



NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020: EMPOWERING TEACHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

34 years after the last national policy was published in 1986, the Government of India published the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) in July 2020. Throughout NEP 2020, which is taking root and becoming operational in the nation, significant and crucial changes to the educational system are planned, including changes to Teacher Education. The initiatives NEP 2020 recommends taking to enhance the standard of teacher preparation and the reforms deemed necessary in light of the needs of the future are discussed in this essay. It also discusses how to give aspiring teachers the tools they need to change the way students learn through the use of cutting-edge pedagogy. NEP 2020 focuses on research in the areas of educational psychology, philosophy, sociology, and other related fields with integration of science and technology because it is well recognised that R&D has a significant impact on the development of any nation. The creation of a National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education is also encouraged (NCFTE). NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary contributions, instruction in top-notch subject matter, and teaching. This essay also focuses on how the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP), a four-year bachelor's degree programme with many streams, will be implemented at interdisciplinary institutions and universities and how it will improve the calibre of teachers in the educational system. The document also discusses how NEP 2020 is focused on enhancing high-quality research in the area of teacher education with the use of financial assistance.

Key words: NEP 2020, Teacher Education, Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP)

Theoretical Framework

Effectiveness becomes a crucial requirement for any nation to embrace a variety of educational systems, taking into account its unique traditions, cultural distinctions, and its multistage process used at the secondary and higher education levels. On July 29, 2020, the Union Cabinet of India approved the revised and carefully considered National Education Strategy 2020, putting the goal of India's future educational system front and centre and providing a solid foundation for replacing the outgoing policy of NEP 1986. The updated policy document strives to lay a firmer basis while taking into account modern India's rural and urban populations. It also strengthens basic education and vocational training at every level within the scope of the curricula. The NEP 2020 aims to improve the nation's educational system. In an effort to lace the concept into a deeper regime of acquiring the necessary abilities, pedagogical skills, content training, and prolific approach towards teaching and learning, the

policy also eliminates the concept of teacher education, being solely limited to teacher training. This imparts the beneficiaries of such courses of teacher education with the expertise that is greatly needed to create more competent and professionally responsible educators. Additionally, it highlights the need for prospective teachers to significantly alter their attitudes, personalities, routines, values, and professional ethics. Teacher education is defined as "programmes of education, research, or training of persons for equipping them to teach at the pre-primary, primary, secondary, and senior secondary stages in schools," and it includes non-formal education, part-time education, adult education, and correspondence education, according to the NCTE Act, Sec. 2 (1) of 1993. Any educational system must emphasise the importance of teacher education because it is a key component of all such systems, with the understanding that the teachers produced by such systems (primarily in the context of India) must be well-established and knowledgeable of the culture, traditions, geographical conditions, ethics, ethos, and traditions, as well as having an equally skilled hand that has been trained in the most recent advancements..

The context of teacher education in India:

Prior to NEP 2020, the Indian system of education suffered significantly from the traditional effects of backlogs in the form of new educational technology. It must be acknowledged that on the Indian subcontinent, no imported structure can lead to the desired outcomes. India must place a strong emphasis on a practical and grounded educational system for teacher education that combines a wide range of traditional Indian values with contemporary research. An illustration of these reforms can be seen in the most recent adjustments made to the government schools in Delhi. Important models are therefore not insurmountable in the Indian context, despite their inherent benefits. A wise shift in educational quality can be made by fusing modern research with old Indian knowledge.

Upcoming Teacher Education Standpoints for NEP 2020:

Bachelor's degree Teacher Education Program & its Regulations: NEP 2020 stipulates that current TEIs must meet certain requirements in order to start offering 4-year Integrated Teacher Education Programs by 2030. (ITEP). By 2030, when the ITEP is implemented, the least degree of qualification will still be a barrier. Through specialisation in subjects like language, history, music, mathematics, computer science, chemistry, economics, art, physical education, etc., the ITEP will be improved holistically. Research will gain from this, but Teacher Education will also gain from a deeper understanding of history, science, psychology, sociology, early childhood care and education, basic literacy, and numeracy skills, as well as an understanding of India and its values, ethos, art, and traditions, among other things (NEP 2020).

The recommendation that "The Teacher Education should be a part of Higher Education and the duration of the teacher education programme needs to be enhanced" from the Justice Verma Committee Recommendations (Recommendation Number-3) has been taken into account when recommending the Teacher Education courses by NEP 2020. According to NEP 2020's guidelines, HEIs that provide 4-year integrated B.Ed. programmes may additionally offer a 2-year B.Ed. programme for students who already hold a bachelor's degree in a particular topic. For applicants who have earned a 4-year undergraduate degree in a particular area, a 1-year B.Ed. may also be made available.

Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) highlights:**An innovative and necessary change:**

1. After completing (5+3+3+4) years of education, ITEP will be made available. As a result, those who are serious about pursuing a career in teacher education or school administration can apply very early and be shaped by highly qualified mentors.
2. The ITEP programme will be able to train competent educators who can adapt to the necessary adjustments in the school curriculum required by NEP 2020.
3. The teachers who have completed ITEP courses will be well-versed in a variety of subject areas, enabling them to advise students on choosing a stream that is relevant to their area of professional interest and takes into account the unique needs of each and every child.
4. ITEP also offers content and pedagogical expertise to foster the nation's sharp minds.
5. The ITEP Program will be launched in the education departments of universities at extremely significant sections in higher education since, according to NEP 2020, ITEP will be the minimum educational need for school teachers. This would ultimately produce a huge demand and vacancy in Teacher Education. This suggests that NEP 2020 will offer numerous career opportunities in the area of teacher education in the following year.
6. According to the NCTE (Norms and Standards for ITEP Program) Regulations, 2014 Gazette Notification No. 509, dated October 22, 2021 and published on October 26, 2021, "ITEP shall be implemented in a phase-wise manner starting from piloting in multidisciplinary HEIS/TEIs and subsequently country-wide expansion as per NEP 2020 timeframe, and the exit system shall be applicable in ITEP as finalised in the National Higher Education Qualification Framework by UGC aligned with NEP This multiple exit and entry method will help strengthen teacher education since it provides pupils freedom of movement, freedom from worry about wasting time, and convenience.

The encouragement of Research and Development in Teacher Education:

The foundation of any nation's overall development is research. It has been noted that the nations that have prioritised research have developed extremely quickly. Unfortunately, compared to other industrialised nations that are rapidly expanding with the aid of research and development, India currently spends only 0.69% of its gross domestic product on this activity. The advancement of research and development in the field of education is a major focus of this NEP 2020. A National Research Foundation was also suggested by NEP 2020 for the promotion and advancement of high-caliber research in the various fields of education. The primary goal of NRF will be to finance and offer grants to individuals, schools, and universities so they can do high-quality research in various fields. In order to improve research, NRF will support research at academic institutions and act as a liaison between researchers and government funding organisations. NEP 2020 emphasises the requirement that all Ph.D. candidates, regardless of their field of study, complete a few credit hours of teacher education coursework and other courses that are directly relevant to the teaching and learning process. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in collaboration with the National Council of Educational Research and Training will create the updated and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE 2021). (NCERT). NCTE has also been drafting and will shortly finalise the National Professional Standard for Teachers (NPST) and National Mentoring Mission (NMM) proposed by NEP 2020 for the improvement of school education.

CONCLUSION:

The National Education Policy 2020 is focused on creating an educational system that, by offering high quality education to everyone, helps create a fair and thriving knowledge society. Additionally, it emphasises strengthening Teacher Education Programs and enhancing the calibre of today's instructors. A new four-year integrated teacher education programme (ITEP), the B.A./B.Com./B.Sc. B.Ed. programme, was developed by NCTE on the recommendation of NEP 2020 with the goal of preparing committed, responsible, and professional teachers. The suggested curriculum is intended to impact the normal cycle of teacher preparation. This programme is special, cutting-edge, and committed. It was designed with a fundamental lateral amalgamation of pedagogy and content through ongoing meetings with liberal disciplines of knowledge and fields of education. For teachers and teacher educators, NEP 2020 envisioned innovation and the establishment of standard-setting regulations. Additionally, NEP 2020 places emphasis on advancing research and development in the area of teacher education and transforming the organisation into a provider of multidisciplinary courses. In the near future, NEP 2020 will be recognised as a turning point for India's educational system.

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