



Awareness Analysis of Students' about National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

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Abstract:

Well Educated citizens of every country are vital element for her socio-economic development. It is a reflection of the respective nation's cultural heritage and value system. NEP-2020 of India is no exception for the same. This policy is based on the recommendations of the committee of stalwarts headed by Dr. Kasturirangan, Former Chairman of ISRO. Students are the main stakeholders of this process. Thus, it has become imperative, to analyse their awareness about this policy which is going to be implemented shortly. Further, their participation is essential to achieve the said objectives of the policy. Present paper is a sincere attempt to understand whether students who are pursuing their bachelors are aware about the basic enactment of this policy.

Key Words: National Education Policy, Socio-Economic development, awareness of stakeholders.

I] Introduction

Education policy of every nation refers to the principles and policy decisions which has its impact on entire education system of that country. It provides guidelines and framework under which this system operates. To make students 'Jack of All' is the need of the time. Hence, a multidisciplinary education with an element of emotional intelligence is essential to improve the mental, social, physical abilities of the students. Therefore, in the long run a comprehensive model of education is required to upgrade the India's education from Kindle Garden to Higher Education Programs in all disciplines. The Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) of the 2030 is the Program for Sustainable Development, adopted by India in 2015 - pursues to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030.

In the context of SDG4 to enhance the quality of manpower in India the government has formulated the National Policy on Education (NPE). Its structure does cover the education system from the elementary to the university level. It is suitable for students from rural and the urban areas. In India the first official and structured NPE was introduced in the year 1968 by the government. The second NPE was designed in the year 1986. To overcome the limitations of previous NPE, the present Government of India has approved the NEP on 29 July 2020. It is an inclusive structure which covers the entire education system in India with an objective to

attain Cent Per Cent Gross Enrolment Ratio in school education by 2030. It further looks forward to bring transformation in the education system of country by the year 2040. This policy recommends the rise in a government expenditure on education of the existing 4% to 6% of the GDP. This policy also gives an equal importance to the regional languages spoken in India.

The restructuring of existing NEP has been started by the committee in January 2015 under the eminent leadership of former Cabinet Secretary, Shri. T. S. R. Subramanian. This committee submitted a report in June 2017. Based on this report, a draft of the NEP – 2020 was prepared and submitted in 2019 by a distinguished board headed by the former *Indian Space Research Organization*, (ISRO) Chief, Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan. The Draft National Education Policy – 2020 (DNEP – 2020) which was revising of 484 pages has released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It was made available for public debates and consultations. People of India have been actively participated for the same to bring reforms in education arena. Thus, more than 2 lakh suggestions from all over nation were received.

The orientation of this policy is to nurture the characters who will remain responsible towards their family, society and nation. To create such temperaments amongst the students' parents and teachers collaborative efforts are imperative. Their ability to identify talents, potentials and aptitude of the students facilitates the holistic development of them. It is essential for students' progress in the academic as well as non-academic endeavour. This policy is focusing to achieve the following:

- The foundational literacy and numeracy by all the students by grade 3.
- The multi-disciplinary learning of literature, arts, science, social and humanitarian sciences, sports and vocational training along with extracurricular and curricular activities.
- It emphasizes on the development of an intellectual curiosity, scientific temperament, out box thinking, creative and innovative spirit of the students.
- To establish at least one university or college near every district and restructure the syllabus and formative assessment after certain intervals.
- To support effective research culture among the students establishes national research foundation.

III] Literature Review

1. P.S. Aithal and Shubhrajyotsna Aithal (2020): In this paper authors had highlighted the need of well structured education policy to ensure upright future of students as well as socio-economic upliftment of the nation. They also have observed that, various countries have drafted their education policies based on their traditions and culture. This paper aimed to give overall view of NEP 2020 with existing policy. Authors also analyse the innovative approach of this policy as well as its implications in India's higher education system.
2. Rajani Kant Dixit (2021): According to author NEP 2020 is essential to boost the expansion of the Indian Educational Sector. It is India's centric policy which proposed to achieve high quality of education. It also recommends innovative pedagogy to teachers through imparting the highest quality training in the development of study material, teaching skill, multidisciplinary facilities
3. Dr. Ashwini K and Dr. Archana Ambekar (2021): Authors in this paper have pointed out that India has adopted long overdue as far education system in India concern. This welcome change will facilitate the educational structure, the guidelines and the methodology in an academic arena. The NEP-2020 has proposed to make education system scientific and practical so that students can adopt it. It encourages lengthier and

strong students – teachers’ relationship relation during the very crucial years of 13-18 of students. It also provides the importance to sports. This policy tried to bring desirable changes at school and college level. This paper listed out the salient features and aftermath or outcome of NEP-2020.

Above research papers has definitely given the insight of NEP-2020. However, it is very essential to be acquainted with the awareness of students about it. Hence, present paper is an attempt to understand about students’ awareness and understanding about NEP-2020.

III] Statement of Research Problem

NEP – 2020 is students’ centric education policy. Hence, it is essential to understand up to what extent they are aware about it. Do they find it effective to them as well as future generations of India?

IV] Objectives of the Study

1. To study and analyse the salient features of NEP – 2020.
2. To analyse the awareness about NEP – 2020 of students’ who are pursuing Bachelor Degrees in city Pune.

V] Scope of the Study

1. Present study is restricted to city Pune, since this city represents to all important and developed cities in India.
2. The students who are pursuing their Bachelor Degrees are considered for study.

VI] Research Methodology

This paper is based on Formulative or Explorative Research. It is a sincere attempt of investigating the awareness of NEP -2020 of bachelor degree students from various education streams of city Pune. 340 students have asked to solve the quiz based on NEP-2020. Mostly closed ended questions with multiple choices were given to them. The respondents who are pursuing bachelor degrees were the deliberate choice for the study. This is because the NEP-2020 has offered 5+3+3+4 education structure for the students of three to eighteen years. The respondents who were pursuing higher education in universities have experienced this period. Hence, they can comment about its pros and cons. Further, they can analyse suggested multi-disciplinary and flexible higher education system as per NEP-2020.

VII] Data Analysis

The present paper is based on data collected with the help of well-designed quiz. It was circulated among students of bachelor degree from city Pune. Analysis of 340 Responses collected from undergraduate students of four different colleges is as follows:

1. NEP 2020 Stands for :

Table 1

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
New Education Policy	59	17.35
New Economic Policy	3	0.88
National Education Policy	278	81.76
National Economic Policy	0	0.00
	340	100

The responses to this question are indicating that around 82% students are aware about the name of New Education Policy which is basic requisite of an awareness test.

2. In NEP 2020, which of the following curricular structure will replace the current 10 + 2 system:

Table 2

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
3 + 4 + 4 + 5	16	4.71
5 + 3 + 3 + 4	309	90.88
4 + 3 + 3 + 5	7	2.06
5 + 4 + 3 + 3	8	2.35
	340	100

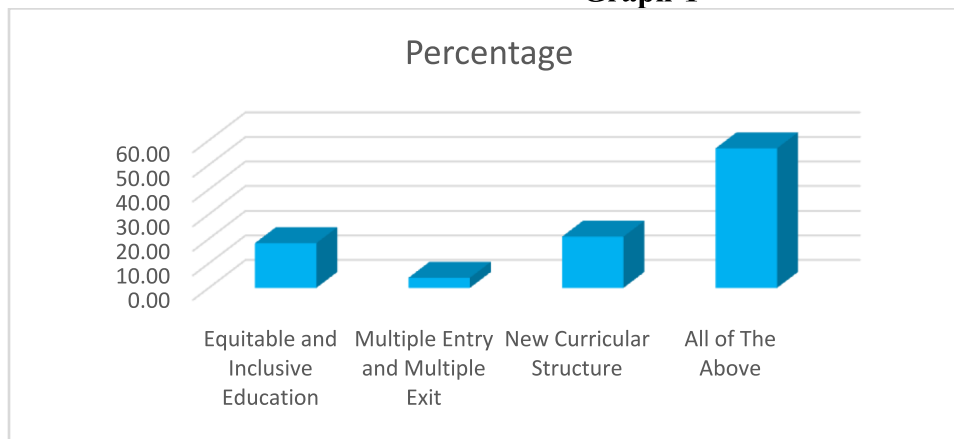
91% students are aware about the expected change in curricular structure which has direct impact on student's life as a student. The response is quite satisfactory indicating student's alertness about the proposed change.

3. Which of the following reforms was included in NEP 2020?

Table 3

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
Equitable and Inclusive Education	62	18.24
Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit	14	4.12
New Curricular Structure	71	20.88
All of The Above	193	56.76
	340	100

Graph-1



The aim of National Education Policy 2020 is to bring the changes in overall education system. The data has revealed that in this area students are bit confused. Only 57% students are aware about the proposed changes. It seems that more focus should be provided on reforms implementation. If students are well aware about these reforms or objectives of the NEP then successful implementation of policy is possible.

4. The name of proposed National Assessment Centre by NEP 2020 is:

Table4

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
NTA	17	5.00
NAC	33	9.71
UGC	4	1.18
PARAKH	286	84.12
	340	100

This policy is applicable to all students in India. Thus, assessment process and platforms must be common for all. After implementation of National Education Policy 2020 Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) will act as a Standard Setting Body or National Assessment Centre. 84 % students are aware about the same which is a good indicator.

5. Under whose Chairmanship the "Committee for Evaluation of New Education Policy" submitted its report in May 2016?

Table 5

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
Dr. K. Kasturirangan	85	25.00
Rina Ray	14	4.12
Late Shri T. S. R. Subramanian	226	66.47
Shri Sanjay Dhotre	15	4.41
	340	100

Current National Education policy is an outcome of efforts of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, but the first work in this area was initiated by Late Shri T. S. R. Subramanian committee. Students are confused to some extent here. Still majority of them that is 66 % have given correct credit to the chairman.

6. Education is _____ for achieving human potentials, developing an equitable and just society and promoting national development.

Table 6

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
Constitutional	21	6.18
Legitimate	13	3.82
Fundamental	298	87.65
Authentic	8	2.35
	340	100

Education is the fundamental tool for overall development of a nation and around 88% students are aware of the same.

7. NEP 2020 lays particular emphasis on the development of _____.

Table 7

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
Best infrastructure in the world	11	3.24
Provision to give 100 % employment	14	4.12
the creative potential of each individual	290	85.29
the provision to give free education	25	7.35
	340	100

The whole world is looking forward to India as the youngest country having highest human potentials. To leverage this dividend we have to explore creativity of each individual. Around 85% of students are aware about this basic aim of education.

8. What is guiding light for the NEP 2020?

Table 8

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
Rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian Knowledge	295	86.76
Rich heritage and Indian Tradition	21	6.18
Rich heritage of Music and Arts	8	2.35
Rich resources of ancient and modern India	16	4.71
	340	100

The table No. 8 has revealed that Ancient Education system was rich and unique by itself. British rulers have completely changed the pattern and mind set of people towards the education. If once again we have to glorify our education system then we have to connect it with our rich heritage of ancient and eternal knowledge. Around 87% students are aware this fact. This is certainly a positive sign with respect to understanding of National Education Policy.

9. What is the name of the Government Digital Platform, with reference to NEP 2020?

Table 9

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
DISHA	23	6.76
DIKSHA	248	72.94
NETRA	44	12.94
NCERT	25	7.35
	340	100

Digital platforms are playing an important role in education. 72% students are aware about the official digital platform of Government which is connected with National Education Policy 2020.

10. As per NEP 2020, _____ percentage of a child cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of 6.

Table 10

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
over 65 %	15	4.41
over 75 %	24	7.06
over 80 %	12	3.53
over 85 %	289	85.00
	340	100

Table 10 has explored that 85% students are aware that 85% of a child cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of 6. This awareness is a good sign of overall consciousness in the society about the pre childhood education.

11. NEP 2020 proposed _____ age limit for the "Preparatory class" or "Balvatika".

Table 11

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
Prior to the age of 6 years	55	16.18
Prior to the age of 5 years	174	51.18
Prior to the age of 4 years	6	1.76
Prior to the age of 3 years	105	30.88
	340	100

This question is to test the general alertness of the students about different terms used for different stages of education. Proposed "Preparatory Class" or "Balvatika" stage is prior to 5 years of age. 51% students know this answer.

12. NEP 2020 aimed to achieve equitable access to the highest - quality education for all learners regardless of social or economic background will be achieved till _____.

Table 12

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
2025	27	7.94
2030	28	8.24
2035	10	2.94
2040	275	80.88
	340	100

Equitable access to the highest – quality education for all learners is a dream objective of National Education Policy 2020. Government has set a target to achieve the same till 2040. Around 81 % students are aware about the same. When stakeholders willingly contribute to achieve the said objectives of the policy then implementation becomes naturally accepted process.

13. _____ Government institution will organise university entrance exams according to NEP 2020.

Table 13

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
National Testing Agency (NTA)	293	86.18
State Achievement Survey (SAS)	12	3.53
National Achievement Survey (NAS)	16	4.71
National Assessment Centre (NAC)	19	5.59
	340	100

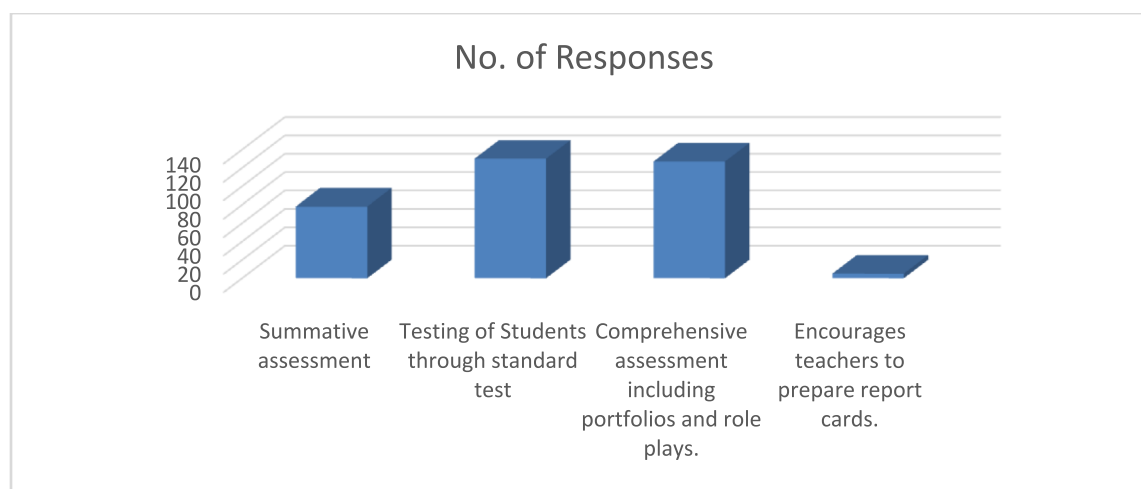
Under the Proposed National Education Policy all students has to face common university entrance examinations for University admissions in India. National Testing agency will work for such entrance exams. 86 % students have knowledge of the same. This common entrance test will reduce considerable burden on students of giving various exams for seeking the admission for particular course curriculum.

14. _____ is the proposed assessment method in the context of NEP 2020.

Table 14

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
Summative assessment	78	22.94
Testing of Students through standard test	130	38.24
Comprehensive assessment including portfolios and role plays.	127	37.35
Encourages teachers to prepare report cards.	5	1.47
	340	100

Graph -2



Assessment is an integral part of education system. Good assessment system will give more scope for overall development of students' abilities and participation. Here students are confused about the assessment method. Maximum students that is 38% students have selected existing examination system as response but actually proposed policy wants to give importance to overall development in general and specific in person. Thus, it is giving importance to comprehensive assessment. Graph-2 and table -14 have revealed that only 37% students are aware of this fact. Hence, it is imperative to create more awareness among students and teachers about upcoming assessment process suggested in NEP - 2020.

15. NEP 2020 lays emphasis on _____.

Table 15

Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
Learning for Exams	52	15.29
Conceptual Understanding	252	74.12
Rote Learning	18	5.29
Practice and Practice	18	5.29
	340	100

This question directly talks about the aim of National Education Policy. Rote learning or practice methods are the old methods of learning but current education is based on Conceptual Understanding leading to its application. According to table -15 around 74 % students are mindful about this fact. Thus, overall responses taken during the research are indicating that majority of students are aware and awaked bout the overall would be implementation and execution of National Education Policy 2020. In the area of expected reforms and Assessment procedure more ground work is required for success of this policy.

VIII] Findings

From the data analysis following major findings has been made:

- The table 1, 2 and 3 have revealed that respondents are aware about the fundamentals, basic concepts and aims of NEP-2020.
- The table 4,6,7 and 8 have explored that respondents are very well aware about the Proposed National Assessment Centre by NEP-2020 and overall aim and emphasis of education policy.
- The table 14 have revealed the serious concerned about students unawareness about the Proposed Assessment Method in the context of NEP – 2020. It highlighted the need of students and faculties education about the same.

IX] Conclusion

The present research paper is an attempt to understand how much students are aware about the NEP-2020. The respondents are quite aware about the fundamentals of the policy. However, there is a need to make them aware about what is the basic change NEP have made in the assessment process. The effective implementation of said policy is depending upon its understanding and acceptance by its stakeholders.

This paper is restricted to understand bachelor degrees students' awareness about NEP-2020. There is definitely further scope to analyse the opinions of master degrees students, research scholars, teaching faculties and other stake holders about this policy to make it more effective.

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