

National Education Policy 2020: A Digital Initiative

Dr. Reena Srivastava

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Education,
National P.G. College, Lucknow

Sagar Pratap Singh

M.A. Student, Dept. of Education, University of Lucknow

Abstract

Education is the pillar of everyone's life. It energizes the person to do something well and to achieve some good in his/her life. Education helps the people starting right from birth to the end. At every moment of our life we need education. So the government decided to make uniformity in our education system and the education policies were made and also updated time to time. In the present time the main focus is the technology in education in terms of development. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020, outlines the vision of India's new education system. The new policy replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986. So, an attempt has been made in this to get the "opinion on the relevance of digital initiatives and innovative techniques in online education with reference to New National Education Policy 2020" and "suggestions for development and enhancement of infrastructure for online education with reference to New National Education Policy 2020" The sample consisted of total 80 people (primary and secondary teachers, higher education teachers, administrators, and students). The responses were collected using Google forms where people provided their suggestion and opinion from which I analyzed that the digital initiatives are the need of the present Digital Scenario and not just in teaching-learning, the technology will be helpful in assessment, planning, administration and more.

Keywords: Digital initiative, National Education policy 2020

Introduction

Post-Independence, India has had three education policies. The first policy was formulated in 1968, in which major emphasis was on compulsory education for children up to the age of 14. While the 1986 policy emphasized on achieving uniformity of education across social groups, it did not account for the competitive global landscape, which became important with the beginning of the globalization of the Indian economy post 1991 reforms. Now after 34 years the education policy has been updated and in the present policy the structure of 5+3+3+4 will be followed in the education

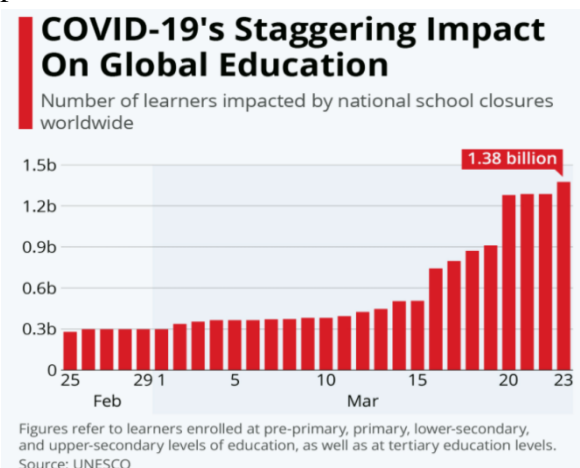
system at different levels. NEP 2020 is also an attempt to balance local and global human resource needs to grow the Indian economy. The differences in both the policies 1986 and 2020 are primarily around three major dimensions, namely, vision of the society, social purpose, and purpose of education. Both the education policies were developed, keeping in mind the structure of society. In a way, the policies of 1986 and 2020 have a vividly distinct idea of Indian society. The new education policy aims at making "India a global knowledge superpower" and it can only be done through

the use of the best infrastructure in our education system that can lead it to another level because an infrastructure is the basic need of any education system through which it can be successful. As I talked about the infrastructure in the education system, our new education policy also focused on it but in this pandemic time, we are more focused on the Digital infrastructure to educate the students. So, our main objective at this time is that we have to adopt this digital war and to accept it for the best future of our education system. "A digital Initiative" is to be started to make our educational policy strong as it aims to make a "knowledge superpower" in the world. In the present time, the digital perspective of education is important as it provides the ease of content to both the teachers and students. Due to technological development, the political economy of the world has undergone revolutionary changes due to which many walls of discrimination like caste, class, culture, woman-men, and geographical distances have been demolished to a great extent.

Over the last decade, India has transformed itself into an 'information intensive society' and there is a growing requirement to embrace the usage of technology in the field of education. In this regard, the Policy notes that one of the central principles steering the education system will be the 'extensive use of technology in teaching and learning, removing language barriers, increasing access as well as education planning and management'.

In this kind of pandemic situation the necessity is that we are ready with alternative modes of quality education when traditional modes of education are not possible. In this regard, the National Education Policy 2020 recognizes the importance and advantages of technology in education and how it can be beneficial for the students. To do this, the existing digital platforms and the ongoing ICT-based educational initiatives must be optimized and to be updated to meet the current and future challenges in providing quality education for all. For online teaching, the teachers require suitable training and development to be effective online educators.

We cannot say that the teacher who indulges in the traditional way of teaching will also be good at online teaching. There are numerous challenges like online examinations, handling of network and power disruptions, online assessment and many more things. Some kinds of courses/subjects such as performing arts and sciences that is practical in nature that cannot be taught properly on the online platform.



The Policy calls for investment in digital infrastructure, development of online teaching platforms and tools, creation of virtual labs and digital repositories, training teachers to become high quality online content creators, designing and implementing of online assessments, establishing standards for content, technology and pedagogy for online teaching-learning. The Policy envisages the creation of a dedicated unit for the purpose of devising the development of digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity building to supervise the e-education needs of both school and higher education.

Objective of the study

- To know the opinions and suggestions of students about the digital initiative in the National education policy 2020.
- To know the opinions and suggestions of teachers about the digital initiative in the National education policy 2020.
- To know the opinions and suggestions of administrators about the digital initiative in the National education policy 2020.

Need and Significance of the study

We have to be focused on technical or digital modes of education by moving away from the traditional education system. We should use technology in the field of education. For this we need more practical teachers as they can handle the students and also teach them to use the right of technology in education. In this view the teachers' mindset is very important as the present generation of students is very much aware about the use of technology but the

teachers' not. So, the views of teachers, administrators as well as students are the milestone for the digital initiative.

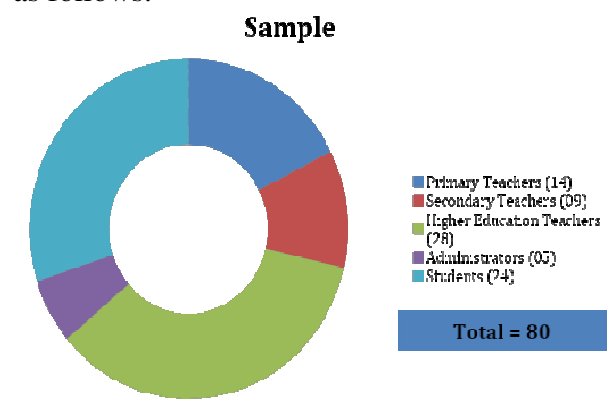
This study will help to know about the perspectives of the digital initiative in future as the technology in education has a great future and every student and teacher need it for the ease of work and also it is the need of the future for all specially in the field of education.

Methodology

The selection of method is very important as per the subject. Hence I have selected the survey method for research study. For this I created a questionnaire using Google forms and circulated it among Teachers, Administrators and Students who live in different locations. I received 80 responses to this e-resource. I evaluated this data using mean and created a graph for its simple analysis followed by opinions and suggestions.

Sample

There are total 80 participants in this survey as follows:



Sampling Technique

The Purposive sampling technique has been used to collect the data.

Tool Used

The questionnaire that was developed by the researcher had two terms to define the result; first one was the opinions about the relevance of digital initiatives and innovative techniques in online education

with reference to National Education Policy 2020 and the second one being the suggestions for development and enhancement of infrastructure for online education with reference to New National Education Policy 2020. For the scoring we used the qualitative data as collected through Google forms.

Scoring:

Table-1

No.	Column 1	Column 2
1.	Primary Teachers	14
2.	Secondary Teachers	09
3.	Higher Education Teachers	28
4.	Administrators	05
5.	Students	24

Analysis:

- It will also increase the Global Citizenship Quality.
- Transparency in education system: At the introductory graduate level (in humanities courses) the teacher should discuss assignment, learning goals, and design rationale before giving assignments to the students and also Debrief graded tests and assignments in class.
- It will be proved as a promoter of Collaborative Learning: Collaborative learning, interaction with teachers and colleagues lead better student's

engagement which consequently affects student's academic performance.

- Not just in Teaching learning, technology will be helpful in assessment, planning, administration and more.

By the use of rubrics the assessment becomes very easy and fast. Students get the teaching materials through video lectures and e-books on different online platforms.

Suggestions

- Internet connectivity to Educational Institutions for the students to study online, to access the digital library, to join online meetings and classes in the campus as well.

- High speed Wi-Fi throughout Educational Institutions because if the Wi-Fi connection is slow it will always lag in bandwidth which will create the disturbance in the study of the students and teachers as well in attending the online classes and other works.

Must have high internet access at home even in rural or remote areas also. High speed is most important for the digital study mode because without high speed internet we

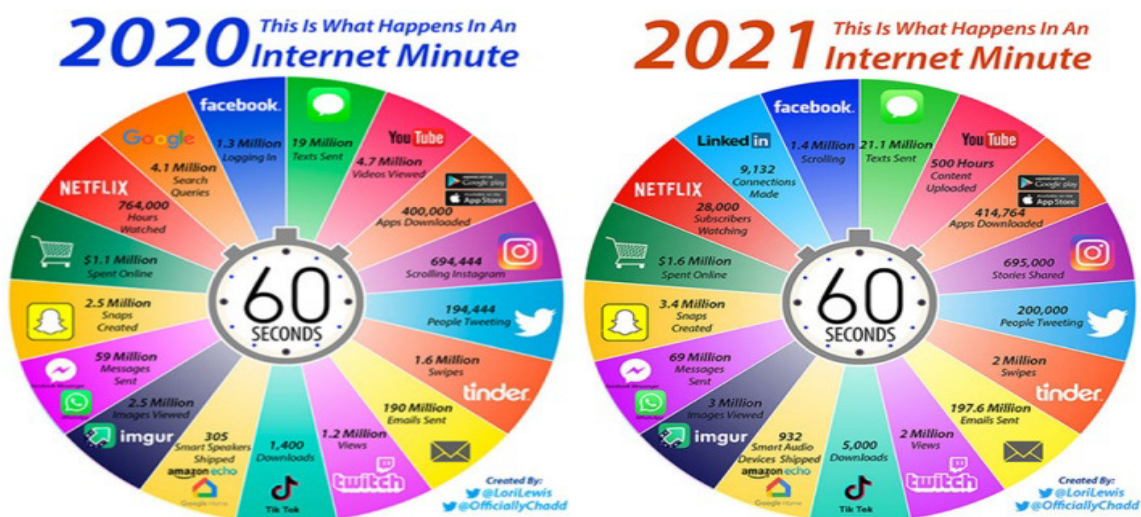
cannot do clear audio-video calls, and can't even access the web properly as it will take more time to

Results

Opinions

- Digital initiatives are the needs of the present Digital Scenario since the students now are more in touch with technology. They also want to study online as this is the easiest and most suitable medium of study.

Here in this Fig. showing the interaction of people with the internet in 2020 and 2021



- In the present pandemic situation, the need for technology is booming and most of the institutions, universities and colleges are giving online classes to their students and the students have also been benefited from this.
- The digital initiative in the field of education is a boost for the "Digital India" program as well.
- The Digital Initiative is important to cope up with technology and every student and

teacher will deal with it to know about it and to make themselves a good learner of technology.

- The distance education exists in our education system; this digital initiative will be very helpful in booming this sector and also help the related students.
- It also very fruitful for the disabled population since those students cannot go anywhere and can learn from their home itself. Hence, it's really helpful to

both disabled students as well as teachers and the locomotion is limited in this kind of teaching and learning.

- Open a webpage must have electricity supply 24*7. Without electricity, computer, laptop and even mobile cannot get charged and we cannot access them all.
- There should be an arrangement for high quality and low cost devices. It's the most crucial thing throughout the digital mode of study. And often the gadgets are very costly and a middle class person is not able to afford them; and as a result, he is unable to attend his classes or cater to his work demand online.
- Accessibility of quality E-content and E-resources. The government should provide more e-content and E-Platforms for getting the best education possible.
- Digital literacy is a must for teachers as well as students. They should know how to operate the computer or laptop and how to use internet for their benefit.
- For cyber awareness Digital Citizenship Training is a must. In the present time cyber-attacks are very common and many people are unaware about it. They do not use any antivirus or other such tools to protect the system from viruses and cyber attacks. Hence both the teachers and students should care about it.
- Establishment of Technical Training Centers is a need in the present time as in

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our country the resources are less and not every person has its own computer or laptop. So, through these centers the students and teachers will learn how to operate a computer or laptop and how to work online, how to take the class, how to attend the class, how to access digital libraries and much more.

- Promote local language in Digital Education as not every student is as good in Hindi or English. So, he/she needs the content in their local languages for their progress in learning.

Conclusion

While the Policy is a novel and progressive document, acknowledging the invaluable role of technology in facilitating learning and teaching, it is essential to develop a coherent plan of action for fostering technological proficiencies to aid Successful engagement with technology (and its future advancements), while providing effective safeguards for data protection and data privacy. Overall, the success of the Policy will be contingent on the means and mode of its implementation, as well as the ability to effectively integrate the objectives of the Policy, within existing initiatives and engaging the relevant stakeholders in the effective delivery of the Policy. The Policy is mindful that education in the future will involve greater dematerialization and digitalization of content. For a hitherto conservative educational system of India, this mindfulness is itself a remarkable feat.

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