

NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2019: REVIEW FROM HIGHER EDUCATION PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Higher Education is the platform which provides leaders in science, arts, commerce, technology and various other fields to the society. To keep its importance in mind, the Government of India established University Education Commission in 1948 under the chairmanship of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, a distinguish scholar and 2nd president of India. The main aim of this commission was to study the problems and prospects of Indian University Education and suggest the improvements and extensions that might suit to the present and future requirements of country. Even after giving so much attention towards higher education according to census 2011 only 8% of total population of India is graduate and the quality of our higher education Centre's is also questionable where even a single educational institution from India has not secured top 300 world university ranking declared by Times group in 2019.

We are far away from the goal of Inclusion, Equity and student satisfaction in higher education. Our Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education is just 24.5% which is far behind for GER of China with 43.39% and USA with 85.8%. It shows that our students are not aspiring to get higher education due to various reasons. India is aiming to improve GER of 30% by 2030 and it is a big challenge. We have to work out on all the causes of exclusion in higher education.

According to survey conducted by National Centre for Promotion of Employment for disabled People (NCPEDP) only 0.56% differently abled students are taking admissions in higher educational institutes whereas the reserved quota is 5% from 14 April 2019 and earlier it was only 3%.

National Education Policy 2019 pays much attention towards making infrastructure of higher educational institutes differently able friendly, provide them equal opportunities and equity based education so that number of differently abled students increase in higher educational institutes.

Keywords: University Education Commission, Gross Enrollment Ratio, Inclusive Education, Equity

INTRODUCTION

According to new education policy 2019 effective learning is a comprehensive approach across the curriculum, pedagogy and student support. Curriculum should be relevant, up to

date and engaging. It should clearly articulate the desired outcomes and also mention the ways to attain them. To achieve these desirable outcome, we require high quality pedagogy that is based on student engagement. New education policy strictly opposes rote memorization and focus on student centered pedagogic methods like project method, discussion, seminar, problem solving and cooperative learning where student not only stay active but also learn from each other. Third and last but not the least aspect for effective learning is student support and his or her wellbeing. When student is physically fit, healthy and emotionally stable, then only he or she can focus on studies resulting in effective learning. Higher education is the time when many students first time stay away from their parent and attempt things independently so there are high chances of stress and pressure. They can be easily deviated from their goal, so it is the duty of educational institution to take care of students wellbeing and seeking his support in smooth functioning of institution.

National Educational Policy Mention few preconditions for effective learning-

1. Curriculum, Pedagogy and Student support are key elements for effective and quality learning. Good infrastructure, proper resources and latest technology are supporting elements.
2. Institution and faculties have autonomy to innovate on matters of curriculum, pedagogy and assessment based on broad overall framework of higher education qualification.
3. All Open and Distance learning as well In-class mode institutes ensure the stimulating and engaging learning environment.
4. All Higher Educational Institutions should construct the mechanism of subject or topic centered clubs like Science, Social Science, Mathematics, Poetry, Language Debate Music Football, and Table-Tennis with funding support.
5. Students from socio-economically disadvantaged groups require proper encouragement and financial support to complete higher education. For this purpose a National Scholarship board is established who will grant adequate funds to these poor economic background students.
6. Open and Distance Learning Programmes will be renewed and improve the quality.
7. Faculty recruitment should be merit based and institution should have the authority regarding faculty recruitment, retention, salary increment, promotions and movement.
8. Appointments of Board of Governors, Vice-Chancellor/Director/Chief Executive of HEIs should be clear merit-based procedures.

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requirements of country. New Education Policy 2019 is also giving too much emphasis on higher education. Even after giving so much attention towards higher education according to census 2011 only 8% of total population of India is graduate and the quality of our higher education Centre's is also questionable where our single education institution is not secured top 300 world university ranking declared by Times group in 2019.

So the question arises in mind that why Indian youth is not espier to get higher education? Few main causes of exclusion in higher education 1s mentioned below:

1. Lack of knowledge
2. Aspirational distancing
3. Cost of pursuing higher education
4. Unavailability of higher educational Institutes in rural areas
5. Lack of employability even after getting higher education.
6. Language issues

Policy Initiatives for Higher Education

1. Draft policy aims to build multidisciplinary Universities and colleges and want to phase out all single stream higher educational institutions. Currently in India there are 800 universities and 40000 colleges and policy want to convert them in 15,000 large well resourced, vibrant multidisciplinary institutes.
2. Setting clear targets for Gross Enrollment Ratio in Higher Education which is at present 24.50% and target to lift it up to 50% till 2035.
3. Enhancing access by building more Higher Educational Institutions. Special Education Zones will develop for Under Represented Groups.
4. Special weightage to Open and Distance Learning programmes and MOOCs Massive Open Online Courses so that more students can enroll in higher education.
5. Set global standard of quality so that brain drain can stop and more students can aspire to get higher education.
6. Student exchange programme from the best universities of the world so that students get exposure
7. Faculty exchange programme so that they can see and learn about the functioning of the best universities of the world.
8. Autonomy to faculty in terms of pedagogy and curriculum development.
9. Research collaboration with other Indian and foreign universities.
10. The draft Policy recommends creating competitive funding from National Research Foundation (NRF)
11. Appointments of Board of Governors, Vice-Chancellor/Director/Chief Executive of HEIs be clear merit-based procedures.
12. Establish offshore campus in nearby countries.
13. Introducing new courses like Indology, Indian Languages, Art, Culture, Yoga, Aurveda, History of India and Modern India.
14. Goal is internationalization of education so that more students come here and study. The name given to this project is Operation Nalanda and Takshila.

15. Less regulation bodies with “light, but tight” rules.
16. Special focus on increasing participation of Under Represented Groups. According to census 2011 only 19.90% Schedule Cast and only 14.20% Schedule Tribes students are enrolled for higher education which is very less so to increasing participation of Under Represented Groups policy gives some positive solutions like
- Reduce the cost and fees for pursuing higher education.
 - Provide more financial help and scholarships to underrepresented groups.
 - By making admission process more inclusive like admission forms should be print in local language and in Hindi along with English
 - By making curriculum more inclusive.
 - Develop bridge courses for the students who come from disadvantaged educational background.
 - Provide socio-emotional and educational support for the students of underrepresented groups through suitable counseling and mentoring programmes.
 - By developing more degree courses in Indian Languages and bilingually.
 - By ensuring all building and infrastructure facilities for barrier free asses.
 - Increasing employability potential of higher education programmes.

Review of the Higher Education views

1. The aim of education policy 2019 is to weed out all single-stream HEIs and build a higher education system consisting of large, multidisciplinary universities and colleges on the lines of Nalanda and Takshila. The idea is good and appreciable but how it will be implemented is not cleared through policy. Currently our higher education system is facing problem of funds so how we can achieve the goal of world class higher educational institutes capable to face the load of large population.
2. It is appreciable idea to weed out single stream higher educational institutes but will it be a wise decision to close down those institutions which are performing really well. It should be applicable only to substandard single stream HEIs.
3. Policy mentions that Autonomy should be given to faculty in terms of pedagogy and curriculum development. It is an appreciable thought but it is doubtful that faculties and institutes will use it in public welfare. Whether they have the ability to understand the critical pedagogy for this. A critical evaluation of these aspects need to be taken before proposing autonomy. Even the focus of policy should be on the improvement of quality and critical pedagogy skills among faculties.
4. It is good that the draft Policy recommends improvement in the quality of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programmes. Through this step, open and distance learning expand the reach of higher education and enhance approachability. Policy should include the ways to review and

update the online and distance learning content as well as making it practical in current scenario.

5. Policy mentioned that Faculty recruitment should be merit based and institution should have the authority regarding faculty recruitment, retention, salary increment, promotions and movement. I agree with the idea of merit based recruitment but if policy gives decision making authority to institutions, it may lead to exploitation of faculties. The policy does not talk about the reservation in recruitment and promotions which is mandatory through constitution.
6. Recommendation of draft policy about creating competitive funding from National Research Foundation (NRF) to promote researches is good but the policy should frame proper rules to get the funding utilized in the interest of larger society. Researches should be motivated in all areas and research culture should be inculcated beginning school time.
7. Merit based appointment of senior management will be a boon to make a high quality system but reservation perspective is also ignored here.
8. The idea of few regulatory bodies is excellent as it reduces confusion and even corruption.
9. The suggestions for increasing participation of Under Represented Groups in higher education is appreciable but it should be implemented properly.
10. Introduction of new courses on Indian languages, culture, yoga and Ayurveda is good, it attracts not only Indian but foreign students as well.

CONCLUSION

The Government of India addressed the current educational issues through National Education Policy 2019. Its primary focus is to provide quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower. Its aim to develop necessary skills and knowledge among students so that they eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry. It is a well encapsulated document based on Indian needs, but Policy should be thoroughly reviewed to accommodate the current and future impact of Covid-19 situation which has altered teaching learning scenario. The use of technology in higher education is drastically increase in past few months. The new education policy should also consider all aspects of e-learning.

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