



TEACHER EDUCATION IN INDIA UNDER THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Abstract:

NEP 2020 is first education policy of the 21st century and the success or to his 34-year-old National Policy on Education(NPE) is 1986. NEP 2020 is the third National Education Policy launched by the government of India on July 29, 2020. The Ministry of Human Resource Development solidified a commission made by former ISRO chairman Dr.K.Kasturirangan, who defined the vision of Indias new education system. The New Education Policy discourse challenge the current education system expressions similar to Quality, Affordability, Equity, Access, and Accountability. Aiming to make both School and university education more inclusive, flexible and interdisciplinary to meet the needs of the 21st century, and to highlight the unique abilities of each student, we aim to bring India to a vibrant knowledge base. NEP aims to increase the focus on strengthening teacher training, reforming the existing exam system, early childhood Care and restructuring the regulatory framework of education. The present study aims to critically dissect the opportunities and challenges of NEP 2020 regarding teacher education. The present study is qualitative. The data have been collected by using secondary sources. The secondary data were collected through Article, Journal, Research Paper, Official reports and publications(report of GOI, NEP-2020 final draft) Website and govt.reports, e-book, Research project etc. The findings of the study revealed factors like lack of quality teacher training Institutes, upgrading curriculum and pedagogical approaches, ensuring quality in teacher recruitment and selection, bridging the gap between theory and practical exposure, embracing technological integration in teacher education, poor learning outcomes and teacher quality etc. are the current challenges faced by teacher education programs. The NEP on Teacher Education will focus on enhancing the quality of teacher education and present the teacher education system in a world-class context by overcoming these challenges.

Keyterms: Teacher Education, NEP-2020, Opportunities and Challenges, Quality Education.

INTRODUCTION

Teacher Education is an important program to effective the quality of school education. Teacher Education to prepare teacher all levels of education namely Pre-primary, Primary, Elementary, Secondary, Higher Secondary and the Tertiary. The Teacher are greatest facilitators of the learning. The focus of a 21st century teacher is on student by developing higher order thinking skills, effective communication, collaboration and other skills that they need in the 21st century. To create such learners we need to take our teaching and learning above and beyond the basics of knowledge sharing to embracing the 4c's as they call it the "super skills" for the 21st century (Baral, Mandi, & Chowdhury, 2023). NEP 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and the success or to his 34-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE) in 1986. Aiming to make both School and University education more inclusive, flexible and interdisciplinary to meet the needs of the 21st century, and to highlight the unique abilities of each student, we aim to bring India to a vibrant knowledge base. Transform society into a global knowledge superpower. NEP aims to increase the focus on strengthening teacher training, reforming the existing exam system, early childhood care and restructuring the regulatory framework of education. Teacher Education as a whole urgent and comprehensive reform. Teacher Education has always been an important component of education since time immemorial. This is because all societies in the world always needed teachers to transmit their cultures from one generation to another. Teachers need to be seen as creators of knowledge and thinking professionals. A teacher needs to be an information provider, role model, facilitator, assessor, planner, resource and developer. Teacher is a facilitator, is a friend, and is a philosopher. The purpose of teacher education programme should be to develop in each student his general education and personal culture, his ability to teach and educate others, an awareness of the principles which underlines good human relations and a sense of the responsibility to contribute both by teaching and leading as an example to social, cultural and economic progress (Babu, 2023). Education is considered as the basic foundation for the development of the nation from all perspectives. Country cannot be developed to its extent until and unless it impacts education to all its citizens irrespective of caste, creed, sex, religion, etc. (Das, & Subudhi, 2025). The present study aims to critically dissect the recommendation and challenges of NEP 2020 regarding teacher education. India has always been a destination for learners all around the world. Teachers are indeed the backbone of our society. Teaching is a non-binding activity at school but also outside the school. They bring changes and make reforms in our society. The quality of education depends a lot on the teacher especially the teacher training and the teaching of leader depends on the teacher education program. Qualities for teachers can be born or can be found in the right way through education and training by developing knowledge, attitude, morality, and ability (Mahanta, 2023). The purpose of teacher education programme should be to develop in each student his general education and personal culture, his ability to teach and educate others, an awareness of the principles which underlines good human relations and a sense of the responsibility to contribute both teaching and leading as an example to social, cultural and economic progress.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Das, I.& Subudhi, S.C.(2025) Was studied on the research paper, "*Challenges of Teacher Education in India with reference to Implement of ICT*". Descriptive method has been adopted for the study. The research is based on Secondary sources of data and observation method. This paper is theoretically analytical in nature. Here, the data are being collected from government reports, Journals, books, official websites, etc. As the study was based on personal observation, it is also exploratory in nature. NEP 2020 also stated that carefully design and appropriately scaled pilot studies to determine the benefits of online/digital education. The existing digital platform and ongoing Ict based educational initiative must be optimised and expended to meet the current and future challenges in providing equality education for all.

Mohanty, S., Mishra, A.,& Pradhan, P.(2024) Was studied on the research paper, "*Towards Quality Teachers, Quality Education: Challenges and Opportunities in Indian Teacher Education Under NEP-2020*". The new education policy framework aims to provide quality education to every learner as well as the whole country and to highlight Indians education in a world-class context. The objective of the paper focuses on various challenges faced by teacher education programs that hinder the quality of education. The present study was conducted through qualitative in nature. This study follows the content analysis techniques are used to analyze various challenges faced by teacher education programs. The findings of the study revealed factors like lack of quality teacher training Institutes, upgrading curriculum and pedagogical approaches, ensuring quality in teacher recruitment and selection, bridging technological integration in teacher education, poor learning outcomes and teacher quality, etc. are the current challenges faced by teacher education programs.

Mahanta, B.(2023) Was studied on the research paper, "*Recommendations and Challenges of Teacher Education in NEP-2020*". The present study aims to critically dissect the recommendation and challenges of NEP 2020 regarding teacher education. The study was conducted on qualitative method. The data has been collected through colorful sources i.e., Journals, reports, print media, and other government websites. The result of the study was conducted through the NEP will play an important role in taking the education system to a new level and is extremely important in maintaining the quality of the education system. Teacher Education will enhance the quality of teacher education and present the teacher education system in a world-class environment, with openings, challenges & some formative suggestions by the investigators for enforcing the recommendations of teacher education.

Baral, G., Mandi, C.,& Chowdhury, R.R.(2023) Was studied on the research paper, "*Teacher Education in India 21st Century of Higher Education System: Issues and Measure, Challenges in Relevant Aspect of Present Situation*". Teacher is the key role and most important element in the educative process. Because his personality has a very vital influence on the pupils learning, behaviour, manners and motivation and above all his character and personality. The present study was conducted through qualitative descriptive method. In this study the data have been collected by using secondary sources. The secondary data were collected through internet, book's and literature. The results shows that education plays a significant role in nation's development but the quality of education is greatly determined by the quality of teachers, therefore, great efforts were made and skills are being made to improve the quality of teacher education.

Babu, M.R.(2023) Was studied on the research paper, "*NEP 2020: Issues and Challenges Ahead in Teacher Education*". NEP aims to increase the focus on strengthening teacher training, reforming the existing exam system, early childhood Care and restructuring the regulatory framework of education. The purpose of teacher education programme should be to develop in each student his general education and personal culture, his ability to teach and educate others, an awareness of the principles which underlines good human relations and a sense of the responsibility to contribute both teaching and learning as an example to social, cultural and economic progress. Teachers have to recognise/understand children needs & their requirements, deficiencies, weakness, difficulties, problems & strengths etc. to make teaching & learning more interesting and qualitative. This paper discusses the issues and challenges faced by teacher education.

Singh, L.& Shakir, M.(2019) Was studied on the research paper, "*Teacher Education: Issues and Concerns in Current Scenario*". In this study try to identify on going changes in the social, cultural, economic and political environment, the drastic change is required in the teacher education so that teachers could raise their standard with the changing needs of the society. And also observed that private institutions lack adequate physical infrastructure and produce a large number of incompetent teachers. Moreover, the gap in demand and supply of teachers also has created a major problem. Thus, quality teachers are the key factors in achieving sustainable global development. In the current scenario, various other problems also have emerged in the teacher education field like the substandard methods of teaching, outdated curriculum, the problem of supervision, inadequate empirical research, profit orientation of education, etc. The restructuring curriculum of teacher education programme needs to be revised according to the changing needs of the society.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Teacher are very important in the overall development of any nation through their impact the educational system. Teacher education institutions are expected to create committed and dedicated teachers, teacher educators in real sense. Today, Educational Institutions fail to maintain the teaching-learning climate. The role of teacher today is that of a friend, philosopher and guide, while his prime responsibility rests in the restoration of the higher values of life among the present generation. Teacher plays a vital role to develop the value among children to be good human beings. Teacher Education should make teacher trainees need to know human nature. With loving attention and care one can bring out the positive human values in child. This paper has examined the teacher education reforms proposed under NEP 2020 through a balanced lens, highlighting both the transformative opportunities they present and the significant concerns that accompany their implementation. The government also plans to introduce new Competency based approaches to teacher education and training. The policy aims to improve the quality of teacher training at universities by ensuring that all teachers are trained in the latest pedagogical practices and classroom technologies. The objective of the paper focuses on various challenges faced by teacher education programs that hinder the quality of education. The findings of the study revealed factors like lack of quality teacher training Institutes, upgrading curriculum and pedagogical approaches, ensuring quality in teacher recruitment and selection, bridging the gap between theory and practical exposure, embracing technological integration in teacher education, poor learning outcomes and teacher quality, etc. are the current challenges faced by teacher education programs.

The new National Education Policy on Teacher Education will focus on enhancing the quality of teacher education and present the teacher education system in a world-class context by overcoming these challenges.

OBJECTIVES

1. To Identify the Challenges of Teacher Education in NEP-2020.
2. To Analyse the Opportunities Created for Teacher Education in India under the NEP-2020.
3. To Provide the Recommendation of NEP 2020 Regarding Teacher Education.
4. To Investigate the impact of technological advancement and changing educational trends on teacher education programs and practices.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ❖ What are the Challenges of Teacher Education in National Education Policy 2020?
- ❖ What are the Opportunities that the NEP 2020 has Created for Teacher Education in India?
- ❖ What are the Recommendations of the NEP 2020 Regarding Teacher Education?
- ❖ How do the changing educational landscape and technological advancement impact teacher education programs?

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present paper is a documentary study and qualitative in nature. In this study the data have been collected by using secondary sources. The secondary data were collected through Article, Journal, Research Paper, Official reports and publications (report of GOI, NEP-2020 final draft), Website and govt. reports, e-book, Research project etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Data analysis the major process that is required to be effectively implemented. After the collection of data, the data was organized, analyzed, and given proper interpretation on basis of the objectives on the study. The data was analyzed and given proper interpretation on the basis of the objectives of the study, which are given below:

What are the Challenges of Teacher Education in National Education Policy 2020?

Challenges of Teacher Education in NEP 2020 are:

- Lack of Quality Teacher Institutes: Inadequate number of high-quality teacher training Institutes that can effectively deliver the update curriculum and pedagogical practices envisioned in NEP 2020.
- Trained Teacher Educators: These multidisciplinary institutions will need to hire specific subject professors and teacher educators depending upon the requirement. Teacher educators need to teach specific age groups (std.-12 passed teenagers). Reduction in entry-level qualification (graduate level to std 12th) needs to be considered and training should be given accordingly to teacher educators.

- **Lack of Innovation and Creativity:** Creativity plays an important role while performing any task. But this factor is ignored while delivering knowledge in teacher education programs today.
- **Poor Learning Outcomes and Teacher Quality:** One of the major Challenges in teacher education is the poor learning outcomes in Indian classrooms. The NEP 2020 acknowledges that this is often a result of inadequate teacher education, recruitment, deployment, and service conditions. The policy emphasize the need to improve the quality of teachers by enhancing their training, skills, and motivation.
- **Strengthening Continuous Professional Development:** Sustaining ongoing professional development opportunities for in-service teachers to keep pace with evolving educational policies, methodologies, and research findings.
- **Embracing Technological Integration in Teacher Education:** Incorporating technology-enabled learning and digital literacy into teacher education programs to equip educators with the skills necessary for digital classrooms and online instruction.
- **Ensuring Quality in Teacher Recruitment:** Maintaining rigorous standards for teacher recruitment and selection processes to ensure that competent and dedicated individuals are chosen for teacher education programs.

What are Opportunities that the NEP 2020 has Created for Teacher Education in India?

The New Education Policy 2020 is a great opportunity for teacher education to rethink its role in the education ecosystem. It aims to transform the country into a global competitive knowledge economy by improving quality of education. The New Education Policy 2020 is a welcome step in the right direction, and it should be seen as an opportunity for teacher education. The way education is provided, accessed, and perceived could all improve as a result of the changes. The following are significant areas for change within the NEP 2020 framework:

- **Flexibility in Education:** With the advent of subject and course choice freedom, students can now follow their passions and interests. Because of this flexibility, learning routes may be tailored to each student's interests and strengths.
- **Continuous Professional Development for Teachers:** The emphasis on ongoing professional development is a chance to equip educators with current pedagogical knowledge, instructional strategies, and technological integration. Effective NEP 2020 implementation and high-quality instruction are mostly dependent on having teachers with the necessary training.
- **Technology Integration for Enhanced Learning:** The NEP 2020 focus on technology integration creates chances for cutting-edge instructional strategies, online learning environments, and digital resources. In addition to improving accessibility, this can help provide interactive learning opportunities and get kids ready for the digital age.

- **Holistic Development Emphasis:** The emphasis on holistic development offers a chance to foster students social, emotional, and ethical growth in addition to their academic growth. Combining principles, experience learning, and life skills can help people become well-rounded, capable of handling obstacles they may face in the real world.
- **Multidisciplinary Learning:** Empathizing with pupils on a social, and ethical level is made possible by the emphasis on holistic development. Well-rounded people who can handle obstacles in the real world can be produced by combining life skills, values, and experiential learning.
- **Assessment Reforms for skill Evaluation:** The chance to abandon rote memorization and concentrate on assessing practical skills, critical thinking, and knowledge application arises from the shift toward competency-based assessments. This may result in an assessment procedure that is more pertinent and meaningful.

How do the changing educational landscape and technological advancement impact teacher education programs?

Technological advancements and evolving educational trends have transformed teacher education and classroom practice from foundational pedagogy to dynamic, tech-infused, learner-centred ecosystems. Technological advancements like AI, VR, and digital platforms are transforming teacher education from traditional instruction to a "guide on the side" model emphasizing digital competence, personalized learning, and interactive, data-driven pedagogy. Some of the technological advancements changing the educational trends in teacher education programs as per NEP 2020 are as follows:

- **Technological Competence:** Teacher training now necessitates proficiency in digital tools, data analytics, and virtual reality to enhance classroom engagement and efficiency.
- **Simulation Based Training:** Using simulations to boost teacher confidence and classroom management skills.
- **Globalized Content Access:** Leveraging digital platforms for real-time information and global connectivity.
- **Curriculum Adaptation:** Programs are increasingly incorporating simulations and online, blended learning models to prepare educators for modern, flexible classrooms.
- **Pedagogical shift:** The role of the teacher is evolving into a facilitator, with a greater focus on student-centered interactive learning environment.
- **Pre-service Teacher Education:** The NEP 2020 recommends the development of a National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education(NCFTE 2021) to guide all teacher education, both pre-service and in-service. This framework will cover teachers working in academic, vocational, and special education streams. It aims to provide a comprehensive and standardized approach to teacher education, ensuring that teachers are well-prepared to meet the diverse needs of students.

What are the Recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020 Regarding Teacher Education?

It is important to note that the NEP 2020 recognizes these challenges and proposes reforms to address them. The policy aims to improve teacher education, attract talented individuals to the teaching profession, and create a more inclusive and equitable education system in India.

- The government wants to move away from a "teacher training" model to one that focuses on "teacher education". This will require a lot of changes in the way teachers are trained, including the curriculum and how it is designed.
- New and innovative techniques can be used for the transaction of the curriculum. The teacher education program should be modified so that teachers are equipped for the different roles and functions imposed by new technologies.
- The government has set itself an ambitious goal of improving the quality of teacher education. They want to ensure that all teachers are well-trained and knowledgeable about their subjects. This means that teachers need to have a deep understanding of the content they teach, as well as how students learn best.
- Teachers should be able to think critically make the right decisions and maintain harmonious relations with others.
- The curriculum needs to be revised and updated. This can be a lengthy process, especially considering that it has not been updated since the 1990s. Teachers need to be well-trained in the subjects they teach.
- Teachers should train about stress management mechanisms so that they could help students in managing their stress and sustaining themselves in this time of social isolation, parental pressure, etc.
- There is a need for a specific time frame for the improvement of private teacher education institutes and those teacher educational institutions which are weak in terms of infrastructure and teaching equipment.
- Techniques used in teaching should develop a habit of self-learning and reduce dependence on teachers. It will help them to reflect on their own and do something new.

CONCLUSION

Education gives a new shape to the individual and the nation as well. It is a well-known saying that a teacher is a nation-builder. No doubt a lot of stress is given to teacher education courses in India. Unfortunately, still, there are several loopholes in the system. The NEP 2020 presents a progressive road map for transforming teacher education in India. National Education Policy will play an important role in taking the education system to a new level and is extremely important in maintaining the quality of education system. It will help to present the education system of India in an outstanding context. The findings of the study revealed factors like lack of quality teacher training Institutes, upgrading curriculum and pedagogical approaches, ensuring quality in teacher recruitment and selection, bridging the gap between theory and practice exposure,

embracing technological integration in teacher education, poor learning outcomes and teacher quality, etc. are the current challenges faced by teacher education programs. The NEP on Teacher Education will focus on enhancing the quality of teacher education and present the teacher education system in a world-class context by overcoming this challenges.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- ❖ The study will be delimited to Teacher Education in India under the NEP 2020 only.
- ❖ The study will be delimited to Secondary Sources of data only.

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