

STUDENTS' OPINION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME ACCORDING TO NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

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Abstract

Education plays a key role in shaping and developing student's intellect skillset that leads them to be independent thinkers prepares them for future challenges. The present study aimed to determine the Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme According to National Education Policy 2020 among the College Students in Krishnagiri District. The present study belongs to the Normative Survey Method and the size of the sample was 414 College Students. Stratified Random Sampling Technique was followed to select the sample. The Statistical techniques used in this study were Mean, Standard Deviation, and t'-test to analyze the data. The salient findings of the study were (i) The Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme According to NEP 2020 among the College Students is found to be high (ii) The Female students are significantly higher than the Male students towards their Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme According to NEP 2020 (iii) The Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme among Urban students is at the forefront compared to Rural Students.

Keywords: *National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)*

Introduction

Since the post-independence period the higher education system in India has grown remarkably, to become one of the largest educational foundations in the world. However, the Indian education system has varied issues of concern, including access, equity and quality of higher education together with the assessment of institutions and their accreditation. As of 2020, India has over 1000 universities. The global education development agenda reflected in the Goal 4 (SDG4) of the 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. The National Educational Policy 2020 includes feasibility of education for inclusivity of differently abled people, enhancement of critical thinking, increase in quality of education and addition of projects and activities. It has also introduced teaching in regional languages and increase in the use of education technology.

The National Education Policy 2020 was introduced on July 29, 2020. The purpose of this survey is to determine Students' Opinion towards National Educational Policy 2020, specifically to determine the following:

- Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme According to National Education Policy 2020.
- Influences of Gender, Locality and Type of Institutions on Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme According to National Education Policy 2020.

Literature Review

Dr. R. Selvendiran studied a brief overview of National Education Policy 2020. National Education Policy - 2020 will prove beneficial for Students, Teachers and Education Sector. NEP is based upon 5 pillars and these are Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. It will prepare our youth to meet diverse national and global challenge of present and future. It also focuses on bringing the discontinued students back to the education stream to continue their education. The National Education Policy is changing the Indian educational system into a globally competitive education system with the required flexibility. The multi-disciplinary aspect of the National Educational Policy will become a stepping stone for enhancing students' abilities. It is a significant step towards build a Knowledge based on Society that is equipped to meet the challenge of the 21st Century. The policy helps in eliminating the prevailing inequalities and other pedagogical problems prevailing in the structure. By the year 2030, it will be mandatory to have at least 4 years B.Sc., B.Ed degree for joining the occupation of teaching. This New Education Policy has been introduced after a gap of 34 years with the objective of providing a Comprehensive and Holistic Education System to Students across the Country.

P. S. Aithal and Shubhrajyotsna Aithal analysed the implementation strategies of Higher Education, National Educational Policy 2020 in achieving its objectives. This study depicts an overview of NEP-2020, distinguishes the strengths & weakness of the policy at higher education & research part and evaluates the implementation suggestions given in the policy. This paper also provided recommendations to implement the NEP 2020 effectively.

Dr. Rupesh G. Sawant and Dr. Umesh B. Sankpal studied a brief overview of National Education Policy 2020 and Higher Education. This study emphasized that the National Education Policy 2020 aims to make higher education institutes more holistic, flexible, multi-disciplinary and suited to the needs of 21st century. They have highlighted that it's important for the education system to bring about good implementation and execution of the National Education Policy 2020.

Integrated Teacher Education Programme [ITEP] in Colleges

National Council for Teacher Education has launched Integrated Teacher Education Programme in 57 Teacher Education Institutions from the academic session 2020-2021 throughout the country. This is a flagship programme of NCTE under NEP 2020. It is a one stage of four years system. The 4 -year Integrated B.Ed will be a Holistic, Dual-Major Bachelor's degree in Education as well as Specialized Subjects such as Language, History, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology etc., It will ensure that outstanding students will enter the teaching profession. A Student undergoing this course will be grounded in Indian Values, Languages, Knowledge, Ethos, Tribal Tradition and also versed in Latest Advances in Education and Pedagogy. This course caters to the need of 21st Century Skills.

The students of age group between 18-21 years can join the ITEP. The 4 years undergraduate programme combines academic studies in a chosen subject with professional training in Education. The Integrated Teacher Education Programme course provides hands-on experience through Classroom Activities, Field Placements and Internships. ITEP programme focus on developing necessary teaching skills that candidates to create engaging and effective study plans throughout their Professional Life.

Statement of the Problem

The National Educational Policy 2020 poses various challenges for the universities, colleges, teaching faculty and students. College and University students may find difficult to adapt to the changes made in the higher education system. This study aims to analyze the Opinion of college students towards the Implementation of 4-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme, as per the National Education Policy 2020. Hence the topic has been coined has "Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) According to National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Krishnagiri District".

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follow,

- i. To find out the level of Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme According to National Education Policy 2020 among the College Students.
- ii. To find out the level of significant difference between Male and Female Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020.
- iii. To find out the level of significant difference between Rural and Urban Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020.
- iv. To find out the level of significant difference between Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP with respect to their Type of Colleges.

Hypotheses of the Study

The framed Hypotheses based on the Objectives of the study are given below,

- i. The level of Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme According to National Education Policy 2020 among the College Students is High.
- ii. There is no significant difference between Male and Female Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020.
- iii. There is no significant difference between Rural and Urban Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020.
- iv. There is a significant difference between Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP with respect to their Type of Colleges.

Methodology of the Study

The present study belongs to Normative Survey Method and Stratified Random Sampling technique was followed.

i) Tools Used

The major tool used in the present study was Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme According to National Education Policy 2020 (SOITEP-2020) was developed by the investigator. The measuring Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 Scale has in Likert type. The drafted objective types of questions of 28 statements were given to two experienced Professors in Department of Education, They were asked to give their suggestions to validate the rough draft.

After the suggestions, the reliability of the tool was established by following split half method. The r value was found to be 0.82, which reveals that the developed tool of Student's Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 (SOITEP - 2020) was highly reliable. The final tool consists of Twenty-four statements. Then the questionnaires were taken for data collection. Of the 24 items, 16 are positive and 8 are negative items. The respondent is required to put a tick mark in the relevant column against each statement according to his/her reaction to that statement. The scoring is made on a five-point scale. The positive items are given a score for Strongly Agree-5, Agree-4, Undecided-3, Disagree-2 and Strongly Disagree-1 and the negative items are scored Strongly Agree-1, Agree-2, Undecided-3, Disagree-4 and Strongly Disagree-5. Thus the score for the Scale ranges between 120 and 24.

ii) Selection and Size of the Sample

By following the Stratified Random Sampling Technique, the investigator has selected 414 samples from 3 Colleges in Krishnagiri District namely Sivagamiammal College of Arts and Science, DVJ Integrated College of Education (B.Sc., B.Ed) and SIV College of Education (B.Ed).

iii) Data analysis

The Statistical Techniques used to analyze the collected data were Mean, Standard Deviation, 't'-test.

Table-1 Mean and SD scores on the Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme According to NEP 2020 among the College Students in Total

S.No	Category	Size of the Sample	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According NEP 2020	414	71.16	11.57	High

The table-1 demonstrates the level of Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 is High. Thus, the hypothesis has been confirmed.

Table-2 't' value between the Mean Scores on the Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 with respect to their Gender

Category	N	Mean	SD	't' value
Male	192	69.66	12.19	3.68*
Female	222	72.88	10.56	

***Significant at 0.05 Level**

The table-2 exemplifies the 't' value 3.68 is Significant at 0.05 level. It implies that there is a significant difference in the level of Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP with respect to their Gender. The Female students are significantly higher than the Male Students towards their Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP. Hence the null hypothesis found to be rejected.

Table-3 't' value between the Mean Scores on the Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 with respect to their Locality

Category	N	Mean	SD	't' value
Rural	240	67.22	11.22	7.94*
Urban	174	74.00	10.98	

***Significant at 0.05 Level**

From the above Table - 3 it is seen that the 't' value, 7.94 is significant at 0.05 level. It is clear from the result that there is significant difference in the level of Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 with respect to their Locality of Home. The Opinion on the Implementation of an Integrated Teacher Education Programme among Urban students is at the forefront compared to Rural Students. Hence, the framed null hypothesis is found to be rejected.

Table-4 't' values between the Mean Scores on the Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 with respect to their Type of Colleges

Category	Type of Institutions	N	Mean	SD	't' Value
Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP	Arts and Science College	152	66.59	10.45	8.84*
	Integrated College (B.Sc., B.Ed)	132	74.87	9.83	
	Integrated College (B.Sc., B.Ed)	132	74.87	9.83	3.41*
	B.Ed College	130	71.31	12.87	
	B.Ed College	130	71.31	12.87	4.20*
	Arts and Science College	152	66.59	10.45	

***Significant at 0.05 level**

It is seen from the Table - 4 that the 't' values 8.84, 3.41 and 4.20 are significant at 0.05 level. It is understood from results that there is a significant difference in the level of Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 among Arts and Science College, Integrated College and B.Ed College. The Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP among the Students of Integrated College is significantly higher than the Students of Arts and Science College & B.Ed College. At the same time, Students of B.Ed College is significantly higher than the Students of Arts and Science College towards their Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP. Hence, the framed null hypothesis is found to be accepted.

Findings of the Study

The findings of the study are briefly given below,

- i. It is found from the results that the Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 among the College Students is found to be High.
- ii. It is imbibed from the results that the Female students are significantly higher than the Male students towards their Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020.
- iii. It is revealed from the results that the Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP among Urban students is at the forefront compared to Rural Students.
- iv. It is understood from the results that the Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP among the Students of Integrated College of Education is significantly higher than the Students of Arts and Science & B.Ed College.
- v. It is clear from the results that the Students of B.Ed College is significantly higher than the Students of Arts and Science College towards their Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP.

Discussion and Interpretation

The National Education policy 2020 aims at developing a favorable environment for higher education institutes by equipping them with research facilities and ensures holistic development of college students by offering them vocational education. Along with developing institutes which are focused on research, it is enabling the students to gain cognitive competence. It has also introduced changes in the curriculum for differently abled people and people with learning disabilities which will provide them with a smooth and holistic learning environment. The essence of this policy is that it brings about the introduction of teaching in regional languages that will lead to low regional disparity in the process of teaching and learning. Also, the addition of vocational education and value-based education on global issues in the curriculum will increase the chances of employability of the youth.

In this survey, in terms of age, majority of both male and female were of the age 18 to 20. The participants of the different college students were from the Krishnagiri District. Overall Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 is positive. Thus, the first hypothesis is proven to be true. This implies that the college students have accepted the implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020.

Elucidation of research analysis was found that there is a significant difference between male and female Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020. More female students than male students had positive Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP. Therefore, gender has an influence on Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP. Hence, the second hypothesis found to be rejected

Opinion on the implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 in accordance with locality of their residence signified from the interpretation that the students from urban background seems to positive opinion than the rural students which can be due to their surrounding environment, learning ability, availability of infrastructure, skills and access to different facilities. Hence the third null hypothesis found to be rejected.

It was also evident from the analysis that the Opinion on Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 with respect to type of colleges reelected an inference that Integrated college students was unquestionably higher than the B.Ed College students & Arts and Science College students which is attributed due to Saving of one year to study and also due to Quality Education, Learner-Centric Approach, Inclusive Education and Future-Readiness. In comparison between B.Ed College and Arts and Science College, B.Ed College students' Opinion on implementation of an ITEP was high because of their skills and qualifications. The overall inference about the excellence of Integrated College Students was unquestionably robust. Hence, the framed fourth hypothesis found to be accepted.

Conclusion

From the analysis of the study, Students' Opinion on the Implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020 is an important factor to ensure that students are able to adapt to the new education system and upgrade their skills in order to enrol themselves in various vocational courses. The findings of the survey depict that college students have a positive Opinion on the implementation of an ITEP According to NEP 2020. Female were on the fore front compared to male counterparts towards the Implementation of an ITEP. The overall opinion to implementation of ITEP According to NEP is positive because there is an extreme flexibility in the subject choices available to the students. The students are also being offered vocational subjects that will increase their chances of employability. Due to the introduction of National Education Policy 2020, the higher education institutes are conducting both online and offline classes which will ensure distance education learning and benefit students of various states. Therefore, NEP 2020 has opted a student centric approach towards imparting education.

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