



Skill-Based Education Under NEP2020 Initiative And Its Challenges

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Abstract: Education plays a vital role in creating values in a society and it is critical for future generations to uphold the value of skill education, which can generate capabilities, capacities, and a completely new experience of acquiring required skill sets that can lead to financial independence while also increasing economic growth. NEP 2020 encourages integrating traditional learning methods with vocational courses to enhance the employability of the students to meet the demands of the industry while keeping the quality of education intact. Integration of vocational education, multidisciplinary studies, apprenticeships and internships and entrepreneurship education were some of the key initiatives under NEP 2020. However, inspite of NEP 2020's elaborate measure to introduce skill based education in the Indian educational system, the following are the possible challenges skill-based education under NEP 2020 initiative could face- lack of necessary funding, inadequate infrastructure in most institutions, **need for skilled trainers**, institution and industry linkage **need technological assistance**.

Keywords: Skill based education, NEP 2020, employability, entrepreneurship

A. INTRODUCTION

Learning is a life-long activity; but, can studying with a lack of drive and aspirations help young learners and their minds thrive and succeed in life today? Education plays a vital role in creating values in a society and it is critical for future generations to uphold the value of skill education, which can generate capabilities, capacities, and a completely new experience of acquiring required skill sets that can lead to financial independence while also increasing economic growth. Keep this in mind the government of India has formulated the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) with an aim to embark on life skills education for every stage of education beginning from primary till higher education.

NEP 2020 encourages integrating traditional learning methods with vocational courses to enhance the employability of the students to meet the demands of the industry while keeping the quality of education intact. The paradigm shift in higher education institutions for introducing life skills education was to empower students to connect with good skills through easily accessible education.

B. Skill Based Education and its significance

Skill Based Education is a process of learning that is assimilated with knowledge and hands on experiences. Skill based is focussed at developing an individual perceptive thinking and decision making skills while incorporating values in life as well as developing creativity. Skill-based education integrates practical learning to help students develop personal and professional skills that will equip them for a competitive environment. Skill based education is an offshoot of expression New Education Policy which further gained momentum with the introduction of NEP 2020. With the growing need for more applied knowledge and skill based education system, it is felt essential for the system of learning to be more pragmatic and experience based. The need and significance of skill based education are further elaborated below:

- Skill based education will prepare individual students to face the future and learn the art of self-employment. In this aspect learning should be connected to practical learning environment which will enhance their skill and further convert them into effective human resources.
- Skill based education will motivate students with weaker academic performances to improve themselves and explore opportunities that open the gateway for them to choose vocation of their choice for employability as well as self-sufficiency.
- Skill-based education can help students build networking and communication skills, as they become more aware of effective marketing and advertising strategies through digital technologies.
- Skill-based education allows students to discover their talents and interests through various vocations and activities offered through courses. Furthermore, it will offer students an idea of the many employment alternatives.
- Collaboration among students, teachers and associated industries can foster knowledge exchange and innovation. This will give students the opportunity to be exposed to a working environment while also gaining practical knowledge and awareness of the real world.

C. Skill Based Education and NEP 2020

A number of Skill Based Education has been introduced under NEP 2020 with an aim to enhance practical skills and promoting all round approach to education. The following are the key initiatives under NEP 2020:

➤ **Integration of Vocational Education:**

The policy focus on the importance of Vocational education and promotes integration of vocational education to the regular curriculum to help the students graduate with skills that will make them ready for the labor market.

➤ **Multidisciplinary Studies:**

NEP 2020 encourages cross disciplinary studies and interactions of diverse areas of studies. This will give opportunity to students from different backgrounds to interact and explore subjects beyond the conventional streams. This is with an aim to foster the prospect of holistic approach to education which will further cater to the need to diverse academic qualifications.

➤ **Apprenticeships and Internships:**

With the intent to further promote Skill based learning, NEP 2020 also encourages apprenticeship and internships so as to help students acquire the necessary skills on business and enterprising. Through this policy, the students will be given an opportunity to undertake an internship with local businesses and acquire hands on experience while they are still doing the regular course.

➤ **Entrepreneurship Education:**

One of NEP 2020 primary focus is on entrepreneurship education. This is with the aim to promote the entrepreneurial outlook among the students. To further achieve this goal, the policy encourages the institutions to incorporate entrepreneurial courses in their curriculum with the objective of cultivating innovative and creativity temperament.

D. Skill Based Education and its challenges:

NEP 2020 have proposed an elaborate measure to introduce Skill Based Education in the Indian Educational System, however, the efforts of the NEP towards incorporating Skill Based Education and traditional educational system will be faced with the following challenges:

➤ **Lack of necessary Funding:**

One of the major hurdle Skill Based Education is foreseen to face is lack of necessary funding. Skill based learning will call for investment on the setting up necessary infrastructure to accommodate the course for the benefit of the students.

➤ **Inadequate Infrastructure in most institutions:**

Skill based education demands for additional facilities such as laboratories, computer, workspace, power supply, machineries etc. Hence, it can be challenging for weaker and smaller institutions especially in the rural areas.

➤ **Need for Skilled trainers:**

Skill based Education further demands for skilled trainers. Unlike the regular course, skill based courses are to be taught by highly trained teachers. Hence, one of the primary task is looking for the trainer with the right set of skills who will do justice to the given assignment.

➤ **Institution and industry linkage:**

There is a need for creating a link between industry and the institutions providing the Skill based courses. As without such linkage, there is lesser prospect of getting gainful employment even after acquiring those skills.

➤ **Need technological assistance:**

For the success of Skill based Courses, the institutions are needed to be fully equipped with the necessary technological infrastructure. However it may not be feasible for all the institutions to be equipped with the basic technology for the successful implementation of the desired skill based courses.

E. Conclusion

However, despite of the above cited challenges, Skill based education is undoubtedly the future of Indian Educational System. NEP 2020 with its aim to bring about a paradigm shift have made an elaborate proposal and challenges the institutions to push their limits and experience a new mode of teaching and learning which is more towards pragmatism than theorization. However, the success of the policy is yet to be fully realized as it is still in an infant state. Nevertheless, with the right efforts, Skill based Education have the scope of shaping the ordinary students into effective human resources.

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