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## NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020: EMPOWERING DIGITAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

**Anushree Pandey**

Assistant Professor ( Sociology)  
Naveen Govt Girls College, Takhatpur  
[Anushree.apndey1995@gmail.com](mailto:Anushree.apndey1995@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Education is the most important and key weapon to bring change and create sustainable environment for all. Over a decade world has witnessed rapid progress in technology and advancement at all the sphere of life. Education being the most important domain has also been accompanied by this advancement at global level. The sustainable development goal 4 is also emphasised on to ensure equitable, quality education for all. The New education policy 2020 announced by MHRD ,Government of India is in line the goals of SDG ,providing acceleration and re-vitalization to education system in India by imparting quality education to all. This policy has inculcated various path-breaking steps and decision that introduces whole gamut of changes in education system. Technology proficiency ,digitalization and introduction of information communication technology in education system is the requirement of new generation for development of skills and employability, this visionary document NEP 2020 has reassured the idea of introduction of artificial intelligence in the education system enhancing its quality, providing education to all and promote innovation and research with the help of collaborative learning. The NEP 2020 has provided pace to digital India skill programme for more holistic and inclusive development of students. This research paper emphasises on role and importance of NEP 2020 in revoking the digitalisation of education with the help of government initiatives to promote digital literacy.

**Keyword:-** Education, Digitalisation, New Education policy 2020,digital India skill, ICT, Sustainable development goals.

## **Introduction**

Education is the key to development and progress in a society, where knowledge empowers citizens. It plays the role of a catalyst in improving people's lives. The World bank's education strategy emphasises core ideas that "Invest early, Invest smartly, Invest in learning for all. (OECD, 2016) Education is the most prominent factor in human life that has been well addressed by the framers of the constitution under fundamental rights and Directive principles of state policies and various articles that are enshrined in the constitution to inculcate educational values to its citizens. To bring reform and revitalisation to the education system Government of India, introduced The New Education Policy on 29th July 2019 which is considered to be the biggest reform and revolution in the education sector after the 1983 education policy. The New Education Policy 2020 envisions an education to be student-centric, multidisciplinary, technologically advanced and holistic to transform India sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society and to meet the requirement and demands of 21st century India this policy is entitled to eliminate pedagogical loopholes problems structural inequalities, access asymmetries and bring reform from early childhood level to higher education to transform India into Global super knowledge power. It aims to achieve twin objective of inclusion and excellence. ("New Education Policy Aims to Achieve Twin Objectives of Inclusion, Excellence," 2020) The NEP 2020 introduced very important facets in the education system like flexibility in courses, multiple entry and exit, multi-disciplinary approach, vocational education, Choice Based Credit System and digital education. Most of the path-breaking and transformative reforms in the Indian education system proposed in NEP 2020 have been of great importance but some pertinent points, learnt over time and experience and more currently during the covid-19 pandemic which cannot be overlooked is the use of ICT in the education system. In the era of globalisation and technological revolution all over the world has gone through a tremendous change and witnessed a huge transition from a traditional way of life to a technology-driven lifestyle. Nowadays technology has become an integral part of society, In the last decade internet communication and Technology have been among the most important Global development. Education has been the key sphere to benefit from this. In the 21st century world, the need for Internet, digitalization, and ICT in the sector of education has been growing rapidly, it has taken a leap during the covid-19 pandemic when all educational institutions were forced to shut due to lockdown, in this period of academic institutions shifted from the traditional way of learning to E-learning. This step has given birth to the digitalization of education in India. Over the last decade India has been

transforming itself into an information-intensive society in this regard this policy is playing a crucial role in steering the education system stating that “extensive use of technology in teaching and learning, removing language barriers. increasing access as well as education planning and management .(NEP 2020, 2020) (editor, 2020)The NEP 2020 working towards making the education system is more skilful, holistic and sustainable that focuses on employability through skilling.

**Objective:-**

1. To study the evolution of Digital Education in India
2. To analyse the role of NEP 2020 in promotion of Digital education.

**Methodology :-**

In this research paper ,data and information is gathered through secondary sources, newspaper articles, journals, internet sources , research papers and NEP2020 policy documents and thorough descriptive analysis has been performed.

**NEP 2020 and Online education**

The NEP 2020 has been implemented with the aim to foster , recognize capability, provide inclusive and flexible ecosystem for developing analytical and critical thinking. The policy emphasises on to create skilful teaching learning environment for preparing students for future endeavours(Muralidharan et al., 2022). According to the NEP 2020, “The main focus of education system is to transform human beings into focused, capable of developing and fostering critical thinking, having empathy, courage, resilience , scientific temper creative imagination, with sound ethical mooring and value. It aims at producing engaged, productive, and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive, plural society as envisaged by our Constitution”(NEP\_Final\_English\_0.Pdf, n.d.)

The policy document NEP 2020 has given special attention to online education. For providing accessible virtual learning for students, various institutions like NIT’s, IIT’s and IGNOU are working to understand the need and demands of students for maximization of benefit of technology driven education. To attain this objective many online websites and platforms like MOOC, SAWAYM, ARPIT, EPGPATHSHALA and DIKSHA are providing e-contents, self-paced courses and assessment aid to all the learners in rural and urban areas and also focuses on creation of public digital and interoperable infrastructure that can be utilised by multiple platforms. NEP 2020 encourages creation of virtual labs where students can explore their theoretical learning through various experiments . It helps teachers to create engaging and

creative session for students. The newly titled Ministry of Education proposes to set up a dedicated unit for promotion of digital learning. This unit will consist of experts from the field of education, educational technology, administration, and e-governance who will focus on E-learning needs of both the school and higher education. It gives more importance to online examination, assessment, teaching and learning.(Singhal et al., 2021)

### ICT in education in India

- In 1984 project named Computer literacy and studies was launched by National Council of Educational Research (NCERT) with cumulative effort of Department of Electronics and Ministry of Human and Resource Development. Under this 42 resource centres established and 25,00 schools were provided with micr-computers.
- Class 2000 in 1993 Under scheme institutions covered including 10,000 schools for computer literacy programme, 1000 schools for the computer assisted learning and 100 schools for the computer based programme.
- In 1994 stalwart step has been taken when ISRO provided the facility of teleconferencing in prominent institution like IGNOU for providing interactive opportunity to learners.(“The History and Usefulness of Online Teaching in India,” n.d.)
- In 2000 this facility of teleconferencing got officially recognised under Gyandarshan Platform.
- In 2005, a revolutionary step taken in education system by launching EDUSET satellite designed by APJ Abdul Kalam with the help of ISRO and MHRD.
- National Policy on information and communication technology in school education , 2012 aimed to devise, catalyse , support and sustain ICT enabled activities and processes in order to improve access, quality and efficiency in the school system.(*Revised\_policy Document OfICT.Pdf*, n.d.)
  1. ICT for literacy and competency enhancement
  2. ICT enabled teaching learning processes- smart classrooms, EDUSAT and DTH-enabled terminals.
  3. ICT for skill development.
  4. ICT for children with special needs.
  5. Digital resources
  6. Capacity building
- The New Education Policy 2020 caters to provide accessible and inclusive education to all by bridging the gap between quality content and learners through flexible learning

environment. by recognising the importance of technology and digitalisation of education. As the world is witnessing global technology witnessed, it is need of time to digitally empower education system by updating curriculum and pedagogy, assessment pattern.

### **The New Education Policy 2020 and Provisions for digital education**

We are living in the age of technological revolution , everyday we are introduced to new innovation, smartphone, advanced version of computer, laptops ,gadgets different ,websites and platforms for interaction , shopping , education etc. People use internet , smartphones and apps for payment , for ordering food , clothes and for accessing information we are completely dependent on google. It is hard to imagine life without internet and technology. As the society is advancing and moving towards technology driven society, the need for the development of digital skills and literacy is also arises among young generation to enable them with digital skills. The “ Digital India” initiative was launched by Government of India in 2015 to digitally empower citizen by providing plethora of facilities by connecting rural areas with high internet speed. The New Education Policy 2020 is another profound step taken to revitalize education system by instilling in it digitalisation Some important provisions are made under NEP 2020 for augmenting digitalisation in education system in India:-

- **Establishment of NETF(National Educational Technology Forum)** – An autonomous body is formed to improve multidirectional aspects of education and by providing a platform for free exchange of ideas, views on the use of technology for teaching learning, assessment and collaborative learning and also put eloquent efforts for disseminating recent research and innovation.
- **National Research Foundation** – As MHRD is supporting new disruptive technology , this body promotes and accelerated research in technology using Artificial Intelligence
- **DIKSHA/SWAYAM**-To articulate technology in teaching learning process, improving learning and analytical skills of students, upgrading assessment pattern, providing quality content in remote areas and Divyang students, NEP 2020 is devoted to develop and make accessible various software with the help of IGNOU, NCERT, NIOS and other institutions in DIKSHA platform which can be used by teachers, professionals and students.

- **Artificial Intelligence:-** The emphasis has been laid to introduce artificial intelligence in education system for promoting disruptive technological advancement and advancing international research.
- **Content creation, digital repository:-** The main focus of NEP is to create e-content, digital repository , augmented reality and virtual reality based course contents and game and fun based assessment tools and apps for increasing engagement of students.
- **Virtual Labs:-** NEP 2020 is inclined to provide experiential education and learning ecosystem to learner. For achieving this objective various E-learning platforms like SWYAM, DIKSHA, EPGPATHSHALA and SWAYAMPRAKASH is leveraged to provides hands on experimental experience to students.
- **Blended learning :-** During COVID-19 pandemic crisis to continue education , academic institutions adopted E-learning platforms which has opened way for regulation of blended learning , post covid times. Teachers use blended learning model to motivate students for collaborative learning.
- **Online assessment and Examination:-** Now a days , a shift can be observed towards online examination making it more durable and fast result oriented. In this regard bodies like NTA( national testing agency),National assessment centre or PRAKASH etc is employed for assessments of students at various levels.

## Conclusion

Education and technology together create an innovative , advanced , inclusive and equitable ecosystem of learning for new generation. The New Education Policy 2020 a visionary document is based on important pillars of access, affordability, equity, quality and accountability that ensures analytical thinking, research oriented opportunities and collaborative learning to students. It has given push to digitalisation of education that has introduced the concept of E-learning . E-learning has transformed the whole education system by providing quality content, lectures and assessment to learners anytime and anywhere. The digital initiatives by government of India and NEP 2020 recommendations for developing digital infrastructure, digital content and inclusive environment has emerged to create solutions that not only solve India's challenges of scale, diversity, equity, but also evolve in keeping with the rapid changes in technology, whose half-life reduces with each passing year.(NEP 2020, 2020) It has not only reshaped the whole education system but also revitalised it.

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