# Technology for Relevance and excellence: The NEP-2020 Vision for Indian Higher Education

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**Abstract**

Education is a very important tool for the growth and development of a nation. It decides the future of the nation and its people. The effect of education is enduring and can be seen in the growth and development of the nation and its nationals. The importance of education cannot be overlooked in today's scenario as the growth and development of India after independence can be attributed to the education system. The government is now planning to make major changes to the education system after 34 years. This is the third amendment to the education policy called as National Education Policy 2020 (NEP2020). The NEP 2020 is an ambitious plan that will require a lot of effort and resources to implement in our schools as well as in colleges. However, it has the potential to revolutionize the education system in India and make it more relevant to the needs of the 21st century. This paper will analyse the role of NEP in transforming education by giving special importance to its relation to technology.

**Introduction**

The vision and mission of integrating and using technology in the today's education system   is mentioned in Section 23 of the NEP 2020 School Education.  Indian educational system and policy makers are acknowledging, analysing, and encouraging the importance and power of technology in education. Securing and developing digital infrastructure, growing digital skills among everyone, and promoting digital safety are some of the key components of understanding the potential of technology in education.

The newly formed NEP 2020 is expected to bring about significant changes in every aspect of education.

The National Education Policy (NEP) is a set of guidelines issued by the Government of India to improve the quality of education in the country. The first NEP was introduced in 1968, the second in 1986, and the third and most recent one in 2020.

The NEP 2020 aims to transform the education system in India by making it more holistic, flexible, and equitable. It also emphasizes on the use of technology in education and the need to develop a

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skilled workforce for the 21st century.

Key Points of NEP 2020 are based on the 5 Pillars as- Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability ('AEQAA')

Here are some of the key features of the NEP 2020:

- It proposes a new 5+3+3+4 structure for school education, with a focus on early childhood care and education.
- It recommends the use of mother tongue or local language as the medium of instruction up to Class 5.
- It stresses the need for vocational education and skill development.
- It calls for greater autonomy for educational institutions.
- It emphasizes on the use of technology in education.
- It aims to achieve universal access to quality education from pre-school to secondary level by 2030.
- It aims to increase the gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035.
- It proposes a new National Research Foundation to promote research and innovation in education.
- It sets up a new National Education Commission to oversee the implementation of the NEP.
- NEP focuses on re-establishing teachers at all levels and tries to empower teachers and help them to effectively do their job.
- NEP focus on providing education to historically, marginalized, disadvantaged and under-represented groups.

The NEP 2020 is a major step forward for the education system in India. It is a comprehensive and ambitious plan that has the potential to transform the lives of millions of people. NEP builds upon the traditional education systems of the country while at the same time introducing major changes to make the education system more experiential, scientific, flexible, creative, and individualised to meet the unique needs and demand of each and every student. It directs to decrease the burden of education by enabling the students that they can select their careers of their choice on their own rather than creating a tiff and burden on parents or teachers. These changes have been made and suggested with a futuristic sight so that it is able to cover the issues that might appear in the future.

**Objectives of the study**

The main goal of this research is to investigate the impact of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 on the use of technology in education. The study will also outline the key features of the NEP and analyse

how they impact the current education system.

**Research methodology**

This research is a descriptive study, which means that it is designed to describe the current state of affairs. The necessary secondary data was collected from a variety of sources, including websites of the Government of India, magazines, journals, and other publications. This data was then analysed and reviewed to draw inferences and conclusions. The articles referred for this search were limited to English language peer reviewed journals. The researcher applied a qualitative content  approach to analyse and synthesize the data.

**Reviews of related research**

Ajay Kurien's research paper discusses the impact of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 on higher education in India. He argues that the policy has the potential to transform the higher education landscape by making it more flexible, learner-centered, and research-oriented. However, he also points out that there are a number of challenges to implementing the policy, such as the need for financial resources and the need to change the mindset of stakeholders.

Hemlata Verma and Adarsh Kumar's in his research paper provides a theoretical analysis of the NEP 2020. They argue that the policy is a significant step forward for Indian education and that it has the potential to address some of the major challenges facing the education system, such as the lack of quality and relevance. Still, they also point out that the policy is ambitious and that its success will depend on the commitment of the government and the stakeholders.

Abhishek Sarta's in his research paper analyse an overview of the key reforms that the NEP 2020 proposes for school and higher education in India. He argues that the policy is a bold and ambitious attempt to modernize the education system and that it has the potential to make a significant impact on the lives of students and learners. However, he also points out that the policy is likely to face challenges in implementation, such as the lack of political will and the shortage of resources.

Ruchi Rani's in his research paper discusses the challenges and issues related to the implementation of the NEP 2020. She argues that the policy is facing a number of challenges, such as the lack of clarity on the implementation roadmap, the lack of financial resources, and the resistance from stakeholders. She also argues that the policy needs to be revised to address these challenges.

Gummaluri Venkata Surya Subrahmanya Sharma's in their research paper analysed the potential of blended learning in the post-COVID-19 era. He argues that blended learning can be a cost-effective and effective way to deliver education, especially in rural areas. He also argues that blended learning can be used to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as social distancing and limited access to physical classrooms.

**Technology in Education**

The new education policy has put a special emphasis on the development of digital infrastructure,

online teaching platforms, virtual labs and libraries along with the technological tools. There is thus a great need of teachers who are technology friendly, they know how and when to use which technology in the class and thus special emphasis is given on providing the technological training and knowledge to the educators. Without the educators being technology friendly, it will not be possible to create online content, online assessments, and a technological oriented classroom.

Technology plays a significant role in achieving quality of education. It provided equality, equity, and access of education to everyone. "It is known that technology which is an application of scientific thinking has the capabilities to improve the quality of life of everyone in the universe and quality education is the foundation of it. (K. Abhay,2022).

Covid 19 has brought many changes in the system of education. The use of technology in education is one of the changes. Technology basically refers to the system & devices which consist of the sue of scientific knowledge in practical ends. This consist of various techniques, skills, methods, and various new approaches which are helpful in making education easy and available to everyone.

The digital campaign is already empowering many sections of the society. Technology plays an important role in process and outcome. Quality higher education also makes everyone to contribute to discovering new technology, adopting new technology or promoting new technologies which can contribute to the progress of society. (K. Abhay,2022).

Wide mediation and eye full, ear, touch, can make sense of the most complete learning, while remembering or storing of teaching in students head make it longer and more efficient (Trnavac, N., & Djordjevic. J., 1995)

**NEP 2020 AND TECHNOLOGY**

Online plays a very important role in the educational systems of many developing nations. It has various intrinsic and extrinsic advantages. Technology can be used in multiple of ways to improve the procedures and overall experience once the new education policy is put into place in India.

The National Education Policy (NEP), which aims to brace the Indian educational system in every aspect, would need ongoing and crucial contributions from the technological sector to meet its goal of providing high-quality and accessible education throughout the nation.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, freshly introduced by the government of Indian, to revamp the education system in our country and deliver quality education to all our learners. One of the key elements of the Role of integration of technology in education in NEP 2020. The use of technology will definitely improve the effectiveness of our education system by providing our learner to access a wide range of resources and make them enable to learn at their own pace easily and comfortably.

The salient features of NEP 2020 related to assimilation of technology in education are as follows:

1. Technology and education are bi-directional.

2.  Technology as an aid- new evolving technology is working like an aid for education by not only helping learners in the classroom but beyond that as well. Much hardware, software and AI tools are helpful in education.

3.  Formation of NETF (National Educational Technology Forum)- NEP 2020 suggested the formation of national education technology forum which can work for exchanging ideas and enhance every aspect of education like assessment, planning and administration. "One of the permanent tasks of NETF will be to categorize emergent technologies based on their potential and estimated timeframe for disruption & to periodically present this analysis to MHRD." (NEP2020).

4.  Strengthening of various educational institutions- E-content will be developed by all educational institution with the help of variety of education software. e-content will be developed by CIET, NCERT, CBSE & NIOS in all regional and state languages. suitable equipment will be made available to tea hers so that they can inculcate innovative practices in their teaching.

5.  Attention will be paid on disruptive technologies like AI and virtual reality.

6.  Initiation of national research foundation for paying attention on advancing, developing, deploying research to address global challenges in areas such as health care, agriculture, and climate.

7.  Ph.D. and master's program in machine learning.

8.  Optimization of existing digital platform and ICT based educational programs.

9.  Salient features of NETF a) provide independent evidence-based advice to Central and State Government agencies on technology-based interventions; b) build intellectual and institutional capacities in educational technology; c) envision strategic thrust areas in this domain; and d) articulate new directions for research and innovation.

10. NETF is assigned for Identification of emergent technologies, Categorised emergent technology, periodically present analysis of emergent technology to MHRD and MHRD provide this technology to education system in English, hindi and regional language.

11. Technology (ERP & LMS software supports) support the execution of NEP 2020 which emphasis on multilingual education. It helps in providing access to educational resources in multiple languages to encourage linguistic and cultural diversity in our educational system. and tracking the progress of learners in different languages.

12. Technology can be used for professional growth for our teachers by using online training programs, webinars etc. It also helps the teachers to be update with the current and latest teaching methodologies and strategies helping them to improve the quality of education they deliver to their pupils.

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So, we can conclude that technology can play a vital role in implementation of NEP 2020 in education system. Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Learning Management Systems (LMS) can be useful in managing varied aspects of the education system delivering content, keeping an eye on student's progress, and providing opportunities to teachers for their professional development also. It also helps to improve the effectiveness of our educational system. Ultimately improving the ranking of the institution as well as the students.  the potential of technology is to accelerate the adoption and use of technology in teaching, learning, assessments, and general usage at schools, colleges, and universities is tremendous.

**Conclusion**

India's education system is about to undergo a enormous change as a result of the proposed NEP 2020 School Education. The upcoming educational system will be very much dependent upon technology, which is estimated to improve both teaching and learning. There is the significance and applicability of incorporating technology in education into the Indian educational system.

- The policy proposes a multidisciplinary approach to education, which will help students to develop a more holistic understanding of the world.

- The policy also emphasizes the importance of vocational training, which will help students to develop the skills they need to get good jobs.

- The policy also calls for greater investment in early childhood education, which is essential for laying the foundation for lifelong learning.

The NEP 2020 is a bold and ambitious policy that has the potential to transform the education landscape in India. However, it is important to remember that the policy is just a roadmap. The real transformation will happen when the policy is implemented effectively by the government, stakeholders, and educational institutions.

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