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Implementation of National Education Policy in Higher Education for Achieving the Vision Viksit Bharat 2047: Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Jaysing Ramdas Babar
Associate Professor,
Shri Shahu Mandir Mahavidyalaya, Pune

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Abstract

We are completing 100th year of independence by 2047. 'Viksit Bharat 2047' is Indian government's roadmap to transform India into developed economy. Higher education plays an extremely important role in promoting human as well as societal wellbeing and in developing India. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 serves as a foundational blueprint for transforming India into a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. By focusing on multidisciplinary education, research innovation, and digital integration, the policy aims to overhaul the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to produce a future-ready workforce. This paper examines the critical pathways of NEP implementation, identifies the structural and financial challenges, and highlights the transformative opportunities that can propel India toward becoming a global knowledge superpower.

1. Introduction:

The transformation of India into developed nation by 2047 is largely depend on transformation its human capital. Higher education significantly contributes towards sustainable livelihoods and economic development of the nation. As India moves towards becoming a knowledge economy and society, more and young Indians are likely to aspire for higher education. As the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 marks the centenary of India's independence, envisioning a nation that is economically prosperous, socially inclusive, and technologically advanced. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 shifts the focus from rigid traditional education to holistic, critical, and multidisciplinary education to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education from the 28.4% to 50% by 2047. New Education Policy is trying to focus on more flexible, research-oriented, and globally competitive education. The critical role of New Education Policy through the implementation of Skill Enhancement Courses, Vocational Skills Courses, Open Elective and more focus on research oriented study alongside the

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administrative role of multiple entry multiple exit option will be challenging as well as provides the opportunity to the students to develop all-round personality.

2. Structural Reforms in the NEP:

NEP 2020 introduces several structural shifts in Higher Education in the traditional education system, which will be helpful for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat in 2047. These are as follow:

Multidisciplinary and Holistic Education:

A holistic and multidisciplinary education would aim to develop all capacities of human beings such as intellectual, aesthetic, social, physical, emotional, and moral in an integrated manner.The policy aims to focus on holistic approach of Education rather than the rigid traditional approach of education. Students from arts, sciences and professional streams has to take the subject from their stream only. They are not allow to take any other subject from another stream of his choice. New policy provides multiple options to the student to take subjects of their choice and complete their graduation without any hurdle. The centre for Multidisciplinary Curriculum and Pedagogy at Maharashtra State faculty Development Academy is dedicated to straightening curricula design and teaching practices in line with contemporary academic needs.Such institutions will help to effective implementation of New Education policy for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Multiple Entry and Exit Options:

Any student has to complete all years of his degree or diploma to complete his education in previous education method. If any students left his study in first or second year will not get benefit of his education. Providing students with certificates, diplomas, or degrees based on their duration of study, supported by the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) is new step in higher education to give the benefit to the student of his education. This policy is helpful to reduce the dropout ratio caused by the financial or personal problems of the students. The Academic Bank of Credit acts as digital repository which stores individual credits earned by the students so he can resume his education in any institution across the India without losing his previous progress.

National Research Foundation (NRF):

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Research and Development in the developed country are very strong. As compared with developed nations like America and South Korea, our investment in Research and Development is very low so we have to increase our investment in Research and Development. National Research Foundation is a centralized body founded to fund and seed research across all disciplines, particularly in state universities in India.

Internationalization:

India will be promoted as a global study destination providing premium education at affordable costs thereby helping to restore its role as a Vishwa Guru. Courses and programmes in subjects, such as Indology, Indian languages, AYUSH systems of medicine, yoga, arts, music, history, culture, and modern India, internationally relevant curricula in the sciences, social sciences, and beyond, meaningful opportunities for social engagement, quality residential facilities and on-campus support, etc. will be fostered to attain this goal of global quality standards, attract greater numbers of international students, and achieve the goal of 'internationalization at home'.Facilitating the entry of top global universities into India and encouraging Indian HEIs to expand globally. Research/teaching collaborations and faculty/student exchanges with high-quality foreign institutions will be facilitated, and relevant mutually beneficial MOUs with foreign countries will be signed.

3. Opportunities for Transformation

The implementation of NEP 2020 offers unprecedented opportunities to reshape the socio-economic landscape of India:

3.1 Demographic Dividend and Skilling

India has the opportunity to become the "skill capital" of the world. The integration of vocational education with mainstream higher education ensures that graduates are not just degree-holders but industry-ready professionals.

3.2 Digital Revolution and "Edu-Tech"

The policy emphasizes digital tools like SWAYAM, DIKSHA, and virtual labs. This democratizes access to high-quality education for students in rural and under-served regions, effectively bridging the urban-rural divide. The Centre for Innovation and Cutting-edge

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Technology at the Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy (MSFDA) provide and dedicated to advance technology-enabled transformation in higher education.

3.3 Economic Retention

By "on shoring" global education through Foreign Higher Education Institutions (FHEIs) in India, the country can retain billions of dollars in foreign exchange currently spent by students studying abroad.

4. Challenges in Implementation of NEP:

Financial Constraints:

The goal of spending 6% of GDP on education remains unfulfilled, leading to infrastructure gaps as our current allocation is around 3% to 4.5% of GDP. So that the multidisciplinary model in NEP requires higher education institutions to develop modern laboratories for Vocational Skill Courses and high-tech classrooms to achieve the teaching goal. Though, New Education Policy recommends and focuses on the spending 6% of GDP on education for developing educational infrastructure in thousands of colleges and universities to the vision Viksit Bharat by 2047, it remains unfulfilled is most important challenge.

Digital Divide

India needs to provide high quality education to the rural regions also to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 through New Education Policy 2020. Presently high quality and high tech education is restricted to the urban region so it should be shifted to the rural areas also. New Education Policy provides Academic Bank of Credit facility to the student to deposit earned credit from SWAYAM and MOOC courses to it but lack of high speed broadband and personalized devices is main hurdle in the rural area student. It is very difficult task to the institutions from remote area to maintain digital records of Multiple Entry Multiple Exits of students due to lack of good connectivity of internet.

Faculty Readiness

In National Education Policy 2020, teacher's role is shifted from source of information to facilitator of Experience. Many teachers lack training in multidisciplinary pedagogy and digital teaching-learning tools so they struggle with the integration of learning management system and creation of open resources to fulfill the goal of NEP 2020.

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Regulatory Hurdles

The merger of autonomous regulatory bodies such as UGC, AICTE and NCTE into the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) is administratively complex for the higher education instituitions.

State-Center Coordination

Since education is a concurrent subject, varied political will and fiscal health among states lead to uneven implementation.

Timetable Challenge:

In New Education Policy, the most important implementation challenge for any administrator in the educational institutions is preparation and implementation of multidisciplinary timetable. NEP provide open elective option to the student while pursuing his/ her degree course is one of the most significant factor for Timetable creation and smooth running of the degree course of individual. Skill Enhancement Course and Open elective system is one of the most significant hurdle in NEP implementation.

5. Strategic Recommendations:

To align NEP implementation with the 2047 vision, the following steps are essential:

Sustainable Funding:

Encouraging private sector investment in research through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and public-private partnerships will strengthen research infrastructure and promote innovation in higher education institutions.

Faculty Development:

The most important factor in the success of higher education institutions is the skilled and well trained faculty. Higher education present time demands preparedness, adaptability and continuous learning for faculty. Training for faculty is required for effectively implementation of new education policy to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. So Launching large-scale training programs like the Malaviya Mission to orient teachers toward 21st-century skills will be beneficial to attain aim of Viksit Bharat 2047 through the quality education.

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Language Inclusion:

Developing high-quality technical and professional textbooks in regional languages to ensure no student is left behind due to a language barrier.

Digital Infrastructure:

Improving digital infrastructure in educational institutions is essential. Providing high-speed internet, smart classrooms, and digital learning platforms will support online and blended learning methods and improve the quality of education.

Industry–Academic Collaboration:

Stronger collaboration between industries and educational institutions will ensure that students gain practical knowledge and skills. Internships, skill-based training, and industry projects will make graduates more employable.

Research and Innovation:

Universities and colleges should promote research, innovation, and entrepreneurship**.** Establishing research centres, innovation hubs, and incubation centres will help students develop new ideas and solutions for national development.

6. Conclusion:

The success of Viksit Bharat 2047 is inextricably linked to the successful execution of NEP 2020. While challenges regarding funding and infrastructure are significant, the opportunities for innovation, inclusivity, and global leadership are immense. If implemented in letter and spirit, NEP 2020 will transform Indian higher education into a vibrant, equitable knowledge ecosystem capable of sustaining a developed nation.

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