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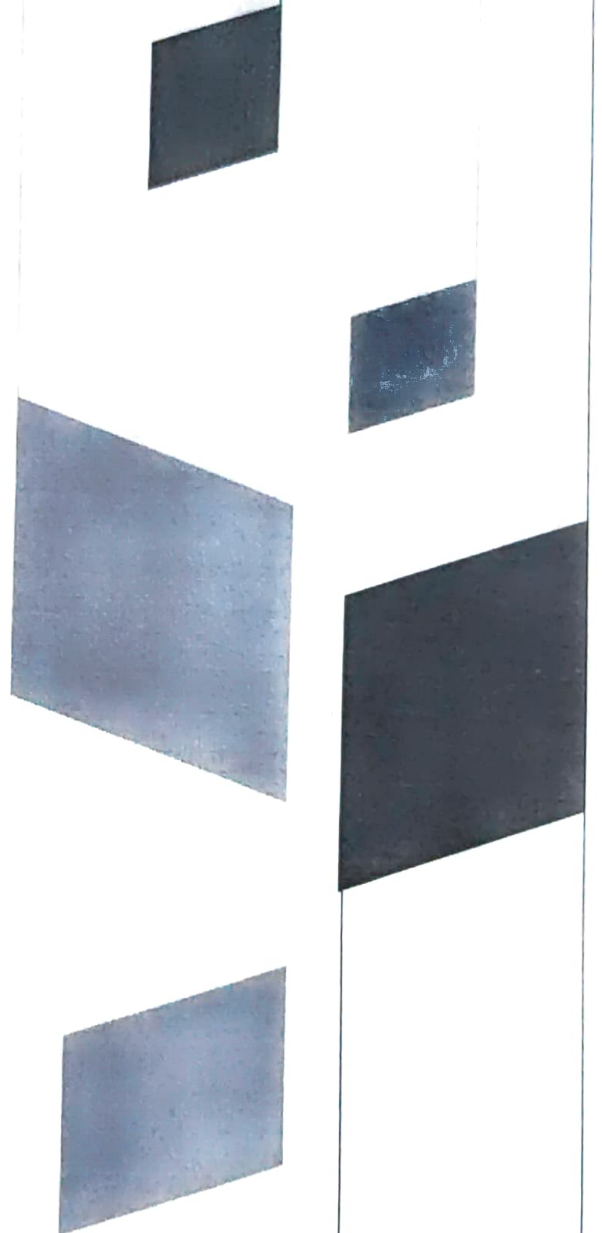
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QUALITY INITIATIVES IN VIEW OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020: A FORWARD APPROACH FOR AFFILIATED COLLEGES

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Abstract:

Education of 21st Century must have holistic approach in real sense. The National Education Policy 2020 is a document that provides the exact roadmap to achieve the approach, which will not only be restricted to information sharing, but adoption of multi-disciplinary approach in teaching-learning and research in higher education. The paper suggests the steps in Quality Initiatives in view of National Education Policy 2020: A forward approach for Affiliated Colleges. The study concludes that the reforms are always continuous and unending process in improvement of quality and hence steps suggested are relevant today and continue even after the implementation of the NEP:2022.

Keywords: Holistic education, reforms, quality, access, and change

Introduction:

The National Education Policy 2020 has proposed a holistic approach to education in India. Its time to relook at most of the initiatives and begin to implement new things. For instance, the affiliated system for colleges will come to an end, a new approach will role out with each college being given three options to place its self. The three proposed options are being an autonomous college, being part of Cluster of Colleges and to become Constituent College of the University. Each options have its own pros and corns and after a systematic study each college in India will have to take a decision. Autonomy will help to design curriculum which will be relevant and the process of introduction of new courses will be quick and effective. The focus could be on online and blended programs aimed at up-skilling the graduates.

Secondly, the cluster of college is the best way ahead to work with collaboration and have multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary approach towards education. Resource sharing will be the advantage and the colleges will promote exchange of ideas and co-operation will be the key word replacing the competition and focus will be on creating employable graduates with set of skills relevant in the present-day context. Thirdly, the consistent college set-up which is

already existing in many parts of the country will continue and the University will have to play a major role in improving the quality of education in the Colleges.

The options given in the NEP:2020 are with one objective and that is making the education holistic, multi-disciplinary and practical oriented. The best part of NEP: 2020 is access to Higher Education at an affordable cost and with a forward-looking approach which makes way for life-long education with the option of multiple-entry and exit, rewarding the student with each year of his or her Degree. Ensuring that there is mechanism to earn, store, retrieve and use the credits earned at any point of time through the system of Academic Credit Bank. The next significant step is about the removing the rigid system of classification of the subjects into a particular core group. The policy entirely is student centric and allows the student to make a choice of subjects from the pool of subjects. However, with all the above advantage along with access, quality has been the focal point of NEP:2020 and with the word quality automatically follows the process, practices and procedure which can be followed to achieve the pre-determined standard.

Objective of the study

The present study aims at presentation of the quality initiative already taken by the Colleges which can continue and be used as a forward step towards successful implementation of NEP:2020.

Quality Initiatives by the affiliated colleges considering NEP: 2020

The affiliated colleges most of the time have a fixed style and methodology of working. Its most of the time depend on the University to implement most of the reforms in various key area about NEP:2020. The good initiatives which can help the college are

- ❖ The Colleges have already started the discussion about the formation of cluster of colleges and have decided that its co-operation and not competition. The focus has shifted from creating more resources to sharing the existing resources and creation of pool of resources.
- ❖ The College are offering add-on, certificate, skill-based courses to its students in association with government and non-government agencies and professional bodies in order to bridge the gap between the lacking of syllabus and imbibe updated curriculum.
- ❖ Faculty Exchange and Student exchange programs have been initiated and encouraged by the colleges in order to give exposure to the students and faculty of the recent trends in the subject matter and the type of teaching methodology adopted by the different higher education institutions.
- ❖ The planning and delivery of higher education through digital mode is gaining popularity in the country. UGC has allowed select Universities and autonomous colleges to offer

degree through online mode and soon the same advantage will be passed to the other consistent colleges and colleges with graded autonomy under the cluster.

- ❖ The e-content development under the four-quadrant system is an excellent step ahead for enhancing the quality content delivery. It helps the student to go through the content as per the convenience of the student and feedback mechanism enables to raise doubts.
- ❖ Most of the College have established research, development, and innovation cell as a pre-requirement for implementation of NEP:2020. The cell will play pivotal role in orientation of faculty in publication of research papers in UGC care list and ABDC journals. The training programs and faculty development programs will further enable the faculty to publish in Scopus and Web of Science journals and apply for major and minor projects to funding agencies in India and abroad.
- ❖ The next forward quality step is development of Programme Outcomes, Programme Specific Outcomes, Course Outcomes and Learning Outcomes of each paper of the Programme. It is a very important step in taking the student from the lower order thinking to higher order thinking in terms of implementation of blooms taxonomy in general education.
- ❖ Efforts of the Colleges in engaging with the community has significantly improved considering NEP:2020 preparation. Today, the concept of social connect and internship are accepted by the institutions. The colleges are actively working for the cause of environment conversation and skill development of the community.
- ❖ The development of programs which are intra-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary are in progress. Many universities and colleges are in process of upcoming up with new programme which are directly aimed to provide candidates which are as per the requirement of Industry 4.0.
- ❖ Few colleges have incorporated the internship as an integral part of the Programme at all the general education which again is an excellent step towards improvement in quality.

Conclusion:

All the above steps mentioned, in light of implementation of NEP: 2020 can go a long way in improving the quality of the current status of education in affiliated system and in the new form as adopted by the respective college. Education 4.0 is ultimately all about the access, cost effectiveness and most importantly quality. The reforms are always continuous and unending process in improvement of quality and hence above steps are relevant today and will be replaced by positive outlook in future. Change in the system is inevitable, but under the

NEP:2020 it will be radical. The change which will have full proof solution towards to problem of under-employment and lack of skill development and multi-disciplinary approach in India.

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