

**EFFECTIVENESS OF NEP 2020 IN INDIAN SOCIO-CULTURAL SET-UP****Dr. Samhita Chaudhuri<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Susmita Bhattacharyya<sup>2</sup>**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Indian National Education Policy 2020 aims to achieve rapid changes to entire education and knowledge landscape of India. The educational framework of India has recently put more stress on skill-based knowledge development and increase in opportunity for vocational courses. Thus, re-contextualization and re-configuration of application-based knowledge is necessary in education which is the most significant issue in understanding Indian education landscape. The impact of NEP to extend the horizon of Indian education landscape can be assessed through the transformation of teaching-learning process. However, the present research is to explore the contribution of NEP 2020 in formulating new education landscape of the country; and, to analyse the impact of new teaching-learning process to bring socio-cultural change among contemporary students. The study depends on the result of a micro-level survey to identify the transformation of students at undergraduate level with the inclusion of NEP. To carry forward the importance of NEP 2020 to future generation, it is our duty to assess the development till date to map out new directions in the sphere of skill and knowledge-based education.*

**Keywords:** Social Change, Culture Change, Knowledge, Skill, Transformation

**INTRODUCTION**

A developing nation like India is going to have no choice but to undergo significant changes to its educational system. In addition, a robust media-based education system is absolutely necessary in order to make considerable as well as active participation of the citizens in the process of development. The National Education Policy 2020 is a comprehensive policy that aims to bring transformational changes in the Indian education system. The policy has been formulated after extensive consultation with various stakeholders, including teachers, students, parents, and educationists. The policy aims to address the current challenges facing the Indian education system and provide a roadmap for its development in the future.

The policy has several key features, including introducing a new structure of education from the foundational stage to higher education, including vocational education, and using technology in education. The policy also aims to promote multilingualism and provide quality education to all students, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The paper aims to explore the contribution of NEP 2020 in framing new education landscape of the country. In addition to that, analysing the impact of new teaching-learning process under the NEP 2020, its assessment should be given high priority in order to properly shape the overall social and cultural change in Indian society through incorporation of more students and enhancing their skill acquisition process. The study depends on the result of a micro-level survey to identify the transformation of students at undergraduate level with the inclusion of NEP 2020. To carry forward the importance of NEP 2020 to the future generation, it is our duty to assess the development till date to map out new directions in the sphere of skill and knowledge-based education.

The Government of India announced the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) to provide quality and equality in education for all citizens of the country and makes them globally competitive. New and improved technology has an essential role in disseminating information about the new policy and its benefits to the people of India.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

After long awaiting, the Union Cabinet implemented the new education policy the on 29th July to transform Indian education scenario. Providing quality education, quality education and achieving holistic development of every Indian citizen are the most basic goals of this policy. The growth trajectory also incorporates a 'gender - inclusion fund' to provide girls and transgender students quality education, institutional infrastructural improvement, better learning environment, technological enhancements and improved cocurricular and extracurricular activities for them (Hoque and Mohanta 2020; Muddu, Joshi and Bhaskar 2021). Teachers share information to students and experience challenges to facilitate the present teaching-learning process with

already available techniques and tools among students. The concept of socialization in contemporary period is changing rapidly with technological advancement of the country. Now, students have become more capable of using various modes for their educational purposes (Upadhyay, 2017). Social scientists are continuously engaging themselves to identify more appropriate learning methods in order to improve country's educational landscape through their research and the positive consequences should bring as an outcome.

Multiple entries and exit at the undergraduate level, establishment of education centres that helps to 360-degree assessment of student's learning capacity as well as improvement in mental abilities of students - all will provide a quality education for Indian citizens (Verma and Kumar 2021). The policies have given special emphasis on Hence, besides its experimental, integrative and enjoyable character, the holistic learning is the primary motto of NEP 2020. The other real understanding of NEP 2020 is towards the overcoming of the routine memorization and mere storing of some unconnected pieces of information in the mind (Jain, Sharma and Khanam 2021) to holistic education system.

The traditional learning system is transforming in recent decades to some extent by changing their ways of delivering news and distribution of information (Lee, 2010). Ansari and Khan (2020) mentioned about the collaborative learning as a new concept of education in recent period. Interaction among various stakeholders of education system like teachers, peers and friends also considered as a significant stimulant of present education system. Not only that, online social media facilitate students to become more creative and dynamic in terms of collaborative learning and research. Researchers are analysing NEP 2020 from the student's skill development point of view and identifies the need for vocational educational model to inculcate the skill-based education system (Jain, 2023).

Various social institutions play vital role in creating a new vision towards improved perception, beliefs, values and activities of citizens (Stack and Boler 2007; Chavan and Bhorkade 2022). NEP 2020 creates a new and transformed education landscape focusing on holistic and multidisciplinary educational approach that has increased the creativity and high-quality education system of the country. According to Kumar and Nandini (2022), the introduction of various programs like Artifact Conservation, Translation and Interpretation, Archaeology, Graphic Design, Web Design, Art and Museum Administration and so on extend the horizon of knowledge creating a new path towards quality education in India.

#### **METHODOLOGY AND OBJECTIVES**

The paper is mainly based on secondary sources like articles, chapters in books and various other documents. However, a survey involving 100 college students of Undergraduate colleges from North and South Kolkata and 50 teachers of different colleges is conducted as the source of primary data using face to face interview method. The age group of student respondents is 18 to 20 years and respondents are selected by purposive sampling method.

The objectives of the present research are–

- To explore the contribution of NEP 2020 in formulating new education landscape of the country and,
- To analyse the impact of new teaching-learning process to bring socio-cultural change among contemporary students.

#### **Role of National Education Policy 2020 in Creating New Education Landscape**

The National Education Policy 2020 is a significant policy announcement by the government, and it is essential to create awareness about its key features and benefits among the general public. This policy also aims to play a very crucial role in spreading information and creating awareness about various vocational courses and training programs under different schemes of the government. The new education landscape that has developed in recent years, especially since the incorporation of online teaching methods, is believed to become strengthened after the implementation of National Education Policy 2020 all over the country. A report on NEP 2020 by UGC website tells that it is "the outcome of mammoth exercise to integrate Indian traditional value-based education with the present technology dominated teaching and learning process" (UGC website). This new education landscape of the country based on the use of various platforms, such as print, electronic, and social media is supposed to disseminate information about all the government schemes. Experts and educationists provide an in-depth analysis of the procedure to create this new educational landscape and to identify its potential impact on the education sector. Different social media platforms can also be used as case studies to highlight the policy's benefits, including vocational education and the promotion of multilingualism. The press, for example, can showcase the success stories of students who have benefitted from the approach and how it has transformed their lives.

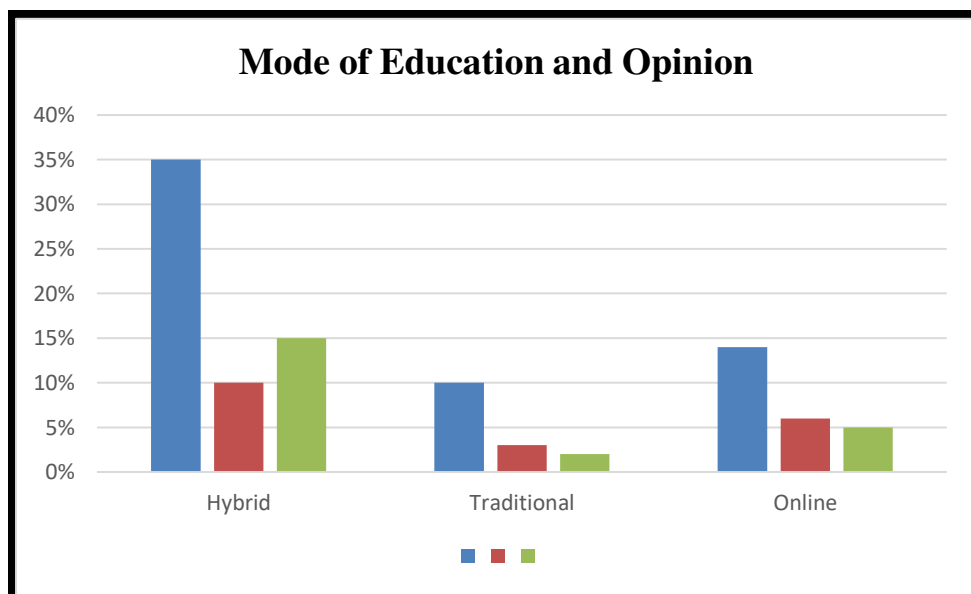
In addition, the role in creating awareness about implementing the policy also comes under the purview of NEP 2020 and its creation of new education landscape of the country. It will provide updates to every stakeholder of education sector on the progress made in implementing the policy and highlight the challenges faced. However, as majority of higher education institutions are incorporating different modes of teaching-learning process, like mass media, in order to engage students in study along with updating the teaching fraternity of the institution with recent developments in their own disciplines and related discourses. These also allow students to sensitize and inform about the educational details and updates.

The National Education Policy 2020 is a comprehensive policy that aims to bring transformational changes in the Indian education system. The variety of educational tools and mechanisms is essential in creating awareness about the procedure and its benefits among the general public. They can use various platforms to circulate information about the policy and highlight its key features and benefits. The social media can also play a vital role in creating awareness about the implementation of the procedure and providing updates on its progress. Successfully implementing the policy requires the active participation of all stakeholders, including the media.

In the spotlight of National Education Policy 2020, it is therefore necessary to take suitable strategies to communicate with students in such a way that educational equality is achieved. Development of the creative potential of each individual is the primary aim to formulate any Education Policy. However, National Education Policy 2020 is based on ‘the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities –but both the ‘foundational capacities’ of literacy and numeracy and ‘higher-order’ cognitive capacities, such as critical thinking and problem solving – but also social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions’ (Ministry of HRD). It will open the scope to be a ‘student-centric, experiential, and inquiry-based approach to learning’ in Indian social set-up through initiating a mode of problem- solving, critical thinking and encouraging creativity among students. To attain the goal of equality in education with excellence and the corresponding multitude of benefits to every stakeholder, it is highly important to start with a proper strategy to offer equal opportunity and facility to each of them. Thus, the concept of communicative equity is applicable to ensure educational equality under NEP 2020. Thus, the mode of education has shifted from rote learning to conceptual understanding as well as to skill enhancement among students in every corner of the country.

An enquiry has been served by this present study through conducting primary survey among students and teachers asking some questions about their perception regarding the mode of education ranging from traditional (classroom teaching with chalk and duster) to online (virtual mode) and to hybrid (i.e., sometime face to face interaction between teacher and student along with virtual classes) mode. As the NEP 2020 aims to create an inclusive education system by promoting holistic development, fostering creativity and innovation among students; hence, the successful implementation of the policy requires individual and group perception of all stakeholders, including educators and students. The diagram 1 shows the cartographic representation of teacher’s perception regarding the mode of education in past and in present time.

**Diagram 1: Mode of Education and Opinion of Teacher Respondents**



Source: Data collected by the researchers (March 2023 to June 2024)

On the basis of the collected data, it can be said that, effectiveness of NEP is positively reflected in hybrid mode (35%) whereas through online mode of learning, positive effectiveness is 14%. Hence, it is showed that hybrid teaching-learning process is marked as most positively effective in the context of NEP 2020. Hybrid teaching is a form of teaching that combines traditional teaching method with virtual mode, which is used both mode of teaching, i.e., "online and offline". The organic combination of these two teaching forms helps the students to learn a topic from shallow (SUN, 2020) to deep according to the requirement and acceptability of the student.

From the students’ perspective traditional method of learning is more popular than NEP 2020 as the data reflect for NEP 2020, 45 percent of response comes through the survey, whereas 55 percent of them are in favour of traditional learning method (Table 1). This can be due to the first introductory phase of NEP 2020; students are not very clear about the new method till now.

**Table 1: Students’ Responseregarding mode of Teaching- Learning Process**

Response	Response			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Total
Teaching Learning				
Traditional	38%	7%	10%	55%
NEP 2020	24%	6%	15%	45%
Total	62%	13%	25%	100%

**Table 2: Teachers’ Response regarding mode of Teaching- Learning Process**

Response	Response			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Total
Teaching Learning				
Traditional	32%	9%	10%	51%
NEP 2020	19%	5%	25%	49%
Total	51%	14%	35%	100%

There is no specific difference between traditional educational system and NEP 2020 in the context of the response from the teachers as 51 percent of them are in favour of traditional method and 49 percent are supportive of NEP 2020 (Table 2).

Hence, there is a wide opportunity and scope of improvement in the new education landscape of the country in post-NEP 2020 era. The new education landscape is passing through the initial years and after analysing the trial phases, it may develop the country’s youngsters into a skilled workforce of India.

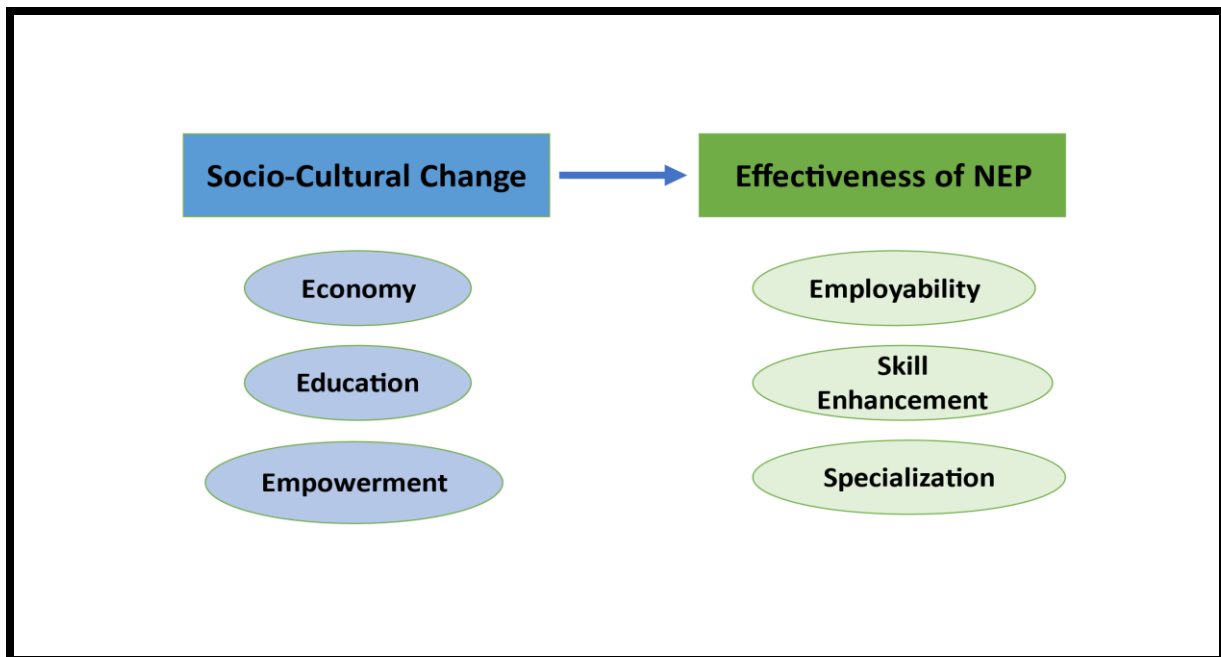
**Socio-Cultural Change through Introduction of New Education Landscape**

On the basis of functional theory, education fulfils several necessities of society. The most important function is socialization. The norms, values and skill are learned by the students through educational institution. Also “hidden curriculum” is taught by schools. Through hidden curriculum, students can learn the values like respect for authority, punctuality and even individualism. Sometimes, harmony and belongingness can be learned by the students through educational systems. Next important function is social integration. Functionalists opined that, through education common set of beliefs and values can emerge through proper education. The most important function of education is social placement. The idea can be appropriately related to societal context with the identification of specific inclination of students. NEP 2020 has a focus on skill development of the students (diagram 1), which is closely connected to this process of social placement. Social and cultural innovation is another dimension of education. Encouragement of scientific discoveries and artistic creativity should be incorporated in education. NEP 2020 has ample scope to incorporate innovative mechanism in education.

According to Conflict theory, sometimes education can be linked with inequality, which is harmful for the society. Remembering this NEP 2020 has a focus on inclusive education burring all kinds of inequality. Symbolic interactionists perspective gives importance on interaction in educational scenario. It can be related with gender role and even the expectation of teachers in the context of performance. NEP 2020 put emphasis on the role of teachers for enhancement of the talent of students in multidirectional orientations. Thus, the ultimate goal of NEP 2020, i.e., the pluralistic understanding of knowledge can be achieved by multi-disciplinary approach.

The significant pedagogical transformation occurred in the Indian education system after the implementation of NEP 2020, can affect immensely on the socio-cultural mind set up of Indian citizens (including educators, students, parents, policy makers and many more). The student-centric holistic approaches to education system aims to initiate critical thinking, value based learning and skill enhancement among students from primary education to higher education through differential strategies and pathways. The shifting of traditional method of teaching and evaluation process to conceptual, interactive and deep learning will help students to clear their understanding about any topic through encouraging application oriented holistic learning. Thus, the concept of experiential learning methods, such as project-based learning, hands-on activities and inquiry-based learning will encourage to explore and promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills among students and they will automatically spread their advanced technical skill in shaping the society in a improved way. The integration of different subjects and their interconnectedness through promoting multidisciplinary learning aims to develop a holistic understanding of real-world issues and challenges among youths and future young generation. The integration of Technology is the need of the hour and NEP 2020, if implemented properly, will encourage the use of digital tools, online resources, and educational technology platforms to facilitate personalized learning as well as introduce collaborative learning environments in the country. This convergence of tradition with modernity will definitely create a new cultural parameter in the new education landscape of the country.

**Diagram2: Socio-Cultural Significance of NEP 2020**



Source: Compiled by the researchers

The NEP 2020 aimed to improve and strengthen the training programs in rural India with the expectation of improve agribusiness and also in partnered sectors to augment the rural efficiency through skill-enhanced graduates and specialized labours and through market-based expansion in practice. More importance is given to technical education through equipping professionals in cutting-edge areas like in Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3-D machining, big data analysis, machine learning to prepare the graduates with recent technological knowhows. In the areas of health and environment, most important addition are various courses, hands-on trainings and internship programs on biotechnology, nanotechnology, neuroscience, genomic studies and above all resource management and sustainable living by incorporating these into higher education courses. All these courses is expected to upgrade the employability factor among the youth and help to create the startup entrepreneurs at the service of digital India at present and in future years also.

Integrating new age skills and entrepreneurship education in schools and in higher education promote enhancement in skill-based development among students. The significance of designing of various vocational courses and their development is created in order to meet the common norms of skill development as well as improvements in standards at the global level. The skilled workforce is always supposed to develop the nation at global level and help the country to equality in resource utilization and resource distribution among various segments of society. Under the Hub and Spoke Model, Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) or Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK) will take the leading role in vocational education and training (VET) for students spread skill training to students at higher school level and at graduate level (Jain, 2023).

Specialization in curriculum will assist students to move forward in the study and where they have more interest, they will shine. Under this background, Special Education Zone (SEZ) is also started to formulate to empower every section of the population irrespective of their caste, class and religious character and their social hierarchy. NEP 2020 emphasizes inclusivity character of educational system, where internal structure and operational culture in school and college education system can be improved through infrastructural support and by making corresponding changes in curriculum. Hence, incorporating the materials on human values like respect for all, tolerance, patience, empathy and so on will help to create a skill-based specialized education landscape of the country.

### CONCLUSION

NEP 2020 is connected to the age of globalization as the future generation is connected to each other with highly mediated existence. They are completely influenced by the mediated world. As, educational system is connected to each sector of society and administration for the diffusion of knowledge related information, thus, professional help can be taken for making the study materials more interesting to the younger generation. Youtube, blogs and social media platforms can be utilised for the transmission of knowledge in hybrid mode of education. Interaction between teachers, peers and friends can be recognised as significant influence in engaging students in knowledge sector. The importance of formative assessment has been investigated by researchers, which is an ongoing, continuous, and classroom-based assessment process. It encourages the assessment of students in terms of their critical- thinking abilities, their problems- solving efficiencies, communication capacity and collaborative activities. It ensures collaborative learning, multidisciplinary learning and skill-based learning as a new turn in the educational system. Blended mode of education can ensure more participation among students in educational system despite of their distance, available time and other hindrances. Thus, through NEP, creativity and dynamism can be considered as two most important pillars of learning and understanding. Educational approach of NEP 2020 has important focus on two interrelated orientations like holistic and multi-disciplinary education. The aim of this kind of approach is to increase the thinking capacity of the students with creativity. Soft skill development and introduction of vocational subjects within the curriculum will broaden the scope of employability of future generation undoubtedly.

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