



NEP 2020: In the Context of Teacher Education

Apeksha Gupta

Research Scholar

Department of Education

University of Lucknow, Lucknow, U.P, India

Abstract

Education is essential instrument for progress and growth of any society which further depends on the quality of teachers. Education plays a vital role for holistic development of children as well as nation. Teaching-learning process is totally depending on teacher's motivation, dedication, enthusiasm, teaching techniques, cognition and so many factors. Teacher shapes the behaviour of the students by giving proper knowledge to them in the education system. At this era, production of highly qualitative teachers is a big challenge. Teacher's work is more challenging in psychological, philosophical, sociological and pedagogical perspective. Emphatic and skilful teachers are need of this contemporary world. In ancient India, teacher's role was highly noble and teacher was the most respected member of society. In present time, there is lack of quality and standard in teachers in India. It is necessary to develop well formulated teacher education programmes. Hence, teacher education plays important concern of entire education system. Development of teacher education, curriculum is essential part for the development of society and produce enough number of teachers with quality of teaching skills. In this modern era, capacity building program is running for improving the quality of teachers. Teacher education has been given very important place by many committees, commissions and policies. Also, National Education Policy has given many recommendations in Teacher Education. The main objectives of NEP are to "ensure that teachers are given the highest quality training in content, pedagogy, and practice, by moving the teacher education system into multidisciplinary colleges and universities, and establishing the 4-year integrated B.Ed. offered by such multidisciplinary HEIs will, by 2030, become the minimal degree qualification for school teachers" (NEP2020 -Page 42: 15.5). The present paper tries to analyse NEP 2020 in the context of Teacher Education and mainly explain challenges and benefit for teachers in NEP system and also provisions in NEP 2020 for teacher education.

Keywords: Education, Teacher education, NEP 2020, Teacher, National Education Policy

Introduction

Education is a tool for development and economic growth of any country. Every country has their own education system which is essential for development and progress. In ancient time, aim of education is acquisition of knowledge, life beyond schooling, preparation for life in this world, complete realization and liberation of the self. Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila and Vallabhi were world-class institutions and multidisciplinary teaching and hosted scholars and students from across the countries. Some of the great scholars such as Chanakya, Susruta, Aryabhata, Varahmihira, Bhaskaracharya, Brahmagupta, Panini, Patanjali, Nagarjuna, Gautama, Maitreyi, Gargi, Sankardev and so on were product of Indian Education System. They contributed to world knowledge in diverse fields.

When the whole world is suffering from Covid -19, Ministry of Human Resource Development introduced NEP or National Education Policy in 2020. NEP is based on recommendations by an expert committee headed by Dr. Kasturirangan, former chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). This policy focuses on 5 foundation pillars. They are access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability. NEP has many

reforms, updates and innovations for Indian Education System. Some of very useful changes are concerning teachers. This policy focuses on conditions of teacher education, employment, deficiency of teachers and teaching quality and also provides high-quality teacher education. NEP 2020 starts some reforms for encouraging brilliant young minds to take up teaching career.

NEP 2020 focuses on all level of education; it starts from school to higher education levels. It has addressed teachers and teacher education program. It reforms academic model. In the education system, teacher trainees and teacher educator are at centre of the fundamental reforms. This policy helps to re-establish teachers at all levels because they are most respected and essential member of our society and they truly shape our next generation of students.

Main Objective of NEP 2020

Objective of NEP 2020 is to reform the current examination system, improve teacher training, provide early childhood care and reform regulatory framework policies within education system. NEP also aims to strength to use of technology, adult education, vocational education, add value for factors such as public funding in education and establishment of National Education Commission (NEC). NEP 2020 looks for the better solutions of present education system and gives suggestion to improve it. Continuous professional development is the better step to motivate teachers and educationists. It also prepares the students for future challenge with the help of education. NEP 2020 provides flexibility to the teachers for teaching and handling the students according to the contexts and situations, ameliorate teacher training and professional development and it will enhance teaching quality. Teachers will develop leadership quality and several training programs will be organized. It strengthens research in teacher education for effective teaching strategies and will improve the educational outgrowth. NEP 2020 establishes a National Mission for teacher training to focus on the recruitment, training, and retention of quality teachers across the country and also it empowers teachers of India.

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Challenges for Teachers in NEP 2020

Some challenges which are faced by teachers in NEP are given following:

- Problem in teacher selection.
- For beginner level teacher, it is difficult to grasp whole syllabus segments.
- Teachers could face faulty curriculum.
- More competent of teacher training programs.
- Less compatible of teacher training programs.
- When technology and science are not used properly then it could harm to training system.
- Lack of control is also a problem for teachers.
- Life skills development or co-curricular activities could be missed.
- Lack of core values is also problem.
- It is a problem if only use traditional teaching methods.
- Reform in educational institution.
- Active training programs can be affected by lack of creativity.
- Lack of evaluation, facilities and supervision also are issues.
- Lack of funding or legal issues.
- Difficult to adjust changing academic and educational trends.

- Textbook exposure is not enough to meet the needs of modern education systems.
- Challenge of work-life balance for some teachers.
- Problems can rise due to delegation of tasks, undertaking responsibilities and lack of creativity.

Benefit for Teachers in NEP system

- Overall academic development of teachers.
- Teachers can get opportunity to learn in their mother tongues.
- Teachers can bridge the gap of digital divide in this modern era.
- Relationship between teachers and students can be improved.
- NEP is trustworthy because government takes responsibilities.
- Teachers have a chance to revive and contribution in the education system for national development and nation's future.
- Teachers have opportunity to transform the country's learning progress together with institutions.

Provisions in NEP 2020 for Teacher Education

Teacher Employment and Recruitment

Teacher must qualify Teacher Eligibility Tests (TETs) which is conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA) for recruitment in private or government school. NEP also encourages to share teachers across campuses. NEP 2020 establishes a National Mission for teacher training for the recruitment and training of quality teachers across the country.

Multidisciplinary Institution

Teacher education will slightly be moved into multidisciplinary colleges and universities by 2030 as Teachers require training in high-quality content and pedagogy. "All multidisciplinary universities and colleges - will aim to establish, education departments which, besides carrying out cutting-edge research in various aspects of education, will also run B.Ed. programmes, in collaboration with other departments" (NPE 2020, Page 42, 15.4.).

Teacher Preparation

Teacher education is essential part for shaping the next generation. Teacher should be nourished in the latest advances in education and pedagogy. It is an activity which requires knowledge, values, multidisciplinary perspectives. Teachers must have Indian values, languages, knowledge, ethos and traditions.

Regulatory System

Major stand-alone teacher education institutions are not trying serious teacher education, basic standards for quality and innovation in education sector. Therefore, there is a need of regulatory system in order to raise standards and high quality to the teacher education system. NEP 2020 establishes Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) and it will replace existing regulatory bodies like the UGC and AICTE for the quality, innovation and academic standards.

Integrated programmes

NEP 2020 focuses on holistic approach to education, combining academic subjects with co-curricular and vocational skills and it will develop various skills to individuals. By 2030, only educationally sound multidisciplinary and integrated teacher education programmes such as 4-year integrated B.Ed. shall be in force in order to improve teaching profession. It is minimal degree qualification for school teachers.

Availability of Experts

NEP 2020 focuses on the availability of experts in different fields and it is vital for enhancing the quality of education, improve teacher training and development. Higher education institutions have range of experts in education as well as related discipline and specialized subjects and network of government and private schools to work together.

Uniform Standard

NEP 2020 aims the establishment of uniform standards at different levels of education for the equality, standard and equity. It advises the need for standardized entrance examinations for higher education as common entrance examination and it will help to maintain uniformity in admission across different institutions. Admission to pre-service teacher preparation programmes shall be through aptitude tests and suitable subject by National Testing Agency. It will maintain uniform standards in teacher education.

Credit- based course

NEP 2020 introduces credit-based systems in higher education. Students have an option to choose courses according to their interest and career goals. Each course has a certain number of credits. It is necessary for all fresh Ph.D. entrants to take credit- based courses in teaching / education / pedagogy / writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject and have a minimum number of hours of real teaching experience. NEP introduces Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and it allows students to collect credits from various institutions for promoting flexibility in pursuing higher education.

Continuous Professional Development

Teachers will run on in-service continuous professional development to enriched and strengthened teaching-learning processes for quality education. Also, online training of teachers such as Swayam / Diksha will be encouraged. “The use of technology platforms such as SWAYAM/DIKSHA for online training of teachers will be encouraged” (NPE 2020, Page 43, 15.10).

National Mission for Mentoring

Also, NEP -2020 recommends that National mission for mentoring will be established for senior / retired faculty and those who has ability to teach in Indian Languages and will provide short- and long-term mentoring / professional support to university / college teachers. NPE 2020 suggests “framing a pool of outstanding senior/retired faculty to provide short and long-term mentoring/professional support to university/college teachers” (NPE 2020, Page 43, 15.11).

Conclusion

In India, NEP-2020 aims to improve and transform the education system. Its emphasis on continuous professional development, uniform standard, integrated programmes, multidisciplinary institution. Teacher preparation and regulatory system in the field of teacher education. NEP-2020 has a significant impact on the quality and standard of teacher education in the country. NEP 2020 goals to make higher education more accessible and engaging. It introduces various valuable reforms for teacher education in India to increase the quality of teaching and entire educational system. However, there are several challenges in the implementation of the policy, When NEP 2020 implements well then it is lucrative for education sector and it provides better career for young intelligent students in the upcoming few years.

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