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NEP 2020 REVISITING, REIMAGINING & REVAMPING HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA: VISION 2047Meenakshi Rathi ^{*1}¹Assistant Professor Commerce

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.59415/mjacs.v2i3.173>**Abstract**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 stands as a forward-thinking blueprint aimed at reshaping India's educational landscape, including its higher education sector, with a forward-looking gaze extending to 2047. This analysis delves into the core propositions and suggestions put forth by the NEP 2020 and how they could reshape higher education in India. It underscores the NEP 2020's stress on digital integration, research, and inventive thinking in higher education while advocating for flexibility and varied options in curriculum selection. Additionally, it sheds light on the proactive measures initiated by the Madhya Pradesh government in implementing NEP 2020 guidelines. Prioritizing online platforms, top-notch digital resources, and streamlined credit transfer mechanisms could notably enhance educational accessibility, particularly for students situated in remote locales. Moreover, fostering a culture of research and innovation might foster economic progress by fostering synergies between universities, industries, and allied establishments. In essence, the NEP 2020 harbors the potential to overhaul higher education in India, rendering it more inclusive, comprehensive, and experientially enriching.

Keywords: National Education Policy 2020, higher education, digital adoption, multidisciplinary, credit transfer, online platforms, regional languages, access to education, Madhya Pradesh.

1. Introduction

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a pivotal milestone in the educational landscape, representing a bold and forward-looking vision for India's future. Endorsed by the Union Cabinet under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 29, 2020, this policy overhaul stands as a significant departure from the educational frameworks in place since 1986. With a futuristic vision it covers all the aspects of effective teaching and learning moreover a special emphasis is on Equitable, holistic, experiential, integrative and enjoyable learning. There are many important proposals under NEP 2020 both at the level of school education and higher education. While the 10+2 education system in school education has been recommended to be replaced by the 5+3+3+4 model, on the other hand, at the higher education level, multidisciplinary (multi-disciplinary) bachelor's degrees have been recommended. Provision has been made in which all subjects except medical and law will be included and due to the credit transfer system, students will get the option of taking courses from multiple institutes and multiple exits. Since the approval of the Union Cabinet on NEP 2020, the process of implementing its proposals is being done by the governments in various states across the country. Madhya Pradesh as a heart of incredible India took a lead in implementation of National Education Policy in India. Madhya Pradesh has been proactive and swiftly responding to the requirements of revolutionary change in Higher education along with Post COVID management. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, introduced by the Government of India, aims to transform the education system in the country, including higher education. One of the key features of the policy is the emphasis on digital adoption in higher education.

The NEP 2020 envisions an overall transformation thereby shifting from traditional classroom-based learning to a more technology-driven approach of teaching-learning. The policy recommends the use of online platforms and digital resources to enhance learning and increase access to education. It also promotes the development of high-quality digital content in regional languages, which can help bridge the digital divide and improve access to education for students in remote areas. Another important aspect of the NEP 2020 is the focus on promoting research and innovation in higher education. The policy encourages the establishment of research clusters and encourages universities to collaborate with industry and other institutions to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The NEP 2020 envisage the promotion of flexibility and choice in higher education by allowing students to choose their own courses and pursue multidisciplinary programs. It also recommends the establishment of a multidisciplinary-credit-based system that can permit students to accumulate credits from different courses and transfer them to other programs or institutions as needed.

2. Implications:

After 34 years NEP 2020 is introduced with the onerous task addressing multiple crises which are faced by Indian education system and amongst all Madhya Pradesh is pioneer in implementation of National Education Policy effectively in the state with academic session 2021-22. State has been trailblazer in opening up multidisciplinary streams for first year students on 26th August 2021. In the first phase the course has been divided into Major, Minor, Group electives, other electives, vocational and foundation subjects for first year. In the next phase there is a plan to introduce new courses and syllabus for second and third year. Further in fourth year research education will be provided to students to stimulate the culture of research in the state.

Finally, unlike past policy, the post-graduation will be of one year only. Both teachers and students are sceptical about the policy and its implementation. In this context there were certain interventions done by the department from time to time. Various orientations, seminars, webinars and workshops were done to acclimatise the fraternity with NEP. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has witnessed a commendable rise, climbing from 19.6 in 2015-16 to 24.2 in 2019-20. Notably, there has been a steady increase in the number of students enrolling in undergraduate and postgraduate programs, with 5.36 lakh students embarking on their academic journey in the first year of graduation and first semester of post-graduation during 2019-20. Building on this momentum, the subsequent academic year of 2020-21 saw a further uptick, with 5.64 lakh students seizing the opportunity to pursue higher education in these domains. Now Students can choose the subject combination of their choice but not under their parents or the peer pressure groups.

The implementation of NEP 2020 in India has led to significant changes in the higher education system, with a greater emphasis on digital adoption. Here are some of the ways in which higher education in India is being re-envisioned through digital adoption:

1. **Increased availability of digital resources:** NEP 2020 aims to make high-quality digital resources available to students, teachers, and researchers. The policy recommends the development of digital repositories of educational resources, including e-books, lectures, and other multimedia content. This can help bridge the gap in access to education and ensure that students have access to high-quality learning materials.
2. **Greater use of online platforms:** With the shift to online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a greater adoption of online platforms for education. NEP 2020 encourages the use of online platforms for teaching, learning, and assessment. This can help increase access to education, especially for students in remote areas.
3. **Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship:** NEP 2020 aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in higher education through collaboration with industry and other institutions. Digital adoption can play a key role in this by enabling students to develop new technologies and solutions that can address real-world problems.
4. **Flexibility and choice:** NEP 2020 recommends the establishment of a credit-based system that can allow students to choose their own courses and pursue multidisciplinary programs. Digital adoption can enable greater flexibility in education by allowing students to access courses and resources from multiple institutions.
5. **Regional language support:** NEP 2020 emphasizes the development of high-quality digital content in regional languages. This can help ensure that students in different parts of the country

have access to education in their own language and can help bridge the digital divide.

3. Predicting the future of higher education in India

Predicting the future of higher education in India in the year 2047 is challenging, but we can make some educated guesses based on current trends and projections. Here are some possible scenarios for higher education in India in the year 2047:

1. **Increased digital adoption:** It is likely that higher education in India will continue to become more digital and technology-driven in the coming years. This may involve greater use of online platforms, digital resources, and artificial intelligence to enhance learning outcomes.
2. **Greater focus on research and innovation:** With India's increasing emphasis on innovation and entrepreneurship, higher education in 2047 may prioritize research and innovation, with universities and colleges collaborating more closely with industry and other institutions.
3. **Multidisciplinary programs:** Higher education in 2047 may offer more multidisciplinary programs, allowing students to combine courses and specializations from different fields. This may help create more flexible and adaptable graduates who can thrive in a rapidly changing job market.
4. **Greater emphasis on sustainability:** As environmental concerns continue to rise, higher education in 2047 may place a greater emphasis on sustainability and environmental science. This may involve developing new courses and programs focused on sustainability, as well as incorporating sustainability principles into existing programs.
5. **Greater collaboration and internationalization:** Higher education in 2047 may be more globally focused, with greater collaboration between institutions across different countries. This may involve more international student exchanges and joint degree programs, as well as increased investment in global research initiatives.

The future of higher education in India in 2047 will likely be shaped by a combination of technological advances, economic trends, and societal priorities. However, with a focus on innovation, collaboration, and sustainability, India's higher education system has the potential to create a brighter future for generations to come.

4. Potential Impact of Digitalization in Higher Education

Digitalization has the potential to significantly improve higher education in India. Here are some ways in which digitalization can shift Indian education towards better outcomes in higher education institutions (HEIs):

1. **Access and equity:** Digitalization can help increase access to higher education for students in remote or under-served areas, as well as for those who are unable to attend traditional classroom-based programs due to work or family commitments. Online courses and digital resources can provide a more flexible and accessible learning environment, allowing more students to pursue higher education.
2. **Quality of education:** Digitalization can also help improve the quality of education in HEIs. Online courses and digital resources can provide a more engaging and interactive learning experience, allowing students to learn at their own pace and on their own terms. Additionally, digital tools such as data analytics and machine learning can help instructors analyze student performance and tailor their teaching strategies to improve learning outcomes.
3. **Collaboration and communication:** Digitalization can facilitate collaboration and communication among students and instructors. Online platforms can enable students to work together on projects and assignments,

regardless of their physical location. Additionally, digital tools such as video conferencing and instant messaging can help students and instructors stay connected and engaged with each other.

4. **Innovation and entrepreneurship:** Digitalization can help foster innovation and entrepreneurship in HEIs. Online courses and digital resources can provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to launch and grow their own businesses. Additionally, digital tools can help HEIs collaborate more closely with industry partners and other institutions, creating new opportunities for research and development.
5. **Cost-effectiveness:** Digitalization can help reduce the cost of higher education for students and HEIs. Online courses and digital resources can be more cost-effective than traditional classroom-based programs, reducing the financial burden on students. Additionally, digital tools can help HEIs streamline administrative processes and reduce overhead costs.

The mechanism of digitalization has the potential to significantly improve higher education in India by increasing access, improving quality, fostering collaboration and innovation, and reducing costs. HEIs that embrace digitalization are likely to be better positioned to meet the evolving needs of students and the job market, creating a more dynamic and responsive higher education system in India.

Re-envisioning higher education through digital adoption involves leveraging technology to transform the way education is delivered and accessed. Here are some ways in which digital adoption can be used to re-envision higher education:

1. **Online learning:** Online learning has become increasingly popular in recent years, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Online courses and degree programs offer greater flexibility and accessibility to students, allowing them to learn from anywhere and at any time. Digital adoption can help institutions create engaging and interactive online courses that are on par with traditional classroom-based courses.
2. **Digital resources:** Digital adoption can also involve the creation and use of digital resources, such as e-books, multimedia content, and interactive simulations. These resources can provide students with a more engaging and immersive learning experience, while also enabling them to learn at their own pace and on their own terms.
3. **Blended learning:** Blended learning combines traditional classroom-based learning with online learning, creating a more flexible and personalized learning experience for students. Digital adoption can help institutions create and manage blended learning programs, which can be customized to meet the needs of individual students.
4. **Personalized learning:** Digital adoption can also be used to create personalized learning experiences for students. By leveraging data analytics and machine learning, institutions can analyse student data to identify learning gaps and create personalized learning paths for individual students.
5. **Collaborative learning:** Digital adoption can facilitate collaborative learning, enabling students to work together on projects and assignments in real-time, regardless of their physical location. This can help build collaboration and communication skills, which are essential in today's workplace.

5. Conclusion

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) aligns closely with Sustainable Development Goal 4, emphasizing the shared objectives of making education affordable, equitable, of high quality, and

accessible throughout one's life. Embracing a "Light but Tight" regulatory framework, the NEP aims to foster integrity, transparency, and innovation within the educational system. However, the realization of these goals necessitates substantial investment in teacher training and institutional readiness, including adequate physical resources and infrastructure.

One of the key strategies proposed is the establishment of multi-disciplinary, autonomous higher education institutions that offer degrees across undergraduate, postgraduate, and research levels. While this approach presents challenges in management, the presence of dedicated teachers committed to guiding students, coupled with experiential learning opportunities and the development of vocational, mathematical, and 21st-century skills like artificial intelligence and coding, ensures a holistic educational experience. The overarching objective is to nurture learners into truly global citizens who are equipped for the future.

The NEP seeks to strike a delicate balance between honoring traditions and embracing an interdisciplinary approach necessary for the demands of the 21st century. By revamping the skill sets of the youth and providing them with the tools needed for global competitiveness, the policy holds the potential to propel India onto the global stage. NEP has the potential to revamp the skills of the youth of our country and has all the right tools that are needed to be competitive at the global level.

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