



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Role of IQAC in Implementation of NEP 2020 in HEIs in India

Dr Gurunath K Badiger

Associate Professor of English

Government First Grade College and PG Centre Dharwad, India

Dr. Uma B Pujar

Associate Professor of Commerce

Government First Grade College and PG Centre Dharwad, India

Abstract:

National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) has been introduced in India in 2021. A lot of changes have been proposed in all levels of primary, secondary and college and university education system. The success of the policy depends on the way the stakeholders take it to the end users. NAAC plays an important role in assessing and accrediting higher education institutes. It also guides IQACs for improvements. IQACs work at institutional level for proper implementation of policy. This paper discusses how IQAC can play a constructive role in proper implementation of NEP 2020 in HEIs in India.

Key words:

Objectives of the study: The primary objective is to study Role of IQAC in implementation of NEP 2020 in HEIs in India.

Research methodology: This research is a descriptive study. The necessary secondary data was collected from various websites including those of Government of India, magazines, journals, other publications, etc. This data was then analyzed and reviewed to arrive at the inferences and conclusions.

Introduction:

The concept of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) was introduced by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an agency established in 1994 by the Government of India by an Act of Parliament to maintain quality in Higher Education sector of the country. The main objective of the IQAC in Higher Education Institution is to ensure quality and excellence for all the stakeholders. It is a mandatory cell which acts as a link between administration and stakeholders of HEIs. As per the 2020 guidelines of NAAC, it envisions 'To make quality the defining element of higher education in India through a combination of self and external quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance initiatives. Any new initiative begins with IQAC in the institution. At present IQAC is mandatory for every Higher Education Institution (HEI) after the first cycle of assessment and accreditation as set by the NAAC and UGC. It is a fact that without NAAC assessment and accreditation no HEI is funded by the Government of India. HEIs are being funded by the Rashtriya Uchchhatar Shiksha Abhiyaan (RUSA) of the Government on the basis of the NAAC accreditation. The introduction of NEP 2020 by the government of India in July 2021, has brought hopes of new changes in the field of education system particularly in the field of higher education. The role of IQAC is very significant in implementation of NEP 2020 in HEIs in India. The present paper attempts an understanding of the essence of NEP 2020 and the role of IQACs in the HEIs of India.

NEP 2020

NEP 2020 document is the product of prolonged dialogues, discussion and feedbacks from various stakeholders from across the country. The aim of NEP is to transformation from India into Bharat- a shift from Macaulay education to Bharat Centric education which would find solutions for the current problems in education system. It focusses on practical and holistic education based on our Ancient Indian Knowledge System mixing with modernity. It is a perfect blend of tradition and modernity. However, India had seen three national education policies. The first National Education Policy of 1968 formulated by the government headed by Mrs Indira Gandhi and the second was introduced in 1986 when Mr Rajiv Gandhi was the prime minister of the country and the same was modified by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao government in 1992. The latest education policy was formulated by Sri Narendra Modi government which was passed in the parliament on 29th July 2020. Hence, it came to be known as NEP 2020.

The NEP 2020 draft policy document envisions “an India-centered education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high quality education to all” NEP 2020 aims at developing self-reliant individual. Hence, the life skills are taught from the primary level itself. There are many improvements suggested in secondary education with national skill curriculum framework beginning at IX standard education. However, the policy focus on higher education is commendable. Following are the major points related to higher education designed to make higher education in par with global standards.

NAAC Accreditation and Assessment System and Role of IQAC

National Assessment and Accreditation Council has developed unique assessment system on the basis of seven broad areas of higher education. There are seven criteria besides obtaining quantitative information about the institution. Templates are also different for colleges and universities although the broad testing is the same. IQAC in HEI is entrusted the work of furnishing information and maintaining records necessary for assessment. The seven criteria are:

Criterion – I: Curricular Aspects

Criterion – II: Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

Criterion – III: Research, Innovations and Extension

Criterion – IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Criterion – V: Student Support and Progression

Criterion – VI: Governance, Leadership and Management

Criterion – VII: Institutional Values and Best Practices

Policies Governing HEIs before NEP 2020

Although NAAC has developed standard system of assessment of HEIs in India, the education system was not fully compatible with parameters required for NAAC. It was difficult for IQAC to answer the questions which are not practiced in the institutions. But NEP 2020 has given opportunities to introduce required courses and planning to make the institution student friendly. Following points empower IQACs to bring about qualitative changes in the HEIs with the support of NEP 2020 policy. Karnataka is the first state to introduce the NEP 2020. The first two years of implementation has given certain inputs which are discussed in this paper.

Curricular Aspects.

NEP 2020 allows a broad-based holistic curriculum for the HEIs. It broadly speaks about the Bharat centric education. Indian Knowledge System is emphasized in the policy. It has reintroduced four-year honors degree in conventional education like BA, B.Com, BSc, BBA, BVA etc. There will be multiple entry and exit options for those who wish to leave the course in the middle. Their credits will be transferred through Academic Bank of Credits. The NAAC questions related to horizontal and vertical mobility are answered in this policy. Students are permitted to move across the disciplines and come back to programmes they have stopped. NEP 2020 empowered universities to change regulations to suit NEP 2020 guidelines. Academic Bank Credits (ABC) system is effectively introduced. The student are given choice to go for both online and offline courses and mix eligible credits with regular programmes.

Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

NEP 2020 speaks about innovative pedagogical practices. Use of modern technology and life learning has been emphasized. Practical based approach is the need of the hour. Experiential learning is promoted through NEP 2020. Quality technology-based options for adult learning such as apps, online courses/modules, satellite-based TV channels, online books, and ICT-equipped libraries and Adult Education Centers, etc. will be developed. MOOCs and E-Content are encouraged. The formative and summative assessment system has been changed. Karnataka introduced 40/60 method. 40% of marks are allotted for internal assessment (Formative) whereas 60% marks are allotted for summative assessment system. The idea is to give more opportunity for experiential learning and encourage continuous evaluation system. IQAC can encourage departments by organizing group discussions, round table conferences and meets to discuss new changes in the teaching, learning and evaluation system.

NEP 2020 has encouraged use of technology at all levels of education. Technology will be part of education planning, teaching, learning, assessment, teacher, school, and student training. The e-content to be available in regional languages, starting with 8 major languages – Kannada, Odia, Bengali among others to join the e-courses available in Hindi and English. IQAC can facilitate use of resources available in different languages.

Research, Innovation and Extension:

NEP 2020 emphasized the need for research at all levels of education. Teacher research and student research are both encouraged. Research and development (R&D) is the need of the hour. For the first time, student research is greatly emphasized in the policy. The four year honors programmes have research components in the fourth year courses. Research methodology and dissertations have been introduced. Those who have done dissertation in the fourth year are permitted to take admission for Ph.D programme under this scheme. This will encourage research at the college level. IQAC can strengthen research centres at the college level. College teachers are now given guideship to guide Ph.D students. Because of Skill Enhancement Courses and Internships, extension activities are naturally encouraged. IQAC can play a major role in implementing these new guidelines at the college level.

Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Infrastructure plays a very important role in implementing any policy in the institution. NEP 2020 policy encourage multi-disciplinary courses, which demand more classrooms and laboratories. Even arts students can opt open elective from science or engineering discipline. There is huge inflow of students from different streams. To accommodate new changes, institutions have to develop physical infrastructure. IQAC has to ensure the development of required infrastructure to facilitate teaching and learning and research activities in the college. Learning resources particularly to update the libraries with new learning resources is also challenge for institutions. IQAC has to guide the institution in upgrading the necessary infrastructure and learning resources.

Student Support and Progression

Student support and progression in HEIs include the mechanism available for students to support learning and career planning. NEP 2020 provide skill-based education. It is necessary to integrate all the necessary skills for better education. In the new system, sports, cultural, NSS, NCC, Yoga, YRC and other cocurricular activities are considered for credits. Two credits in each semester are allotted for SEC and value-based education. It encourages the best talent in the student. IQAC has a responsibility to create awareness and ensure proper implementation of the courses.

Governance, Leadership and Management;

There will be major changes in the governance, leadership and management system suggested in the draft document. Institutional autonomy has been emphasized for better quality and excellence. All HEIs will be autonomous in the phase wise period. There will be a great competition as the institutions from all over the world can compete with Indian universities. Foreign universities are permitted to set-up campuses in India.

Admissions to HEIs are proposed to be done through CET. The common Entrance exam for all higher education institutes to be held by National Testing Agency (NTA). However, the exam will be optional for certain programmes. NEP 2020 emphasizes to deliver high quality higher education with equity and inclusion, with nurturing of qualities like goodness, creativity, being humane. Both traditional and modern world views and values are to be taken into consideration. There is a stress on multidisciplinary education and introduction of large multidisciplinary colleges and universities.

Institutional Values and Best Practices

Institutional Values and Best Practices is one of the parameters to assess the quality of the HEI. It studies institutional values line gender equity and inclusiveness. Environment friendly programmes and practices are taken into consideration. The best practice should be unique and community friendly. NEP 2020 policy provides a lot of such opportunities for institution to practice and IQAC has a greater role to play in exploring the best best practices.

Conclusion:

Any policy is successfully implemented when all the stakeholders participate with a positive attitude. Policies are framed with best intention. NEP provides many such innovative changes in higher education system. It will be better implemented at grassroot level when all HEIs understand the policy properly. To create better understanding of the policy, IQAC is the best coordinating cell in any HEI. Hence, the role of IQAC is very significant in implementation of NEP 2020 in Higher Education Institutions.

Works Cited:

1. NEP 2020 draft guidelines: [Draft_NEP_2019_EN_Revised.pdf \(education.gov.in\)](#)
2. NAAC IQAC guidelines : <http://naac.gov.in/index.php/en/2-uncategorised/68-guidelines>

