

# Critical Appraisal of National Education Policy 2020 with Special Reference to Research and Development

Farheen Rafat, Sayedil Islam

Research Scholar, Department of Education, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India

## ABSTRACT

Education was regarded as one of the basic sectors of the economy and due importance was given to it in all five-year plans. Research, with the virtue of its broad perspective, is it essentially imperative in every field of life. The education is no exception to it. The various commission and policies initiated by the Government of India have emphasized to enhance quality education focusing on the different aspects of education. The National Education Policy 2020 is another effort in this direction, which contemplates transmuting nation into a vibrant knowledge society through high-quality education for all. The purpose of this paper is to critically analyze National Education Policy 2020. The main focus is research and development, with several recommendations highlighting the importance of research activities, also recommends for the establishment of the National Research Foundation. National Research Foundation recommends in NEP 2020 to enhance the quality and quantity of research. Although much has been focused still remain some areas which need more attention. This paper establishes the relation between the recommendations and present status of research; it also brings the future perspective for the same.

**KEYWORDS:** National Education Policy, Research and Development, NRF

Corresponding Author: Sayedil Islam ([sayedilsir@gmail.com](mailto:sayedilsir@gmail.com))

## INTRODUCTION

Education is the method to facilitate learning, obtain knowledge, skills value, beliefs and habits. Paulo Fiere (1973) defined education as "banking" making deposits of knowledge. John Dewey (1916) called "process of living". Thus, education helps us to build opinions, to have a broader perspective towards life.

Education is the most important factor in the development of the nation. No nation without an educated citizen can lead itself on the path of development. Thus, all countries are regardless of their national wealth plan to draw more and benefits through education (World Economic Forum 2015). According to OECD reports (2015) with access to education and skills to participate in society every child will boost GDP about 28% per annum in lower-income countries. Education has a broader perspective. In this era of science and technology, the rate of growth has been increasing with a much greater pace. This has brought a great transformation in the system of education. In order to provide quality education among the student's research and development becomes a critical aspect.

Research is a combination experience and reasoning and regarded as the most successful way to discover truth" (Borg, 1963, as cited in Cohan, Manion, & Morrison, 2000). Research and Development refers to the innovative practices for the development of new services or products or to improve existing services and products. According to Business Dictionary, research and development are defined as "systematic activity combining both basic and applied

research, and aimed at discovering solutions to problems or creating new goods and knowledge." In other words, it is a process through which solutions of the existing problems are identified with the implementation of established theories or developing new theories.

In the field of education research and development activities is the both the process and the product. It involves a number of steps. Thus research and development is a design through which educational products are produced to improve the quality of the teaching-learning process. The results of research and development in the field of education will help to develop innovative teaching strategies that will result in better student achievement. In order to pace up the Indian Education system with the global system, the Government of India had made numerous efforts in the form of various commissions and policies from time to time. In post-independent India, the Indian Government had made a radical reconstruction in the structure of education acknowledging the vital role of research in education in the progress of the country. In order to achieve the global standards research had been one of the major areas of focus. On the basis of recommendations given by the Kothari Commission National Policy on Education (1968) was formulated to bring a uniform pattern of education all over the country. This recommended for the strengthening of the research both in the field of science and technology and higher education level. After 20 years NEP (1986) was formulated with the aim to remove disparities prevailing in

**How to cite this paper:** Farheen Rafat | Sayedil Islam "Critical Appraisal of National Education Policy 2020 with Special Reference to Research and Development"

Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-5 | Issue-3, April 2021, pp.114-116, URL: [www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd38711.pdf](http://www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd38711.pdf)



IJTSRD38711

Copyright © 2021 by author(s) and International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development Journal. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)



the education system and to equalize the educational opportunities for all. This has brought a tremendous change in the system of education in India but there lie some flaws in the NPE 1986 which had been overcome with the introduction of Plan of Action (1992). Although all these policies mean to deal with some specific purpose research and development had been given due importance but among all the horizon of research and development had been limited to professional or higher education. Although these policies proved to be a great success rapid advancements in technological society require more development in the field of education.

### CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The NEP 2020 has given much emphasis on the development of quality and quantity of research in India. With a mention of the status of Indian research activities, the draft outlined the major obstacles in research activities. In order to remove these obstacles, the draft envisioned to enhance the research activities in-country to develop it as a sustaining vibrant economy.

Analyzing the societal challenges the policy mentioned for the need for interdisciplinary research activities in the country which has not been given much emphasis to date. It also mentions the critical role of government role to enhance the research activities for economic growth.

Recommendation for the establishment of National Research Foundation is to enhance the research activities through funding and mentoring research activities. This is a great initiative in the field of research as due to lack of proper funding facilities major research activities are not taken up which could have been resulted in great interest of the nation. Further, it mentions that various funding agencies which had been working since before will continue to work as before this will enhance the opportunities to take research activities.

It focused on the funding of the research proposal with rigorous peer review. In order to ensure the quality check of the research, this is another great step taken, as through peer review the research proposals will be thoroughly analyzed on the aspect of quality enhancement. It also ensures that the property right of the research will be secured to the researcher only.

In the next part of this, the policy aimed to build research capacity among all universities and colleges all over the country with special emphasis on state universities. In order to achieve this, the draft recommended for appointing a research mentor at all universities in order to enhance the research activities in research activities. If implemented as mentioned this will be of great benefit to those universities where the research activities are not been taken due to lack of proper capacity.

In emphasizes on establishing the beneficial linkages among government, industry, and researchers for fund allocation, quality research in the better interest of the nation. In order to bring out the better development through researches of interest for the nation, the draft recommends for the reestablishment of nonfunctional research cell under government ministries. Establishing linkages between industry and research will result in research activities which will help to find out the thrust areas of the societal needs and will also help to draw the new innovative techniques for better development and production. The links with the

government will help to understand the prevailing societal needs and will further help in formulating policies and programs.

In the last section of this, in order to encourage the quality research activities in the better interest of the nation, the draft recommends for the awards for outstanding researches. It is also recommends for organizing seminars and lectures on the issues of national interest. This will encourage the scholars to get into the issues addressed at lectures and to take up the research on the same. Through this, the research activities will be more inclined towards the national interest.

Through all recommendations, the NEP 2020 had made a great effort to enhance the research activities both in qualitative and quantitative forms. All aspects of research activities are given due emphasis. Although there are many positive recommendations are given for enhancement of research activities at different level catering to the major problems of research.

As it rightly said that every coin has two sides describing that nothing in this World is truly perfect. Everything in this World has some positive as well as some negative aspects. Same is with NEP 2020 along with the many positive aspects it also has some negative aspects too.

Here, with many elaborative talks the draft while bringing attention towards pervading the culture of research and innovation through the establishment of NRF. The draft envisioned for a comprehensive approach to enhance the quality of research in the country starting from the grass-root level (i.e.) from schools through definitive shifts in school curricula but draft lack in recommendations to enhance the research activities at school rather the major focus of research activities is at the higher education level.

If liberal arts are truly a pursuit for the policy, then the National Research Foundation (NRF) is an issue of great concern. Although its purpose is to fund higher education research potential, it does so in the framework of giving preference to the research with respect to streamlining the research funding processes. The policy does not seem to acknowledge the independence of critical research as a vital requisite. In an environment that actively curbs dissent in universities, any critical research which may not cater to current market needs, fit into the socially accepted hierarchy or counter political dispensation will undoubtedly suffer and be side-lined. Further, the autonomy of state HEIs to conduct their research will be curtailed, which is against the federal nature of the Indian Union. Such biases and threats necessitate that there should be no central body (such as NRF) for directing research.

The policy recommends setting up of a National Research Foundation (NRF) to oversee all kinds of research work undertaken in Indian universities. The NRF shall fund and monitor grants proposals across all disciplines and all institutions in India. However, it doesn't describe how grants will be allocated. While discussing about the allocation of the funds the NEP recommends that along with NRF other funding agencies such as DST, DAE, DBT, ICAR, ICMR, UGC and various private and philanthropic organizations, will continue to fund research activities independently according to their priorities and needs. The language used in the policy to describe the mandate of NRF raises a few concerns specifically lays down that the NRF shall prioritize areas of

research that are of “urgent national issues” (point 17.11.b.). It also describes that NRF will act as bridge between researchers and government and industry to make them aware about the urgent needs of country, this again limits the scope of “outstanding research” because delimiting areas of research activities can only lead to a purposeful research not outstanding research. The policy repeatedly used “Recognize outstanding research and progress achieved via NRF funding/mentoring across subjects,” this limits the scope of outstanding research works as here already mentioned with special reference to funding through NRF, hence no importance is given to extensive research activities taken under various national organizations.. This presented the dual status of government on budget allocation for research activities.

## CONCLUSION

National Educational Policy 2020 is the step ahead to strengthen the education system of the country. This policy supposed to bring a tremendous change in whole education system. Recommendations made in draft concerned with every aspect of education system. Although the recommendations of draft seems to be of great importance leading towards economic growth of the country but major recommendations lacking in firm background. In context of research, formulation of National Research foundation will surely be a milestone in field of research. Although the policy focused on divergent aspects to enhance the research activities in while some of the recommendations are like castle in air. NEP is a subject of nation which will affect each and every individual in the country, therefore the government should understand the ground realities before making statements. Some of the subjects need revision while some need addition. As research is a very broad subject with no boundaries, confining its scope will not lead to true growth of the country.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Jain, Radhika. "Thought Leaders of Education in India", *Education Beats Story of Education of India* October 1, 2015
- [2] Why Education Is the Key To Development Børge Brende-  
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/07/why-education-is-the-key-to-development/>
- [3] Arun Mehta -  
<https://www.educationforallindia.com/page49.html>
- [4] Research and Development  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research\\_and\\_development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research_and_development)
- [5] What Is Research and Development (r&d)? Definition and Meaning  
<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/research-and-development-R-D.html>
- [6] Educational Research and Development Loussier -  
<https://www.slideshare.net/ItachiHimikoLoussier/educational-research-and-development>
- [7] What Is Education? A Definition and Discussion  
<http://infed.org/mobi/what-is-education-a-definition-and-discussion/>
- [8] Educational Research in India  
<http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/education/educational-research-in-india/44854>
- [9] Draft National Education Policy Needs to Rethink, Say Science Academies TV Jayan -  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/draft-national-education-policy-needs-rethink-say-science-academies/article28595738.ece>
- [10] The Draft Nep Has a Gender Strategy, but It's an Incomplete One Anusha Jha -  
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/editorials/the-draft-nep-has-a-gender-strategy-but-it-s-an-incomplete-one/story-BzJETdmz1V6uaMiiAt64H0.html>
- [11] National Education Policy on Education (1968)  
[https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/document-reports/NPE-1968.pdf](https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/document-reports/NPE-1968.pdf)
- [12] <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/philosophy/the-role-and-importance-of-educational-research-philosophy-essay.php>