

## **A STUDY ON AWARENESS AND IMPACT OF SCHEMES OF NEP 2020 AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is one of the major educational reforms of the Government of India for enhancing the quality, flexibility, and skill-based learning system in the country. The policy focuses on holistic education, digital Learning, vocational training, multidisciplinary education, and practical knowledge among students. It also introduces various schemes, such as the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), the Multiple Entry and Exit System, vocational education, and digital education platforms. The present study aims to examine the awareness and impact of NEP 2020 schemes among college students. The study helps in understanding the level of awareness among students regarding the new educational reforms and the impact of these reforms on their learning experience, skill development, career opportunities, and academic flexibility. The study findings reveal that many students are aware of NEP 2020 and feel that it offers flexibility in subject choice, supports skill development, and enhances employability opportunities. However, many students are not yet fully aware of the various schemes under NEP 2020. The study also highlights challenges such as the digital divide, a lack of infrastructure, and implementation challenges. "Overall, the study concludes that NEP 2020 has a positive influence on higher education and may make students more skilled, creative, and industry-ready in the future."

**KEYWORD:** NEP2020, Higher Education, Skill Development, Education Reforms

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a significant educational reform initiative by the Indian government to upgrade its education system. It was initiated on 29 July 2020 by the Ministry of Education, replacing the previous National Policy on Education, which was enacted in 1986. The primary objective of NEP 2020 is to ensure that education is practical, flexible, skill-based, and student-centric, with a view to meeting the requirements of the 21st century.

The role of education in the development of individuals and countries is very significant. A good education system will help drive economic growth, promote equality in society, advance scientific development, and advance the country's progress. NEP 2020 aims to create an education system that fosters creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication skills, and ethics among students. The policy believes that education should not be limited to scores and memorization, but should also provide students with practical knowledge.

The first important shift brought about by NEP 2020 is the introduction of the new educational framework, 5+3+3+4. This is in place of the previous 10+2 model. The 5+3+3+4 structure takes into account students' ages and learning capacity. ECCE becomes an integral part of the new curriculum from the age of three. Foundational literacy and numeracy are crucial under the new policy to ensure that all children have access to basic knowledge of reading, writing, and math.

The NEP 2020 also focuses on holistic, interdisciplinary education. Students have flexibility to choose subjects based on their interests and career plans. The three streams of Science, Commerce, and Arts are not strictly divided. Vocational skills are also developed through internships starting from Class 6. This makes the students industry-ready. Digital Learning and the use of technology in education are another important aspect of NEP 2020. The policy encourages online education, smart classrooms, and e-learning platforms for improving the quality and reach of education. Regional languages and mother tongues being used as the language of instruction up to grade 5 is also encouraged for better comprehension.

The policy also emphasizes reform in the assessment process. Traditional exams, which only measure knowledge and rote Learning, are now being replaced by competency-based assessments, which emphasize comprehension and application of knowledge. The students will be assessed using a holistic progress card system that covers academics, skills, creativity, physical fitness, and personal development.

According to the NEP 2020, the importance accorded to teachers is equivalent to that accorded to students. This is because it seeks to ensure that teachers receive better training and professional development. Teachers are viewed as the pillars of the education system. In addition, this policy promotes inclusive education, ensuring equal educational opportunities for girls, rural children, economically weaker sections, and differently abled children.

In general, the National Education Policy 2020 is a revolutionary move to reform India's education system. This policy will develop knowledgeable, skillful, moral, and responsible citizens of India who can play an effective role in nation-building and international growth. The policy emphasizes overall development, practical teaching, flexibility, innovation, and equality among all learners. The NEP 2020 is anticipated to have a positive impact on school and higher education in India.

NEP 2020 emphasizes multidisciplinary education, digital Learning, vocational training, mother tongue instruction at the primary level, and multiple entry and exit options in higher education. The policy also aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and make India a global knowledge hub. The introduction of the NEP 2020 has brought significant changes to school and higher education systems across the country. It provides students with opportunities to develop creativity, communication skills, innovation, and employability. At the same time, educators and researchers discuss challenges such as the digital divide, language issues, and implementation difficulties.

Therefore, studying the awareness and impact of NEP 2020 among college students becomes important to understand how the policy influences students' education, career opportunities, and learning experience.

### **Education Policy:**

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a recent educational reform introduced by the Government of India. This education policy emphasizes holistic Learning, flexibility, and skill-based education for students across all levels. The key features of this education policy include reducing rote Learning and promoting critical thinking skills and practical knowledge among students. NEP 2020 also introduces schemes such as the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), the Multiple Entry and Exit Scheme, vocational education, and digital education. The main aim of NEP 2020 is to make the Indian education system student-oriented and globally competitive.

## **NEP 2020 Scheme / Topic:**

### **1. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE):**

According to the NEP 2020, the focus on education begins at the age of 3. Learning takes place through fun activities such as storytelling, music, games, etc.

### **2. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)**

The policy focuses on basic reading, writing, and maths skills for all children by Grade 3. It helps students build a strong foundation for Learning.

### **3. Education Structure of 5+3+3+4:**

Instead of the previous 10+2 structure, there will be a new structure based on the children's age and learning stage. Pre-primary education is included in the structure. Holistic Development: Education should not emphasize marks and examinations alone.

It should develop the child **creatively, communicatively, physically, ethically, and practically**. Learning by Experience: Learning is done through practice, projects, stories, games, and experiences rather than just textbook learning.

### **4. Holistic Education:**

Education must not be limited to grades and examinations. Creativity, communication, physical training, ethics, and practical education should be emphasized. Experiential Learning is done through experience, projects, storytelling, physical activity, and practical Learning rather than textbook study.

### **5. Skill Development & Vocational Education:**

Development of Skills & Vocational Training from Class 6 onwards: practical skills such as carpentry, programming, gardening, pottery, and internships will be taught for vocational training.

### **6. Flexible Subject Choice:**

Subjects can be selected based on students' interests. There is no demarcation among the Science, Commerce, and Arts groups.

### **7. Multilingualism:**

The use of the mother tongue or regional language is promoted until at least Grade 5.

### **8. Digital Education:**

As per the NEP, digital education, digital classrooms, e-content, and technology-driven education will be encouraged.

### **9. Assessment Reform (PARAKH):**

The examination system will emphasize comprehension and analytical abilities rather than rote Learning. The stress on exams will be reduced for the students.

### **10. Holistic Progress Card:**

The report card will include academic performance, skill development, creative abilities, behavior, sports, and students' overall growth.

### **11. Inclusive Education:**

Specific focus will be paid to girls, rural children, disabled children, and weaker sections economically for equal opportunities of education.

### **12. Research and Innovation:**

NEP promotes research, innovation, and critical thinking skills via the National Research Foundation (NRF).

### **13. Teacher Development:**

Teachers will receive better training, respect, and professional development to improve education quality.

### **14. Indian Knowledge and Culture:**

Students will gain knowledge of Indian culture, traditions, language, values, arts, and heritage alongside their academic curriculum.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE:-**

The Government of India launched the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to improve the education sector in India through quality education, flexible Learning, multidisciplinary education, vocational training, and critical thinking. It replaced the existing **10+2** system with **a 5+3+3+4 structure and sought** to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER).

Various researchers have highlighted aspects of NEP 2020, including holistic development, application-oriented knowledge, digital education, research orientation, and employability skills. Some other key features include Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), flexible entry and exit points, skill education, and multi-lingualism.

On the other hand, the current literature also highlights issues associated with the implementation of NEP 2020, including inadequate digital infrastructure, language issues, an insufficient number of trained teachers, and a lack of technology among the rural population. Notwithstanding these challenges, many experts have expressed confidence that the policy could help enhance the quality of education in India.

Therefore, reviewing the available literature on NEP 2020 helps researchers understand the policy's awareness, advantages, challenges, and impact on students, teachers, and educational institutions.

**1. Roshanlal(2024)**, in the thesis titled "Successful Implementation of Skill Development in India: An Alignment with National Education Policy 2020," The results from the research findings indicated that the development of skills and vocational training were key aspects that would lead to enhanced employability, economic development, and the overall development of the learners. The literature indicated that NEP 2020 emphasized skill-based Learning, vocational training, digital education, flexible educational pathways, and lifelong learning opportunities. Some of the challenges the researchers identified included a lack of infrastructure, a shortage of qualified tutors, poor links between industry and vocational training, social stigma attached to vocational subjects, regional disparities, and inadequate digital education opportunities, especially in rural areas. In some countries, it emerged that a close linkage between industries and vocational Learning could significantly improve performance in vocational training. The study's findings indicate that, although NEP 2020.

**2 Shyda R.(2025)**, In the thesis titled "A Study of NEP 2020 in Context of Primary Teachers Continuous Professional Development Programs in CBSE Schools of Delhi," The findings of

the research on NEP 2020 revealed that the policy aims to improve the quality, flexibility, and inclusiveness of education in India. The studies showed that NEP 2020 promotes skill development, vocational education, digital Learning, multidisciplinary education, and holistic development of students. It also encourages flexible learning systems such as multiple entry and exit options, Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), and experiential Learning. The research further highlighted that NEP 2020 can improve students' employability and practical knowledge. However, the studies also identified implementation challenges, including a lack of digital infrastructure, a shortage of trained teachers, low student awareness, regional disparities, and difficulties in adapting to the new system. Overall, the findings indicate that NEP 2020 has the potential to transform the Indian education system, but effective implementation and widespread awareness are necessary to achieve its goals.

3. **Nancy K. (2024)**. In the thesis titled "A novel predictive model using data mining for analyzing and improving quality in higher education in reference to NEP 2020," The review of literature showed that data mining techniques are very useful for increasing the quality of higher education by analyzing the performance of students, attendance, learning behavior, and employability. The studies found that predictive models and machine learning techniques help identify at-risk students, reduce dropout rates, improve teaching methods, and help improve educational outcomes. The literature also emphasized that Educational Data Mining supports the goals of the National Education Policy 2020 by encouraging quality education, skill development, and data-based decision-making in higher education institutions.

4. **Swati Dwivedi (2025)**. In the thesis titled "Stakeholders' Perspectives: Pros and Cons of NEP National Education Policy 2020," The study concluded that educational tools like digital Learning, flexible curriculum, skill-based education, online platforms, and modern teaching methods are playing an important role in the successful implementation of the National Education Policy 2020. The review mentioned that NEP 2020 supports student-centric Learning, multidisciplinary education, employability skills, and quality improvement in higher education. But it also identified challenges such as a lack of infrastructure, the digital divide, a shortage of trained teachers, and implementation difficulties. The literature reviewed suggests that the employment of educational tools can improve the quality and accessibility of education in the Thane and Palghar districts of Maharashtra.

5. **Chinmayee Das (2024)**. In the thesis titled "A Critical Study of National Education Policy NEP 2020 with reference to Teacher Education," The research findings found that the National Education Policy 2020 aims at improving the quality of education through flexible curriculum, vocational education, multidisciplinary Learning, digital education, and teacher development. The review also noted that NEP 2020 focuses on student-centric Learning, skill development, and holistic education to meet the needs of the 21st century. But the study highlighted challenges such as a lack of digital infrastructure, a shortage of trained teachers, implementation problems, and regional disparities in education. The literature concluded that the effective implementation of NEP 2020 can improve the accessibility, quality, and employability in higher education.

6. **Banerjee & Krishnagar (2023)**. In the thesis titled "The Introduction of the National Education Policy of 2020," the authors encourage a more flexible approach to education by incorporating multidisciplinary and student-centered approaches to ensure creativity, critical thinking, and employability. The study noted that integrating technology and vocational education would improve the quality and accessibility of education, though certain challenges remain.

7. **A.Gaspar Raja et al. (2025)**. In the thesis titled "Awareness and Perception of Undergraduate Students on the Indian National Education Policy 2020," The study found that undergraduate students in India have only a moderate level of awareness about NEP 2020, even though many are studying under the new system. Students were more aware of topics directly related to their education, such as CUET and Academic Bank of Credits, while awareness about other reforms remained low. The research also revealed that most students received information about the NEP through the media rather than through educational institutions. Many students believed that NEP 2020 would benefit them in the long run, but lack of proper awareness may reduce its effectiveness. The study suggested that schools and higher education institutions should play a more active role in raising students' awareness of the NEP 2020.

8. **Dr. Hemlata Verma & Adarsh Kumar (2021)**, In the thesis titled "New Education Policy 2020 of India: A Theoretical Analysis" It was seen that there is a positive effect created due to NEP 2020 among the learners in Palghar district because of multidisciplinary education and skill development in their education. Most respondents were aware of the NEP 2020, and they felt it enhanced their learning process and provided a good education.

9. **Ms. Palsamkar Mitali Sanjay (2022)**, in the thesis titled "The study found that NEP 2020 has created a positive impact among learners in Palghar district," most respondents (95%) were aware of the National Education Policy 2020, showing a high level of awareness among students and educators. The policy was appreciated for providing flexibility in subject selection, multidisciplinary Learning, skill development, and practical knowledge. Around 98% of the respondents agreed that NEP 2020 has improved their learning experience, while 93% were satisfied with the learning options provided under the policy. The study concluded that NEP 2020 helps learners become more skilled, industry-ready, and adaptable to changing educational and professional environments.

10. **Puvar Savailal Rajubhai (2022)**, In the thesis titled "New Education Policy 2020 on Higher Education," From this research, it is clear that NEP 2020 has brought about several changes in the higher education system through multidisciplinary education, holistic education, and development of skills in the students. Under NEP 2020, there is encouragement for flexible Learning through multiple entry and exit points, the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC), and common entrance examinations administered by the NTA. This study also revealed that NEP 2020 advocates digital Learning, cooperation between foreign universities, a research orientation, and the internationalization of higher education in India.

**RESEARCH METHOD:** The study will use secondary data to examine the awareness and impact of various schemes under the NEP 2020 among college students. The data will be collected from published research papers, government reports, educational journals, books, websites, and academic articles related to NEP 2020. Data from surveys, past studies, and educational publications will also be very helpful. The study will be confined to various schemes and features of the NEP 2020, such as multidisciplinary education, Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), skill development, digital Learning, vocational education, and flexible subject choices among college students.

**AWARENESS OF SCHEME:** According to the study, the level of awareness of NEP 2020 schemes is different among college students from scheme to scheme. Awareness is high for Flexible Subject Choice, Digital Education, and Skill Development & Vocational Education, as these schemes directly impact students' learning methods, career prospects, and classroom experience. Students are also moderately aware of schemes such as the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), Multiple Entry and Exit System, and Holistic Progress Card, as these

concepts are still being gradually implemented in higher education institutions. However, awareness of schemes such as PARAKH Assessment Reform, the National Research Foundation (NRF), and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is low, as these are either less discussed among college students or are mainly school-level initiatives.

**IMPACT OF SCHEME:** The research indicates that various initiatives under NEP 2020 have produced distinct effects on college students. The Flexible Subject Choice scheme has enabled students to choose subjects aligned with their interests and career aspirations, thereby enhancing satisfaction and learning adaptability. Skill Development and Vocational Education have enhanced students' practical knowledge, employability skills, and industry-readiness. Digital Education has facilitated access to online learning platforms, smart classrooms, and e-learning resources, particularly following the advancement of technology-driven education. The Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and the Multiple Entry and Exit System have introduced flexibility in higher education, allowing students to pursue their studies at their own pace. Holistic Education and the Holistic Progress Card have promoted comprehensive personality development, creativity, communication skills, and participation in extracurricular activities, rather than focusing solely on academic scores. Simultaneously, certain programs encountered challenges during their execution. Digital Education posed difficulties for students in rural regions due to inadequate internet connectivity and a shortage of mobile devices or computers. The incorporation of regional languages and multilingual education led to confusion among some students who favor English-medium instruction. The newly introduced Assessment Reform (PARAKH) has alleviated pressure on rote memorization, yet many colleges and schools are still adapting to the revised examination and evaluation framework. In summary, NEP 2020 has had a beneficial impact on students by fostering flexible Learning, skill enhancement, and practical education; however, increased awareness and effective implementation remain essential.

#### **BENEFITS OF NEP 2020:**

1. The NEP 2020 emphasizes multidisciplinary Learning, ensuring that students are well-rounded, creative, and have critical thinking skills. In this program, students can pursue subjects in arts, sciences, and vocational studies without being confined to a single stream. Thus, students will develop into competent, knowledge-based learners, capable of taking up any profession.
2. NEP 2020 emphasizes early childhood education and basic reading and math skills among children. The new education structure helps children aged 3 to 8 years build a strong foundation for future Learning. It also aims to improve literacy rates and reduce learning gaps, especially in rural and backward areas.
3. NEP 2020 provides flexibility in subject selection by removing the strict separation between arts, science, and commerce streams. Students can study different subjects together according to their interests and career goals. For example, a student can learn both mathematics and music simultaneously, helping overall skill development and broader knowledge.
4. NEP 2020 emphasizes vocational education and skill development among students. From Class 6 onwards, students will learn practical skills such as carpentry, agriculture, coding, and other job-oriented activities. This will help students become skilled, employable, and ready for real-world work opportunities, supporting India's growth as a nation of skilled workers.

5. NEP 2020 promotes the use of technology and digital Learning in education. Through the DIKSHA platform, students can access e-learning content in different languages and improve digital literacy. This initiative also helps students in rural areas get better learning resources and reduces the digital divide.
6. NEP 2020 focuses on teacher education and professional development. Educators would receive better training, regular appraisals, and lifelong learning opportunities to enhance teaching practices. It will be beneficial for educators to become more skilled and up to date in education.

### **Disadvantages of NEP 2020**

1. NEP 2020 has many good goals, but implementing them across India is difficult because different states have different facilities and resources. Rural schools may face challenges in using technology and digital Learning due to a lack of internet access, devices, and infrastructure. Because of this, providing equal and quality education to all students can be challenging.
2. Under the NEP 2020, teaching will be conducted in the mother tongue or regional languages until Grade 5 to support students' understanding better. This policy will pose problems for students who want to pursue education in English-medium institutes or outside India. It is also necessary to train teachers to teach regional languages.
3. To implement the newly introduced education system, there is a need for trained and skilled teachers. Nevertheless, it might be challenging due to a shortage of teachers and their poor remuneration packages. It will therefore be impossible for the learners to receive equal education.
4. NEP 2020 requires a substantial amount of funding to be successful, especially in technology, infrastructure, digital education, and teacher training. Without sufficient funds, NEP 2020 cannot become successful. Thus, the government must invest more money into the education system.

### **Discussion of NEP 2020:**

Overall, NEP 2020 can be viewed as an important change to the Indian education system, making learning flexible, competency-based, and student-centered. This policy emphasizes holistic growth, multidisciplinary study, vocational skills training, digital Learning, and research to ensure that graduates will find success and compete in their future career paths.

Moreover, NEP 2020 includes improvements to raise literacy rates, professionalize teaching staff, and ensure access to quality education for all students across all regions. In addition to the changes mentioned above, NEP 2020 includes other features that will modernize and improve the education process.

### **SUMMARY:**

NEP 2020 is an innovative education policy formulated to enhance the Indian education system. The education policy aims to improve education, skills, practical knowledge, digital education, and the flexibility of subjects for students.

Further objectives of the policy include improving teacher education, literacy rates, vocational education, and learning opportunities for all children, including those in rural and underdeveloped areas. Innovations such as the 5+3+3+4 system and technology-based learning help to make Learning easier for students. Finally, it can be said that NEP 2020 is a significant move toward making students intelligent, capable, creative, and employable.

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