: A Global Perspective and India

The higher educational system is very heterogeneously distributed all over the world based on quality, quantity, accessibility, and affordability of education. It is concerning to continents wise, country wise, states wise and region wise. North American education system is very developed while South America is very far away. Europe and Australia have also developed the education system but Asia and Africa are very far away in quality, quantity, accessibility, and affordability of education. In Asia, some countries like Japan, South Korea, Eastern regions of Russia are also developed. It has also a big disparity between rural and urban areas and region-wise in almost all countries of the world. In developed countries, it has a high degree of employability while in developing countries; the employability rate is very low even less than 10 percent. The demand for educational institutions is very high while supply is limited to some areas. Commercialization of education is increasing and educational degrees are treated as commodities in society and nation. The cost of education is also higher and it is not accessible to the poor section of society and ultimately it tends to exclusion of education for marginalized classes.

Present Educational Scenario of India

The NEP 2020 aims at making “India a global knowledge superpower” but at present, the literacy rate in India is 74.4 percent which is very low while literacy is related to reading and writing. Literacy is not enough for society as society requires educated and skilled human resources. Male literacy is 82.3 while female literacy rate is 65.8 percent only that shows the gender differences in literacy. SC and ST literacy in most of the states is less than 60 percent. In rural areas, it is 65 percent while in urban areas it is 95 percent that shows the heterogeneous literacy rate in India. According to the survey of India Today, the employability rate of graduates is about 10 percent only which is very far away in the comparison of developed countries. India lacks entrepreneurship education and maximum youth believe in

jobs and employment. The education system also lacks skill and attitude development. They are a job seeker and not the job creator and job givers. Finally, it tends to high rate of educated unemployment in India. It is a big fundamental problem in India.

Indian Higher Education System: Challenges

Dr. Sarvepali Radhakrishnan, former President, and well-known educationist observed that teaching is not a profession but a mission. The very best mind in the country should be teachers. But the reality is different and most of the talented persons are not interested in teaching which is a big question to all. The teacher should be regarded as a role model for learners and society. The gross enrolment ratio in higher education is very low and about to 20 percent while it is higher in developed countries. Developing intellectuals rather than just degree holders have become the objective of most of the universities in India. It poses the questions on employability too. Developing youth with environmental sensitivity, human values, and professional ethics, Preparing youth for global competitiveness and employability, brain drain at all levels, etc are required to analyze justifiably.

Justification of Online Education with Traditional Education in Higher Education

Extending the reach of higher education through online education is a great step taken by the new education policy that will attract and retain qualified and competent faculties in higher educational institutions. It is also urgently required to establish world-class institutions of higher learning and research in India. Academia-Industry interaction can be developed through an invited lecture from industries experts. All increase the relevancy of online education and its amalgamation with traditional classroom education. The beauty of online education can be seen as a variety of courses, low cost, age no bar, increase enrolment ratio, world classroom/room to all also in remote areas, work from anywhere, at any time, earning while learning, poor can study, review lectures instantly, focus on ideas, flexible learning schedule, instructor availability, etc. In classroom education, the teacher is the authority—assessment of students and it requires place within the classroom. The teacher has eye to eye contact and class control that develop the overall development of students and it provides practical and lab facilities. The teacher usually talks more number of students but it is possible for limited number of students and It facilitates only learning and not earning. It is not suitable for the high age group and poor persons that have the responsibility of earning also. In online education, the teacher directs the student to the information but the beauty of this education lies in earning while learning and very suitable for poor class high age group working people. Finally, it reveals that classroom education and online education are not

competitive but complementary to each other. Therefore, online education will tend to be inclusive education in India particularly in the case of higher education.

Conclusion

Overall, New Education Policy is very pertinent and relevant to achieve the socio-economic development of nation. It has a high impact on the higher education system in India and it directly concerns to poverty eradication, no hunger, sustainable development, entrepreneurship development, skill and moral development, nationalization and globalization of education, generating human skill and employability, etc. Online education development as a complementary of classroom education is a big step for higher education development to all particularly the working class of society. It is required for universalization, accessibility and affordability of education to all. The integration of online and classroom education will tend to education to all places, all age group, working as well non working also. Finally, the new education policy is a practically fit education policy for India tending to achieve the goals of higher education.

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