

A Comparative Study of National Education Policy 1986 and 2020

Manju^{1,*}, Garima¹, Bhumika Samal¹

Abstract

Education's meaning is too broad. Therefore, it is important to discuss the current educational system before launching the 2020 New Education Policy (NEP) and then the role of NEP in higher education. The improvement of higher education will benefit from new educational policies, but bringing excellent education is of greater importance. The NEP highlights a student's or child's entire development. This is the only justification for keeping the idea of no topic or language distinction in NEP 2020. The article discusses how NEP 2020's improvements will impact higher education. A committee headed by Dr K. Kasturi Rangan, a former chairperson of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), created a draught of a new education strategy. Hence the focus of, this study focuses on current higher education policies and how they compare to earlier ones. NEP 2020 adopts a larger and all-encompassing strategy. NEP 2020 adopts a more extensive and comprehensive approach. The policy intends to give them fundamental life skills, establish moral values, and prepare them for future employment options in addition to academic success. NEP 2020 works to improve educational outcomes and the educational system in accordance with global 21st-century requirements. NEP 2020 aimed to strike a balance between preserving Indian cultural heritage and tradition while embracing global practices and advancements in education. NEP 2020 ensures an education policy that has both values of Indian heritage and global heritage. Education beyond academic knowledge equips students with the skills, values, and mindset required to lead fulfilling lives and become good humans.

Keywords: National Education Policy 2020, technology, higher education, skills, value, development

INTRODUCTION

The development, advancement, and well-being of both people and civilizations are fundamentally influenced by education. Governments all around the globe pursue education policies to promote quality, equity, and innovation in their individual educational systems because they recognize its importance. These policies operate as a road map for modifying educational practises, correcting problems, and fulfilling learners' changing requirements in a world that is changing quickly. An education policy establishes the goals, values, and objectives that direct the creation and execution of educational initiatives and programmes. Education is at the core of both society's progress and a country's expansion. It entails learning the knowledge, skills, dispositions, and morals that allow individuals to lead lives of happiness while providing contribute to their communities. This introduction addresses the importance of higher education for the development of a nation, highlighting its wide-ranging effects and myriad facets. People who pursue education gain the knowledge and skills necessary to participate

*Author for Correspondence

Manju

E-mail: manju.mgmt@gangainstitute.com

¹Assistant Professor, Department of MBA, Ganga Institute of Technology & Management, Kablana, Jhajjar, Haryana, India

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effectively in employment and promote economic growth. Tolerance and knowledge of different communities promote social cohesion. It encourages characteristics like respect, empathy, and cultural sensitivity that are crucial for building a harmonious society. Education also contributes significantly to settling conflicts and preventing social unrest by encouraging dialogue, analytical thinking, and peaceful coexistence. Education and improved health outcomes are closely associated. It facilitates the adoption of healthy habits, informed health choices, and utilization of healthcare resources. Furthermore, education gives communities the tools they need to address public health issues including disease prevention, hygiene, and family planning, leading to healthier populations and fewer healthcare expenditures. Education is essential for a democratic society to function properly. Education encourages political awareness, civic engagement, and critical thinking, enabling people to take an active role in decision-making. Holding governments accountable and assisting in the development of transparent and effective governance mechanisms, education plays a critical role in promoting sustainable development through raising awareness of environmental preservation, changes in the climate, and sustainable activities. It equips people with the knowledge and skills necessary to adopt environmentally friendly behaviors, advance the advancement of environmentally friendly innovations, and make a contribution to a better tomorrow. The foundation for a country's overall development is its educational system. It increases health and well-being, fosters sustainable practices, strengthens democratic institutions, and empowers people. It also accelerates economic growth and social solidarity. Governments, communities, and individuals must prioritize investments in education if they are to ensure equally dispersed accessibility, excellent instruction, and chances for lifelong learning. By doing this, countries might achieve their full potential and create societies that are strong, inclusive, and prosperous for coming generations. This policy will bring transformation reforms to the higher education level. Before this policy, India drafted a policy in 1968 and reforms in 1986 and now remap new education policy in 2020. This policy's goal is to "make India a global knowledge superpower." The nation's educational system is intended to be transformed by the New Education Policy (NEP), a comprehensive framework. India announced a new National Education Policy in 2020, which signifies a massive revamp of the nation's educational system, as of my knowledge beginning in September 2021. It was developed in India with the intention of tackling contemporary issues and modernizing the educational system to accommodate the demands of the 21st century. It is intended to encourage students critical thinking, experiential learning, and overall growth [1].

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

The NEP 2020 aims at the following:

1. To provide instructors more power and support so they can work as efficiently as possible.
2. To improve a student's knowledge and abilities at the high school and college levels.
3. To recruit the best and the brightest people to the teaching profession at all levels, it is necessary to ensure that they have a means of support, respect, dignity, and autonomy.
4. To promote the student's general growth so that he or she may appropriately navigate the actual world and real life.
5. The development of any country depends largely on its level of education. Therefore, it must be crucial to give education to everyone, with an emphasis on quality rather than quantity.

Higher Education

Higher education is essential for promoting societal and personal development. It is crucial for achieving the goals of high-quality education, national sustainability, and economic growth. India is currently moving towards developing a knowledge economy and motivating the young people in the population to pursue higher education. For the development of thinking, imaginative, well-rounded people, high-quality education is more crucial than ever. One needs to choose one or two subjects from higher education that include constitutional principles, character, and ethics. A good higher education leads to personal growth, civic participation, and significant contributions to society's development.

Students who receive a high-quality education can become economically independent and live more contentedly and meaningfully. Policy in education leads to more opportunities of employment.

Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. The fourth of 17 goals for sustainable development is high-quality education. Establish egalitarian standards for education and provide chances for lifelong learning for everyone. The objective of quality education helps to achieve the other objective of sustainable development of society.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

New education policies have immediate changes to improve the quality of education and achieve sustainable development. The objectives of the present study are:

1. To investigate the new National Education Policy 2020.
2. To contrast the NEP 2020 with the NEP 1986.
3. To highlight various changes in the institutional restructuring of the new education policy in 2020.
4. To study holistic and multidisciplinary education.

METHODOLOGY

This current study is based on an analytical research design. Researchers examine the comparative analysis of the new education policy 2020 and the education policy 1986 drafted by the government. The information, including the advantages and disadvantages, was taken from the Ministry of Human Resource Development's official website.

NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020

Approved the name change of the Ministry of Human Resources and Development to the Ministry of Education, now Ministry of Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank announce the new education policy 2020. The economic development of a country directly depends on the education system of a country, the education system is a strength of a country and provides individual employment as well as economic success [2].

Feature of NEP 2020

1. NEP 2020 is a re-emerging and complete overhaul of the higher education system and provides high-quality education.
2. Higher education system involving multi-disciplinary universities and colleges. The higher education system provides a more multidisciplinary undergraduate system, and it provides multi-entry and exit points for graduation.
3. Higher education provides a four-year graduate program, if students exit within one year, they collect one year certificate; if they exit after two years, they earn a diploma; and collect a degree after three years and complete a four-year graduation course to collect a graduate degree with one year of research experience.
4. Revamping pedagogy, and curriculum and enhancing the student's experience. Highly competent autonomous boards with academic and administrative authority govern higher education institutions.
5. Consolidation and restructuring of institutions
6. A single regulator for higher education imposes both loose and strict regulations.
7. University Grant Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to be replaced by Higher Education Commission of India (HECI).
8. Higher education regulatory system to be distinct for regulating accreditation, academic standard setting and funding, all under the umbrella of HECI. The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Veterinary Council of India (VCI), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Council of Architecture (COA), and National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) are among the organizations that define professional standards.

9. University name on the basis of quality education, not on the ownership base.
10. College affiliation for 15 years and established grade granting autonomy to college.
11. NEP enables foreign universities to establish campuses in India.
12. NEP removes the rigid separateness of streams of commerce, science, humanities, etc. Now students can select the subjects history and physics in classes 11 and 12.
13. The NEP offers a place for the unrestricted exchange of ideas to improve instruction, scheduling, evaluation, and administration.
14. Standardized test for college admission. The National Testing Agency (NTA) will administer nationwide standard entrance exams for university applications. The NTA already conducts the All-India Engineering Entrance Exam, UGC National Eligibility Test (NET), National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main, and others.
15. In higher education, the new education policy increased the gross enrolment ratio to 50% which was 26.3% in 2018.
16. Growth of public and private institutions with strong emphasis on developing a large number of public institutions. Increase public funding support for public higher education institutions (HEIs) and provide equal opportunity to grow all public institutions [3].

Towards A More Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education

The educational institution must launch an online and remote learning program. This online and open distance learning program is helpful to improve the gross enrolment ratio and provide a lifelong learning facility. Open distance learning provides quality education and degree, and diploma equally to HEIs. The institutions accredited for open distance learning encourage development of high-quality online courses. Universities are multidisciplinary institutions that offer top-notch instruction, research, and frequently undergraduate, graduate, and PhD programs. A multidisciplinary and holistic education develops the human being's quality/capacities in a physical, social, moral, intellectual, and emotional integrated manner. Quality education will help to develop capacities in field arts, language, social science, humanities, technical, professional, and vocational fields. In the 21st century and the fourth industrial revolution, an all-encompassing and multidisciplinary education must be long-lasting. The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are currently moving towards holistic, multidisciplinary education that emphasizes the arts and humanities. A holistic approach provides a flexible curriculum structure and enables creative contribution to study. Multidisciplinary education provides a multi-entry and exit point which removes the currently rigid boundaries [4].

A holistic environment education includes different areas such as pollution, waste management, conservation of biological diversity, climate change, wildlife conservation, forest and sustainable development, and value-based education include ethics, humanities, constitutional, truth, dharma, shanti, love, nonviolence, citizenship, and life value. A holistic education system provides different types of master's programs [5]. The first is a two-year program with a three-year bachelor's degree, the second one-year master's program with a three-year bachelor's degree plus one year of research work and the third is five years integrated master's program. A master's degree or a four-year bachelor's degree with research is required for a PhD. Through IITs, Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), and other model public universities, the highest global standards in quality education were established. The model public university is also known as MERUS (Multidisciplinary Education and Research University). It helps establish the highest standard for holistic education in India [6].

INTERNATIONALIZATION

Education should be globalized, and this concept was first given in the Yashpal Committee Report 2009, and the concept of foreign universities was already discussed. If the top 200 colleges in the world, to use their example, want to collaborate here, they should be welcomed. So, education should be international. One needs to acknowledge the Yashpal Committee Report too, because the doors were

opened for foreign universities by Yashpal Committee. NEP promotes foreign universities to set up their campus in India and give opportunities to local students. Different courses are available in subjects such as Indian language, Indology, Ayush system of medicine, music, and yoga in modern India [7]. NEP will encourage study abroad and offer top-notch instruction at reasonable prices. HEIs welcome students arriving from abroad. HEIs signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for exchange faculty for mutual benefits.

In comparison to the Education Policy of 1986, India's new NEP signifies a considerable change [8]:

1. *Vision and approach:*
 - i. The goals of the 1986 Education Policy were to promote democracy, secularism, and social and national unity. While highlighting the necessity of a uniform educational system, it also recognized the variety of Indian society.
 - ii. The NEP 2020 adopts a larger and all-encompassing strategy. In order to fulfil the demands of the 21st century, it seeks to revolutionize the educational system by fostering holistic development, critical thinking, creativity, and experiential learning. It places emphasis on incorporating vocational education, multilingualism, and technological usage in education.
2. *Structure and curriculum*
 - i. Ten years of basic and secondary education were followed by two years of upper secondary education under the 10+2 framework of the 1986 Education Policy.
 - ii. The 5+3+3+4 system proposed by the NEP 2020 divides education into foundational (years 3–8), preparatory (ages 8–11), intermediate (ages 11–14), and secondary (years 14–18) levels. It promotes a flexible, interdisciplinary curriculum that places less of a focus on memorization and more of an emphasis on critical thinking and experience learning.
3. *Language policy:*
 - i. In accordance with the Education Policy of 1986, Hindi, English, and a regional language were to be taught in schools. The NEP 2020 supports a three-language formula as well, but with a stronger focus on multilingualism. It promotes language acquisition at a young age and advises that one of the languages studied should be a mother tongue or a regional language.
4. *Teacher education:*
 - i. The Education Policy of 1986 emphasized the importance of strengthening programs for professional development and teacher education. Through extensive teacher training programs, ongoing professional development, and the establishment of a four-year integrated BEd program, the NEP 2020 lays a lot of emphasis on improving the quality of teachers.
5. *Assessment and evaluation:*
 - i. The Education Policy of 1986 mainly emphasized a system based on grades and held board exams at the conclusion of each level. Through the use of a competency-based approach and an emphasis on formative and ongoing evaluation, the NEP 2020 suggests moving away from a system that is grade-based. It tries to promote a comprehensive evaluation of students' skills rather than place a greater focus on high-stakes exams.
6. *Technology integration:*
 - i. The incorporation of technology in education was not particularly included in the Education Policy of 1986 since it was not as commonplace as it is now.
 - ii. The NEP 2020 supports the efficient integration of technology into teaching and learning procedures and acknowledges the transformational potential of this medium. To make access to high-quality education easier, it places an emphasis on the provision of digital infrastructure, connection, and online resources.

The NEP 2020 in India contrasts sharply with the Education Policy of 1986 in a number of important ways. A more comprehensive and forward-looking strategy, the NEP 2020 emphasizes holistic development, transdisciplinary learning, technological integration, and the promotion of 21st-century

skills. In order to educate students about the problems of the modern world, it tries to respond to the changing demands of learners.

Comparison between new NEP 2020 and NEP 1986:

1. The bandwidth of comparison between 1986 and 2020 policies needs more exposure. Similarly, NOIS will be replaced by NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling). Some points are valid but for a research paper, we need to put or share points that are not common to others.
2. The Ministry of Education adopted the New Education Policy 2020, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development approved the National Policy of Education in 1986.
3. The gross enrolment ratio under the new education policy is expected to be 50% in 2035 and under NPE 1986 was 26.3% in 2018.
4. In the new education policy, there are no hard separation of streams like arts, commerce, and science, which was the case in the 1986 policy.
5. NEP 2020 approves three languages: state's, regional, and one other but in 1986 the languages were Hindi, English and regional language.
6. Education sector gets 6% of the GDP according to the new education policy and in the old policy it was 4.5% of the GDP.
7. The new education policy provides sign language for students with learning impairment. The NOIS and now replaced by NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling).
8. Minimum qualification for teachers under NEP will be a 4-year integrated BEd degree from 2030.
9. National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct examinations on different subjects, for instance, humanities, sciences, language, arts and other vocational subject and will conduct twice within one year.
10. Multiple entry and exit for incomplete courses under the new education policy but this facility was not available under NEP 1986.
11. Under new education policy, Indian institutions set up their campus in foreign country as well as best 100 foreign universities can set up their campus in India but under the 1986 policy this provision did not exist.
12. With the exception of medical and legal institutions, the Higher Education Commission of India has supervision over higher education institutions. It is comprised of four divisions, the first of which is the General Education Council (GEC), which sets standards for general higher education.

CONCLUSION

The National Education Policy 2020 is based on the notions that education must promote the development of social, ethical, and emotional skills as well as cognitive skills, including the “foundational capacities” of literacy and numeracy and “higher-order” cognitive skills like critical thinking and problem-solving. In ancient India, the goal of education was to fully realize and free oneself, not only to acquire information but also to prepare one for life in this world or life after school. Similarly, to that, the National Education Policy 2020 seeks to restore to Indian education the sort of education that results in total self-realization and liberty. Different departure and access points for higher education are provided in the new education policy, with a focus mostly on vocational education which is helpful to create employment and develop the economic status of the country. Further, it can be concluded that NEP 2020 has focused on multidisciplinary education, and it made a flexible choice in the selection of subjects. Now students have the choice to enter and exit according to their choice and they will get certificates, so the time spent will not be in vain. Finally, it can be concluded that NEP 2020 is designed on the basis of the global education system with new prospectus.

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