



Reforms in Higher Education: An Overview

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Abstract-- India exhibits a great level of confidence in its technological know-how and its capabilities higher education system. The society response is key to building a better future towards education. The Union Cabinet on July 28 gave its approval to a new education policy, called the National Education Policy 2020. The policy has, among other things, renamed the Human Resource Development Ministry as the Education Ministry and the government has taken steps brought about land mark transformational reforms' in school and higher education sectors. In this context the present paper attempts to analyze the new education policy reforms in higher education sector.

Keywords-- Reforms, Higher Education, National Education Policy

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is meant to prepare an individual for life, equip him physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually to deal with the challenges of life with self-assurance, audacity, making the right decisions, and broadening their perspectives. The primary objective of education is to direct the individual to live his life in a useful and in a meaningful way (Radhika Kapur 2018). Higher education system plays an important role for the country's overall development which includes industrial, social, economic etc. Indian higher education system is third largest in the world. The role of Indian higher educational institutes such as colleges and universities in the present time is to provide quality-based education in the field of education, research etc to empower youth for self-sustainability (Sahil Sharma 2015). The present-day education system in India has come a long way and the age-old traditions have undergone a new makeover. Government of India is doing lots of efforts in this field so that the objective of inclusive growth can be achieved very soon by it. A great achievement of the Indian government is a big jump in the literacy rate from 18.3% in 1950-51 to 74.04% in 2010-11 (Kamlesh Gakhar 2012).

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The reforms in educational sector in India leads to impact on education system. So, the objectives of this study are:

- (1) To analyze policy reforms in higher education.
- (2) To study the issues and challenges of Indian higher education system.

III. Methodology of the study:

Methodology describes the research route map to be followed, the techniques to be used, and sampling for the study methods data collection, the tools of analysis used.

The study carried out is an analytical in nature in which it online educational policy framework, highlighting various issues and challenges in online education in currently adopted education policy. The present study is based on the secondary data. The researcher is going to collect the data from the different websites, government reports, different journals, articles, research papers, books etc.

IV. Data analysis and Interpretation

Graph-1



Source: www.india-briefing.com

Investment in India's unregulated education sector amounts to over US\$1.7 billion (Rs 12,000 crore) in the last decade. Over 160 foreign universities are currently working in collaboration with Indian institutions by establishing different types of institutes, which are registered as private or public companies. (Rohini Singh 2018)

V. Reforms in Higher Education

A. UG Degree Programme: 3-year and 4-year programmes

Under the New Education Policy 2020, undergraduate degree will either be of a 3- or 4-year duration, with multiple entry or exit options within this period. There is nomenclature to award degree on a period of completion basis. The higher educational institutions or degree awarding institutions will have to give a certificate after completion of first year of degree in any discipline or field, including vocational and professional areas; a diploma after two years of study in undergraduate degree level; and a Bachelors' degree after a three-year programme and a bachelors' degree with research after fourth year. One more important aspect in new education policy is government will also establish an Academic Bank of Credit for digitally storing academic credits earned from different higher education institutions so that these could be transferred and counted towards the final degree earned. This would also allow students who have to drop out of their courses due to unavoidable



circumstances to resume their programme at a later time from where they left it, rather than having to start over from the beginning of the course

B. Target to reach 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio by 2035 in higher education.

In higher education India's gross enrolment ratio (GER) improved to 27.1 per cent in 2019-20 as against 26.3 per cent in 2018-19 for the 18-23 years of age group. The new education policy aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher educations, including vocational education, from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035. For this, 35 million new seats will be added to higher education institutions.

C. National Research Foundation

As per the new education policy the government will set up a National Research Foundation (NRF) with the aim encourage research and innovation across all academic disciplines, particularly at the university and college levels.

D. National Testing Agency (NTA)

The National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct a common college entrance exam twice every year.

E. No affiliation

In coming years there will be no affiliation for higher educational institutions. Means Over the next 15 years, colleges will be given graded autonomy to give degrees means the institutions will be converted as degree awarding institutions. Affiliation with universities will end, and these institutions will be given the status of 'deemed to be university'.

F. NEP 2020: Cap on college fees

The New Education policy suggests a cap on fee charged by private institutions of higher education.

G. Internationalization of Higher Education

There is scope for Indian higher educational institutions to become global institutes. Top-rated global universities will be facilitated to come to India. Similarly, top Indian institutions will be encouraged to go global.

H. MPhil to be discontinued

As per the new norms MPhil would be discontinued, paving the way for students with masters' degrees to get PhD.

I. National Institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit

To ensure the preservation of all Indian languages, the NEP recommends setting up an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation, National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, strengthening of Sanskrit and all language departments in higher education institutions.

J. Adult education under NEP

The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) aims to achieve 100 per cent youth and adult literacy.

CONCLUSION

The new education policy plays a key role in higher education in India. The Covid-19 pandemic situation has disrupted the education industry at global level. Full-fledged classes have been suspended by enforce social distancing in educational institutions, from schools to universities, have shifted completely converged to online methods of teaching learning and evaluation. As the number of COVID cases continues to rise, there is no certainty about situation normalcy will be restored. And another major reform in Indian education system is the new National Education Policy (NEP) approved last month also talks about being ready for digital and online education.

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