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## **Education System in India (With Special Reference to New Education Policy, 2020)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”***  
**- NELSON MANDELA**

According to Aristotle, “Education is the process of training the man to fulfill his aim by exercising all the faculties to the fullest extent as member of society”.

The word education is derived from a Latin word Educere which means to lead forth or to come out. There are two more prominent words in Sanskrit which stand as equivalent to education are “Shiksha” and “Vidya”. Where Shiksha means to control and Vidya means to know. <sup>1</sup>

India is the country which has the richest tradition of imparting knowledge. The Gurukul education system and Nalanda university which is the older university system in the world. But Our country India is lacking behind in education sector because of the following issues: -

- 1) Lack of infrastructure
- 2) Poor global ranking of institutions
- 3) System of education
- 4) Gap between education provided and industry required education
- 5) Gender issue
- 6) Higher cost of education
- 7) Inadequate government funding

According to UNICEF, out of 100 students, 29 per cent of girls and boys drop out of school before completing the full cycle of elementary education, and often they are the most marginalized children. <sup>2</sup>

Today, the literacy rate in our society is rising but not at an increasing rate due to various factors and the education needs a way under the umbrella of legislation with improvement. There are many legal issues like discrimination bases on gender, income of the parents, reservation system which infringes the right to equality and many other numerous problems which needs to be resolved. The new national education policy 2020 was approved by the union cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 which paved way to transform the education sector of our country. There are some major changes like giving more emphasis on vocational studies, pre-

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<sup>1</sup> Meaning of word Education, <https://www.slideshare.net/rdhaker2011/education-meaning> (visited on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2020).

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF statistics, <https://www.unicef.org/india/what-we-do/education> (visited on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020).

school section in Kendriya Vidyalayas, NCC wings in secondary and higher secondary school, teaching the basic subjects in Indian sign languages, etc. <sup>3</sup>

## **INTRODUCTION**

*“Education is passport to future for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”*

Various articles of Indian Constitution provide free and compulsory education as fundamental right to children of age group 6 to 14 years.

In India education is rendered by both public as well as private schools. In 2019, India had 900 universities and 40,000 colleges. It is fundamental for attaining full human potential, while developing a just and equitable society and at the same time promoting national development. In order to develop and maximise the country’s talent and resources, high quality education is essential for the good of the individual, society, country as well as the world. <sup>4</sup>

The world is undergoing rapid changes in the knowledge arena whereby there are dramatic scientific and technological advances. While many unskilled jobs have been taken over by machines, the need for skilled workforce, such involving mathematics, computer sciences and data sciences in conjunction with multidisciplinary abilities are and shall be in great demand.

The global education development agenda reflected in the Goal 4 of 2030 Agenda for sustainable development adopted by India in 2015, seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” by 2030 and this requires entire education system to be reconfigured to support and foster learning, for the achievement of the targeted SDGs of 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.

The gap between the current state of learning outcomes and what is required must be bridged through major reforms that bring the highest quality, equity and integrity into the system. Thus the aim for India is to have equitable access to the highest quality education for all regardless of their socio-economic background by 2040.

Henceforth, the National education Policy 2020 is the first policy of 21<sup>st</sup> century aiming to cater to various growing imperatives of the country. It proposes the revamping of entire education structure, its regulations and governance aligned with goals of 21<sup>st</sup> century education including SDG 4 while maintaining and building India’s tradition and value system.

The policy needs to be incorporated taking into account the domestic or the local needs as well as the global or the international needs of the country at the same time maintaining respect to the rich diversity and culture.

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<sup>3</sup> Legal issues in education system, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/new-education-policy-2020-live-updates-important-takeaways/story-yYm1QaeNyFW4uTTU3g9bJO.html> - :-:text=The%20Modi%20government%20announced%20the, reforms%20in%20education%20in%20India.&text=Among%20the%20major%20reforms%2C%20the, of%20Anganwadi%20and%20pre-schooling (visited on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2020).

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/NEP\\_Final\\_English\\_0.pdf](https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf)

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Though India is the sixth largest economy in the world with over a million of schools teaching more than two hundred million students but is far behind to other developed and developing countries.

“The Indian education system is one of the largest and most complex in the world,” says Rob Lynes, the former director of the British Council in India.

In 2009, the programme for international student assessment survey was conducted in order to evaluate the education system in which India was ranked at the bottom of 74 participating countries list.

Article 21(A) of the Constitution of India (Eighty-Sixth Amendment) states that to provide free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six – fourteen as a fundamental right in such a manner the state may, by law, determine. “The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which represents the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21-A, means that every child has a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.”<sup>5</sup>

A five-year plan was set up by the government in order to improve the quality of education system in the country. But there were a large number of dropout rates in the secondary level of education mostly in the disadvantaged section of society and the poor quality of education given to the students which resulted in the weak performance of the students.<sup>6</sup>

In this literature review many articles, journals, newspapers and reports were reviewed concerning the topic of research and to put more light.

Prasad and R (2015), in their research study on analysis of financing of elementary education in India, revealed that the total national expenditure on elementary education in India represents 36% as planned and 64% as non-planned expenditure. State like Bihar, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujrat and Karnataka had been allocating higher shares in their budgets but still they are educationally and economically backward and weak. States like Haryana, Punjab, Mizoram, Tripura and Uttarakhand are near to the efficiency frontier and have to utilize the resources more effectively and efficiently in order to have better outcomes. They also observed that there are more females working in schools and higher universities than the males but there is shortage in rural areas.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Right to Education, <https://www.mhrd.gov.in/rte> - :~:text=to%20Education%20%3E%3E%20Overview-Right%20to%20Education,may%2C%20by%20law%2C%20determine. (Visited 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020).

<sup>6</sup> The Five Year Plan, <https://www.relocatemagazine.com/articles/education-schools-the-education-system-in-india-apac1> (Visited 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2020).

<sup>7</sup> Prasad and R (2015), <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/49959> (Visited 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020).

A 2015 UNESCO report said that India was the country with largest number of adults without basic literacy skills with 28.7 crores in terms of absolute number of illiterates in 2010-2011.<sup>8</sup>

Kharshiing Rupa Bakor (2017) in her research of “participation in education of India trends and determination describes that there are uneven schooling structure in the states, the factors which affect the disadvantaged section of the society and the gender inequality which still exists in our society and the cost of education which results in dropouts.”<sup>9</sup>

Navani and Manasi Thapiyal (2020), in their research of Academic reforms in higher education with case study on Delhi University, describes that the structure of education is quite complex and critical and the enrollment system is very hectic due to different reservations and rules and regulations for the students who are new to system. Lack of advanced technology which does not come up with the other countries. The faculty teaching there are not that good in skills and practical knowledge.<sup>10</sup>

According to The Times of India (2016), the overall literacy rate have gone up by 74.4% but the drop in illiteracy rate had not matched the increase in population as between the age of 7 the population increased with 18.65 crores but the decrease in the illiterate is just 3.11 crores.<sup>11</sup>

Sanjay Karak and Krishnendu Sen (2017), in the article on the study on gender inequality in higher education in Indian context, they describe that the reality of gender inequality in higher education in India is a very complex and diversified issue which still exists in the fields like education, employment opportunities, income, health, social and cultural issues. There are increase in number of participation of women 43% in relation to men but still in courses like engineering, only 4% of women participate. There is not only gender inequality but there is cast and religious discrimination also.<sup>12</sup>

According to an economist Shamika Ravi, in The Hindu wrote that those with higher education are less likely to be employed than those without: “it says something about the quality of Indian education; too many of engineers and other professionals are waving around degrees that are relatively worthless.” “The 2030 score card by the Global Business coalition for education reinforces these concerns in 2030 that India will have the highest secondary

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<sup>8</sup>UNESCO Report,  
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Literacy-rate-up-but-so-is-illiteracy/articleshow/50749744.cms>  
(Visited 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020).

<sup>9</sup> Kharshiing Rupa Bakor (2017), <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/217118> (Visited 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020).

<sup>10</sup> Navani and Manasi Thapiyal (2020), <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/294593> (Visited 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020).

<sup>11</sup> The Times Of India (2016), <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Literacy-rate-up-but-so-is-illiteracy/articleshow/50749744.cms> (Visited 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2020).

<sup>12</sup>Sanjay Karak and Krishnendu sen (2017),  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322568885\\_Gender\\_inequality\\_in\\_higher\\_education\\_in\\_Indian\\_context](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322568885_Gender_inequality_in_higher_education_in_Indian_context)  
(Visited 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2020).

school graduates in South Asia, but nearly half of them will lack skills to enter the job market.”<sup>13</sup>

Dr. Madhumita Bandhopadhyay, in depth unfolds the situation of infrastructure in India in her research on present status of infrastructure facilities in schools in India: from national and state level perspective, that though there are many initiatives by the government at the national and state level which results in increase in enrollment rate of students and the parents are willing to send their child for education. But the infrastructure in mostly government schools and some in private schools are not satisfactory like there are difficulties in the accessibility by the students due lack of all-weather roads, lack of fresh drinking water, no electricity, no playgrounds, lack of furniture like benches and black boards, unavailability of separate toilets for girls and boys, and boundary wall. These are all the factors which still exists in the education system of India and needs to be resolved and can't be overlooked.<sup>14</sup>

Perna Sindhvani (Nov, 2019), writes in her article that Indians are spending enormously on education even with few jobs in sight as according to “CARE the number of students have increases who get enrolled in engineering, vocational studies and IT colleges but this will lead to increase in unemployment rate in future. According to the report, the average expenses of enrolling into a professional course has gone as high as ₹ 72,000 per student.” Also due to unsatisfactory quality of education, there is an increase in the rate of students opting for coaching and tuitions. “Also the fees and expenses of education can be reduced by the government by providing financial support and subsidies to all the students irrespective of caste, gender, race, poor and rich. There are only 5% of the total urban population who gets free education while over half of the total rural population gets it.”<sup>15</sup>

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In the research paper I have adopted the doctrinal methodology with the qualitative and quantitative research, which is analytical in nature. Information has been gathered from books, journals, research papers and reports. This research work involves reviewing and analyzing reports and publications of various organisations, educational scholars, educational centers, research institutions and firms working in related area.

Based on the information obtained from the reviews and themes studies and analyzed, conclusions were drawn. This study resorts to the use of secondary source of literature, adhered to historical and analytical method of research.

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<sup>13</sup>Economist Shamika Ravi, <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/india-needs-a-new-education-paradigm/article30736218.ece> (Visited 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020).

<sup>14</sup> Dr. Madhumita Bandhopadhyay, [http://www.dise.in/Downloads/Paper\\_on\\_Physical\\_Facilities\\_\(Draft\\_prepared\\_for\\_CABE\)\\_-\\_Report.pdf](http://www.dise.in/Downloads/Paper_on_Physical_Facilities_(Draft_prepared_for_CABE)_-_Report.pdf) (Visited 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020).

<sup>15</sup> Perna Sindhvani (2019), <https://www.businessinsider.in/education/news/average-education-expenditure-in-india-increases-fourfold-to-8331-per-student/articleshow/72282009.cms> (Visited 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020).

## **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of my study is to analyze the situation of Education in India, issues and challenges and the new education policy 2020. The scope is confined to the education system in India with the special reference to the new education policy, 2020.

## **SCENARIO IN INDIA**

It will not be overemphasizing to claim that education is the most powerful weapon and a key to success to every human being in this world. Education is very important factor for the economic development in country like India.

In ancient India there were Gurukul system of education with the Shishyas as students who lives with their gurus in the same house as a rich tradition of imparting knowledge. But the modern education system failed due to many factors like colonial rule for long time, financial constraints, and wrong implementation of the policies.<sup>16</sup>

There was 86<sup>th</sup> amendment act 2002 which introduced Article 21(A), which provided free and compulsory education to children in the age group of six to fourteen years as fundamental right. But this resulted in high enrollment rate with a highly increased dropout rate. Additionally, there was a divergence between urban / rural and rich / poor in the society which created a backdrop to the amendment. 70% of the students were and now are studying in government schools

*In the case of Mohini Jain Vs. State of Karnataka*<sup>17</sup>

- *The Supreme court held that the fees charging caption by the colleges or the educational institutions violated the Right to Education, as derived from Right to Life and in addition stated that institutions are acting as the agents of the state who have a duty to ensure the equal access to, and non-discrimination in the higher education.*

*In the case of Avinash Mehrotra Vs. Union of India*<sup>18</sup>

- *There was a fire in the kitchen of a middle-school in Madras which killed 93 innocent lives and injured many. There, a writ was filed under the public interest litigation in order to safeguard the students from any similar tragedies in future.*
- *The court held that it is the Right to education with safety, so the state shall ensure that children suffer no harm in exercising their fundamental right to education.*
- *The state government and union territories were directed to ensure that each and every school has the basic safety standards and the school buildings are according to safety norms set by the National Building Code and the affidavits of compliance were required to be filled by the concerned authority.*

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<sup>16</sup> Education in ancient India, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/desires-of-a-modern-indian/the-importance-of-the-gurukul-system-and-why-indian-education-needs-it/>, (visited on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020).

<sup>17</sup> 1992 AIR 1858

<sup>18</sup> 2009, writ petition (civil) number 483 of 2004

The literacy rate in India as per 2011 census is 74%. There are 82.1% of male literacy while females are 65.5% and still there is 16.68% of gender gap. And according to UNESCO, India still lags far behind global female literacy rate of 7%.<sup>19</sup>

One of the biggest problems which the citizens of India face in education is the high cost, Indians are spending huge amount on education and there is a 50% increase in cost of professional courses in 2020 as compared to 2010.

In India about 50% of the total population has only primary education as compared to China with only 38% of its total population. As per the 2011 census, more than 26% of India's population was still illiterate as compared to china with only 4%.

### **ISSUES & CHALLENGES:**

At present the Education in India is way to far from the other countries and need to be looked upon. The implementation of the policies needs to be up to the level to climb the ladder of education. In the global education ranking, Iceland at first rank, followed by United States, Ireland, Finland, and New Zealand, but our great country India is ranked at ninety-two.

The major issues and challenges are as follows: -

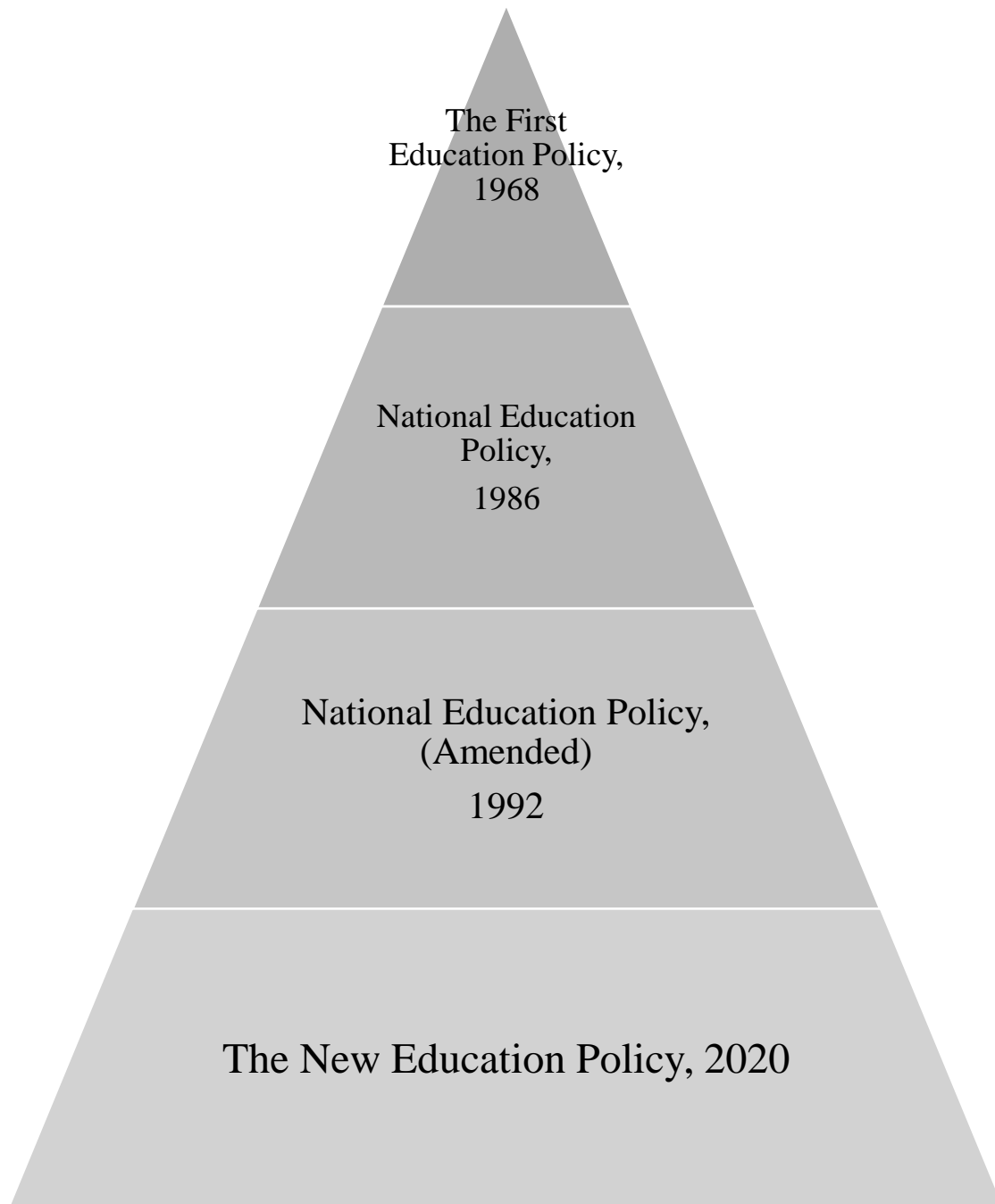
- 1) **Biasness in implementation of education policies:** There is less focus on the basic education in India while there is more emphasis on the higher education.
- 2) **Poor quality:** According to the Annual Status of Education Report 2015, shows that there is poor quality of education as there are deteriorating deficits in reading and arithmetical skills of the students.
- 3) **Focused on inputs:** The Indian education system is so unorganized that the policy focuses on the inputs and not on outputs of the learning.
- 4) **Issues with teachers:** This is one of the biggest issues with the education quality in India that there is shortage of teachers. There are many other problems like corruption in appointment, local politics, and poor quality of trainings. The number of students per teacher is very high in India.
- 5) **Inadequate public funding:** There is an incredible increase in the government funding in the elementary education but still there is vast scope of improvement in the tertiary sector.
- 6) **Sports education:** In India, sports is considered as luxury and there is a lot of scope but still the education in sports is said to be equal to zero.

There are many more issues which are faced by the society including teachers, students, government, and citizens of India which are now becoming a challenge for the government to overcome with the help of new rule/regulation/laws in the country.

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<sup>19</sup>Literacy rate in India according to 2011 census, <https://www.clearias.com/education-in-india/>, (visited on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020).

**LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT**





## **NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020**

- **Introduction:**

The Minister of Human Resource Department, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal presented the New Education Policy, 2020 on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020. “The National Education Policy, 2020 focuses to bring transformational improvements in school and higher education and thus structure India into a global knowledge force”.

This policy aims to align the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability by 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The New Education Policy also aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superiors by making both school and college education more comprehensive, flexible, versatile, suited to 21<sup>st</sup> century needs and aimed at bringing out the distinctive capabilities of each student.

- **The main highlights of the new policy are:**

- 1) The education in India will be governed by the National Education Commission or the Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog as the apex body.
- 2) 6% of total GDP will be spend as public investment in education.
- 3) New policy aims for universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100% GER <sup>20</sup> in school education by 2030.
- 4) The old 3 years of Anganwadi or pre-schooling and 10+2 years of schooling are reframed as 5+3+3+4 schooling curriculum.
- 5) More emphasis on foundational skills and addition of vocational education starting from 6<sup>th</sup> class.
- 6) Teaching the student with their mother tongue/regional language from 5<sup>th</sup> class.
- 7) Addition of 3.5 crore seats in the higher education and also the GER to raised to 50% by 2035.
- 8) Making credit facility available to students by establishing academic credit banks.
- 9) Increase in usage of technology with equity.
- 10) Establishing special education zones for disadvantaged groups.
- 11) In order to increase the GER, open and distance learning platforms will be setup.
- 12) Policy aims to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy

## **CRITICISM**

- 1) The main negative factor is the education in mother language because in India there are 22 active languages and not one national language which will create difficulties in future. The Indian government is following the steps of the other well-developed countries who have one national language which helps a student to know his country well but not in the case of our country.
- 2) There is problem of teacher and student ratio. Due to personalized and focused study to each and every student with a different language and subject would be now more difficult task.

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<sup>20</sup> Gross Enrollment Ratio

- 3) Another problem is that the New Education Policy give more emphasis on changes but nowhere has been placed on how things will happen. The policy is drafted in accordance to cope up with the other countries but every country has its own issues which need to be taken care of like the population, mentality of the people in rural/urban areas, GDP of the country, employment of people in relation to expenditure on education, etc.
- 4) The policy also emphasizes on the use of technology, artificial intelligence and machines to educate the students, but the government should give more emphasis on the root development in the rural area of the country as in many news articles it was shown that many primary teachers didn't even knew alphabets in order.
- 5) There is negative side of the policy that it has discontinued the M Phil program in the country and the policy does not tell anything about graduates who have M Phil degree and students who have prepared for or entered in the program.
- 6) There will be four years of multidisciplinary bachelor's program but there is a question how will it work for those programs of three years like BBA, BA and four years like B. Tech and five years like integrated courses like BBA LLB

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

“As said education is a passport to future for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare it today.”

Education is one of the most important and crucial subject to take care upon. The census just gives the data, but Education is not just about literacy Rate. Education helps in development of every individual and should be given to everyone irrespective gender, race, caste, age, color, etc. As education is considered to be the most powerful weapon in the world, every country tries its best to achieve it.

The New Education Policy is a great initiative by the Indian government which ensures a bright future for our new generation. There are both positives and negatives of the policy and the results of the policy can be said to be mixed. There is still a lot more room for improvement. There are majority of positive side in comparison to the negative side, but the government should not ignore those as those little factors will affect the future.

Suggestions:

- The first and foremost we need an implementation plan as nowhere in the policy the same is mentioned.
- Education should not be just in regional languages but also in widely internationally used accepted language as the policy aims at catering to the local as well as global needs.
- The teachers need to be well trained and well equipped so as to achieve the vision and the objectives of the New education Policy 2020. Initial and subsequent Periodical evaluations and trainings are the measures suggested in this behalf.

- A long way has been covered pertaining to the perception of the people regarding importance of education regardless of gender, caste, religion etc by way of spreading awareness but still the same needs to be pursued at much larger scale.
- It is highly recommended that M phil should be continued taking into considerations those who have already prepared for the entrance and those who already have cleared after investing wholesome amount of money time and efforts.
- Last but not the least, the major issue is the resource in terms of money taking into consideration the ongoing pandemic and the hefty loss it is causing to the GDP. The implementation is not possible unless we have ample monetary resources required build infrastructure, training of staff, equipments, other perks required to be given for encouraging, etc. Apart from yearly budget, additional funds would be required which can be generated via donations , minor hike in education cess, treating it as a CSR activity or granting exemption, etc.