



# OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY

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## ABSTRACT

*The whole world is changing rapidly today in the realm of knowledge. Mechanical learning and artificial intelligence are gaining importance today. Therefore with a view to make the existing education system more flexible in the country, the Central Government of India has launched a New Education Policy. The new Education policy aims to transforming reform in school and higher education system in the country. The policy is based on foundational five pillars of Affordability, Accessibility, Quality, Equality and Responsibility. Creating on “Equal Justice Conscious Knowledge Society” and not just students thoughts but we are proud to be Indian in intellect, intuition and action. We pursue this policy with the vision of sustainable development and well-being, that the policy was formulated. While implementing this policy in the future, along with new opportunities in the field of education many questions will also arise. Therefore, this policy needs to be studied from both positive and negative side.*

## INTRODUCTION

Education is the most important tool in developmental process for society and nation. The importance of education is seen in every aspect of life and is especially crucial for the growth of nation. Since the independence of India, the Government of India has undertaken various programs to address the problem of illiteracy of citizens. The first education minister of India, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, introduced “Equal Education System” for the whole country and proposed various Education Commission such as- Dr. Radhakrishnan Commission, Secondary Education Commission and Kothari Commission. The first national education policy after Indian independence was formulated in 1968. The second policy was implemented in 1986. The aim of, to create an equitable society by imparting high quality education to all which will make India superpower of knowledge in the world and to ensure equal access to quality education for all and to promote opportunities for continuing education system, the Central Government of India has launched a New Education Policy 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 under the presidency of Dr. Kasturirangan. The new education policy will replace the 34 year old national education policy, 1986. This is the first education policy of the 21<sup>st</sup>

century and replace a total of 34 years after, significant changes made in the National Education policy. This is the third education policy of the nation.

## NATURE OF POLICY IN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Higher education is the most important part of education system. Therefore higher education institutions have greater responsibility of making India a global superpower. The field of higher education is not only limited to earning a degree or getting a good job but Higher education can be seen as a personality development tool. Higher education teaches to students, engage in critical thinking and work out on problems. These skill and thinking make them better people with the ability to solve real life crises. The new education policy is in multidisciplinary format for students. According to the policy all education like, Art, Commerce and Science will come together but except Low and Medical. According to the policy duration for the Graduation is three or four years according to students learning periods.

- 1 year- Certificate
- 2 year- Diploma
- 3 year- Degree



4 year- Degree+ Research Certificate

Post-Graduation will stay for one or two year. One year duration for students, who have completed a four year Degree course and Two year for who have completed three year degree course. According to the policy M.Phil. has been excluded and directly, after postgraduate studies, student will be applicable for admitted to Ph.D.

### OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The role of higher education is important for the welfare of man and society as well as for the creation of the nation where Democratic, Justice, socially conscious, cultured and there is humanity in the individual, freedom, equality, brotherhood and the right of justice.

Through a new educational policy, many opportunities will be available in the field of higher education. (Ref: *National Education policy 2020: Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, page no.33 to 49*)

1. The policy focus on new and future oriented emphasizes approach. The policy focuses on a personal success and enlighten through higher education as well as enabling the society to become financially capable by becoming productive citizen.
2. The policy integrates vocational courses in the mainstream education. According to the policy development of professional skills along with educational development. The policy will be to impart vocational and commercial education to the students from the very beginning of secondary school level.
3. The policy focus on multidisciplinary education. The objective of multidisciplinary education is to develop intellectual, social, physical, emotional, moral and all these abilities in an integrated manner.
4. The policy focus on cooperation with foreign universities. According to this opportunity, Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses abroad as well as certainly will help selected (Top 100 universities in the world) foreign universities to operate in India.

5. There will be integration of online and offline education system. The epidemic of Covid-19 had a huge impact on the whole world considering the new changing condition and reality. This has affected every sector of society and not even the education field. We are accepting Online learning as an alternative tool when it is not possible to educate students in the traditional Offline way in the current situation. If there is a similar situation in the future and then where this traditional method of teaching will not possible, then the policy is design alternative methods of quality education. Therefore the objective of policy to develop the personality of the students by increasing use of online learning and technology in the learning process.

6. If India wants to lead in every field, it needs to make full use of the talents it has and build a knowledge-based society. Therefore the policy focuses on promoting quality educational research.

### MAJOR CHALLENGES IN NEW NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY

1. The goal of the policy is to make socially aware citizen but we see that today, as society moves towards an industrial advanced society, the person is moving away from the society. It is not possible to say that the policy will changed the attitude of the person and show contribution in the work of the society. It is very difficult to change this tendency also.
2. According to the policy, In the Graduation level, exit option is available to students. It is beneficial for students but baneful also. For poor students or impoverished conditions, they will drop out their education due to lack of money. Some students will go out with a certificate or diploma for one or two years in order to get a job early and help financially at home. But students, who Graduate with a three- or four-year degree are definitely more qualified than the students who exit after one or two years. This exit option is beneficial for the



students but it is disadvantageous also for poor students.

3. The policy focus on multidisciplinary education. According to the policy, Institutions of Higher Learning will have separate sections for subject's like- Language, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Dance, Art, Drama, Indology. Mathematics. Science, Social Sciences, Economics Sports and students will learn it together. In today's situation, need to be studied of major issues in 21<sup>st</sup> century such as-Women Studies, Gender Studies, Environmental Studies and Cultural Studies. But this area is missing in the field of multidisciplinary study.
4. While entering the field of Higher Education, admission will be given by NTA by taking universal common entrance test. Therefore, the marks obtained by the students in the 12<sup>th</sup> standard examination will not matter time to admission in Degree. Students who have special expertise in the field of sports, music, art will not be able to get admission in higher education on this basis and this will not give scope to their artistic talents. Because of this, Admission to the expected educational institution is not possible to students.
5. The policy stated that students will be taught in local language or mother tongue till class 5 and up to class 8 if possible. According to new policy English language is not compulsory, its optional in primary level. But what about English language? In today's modern world, English is an important and universal language. As a result, students in rural areas will learn only in the local language and move away from English language. Student who learn in their mother tongue and local language will not be able to learn English. In today's situation we see that, student in rural areas not able to speak and communicate English in proper way. If they are educated in the local language, they will move away from English. In today situation, those who are well in English they getting job quickly. In such a situation, what will be the future of students in rural areas? Compared to urban students, they will be left behind.

## CONCLUSION

Education has made a significant contribution to the sustainable economic development of the country. Therefore, the perspective of the policy is to create an equitable and vibrant society by imparting high quality education to all so that India will become a superpower of knowledge in the world. Multi-Disciplinary, Digital literacy, Communication, Problem solving, Rationality, Professional ability, emphasizing that policy prepare the next generation for their development and competition in the new digital age. Although the policy focuses on interest of the students and the development of country as a whole, it should be noted that there are some flaws in it. The New Educational Policy should be welcomed by removing these errors.

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