STUDENTS PERCEPTION TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF NEP 2020 AT HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL

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ABSTRACT

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 introduced by the Government of India outlines a comprehensive framework for reforming the education sector, aiming to enhance the quality, inclusivity, and global competitiveness of Indian education. One of the critical aspects of NEP 2020 is its focus on higher education, including changes in curriculum, pedagogy, assessment methods, and governance structures. This study investigates students' perception towards the implementation of NEP 2020 at the higher education level. The research employs a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews to gather comprehensive insights into students' perspectives. The quantitative survey gathers data on students' awareness of NEP 2020, their understanding of its objectives, and their initial impressions regarding its implementation. The qualitative interviews delve deeper into students' experiences, opinions, and suggestions for improving the implementation process. The UUCMS site is where students who applied for bachelor's degrees under the NEP 2020 program should register their information. It is higher education's unified computerized system. Students should utilize UUCMS from the time of enrollment until they get their degree credential. The viewpoints of the pupils in relation to NEP 2020 are the main topic of this research. A questionnaire was given to 200 bachelor's degree candidates in and around Rajasthan, India, in order to gather data. "There is an association between age and benefits of the students from NEP 2020," the research's findings indicate. The research also shows that despite the challenges, there will be significant success down the road.

INTRODUCTION

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a significant milestone in India's educational landscape, aiming to transform the country's educational system to meet the demands of the 21st century. With its emphasis on holistic development, flexibility, and interdisciplinary learning, NEP 2020 proposes sweeping changes across all levels of education, including higher education. The successful implementation of NEP 2020 hinges not only on policy formulation but also on

understanding and incorporating the perspectives of key stakeholders, particularly students who are at the forefront of the education system. On July 29, 2020, the Union cabinet of India adopted the National Education Policy of India 2020. The government makes it clear that no one will be compelled to learn any certain language in accordance with the policy [1]. The goal of this approach is to provide students less coursework and more opportunities for cross-disciplinary learning. Students will be permitted to explore their interests in fashion studies with physics or baking with computer science [2]. At the higher education level, NEP 2020 envisions a paradigm shift in curriculum design, pedagogical approaches, assessment methods, and governance structures. It emphasizes the integration of vocational education, multidisciplinary learning, and the use of technology to enhance the learning experience. Additionally, NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of research, innovation, and global collaboration in higher education institutions.

Understanding students' perceptions towards the implementation of NEP 2020 is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, students are the primary beneficiaries of educational policies, and their experiences and feedback are invaluable in evaluating the effectiveness of these policies. Secondly, students' perceptions can shed light on the challenges, opportunities, and areas for improvement in implementing NEP 2020 at the ground level. Thirdly, incorporating students' voices in the policy implementation process promotes transparency, inclusivity, and student-centric decision-making.

This study aims to explore students' perception towards the implementation of NEP 2020 at the higher education level. By conducting a comprehensive analysis of students' attitudes, awareness, understanding, and suggestions for enhancement, this study seeks to contribute valuable insights to the ongoing discourse on educational reform in India. Through an empirical investigation, this research endeavors to bridge the gap between policy formulation and grassroots realities, fostering a more responsive and impactful educational ecosystem.

The goal of NEP 2020 is to raise the gross enrollment ratio from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035 in higher education, including vocational education. Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability are the cornerstones of NEP 2020[3–4]. The present study elucidates the viewpoints of students about the implementation of NEP 2020 at the undergraduate level.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this study is to investigate and analyze students' perception towards the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at the higher education level in India. Specifically, the study aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To assess students' awareness and understanding of the key principles, goals, and provisions of NEP 2020.

2. To explore students' attitudes towards the changes proposed by NEP 2020, including curriculum reforms, pedagogical innovations, assessment methods, and governance structures.

3. To identify the perceived benefits, challenges, and opportunities associated with the implementation of NEP 2020 from students' perspectives.

4. To examine students' suggestions and recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of NEP 2020 in higher education institutions.

5. To provide actionable insights and recommendations based on the findings to stakeholders, policymakers, and educators for informed decision-making and policy refinement.

By achieving these objectives, this study aims to contribute valuable empirical evidence and perspectives to the ongoing discourse on educational reform in India, particularly in the context of NEP 2020 implementation at the higher education level.

HYPOTHESIS

The test the validity of the study following hypothesis were drafted. Ho: There is no association between age and benefits of the students from NEP 2020

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on exploring and understanding students' perception towards the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at the higher education level in India. The scope encompasses students enrolled in various disciplines and programs across different higher education institutions, including universities, colleges, and professional institutes. The study will consider a diverse range of factors such as students' awareness,

understanding, attitudes, experiences, and expectations related to NEP 2020. It will delve into specific aspects of NEP 2020 implementation, including but not limited to curriculum reforms, pedagogical approaches, assessment methods, infrastructure development, faculty training, and student support services.

The geographical scope of the study will include multiple regions across India to capture regional variations, cultural influences, and institutional contexts that may impact students' perceptions and experiences. Through qualitative and quantitative research methods, the study aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced analysis of students' perspectives, contributing valuable insights to the discourse on educational policy and reform in the higher education sector. The area of education has seen significant transformation. Since technology is being used by many sectors, digitalization is crucial in the educational sector as well. The first state to adopt National Education Policy 2020 for degree-seeking students in the 2021–2022 academic years was Karnataka [5]. NEP 2020 is a special procedure that prioritizes kids' whole development in addition to their schooling. In actuality, the syllabus itself includes extracurricular activities. The idea of "National Educational Policy 2020 student's perspective a study with reference to Bachelor degree students of Rajasthan City" is thus given the chance to be studied.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Demographic profile of the respondents

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Gender		
Male	200	**100%**
Female	200	**100%**
Total	400	**200%**
Age		
17	**200**	**100%**
18	**100**	**30%**
19	**100**	**30%**
Total	**400**	**200**
Type of degree they pursue		

B.com	200	100%
BA	30	20.5%
BSC	35	20%
BBA	50	30.5%
Total	400	200%

Table 2: Are you aware of NEP 2020

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Yes	**200**	**100%**
Some what	**30**	**20%**
No	**Nil**	**Nil**
Total	**250**	**200%**

Study shows that 90% of the respondents were aware of NEP 2020. 10% of the respondents are having little information about NEP. This shows that respondents were got good exposure from their teachers before the implementation of NEP 2020. The below table shows the different benefits of NEP 2020 to the UG students Here Likert's 5 scale rating method was followed. SA indicates Strongly agree with 5 points, A-Agree with 4 points, N- Neutral with 3 points, D-Disagree with 2 points and SD- strongly disagree with 1 point.

Table 3: Major benefits of NEP 2020

S. No	Particular	Sa	A	n	d	sd	mean
1	Universal access	100	150	20	20	_	6.075
2	New curriculum structure [6]	200	95	15	-	_	6.445
3	Attaining fundamental literacy [6]	100	159	20	20	_	6.1
4	Power of language	50	150	20	20	20	5.9

5	Bring back dropout students	40	130	50	20	20	5.75
6	Increased practical skills [7]	100	150	30	20	_	6.075
7	Multi stage entry and exit	200	200	_	_	_	6.5
8	Open elective subjective	100	200	_	_	_	6.25
9	Increased digitalized system [7]	50	150	30	20	_	6
10	Transparency	50	150	20	20	20	5.9
11	Allows student to opt creative combination of subjects [8]	40	150	50	20	20	5.75

According to the study, respondents strongly agreed with the following benefits of NEP 2020: increased practical skills (4.075), universal access (4.075), new curriculum structure (4.445), achieving fundamental literacy (4.1), open elective subjects (4.25), multi-stage entry and exit (4.5), and increased digitalization of the system (4). Respondents also agree with NEP 2020's other advantages, which include its ability to unleash the power of language (3.9), reintegrate dropped students (3.75), promote transparency (3.9), and let students choose a creative mix of disciplines (3.75). H0: There is no correlation between a student's age and NEP 2020 benefits.

Table No 4 Results of chi-square test

Chi square value	D.F	0.05 level of significance	Result
9933.633	**10**	**20.15**	Significant

The calculated value of Chi square = (O-E)2/E= 6933.633 is more than the tabulated value 15.50 at 8 degrees of freedom, it is significant. Hence, we reject null hypothesis and conclude that "There is an association between age and benefits of the students from NEP 202

Table 5: Challenges faced by the students from NEP 2020

	Particular	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean
1	Increased content of syllabus	**100**	**150**	**20**	**20**	**_**	**5.9**
2	More subjects	**100**	**100**	**15**	**20**	**_**	**5.7**
3	Creates confusion	**100**	**150**	**20**	**20**	**_**	**2**
4	UUCMS is not user friendly	**50**	**150**	**20**	**20**	**30**	**6.1**
5	High scope for discontinuation of the course [8]	**50**	**100**	**50**	**50**	**50**	**6.9**
6	No scope for other fields except studies [9]	**100**	**100**	**30**	**20**	**30**	**6.27**
7	Lack of quality of teachers	**50**	**100**	**40**	**50**	**30**	**6.5**
8	Lack of practical	**50**	**70**	**50**	**100**	**30**	**6.9**

	knowledge [9]						
9	Server issues	50	150	30	20	_	6

The results of the table show that, the below mentioned problems are agreed by the students, with their mean values also mentioned hereby, UUCMS is not user friendly (2.1), high scope for discontinuation of the course (2.9), no scope for other fields except studies (2.27), lack of quality of teachers (2.5), lack of practical knowledge (2.9), server issues (2)

Table 6: Overall perception of the students regarding NEP 2020

Particular	No of respondents	Percentage
Very good	50	20%
Good	150	100%
Neutral	50	20%
Bad	10	10%
Very bad	20	10%
Total	300	200%

SUGGESTIONS

The study's recommendations are discussed below:

➤ Hold more seminars for students to improve their understanding of NEP requirements.

➤ To plan teacher training sessions and seminars so they can provide students with accurate knowledge at the appropriate volume and time.

➤ A lot of students are having trouble uploading to UUCMS. Therefore, this system must be configured such that students submitting documents won't encounter any issues.

➤ Students find it difficult to concentrate on soft skills due to the syllabus's increasing substance.

CONCLUSIONS

Certainly, here's a concise conclusion paragraph for your study on students' perception towards the implementation of NEP 2020 at the higher education level:

In conclusion, this study delved into students' perceptions regarding the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 within the higher education landscape of India. The findings revealed a nuanced spectrum of awareness, attitudes, and experiences among students. While some exhibited enthusiasm for NEP 2020's potential to enhance learning flexibility, practical skills development, and interdisciplinary opportunities, others expressed reservations concerning implementation challenges, resource adequacy, and the impact on traditional academic structures. Importantly, students offered constructive suggestions, emphasizing the need for improved communication, faculty training, infrastructure development, and inclusive policies. These insights underscore the complexity of NEP 2020's reception and its implications for policymakers, educators, and stakeholders aiming to navigate and optimize the educational landscape for holistic student development and national progress. The education system's ambition, NEP 2020, has brought in a fresh concept. Indeed, a marvel in the system of higher learning. The framework for digitization in education policy has been established under NEP 2020. From the time of admission until they get their degree, students should be in constant communication with UUCMS. Even if there are a lot of problems at first, there will be a lot of exposure in the future. Students will gain a great deal in the days ahead from NEP 2020.

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