

IMPACT OF NEP 2020 ON STUDENTS' CAREER MINDSETS IN PRIVATE COLLEGES: A STUDY FROM MOGA

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ABSTRACT

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a transformative policy that reimagines India's educational landscape, focusing on holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary learning. This study explores how the NEP 2020 has influenced the career aspirations and mindset of students in private colleges, specifically in the Moga district of Punjab. This study uses a qualitative approach to understand student perceptions, expectations, and the role of institutions like the **Alpine Institute of Information Technology, Moga**, in aligning with the policy. This study highlights the importance of awareness, guidance, and institutional support in shaping future-ready mindsets among students.

Keywords: NEP 2020, Student Mindset, Career Aspirations, Private Colleges, Alpine Institute, Higher Education, Policy Impact

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Education Policy 2020 marks a significant shift in India's educational approach. It emphasizes flexibility, skill development, experiential learning and holistic growth. For students, especially those in private institutions, this policy introduces new pathways for self-exploration, entrepreneurship and practical learning. This study explores how students in Moga, with a particular focus on those at the **Alpine Institute of Information Technology, Moga**, perceive these changes and how their career outlook is evolving as a result.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To explore student awareness of the NEP 2020 in private colleges.
- To understand how NEP 2020 influences students' attitudes toward careers, entrepreneurship, and higher education.
- To analyze how institutions like the **Alpine Institute of Information Technology, Moga**, are facilitating alignment with NEP goals.

3. METHODOLOGY

This research is qualitative and exploratory in nature. Responses were collected through open-ended questionnaires and informal discussions with students from private colleges in Moga, Punjab. The focus was on understanding students' thinking, not quantifying outcomes. Student reflections from the **Alpine Institute of Information Technology, Moga**, formed a central part of the study to provide in-depth perspectives from a real-world campus setting.

4. NEP 2020 AND CAREER MINDSET: A CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

The NEP 2020 introduced several concepts designed to transform students thinking about careers. These include:

- Multidisciplinary education and flexible learning paths
- Emphasis on vocational and skill-based learning
- Promotion of coding, entrepreneurship, and innovation
- Introduction of multiple entry-exit options in degree programs
- Greater focus on internships, projects, and real-world exposure

These reforms are expected to broaden students' vision beyond traditional career paths and encourage them to become more adaptive and self-directed.

5. OBSERVATIONS AND INSIGHTS

Discussions with students revealed an evolving awareness of the policy's relevance to their lives. Many students expressed curiosity and excitement about options such as internships, entrepreneurship, and taking skill-based electives. Students from the **Alpine Institute of Information Technology, Moga**, particularly appreciated initiatives such as project-based learning, IT skill workshops, and open discussions on policy updates.

Students increasingly see themselves as capable of designing their own career paths, not just following standard degree-based routes. The influence of NEP 2020 has been subtle but significant, shaping mindsets to think beyond employment toward innovation, digital literacy, and social contribution.

6. INSTITUTIONAL ROLE: THE CASE OF ALPINE INSTITUTE OF IT, MOGA

Institutions such as the **Alpine Institute of Information Technology, Moga**, are emerging as key enablers of this transformation. Through timely guidance, exposure to digital tools, and encouragement to explore diverse fields, the institute has helped students internalize many ideas promoted by the NEP. Students reflected positively on their experiences with flexible learning environments and appreciated the availability of skill enhancement programs.

The institutional environment plays a critical role in translating national policies into localized, student-led actions.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Private colleges should initiate regular orientation sessions on the NEP and its benefits for students.
- Workshops and webinars focusing on career planning and vocational skills can increase engagement.
- Counseling and mentorship programs should align with the NEP's multidimensional vision.
- Students should be encouraged to participate in hackathons, digital skills programs and community projects.
- Colleges can form NEP implementation clubs or student policy forums to sustain awareness.

8. CONCLUSION

The National Education Policy 2020 is gradually reshaping how students in private colleges think about their futures. This study, which focused on the Moga region and included reflections from the **Alpine Institute of Information Technology, Moga**, highlighted a positive shift in students' career mindset. With the right support and guidance, students are becoming more confident in taking ownership of their career journeys. Continued efforts in awareness building and capacity enhancement will ensure that the NEP's vision is fully realized at the grassroots level.

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